

Official Publication of the Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco

NEWS & VIEWS

A MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION WORKING FOR ALL CITY RETIREES

Health Service Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski

- The June meeting required all rates be approved for the 2016 plan year in order to make the board of supervisors approval deadline and preparation for open enrollment. The resolution for submission of the charter required “average contribution”—which is determined by the 10 county survey—was presented, and the amount set at \$579.24. This is 2.02% higher than the 2015 amount, but lower than historic survey trends. All counties had changes in contribution rates.
- All were anxious to hear the **Blue Shield National PPO** plan proposal. While the benefits comparison chart was extensive, and also included some benefits for out-of-network providers, the essential elements of the proposal generated more questions than answers. Brown and Toland representatives stated it is their policy to provide case/disease management, yet it was not covered by the Blue Shield proposal. Silver Sneakers is also not part of this PPO plan, and it was pointed out that members would need at least two different cards to access benefits. The positive aspects matched the UHC plan in that no primary care physician is required, and retirees can self-refer to a specialist. Also, there is access to the full national PPO network. Most current providers would still be accessible so that only about 2% of retirees would have to find new physicians. Most copays were comparable to existing copays. However, there was no increase in providers in San Mateo County, or

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Retirement Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski, Herbert Weiner,
and Herb Meiberger, CFA

Fiscal Year 2015/14 Earnings:

- Ten months into FY 2014/15, gross earnings were +4.71%; plan value of \$20.6B.

Retirement Board Elects New Officers and Makes History!

- *Supervisor Malia Cohen was elected president of the Retirement Board by a unanimous vote! This is the first time that a member of the SF Board of Supervisors has held this position!* Congratulations to Supervisor Cohen, with our warm wishes for her continued service to city retirees!
- Commissioner Herb Meiberger was elected vice president by a four-to-three vote.

The End of an Era — Angeles Consulting Makes its Last Presentation!

- Leslie Kautz, managing director of *Angeles Investment Consulting*, made her last presentation to the board of its 20-year tenure as general consultant. The general consultant aids in the selection of investment managers of public securities and monitors their performance.
- Ms. Kautz reported on the trust fund's performance for the periods ending 3/31/2015. For the 10-year period, the total fund earned 7.24% per year, compounded annually, underperforming its benchmark by .52% per year.
- U.S. equities underperformed the benchmark by .42% per year, compounded annually.
- International equities underperformed the benchmark by .46% per

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July/August Calendar

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, July 8

Business meeting & program: 10:15 a.m.
Irish Cultural Center
45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

News & Views

Editorial Committee Meeting

No Meeting in July

Tuesday, August 18, 9 a.m.

Taraval Police Station

All interested parties welcome.

Executive Board Meeting

No Meeting in July

Tuesday, August 18, 10 a.m.

Taraval Police Station

All interested parties welcome.

Public Meetings:

Retired Firemen &

Widows Association

Thursday, Sept. 17, 1 p.m.

Irish Cultural Center,

45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

Veteran Police Officers

Tuesday, July 14, 11 a.m.

San Francisco Scottish Rite

Masonic Center,

2850 19th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

Retirement System

Wednesday, July 8, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 1 p.m.

1145 Market St., 6th Floor

Health Service System

Thursday, Sept. 10, 1 p.m.

City Hall, Room 416

UESF Retired Division

For time/location, contact

Diane Doe at (415) 822-2099 or

Ddoe@mac.com.

SEIU 1021 West Bay

Retirees Chapter

Monday, July 20, 12-2 p.m.

Union Hall, 350 Rhode Island St.,

100 South Bldg.

Contact: David Williams

(415) 584-8264 or iamdhw@comcast.net.

Retirement Committee Report

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year, compounded annually.

- Ms. Kautz justified the poor relative performance by stating that markets are efficient, and it's difficult to find managers because of SFERS' request for proposal (RFP) process.

SFERS's Private Equity Portfolio:

- **TorreyCove**, the new private equity consultant firm, presented an analytical report on the \$2.2 billion "alternative equity" portfolio. These limited partnership interests comprise 11.2% of the trust fund as of 12/31/2015, and have been the best-performing asset class. The total return of this portfolio since inception in 1988 has been 16.2% per year, compounded annually. This superb performance has been instrumental in the trust fund's high funding status.
- The board voted to invest in two real estate partnerships: \$120 million in European Property Investors IV, and \$50 million in Westbrook Real Estate X. \$75 million was committed to TA Associations XII, and other investments were considered in closed session.

Mayor's Office of Housing Down Payment Loan Assistance Program (DLAP)

- A press release was provided to the Board regarding the Mayor's DLAP and a proposed partnership with the Retirement System to invest in the San Francisco housing market. No details were provided about the structure of

the deal, and investment staff provided no documents. During public comment, several members expressed their concerns about this type of program. *Stay tuned for future developments.*

Declaration of Vacancy on the Retirement Board

- Commissioner Driscoll's term will end on Feb. 20, 2016. He did not state that he would seek re-election. Persons interested in running for a seat on the board must complete a nomination form by Sept. 21, 2015.

Good of the Order

- Commissioners Meiberger and Cohen thanked Commissioner Makras for serving as president of the board for the last two years, and congratulated him for his excellent leadership during those turbulent times.

Questions? Comments? Contact Herb Meiberger at herb.sf@gmail.com or Herbert Weiner at h.weiner@sbcglobal.net.

Health Service Committee Report

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in the northern counties where there are shortages of providers. Board members had many more questions and were concerned that this proposal would replace the existing plan. In the end, the board decided to **retain the current Blue Shield MAPD (Medicare Advantage Plan with Part D Medicare) and COB (coordination of benefits) plans for 2016.** It was a very challenging process. Only four board members (president Scott, Breslin, Ferrigno and Sass) were present and the approval required four votes.

- There was another **Medicare presentation** on June 10, which was taped and is now accessible on the myhss.org website along with the questions and answers.
- It is budget season. HSS will be battling cut recommendations as the system continues to operate on a very tight margin. Again, HSS saved the city millions, but is never given "credit" for its efforts.
- New commissioner Greg Sass attended, and stated he was pleased to be back with HSS. He had been the previous chief financial officer for HSS. His financial acumen and knowledge of HSS should serve us well.

Questions? Comments? Contact Claire Zvanski at (415) 341-3085 or czvanski@hotmail.com.

Useful Phone Numbers

S.F. Retirement System

Website: www.sfgov.org/sfers

Phone Numbers:

(415) 487-7000 • (888) 849-0777

Health Service System

Website: www.myhss.org

Phone Numbers:

(415) 554-1750 • (800) 541-2266

Phone Hours for both:

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

New Members

Jesus Barragan	HSA
David R. Sullivan	FIR
Joann Kerns	DPH

Rest In Peace

The following members have recently passed away.

George N. Frey	DPH
Michael Kelly	DPW
Denis B. Mitchell	FAM
Alvin J. White	DPW

President's Message

By Claire Zvanski

Healthcare is a basic human right! Medicare keeps our healthcare affordable! This is even one more reason to attend Medicare's 50th birthday celebration, to be held on Thursday, July 30, starting at 11 a.m., at Frank Ogawa Plaza in Oakland (at the 12th Street BART station). It will be a very exciting celebration, and you and your friends can stay as long as you wish. Come one, come all! Let's celebrate!

Our annual luncheon was a huge success. Jack Bair brought Giants' prizes and Al Casciato donated another special baseball prize. RECCSF members are very interested in Giants'

trivia. The room was bathed in Giants colors, with a wonderful wall display of baseball uniforms and banners supplied by Leo Martinez.

I spoke to CRTA retired teachers. It seems retiree organizations share the same problem recruiting new members. We also discussed concerns about our benefits, especially in light of former San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed's newest effort to eliminate public pensions. While I sincerely dislike sending members "doom and gloom" messages, I was assured by the teachers that this is indeed the reality, and it will take continuing vigilance, work and financial donations to continue protect our benefits.



Questions? Comments? Contact czvanski@hotmail.com or (415) 341-3085.

Protect Our Benefits

By Sharon Johnson

Protect Our Benefits is an independent political action committee which falls under the provisions of the San Francisco Ethics Commission. The opinions are those of the writer.

Writ of Mandate

The California Supreme Court has *denied* both POB and the City's petitions for review. Subsequently, the appellate court ruling in the 2011 Proposition C lawsuit is final, and it is the law. POB attorney David Clisham is considering other avenues to protect pre-1996 retirees, and POB will work closely with him in his endeavors to include pre-1996 retirees. We believe *all* retirees are entitled to the supplemental COLA. Larry Barsetti, POB chair, stated: "I still hold out hope that a remedy can be found for those who retired before Nov. 6, 1996. I have directed our attorney to make every effort to advance our efforts to have our oldest members receive the supplemental COLA they are entitled to in their retirement."

POB, along with you, has made great achievements in protecting post-1996

retirees. In speaking for the committee's leadership, I want to thank members for your financial generosity and your moral support. We will continue our research, and find a way to protect pre-1996 retirees. Regarding the distribution of monies owed to post-1996 retirees, a date is unknown at this time. Please visit protectourbenefits.org or our Facebook page for immediate updates.

HSS and SFERS Issues

POB continues to monitor issues impacting our earned benefits; updates are immediately posted on our website and Facebook page to inform members of policies being introduced that impact our retirement and healthcare benefits.

Unite with POB

The Protect Our Benefits Committee is appreciative of your generous donations. Ongoing support is always needed. *Please make your check payable to POB, P.O. Box 320057, San Francisco, CA 94132, or make a donation at our POB website. Your donation is not tax deductible under federal or state law.*

Finally, this will be the last POB article written under my name.

Please be advised that another POB member will be submitting future POB articles to *News & Views*. Thank you for all your past support; it has been an honor to have served RECCSF members with timely updates on protecting *our* benefits.

"If I were to remain silent, I'd be guilty of complicity." *Albert Einstein*

June 16 Board Meeting Actions

- Continue to work on newsletter email delivery issues.
- Letter to UICC re safety issues: taping down microphone cord, and elevator access for members with disabilities.
- Consideration of themed holiday general membership meeting.

June 10
Annual
Luncheon
and
Installation



Travel Committee Report

By Beverly Pardini and Marylou Allen

Sun.–Tue., July 12–14

Attendance at *The Pageant of the Masters* in Laguna Beach, where this year's theme is "The Pursuit of Happiness," exploring the many sources of happiness—both ancient and modern—through "living pictures"; includes two nights at the Embassy Suites in Anaheim, a visit to the California Space Center to see the Endeavor, and dinner at the Tivoli Restaurant.

Friday, July 24

Ice cream, wine, cookies and cakes; all flavored with *garlic* at the 34th Annual Gilroy Garlic Festival. Browse Gourmet Alley and decide which of the garlic-infused delights you will sample for lunch. Visit the arts and craft booths for all things garlic and enjoy the wonderful scents of the "stinking rose."

Thursday, Aug. 27

World's longest running musical revue, "Beach Blanket Babylon," has become a world-renowned, San Francisco original, record-breaking success seen by nearly six million people. Hilarious spoofs of pop culture, and spectacular costumes and outrageously gigantic hats continue to delight audiences; evening performance with center balcony seating.

Wed.–Fri., Sept. 2–4

The Nugget in Sparks hosts the 27th annual Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-off, featuring top barbeque chefs from all over the country. In addition to sampling the ribs (for a small fee), there are many arts and craft displays and live music. Trip includes two nights at the Silver Legacy in Reno and visits to two other casinos for refund packages.

Info: Marylou at
1 (800) 334-3465 or
mrylallen@yahoo.com.

Membership and Subscriptions for retired city employees as of July 31, 2015

Membership application:

www.sfretirees.org

- \$48, annual
- \$600, lifetime

(payable over six months in six payments of \$100 per month, or annually over six years in increments of \$100 per year)

Mailed printed copies of *News & Views* will be available for an additional \$25 a year.

(Exceptions may be made for members without computer access.)

No
Editorial
Committee
or
Board
meetings
in July.

No General
Membership
Meeting in
August.

Get What You Paid For: Dealing with Defective or Non-Received Purchases and Services

By Bernadette Bardine,
Richmond Branch Manager
San Francisco Federal Credit Union

Whether it is purchasing an item that breaks right away, receiving something different than what you purchased, or receiving nothing at all, it can be frustrating to not get what you paid for. However, disappointment does not have to be the final result. By taking action, you can often obtain a satisfactory resolution.

- **Contact the seller.** Most companies will address problems in order to maintain a positive reputation. If telephoning or visiting the store is not effective, send a letter by certified mail detailing the problem—and keep a copy.
- **Check if you are covered by a warranty.** If you have a warranty you should be able to have the product repaired for free or replaced if it cannot be repaired.
- **Talk to the manufacturer of the product.** If the seller will not fix it, the manufacturer might.
- **File a complaint with the Better Business Bureau.** The Better Business Bureau forwards consumer complaints to companies for resolution.
- **Contact the media.** Often companies that ignored you before will take corrective action once they get negative publicity.

Would you like more guidance on consumer and personal finance issues? Contact us to learn about other products and services we offer that can help you with money management.

Summer Hours at RECCSF office

Monday, Wednesday, Friday,
9 a.m.–12 noon

Reminder to provide RECCSF with your email address!



If you have an email address, and are still receiving your copy of *News & Views* by postal mail, please email reccsf@att.net ASAP.

Emailed copies tend to reach members up to a week before printed copies, which not only ensure timely updates on your current retirement issues, but also help to significantly defray RECCSF postage and printing costs. Many thanks!

Attention—RECCSF members still receiving their copies of *News & Views* by U.S. mail!

In order to provide a greater range of information and remain within our allotted dues revenue, we are moving to an email version of *News & Views* that will also enable you to receive current information on developing retirement or health care topics.

In order to receive your monthly copy by email—if you have not already provided the office with this information—please sign up immediately at reccsf@att.net.

If you wish to continue to receive a hard copy of News & Views by the U.S. Postal Service, it will become necessary to charge \$25 per year to defray escalating printing and mailing costs; effective July 31, 2015, you will be charged this increase.

(Exemptions may be made, on a case-by-case basis, for members not having access to computers.)

Many thanks to our June 10 Annual Luncheon donors for your help in making this event a tremendous success!

- Laborers International Union, Local 261
- Peninsula Auto Machinists, Lodge 1414
- Retired Firemen and Widows Association
- Stationary Engineers, Local 39
- Veteran Police Officers Association
- Al Casciato
- Nancy Gin
- Vijay Gupta
- Sharon Johnson
- Denise LaPointe
- John Madden
- Leo Martinez
- Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey
- Claire Zvanski

*And special thanks to:
San Francisco Federal Credit Union, for printing the luncheon program
San Francisco Giants for donating the table decorations and special prizes*

Membership and Subscriptions

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Membership application: www.sfretirees.org

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- \$600, *lifetime* (payable over six months in six payments of \$100 per month, or annually over six years in increments of \$100 per year)

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News & Views is the publication of the Retired Employees of the City & County of San Francisco, Inc., a nonprofit organization. *News & Views* is published to express the policies, ideals and accomplishments of the organization. Nothing shall be published herein that is racist, sexist or ageist, or that is derogatory toward religious beliefs and other personal issues; nor shall be published anything in violation of Article VII, Section 1 of the RECCSF constitution. Editorial contributions from individuals, organizations and groups other than RECCSF and its members may be included in *News & Views* only upon the approval of the Editorial Committee.

Submissions to *News & Views* are solicited and encouraged.

Submit in Word document to: sheilamullen@mac.com, or
Sheila Mullen, editor, RECCSF office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294
Telephone: (415) 681-5398, Fax: (415) 681-5398

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Claire Zvanski, President
Linda Tabor-Beck,
First Vice President
John Madden,
Second Vice President
Secretary
George Lau, Treasurer
Leo Martinez, Sergeant-at-Arms

Executive Board Meeting

No Meeting in July
Aug. 18, 10 a.m.
Taraval Police Station
2345-24th Ave.
All interested parties welcome.

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Note to members:

Please keep RECCSF updated with changes in address, phone number and email.

News & Views

September Deadline:

Friday, Aug. 14, 5:30 p.m.

Please email your submissions to:
sheilamullen@mac.com.

Letters to the Editor of 50 words or less welcome.
All letters subject to further editing.

Visit our website:

sfretirees.org

RECCSF office
email address:
reccsf@att.net

Welcome, New Retirees

Upcoming General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, July 14

Glenn Sylvester, retired SFPD, will present an in-depth and timely program on keeping your computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices safe from viruses and hackers.