

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

RECCSF's annual health fair was an amazing event! Attendance topped 500, and almost 200 flu shots were given. There was a standing-room-only crowd!

HSS Director Catherine Dodd and HSS Board President Randy Scott addressed the audience, as did representatives from VSP, Delta Dental, Kaiser and UHC. HSS also brought analysts to process open enrollment forms and help members.

Many attendees were anxious to have their questions answered, and almost everyone had the same question: "Will I be able to keep my doctor?" For convenience, UHC and Kaiser reviewed the "most frequently asked questions." There was a floor microphone where retirees lined up to ask more complex questions. For the first time ever, families with under-65-year-old members may split membership in the UHC option.

Since this was a Medicare retiree meeting, it was pointed out we receive treatment from physicians who accept Medicare. (It's always a shock when we reach 65 and are told our physician (group) doesn't accept Medicare.)

Searching for a new physician is never easy! The New City Plan UHC Medicare Advantage Plan includes all physicians, hospitals, labs, etc. that accept Medicare reimbursement. While there is no requirement to have a primary care physician in this plan, it remains advisable.

Kaiser is a one-stop-shopping option where everyone has a primary care physician with coordination of care, including urgent and emergency care.

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Retirement Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski Herb Weiner, and
Herb Meiberger, CFA

The Fund reached an all-time high of \$21 billion!

- The new fiscal year has started on a strong note, returning 3.87% for the first three months of FY2016-17! All asset classes had positive returns.
- Reflecting the strong stock market, SFERS' stocks returned 6.46%, followed by bonds at 4.57%, private equity at 1.99%, and real assets at 1.30%. The Fund was valued at \$21 billion on 9/30/2016.

SFERS commits to invest \$400 million in China's Unlisted "A shares!"

- At a previous meeting, staff proposed an investment of \$400 million in China, which failed to pass with a three-to-three vote; Commissioner Meiberger voiced his concerns on transparency issues, as well as on the fact that the manager—instead of SFERS—"owns" the shares.
- Two years ago, Commissioner Meiberger proposed that SFERS petition the Chinese government to own these shares directly. These shares offer superb opportunities to take advantage of the growing Chinese markets in both bonds and stocks, with securities denominated in the local Chinese currency, the renminbi (yuan). This would require that SFERS apply to be a *Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor* (QFII), and receive a quota directly from the Chinese government.
- Chief Investment Officer Bill Coaker has consistently stated that applying for QFII is not necessary and recommended against the proposal.

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November Calendar

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 9

Business meeting & program:
10 a.m.

Irish Cultural Center
45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

News & Views

Editorial Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 9 a.m.

Taraval Police Station
All interested parties welcome.

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 10 a.m.

Taraval Police Station
All interested parties welcome.

Public Meetings:

Retired Firemen &

Widows Association

Thursday, November 17, 1 p.m.

Irish Cultural Center,
45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

Veteran Police Officers

Tuesday, November 8, 11 a.m.

San Francisco Scottish Rite
Masonic Center,
2850 19th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

Retirement System

Wednesday, November 9, 1 p.m.

1145 Market St., 6th Floor

Health Service System

Thursday, November 10, 1 p.m.

City Hall, Room 416

UESF Retired Division

For time/location, contact
Diane Doe at 1 (415) 822-2099 or
Ddoe@mac.com.

SEIU 1021 West Bay

Retirees Chapter

Monday, November 21, 12-2 p.m.

Union Hall, 350 Rhode Island St.,
100 South Bldg.

Contact: David Williams

1 (415) 939-5149 or
iamdhw@comcast.net.

Retirement Committee Report

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- The Board voted unanimously to commit \$200 million to Springs Capital and \$200 million to Cephei Capital—both China investment managers.

SFERS's first investment in Hedge Funds has been consummated!

- Moving toward the 5% allocation in hedge funds, \$250 million has been invested in hedge fund strategies.

Oil & Gas Investments

- Staff announced that SFERS had received allocations in two partnerships totaling \$20 million in the energy arena that were approved by the Board in closed session.

Thanks for the memories!

- Due to poor relative performance, the Board voted to terminate Zazove (convertible bonds) and Capital International (emerging markets).
- BNY Mellon was selected as SFERS' new custodian bank! The custodian holds SFERS assets, receives interest and dividends, and produces analytical reports on the portfolio. No decision was made on the SFERS securities lending program. This ends a stormy 20-year relationship with Northern Trust.
- Separately, the Board agreed to settle its complaint against Northern Trust for \$11 million, due to Northern Trust's handling of the securities lending program. Northern Trust restricted the SFERS \$250 million cash account in 2008, and incurred large losses due to its poor decisions in this program.

Divestment of Firearms and Ammunitions Manufacturing and Retailing Companies:

- At its September meeting, the Board unanimously voted to direct staff to propose an implementation policy to sell securities in companies in the firearms and ammunition industry.
- Staff's report showed that SFERS had \$740,000 invested in Orbital ATK, Vista Outdoor and Smith & Wesson as of 8/31/2016, and highlighted their recent poor performance. SFERS has no current investments in the following retailers: Dick's Sporting Goods, Big 5, and Cabela's.
- The Board unanimously voted to sell its holdings in a prudent manner, and to restrict future investments in these companies.

Deferred Compensation Plan (DC):

- The credited interest rate for the Stable Value fund will be increased to 1.59% for the fourth quarter, 2016.

Questions? Comments?

Contact Herb Meiberger at herb.sf@gmail.com or Herbert Weiner at h.weiner@sbcglobal.net or Claire Zvanski at czvanski@hotmail.com.

Health Service Committee Report

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It was also pointed out that our HSS benefit is what used to be called "medigap" insurance. Kaiser and UHC provide the supplemental coverage for expenses beyond what Medicare pays. Kaiser and UHC (the New City Plan) have copays; this means that members are not balance-billed for expenses, are very unlikely to reach the maximum "out of pocket" limit, and do not have a drug "donut hole." All HSS plans cover emergency medical for overseas travel.

It was also cautioned that purchasing other supplemental plans would nullify our HSS coverage. (Throw away all those Medicare solicitations that appear this time of year!)

RECCSF picked up new members, since many learned they are *not* automatically members of RECCSF by virtue of retiring from the City, SFUSD, community college or the superior court.

RECCSF also revived its email contest for those who provided their email addresses; cash prizes will be given.

We have every hope that next year's health fair will be as successful and well attended.

Questions? Comments? Contact Claire Zvanski at 1 (415) 341-3085 or cvanski@hotmail.com.

(FYI: The HSS board cancelled its regular October meeting during Open Enrollment.)

New Members

Timothy Won	DPW	Mabel Dang	POL
Fareeda Christ	USD	Joseph Sims	DPW
Nathan Brennan	PUC	Pearl Mar	USD
Joann Wong	HSS	Rene Rodrigues	POL
Harold Fong	HSS	Sandra Mack	SFUSD

Rest In Peace

The following members have recently passed away.

August		September	
Lillian R. Favetti	GEN	Betty M. Burke	POL
Joan Galindo	AIR	Robert B. Fuller	FIR
K. C. Mosley	WTR	William Hockenberry, Jr.	DPW
Margaret H. O'Brien	BOE	Walter J. Morris	BOE
James P. Olson	FIR	Rex E. Oberg	POL
Rita Stark	GEN	Jean B. Prael	BOE
		Amelia Siu	ADP
		William J. Sullivan	CRT
		Robert B. Vienot	POL

President's Message

By Claire Zvanski

RECCSF has taken a number of very frugal steps over the last five years in an effort to stay viable. Many retirees believe that they automatically belong to RECCSF without joining or paying dues. **This is not true!**

Many more recent retirees are of a generation that doesn't seem to join organizations, apparently preferring social media.

Some of you readily share your copies of *News and Views* with colleagues who are not RECCSF members. RECCSF is **not** the City and **not** the Retirement System. It is an independent organization that depends on membership dues to sustain its advocacy on

your behalf.

News and Views went electronic to save printing and mailing costs that were extremely costly and unsustainable. For those of you who still wonder where your hard copy of *News and Views* is, please realize that it depends on when I have the time to sit with my printer and crank out about 150 copies to take to the post office.

I'm not complaining. I'm very pleased that you appreciate and value this publication. Now that our annual health fair is over, I will have the time to get back to snail-mailing *News and Views* in a more timely manner.

And please ask your colleagues to join RECCSF themselves the next time they ask for their free copy!



Questions? Comments? Please feel free to contact me at 1 (415) 341-3085 or czvanski@hotmail.com.

How to Lend Money

By Burlingame Branch Manager Maria Soria
San Francisco Federal Credit Union

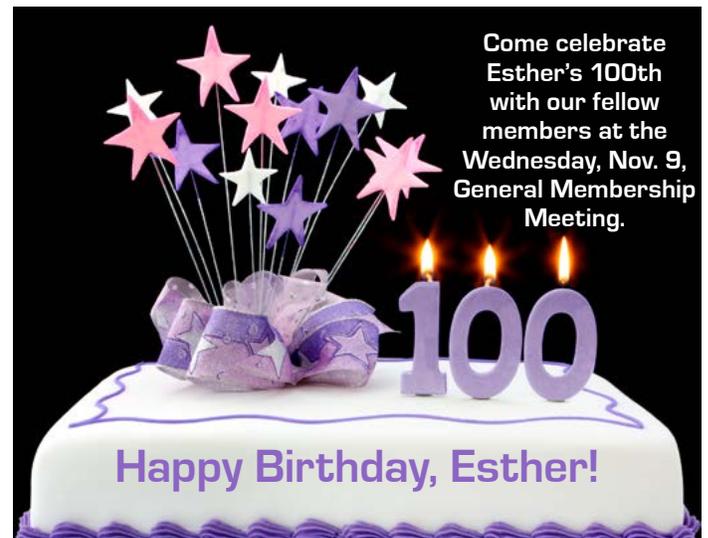
If you decide to loan money to a friend or family member, do it wisely.

- **Don't lend money you can't afford to lose.** Be prepared for the possibility that you won't receive back your money. If you lend cash that you need to pay the mortgage—or other essential expenses—you are putting yourself into a precarious financial situation.
- **Get the agreement in writing.** If you agree on the terms only verbally, it is possible that both you and the borrower will genuinely remember them differently in the future. By writing down the repayment terms, there will be no question as to what was agreed.
- **Give a reminder.** Give a friendly reminder before the due date so that the borrower does not forget about the payment.
- **Communicate and cooperate.** If your friendly reminder fails to work, try to communicate calmly with the borrower. If he or she is experiencing ongoing difficulties, perhaps you can work out an alternative repayment agreement. You can go to small claims court to collect, but it can be time-consuming; and it is usually best used

when all else fails.

Want more financial advice? The San Francisco Federal Credit Union is here to guide you toward making smart financial decisions. Call or stop in for information on how to attend a workshop or learn more about our helpful products and services.

Federally insured by NCUA



Useful Phone Numbers

RECCSF Office

Email: reccsf@att.net

Web site: sfretirees.org

Phone Number:

1 (415) 681-5949

Health Service System

Web site: myhss.org

Phone Numbers:

1 (415) 554-1750

1 (800) 541-2266

S.F. Retirement System

Web site: sfgov.org/sfers

Phone Numbers:

1 (415) 487-7000

1 (888) 849-0777

October Membership Meeting and Health Fair



Travel Committee Report

By Beverly Pardini and Marylou Allen

Wed.-Fri., Nov. 23-25

Join the group for a two-night stay at the Silver Legacy in downtown Reno over the Thanksgiving holiday. First day: Check in, with the rest of the day at leisure. Second day: Relax before an included early bountiful Thanksgiving buffet at the Silver Legacy. Third day: four-hour stop at Boomtown before returning to the Bay Area. Tour also includes roundtrip deluxe motorcoach and baggage handling.

Wed., Dec. 7

Visit to Duarte's Poinsettia Nursery in Hughson, near Modesto, where over 60,000 poinsettias in 30 varieties and colors grow in state-of-the-art greenhouses. After a brief tour, time is available for shopping. (Duarte's Nursery accepts checks or cash only). Included: sandwich buffet lunch of soup, salad and dessert at the Hilmar Cheese Factory.

Wed.-Fri., Dec. 14-16

Annual pre-holiday visit to the Silver Legacy in downtown Reno for two nights, including a buffet dinner and this year's performance of *A Miracle on 34th Street* at the El Dorado. Upon arrival at the Legacy, your escort will host a cocktail party prior to an evening at your leisure. Next day: Relax and enjoy on your own. A four-hour stop is made at Boomtown before returning to the Bay Area. Tour also includes roundtrip deluxe motorcoach and baggage handling.

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



Annual Firefighter Toy Program

If you can, please bring unwrapped toys to the Nov. 9 or Dec. 14 meeting, to help disadvantaged kids have a happy holiday. (Checks payable to SFFD Toy Program are also gratefully accepted.)

If you are unable to attend, please feel free to drop off your donation at any San Francisco Fire Station.

Vote for “Balance” on SFERS’ Board

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

I retired last Halloween. I’ve survived my first year of retirement, finding balance in my life!

What about balance on the SFERS board of directors?

Of seven board members, three are mayoral appointees, one is a member of the board of supervisors, and three are elected by retirees and active city employees. When the city charter was changed in 1996 to permit retirees to vote in Retirement Board elections, it allowed one elected seat to be filled by a retiree.

For over a decade, we’ve had balance among the three elected seats, one held by a firefighter, one by a police officer (both active employees), and one by a “miscellaneous” employee (who represents everybody else), who’s a retiree.

Of 24,798 retirees as of June 30, 2016, fully 21,185 (85.4%) come from “miscellaneous” ranks, while the remaining 3,612 (14.6%) are from police and fire.

Similarly, of the 40,397 full and

part-time active employees on the City payroll as of June 30, 2016, 35,344 employees (87.5%) are “miscellaneous” employees. Just 4,209 active employees (10.4%) are police and fire employees. The remaining 844 (2.1%) are sheriff employees who aren’t in SFERS’ retirement plan.

Retired SFPD Police Captain Al Casciato is now running for the retiree seat, seeking to unseat our miscellaneous retiree Herb Meiberger, who has served commendably. Should Casciato win January’s election, all three elected seats would be dominated by police and fire. That’s not balanced—let alone fair—representation. *“Public Safety” shouldn’t hold all three elected seats on the SFERS Board!*

It’s Casciato’s blatant hubris seeking to control all three elected seats, stripping 85.4% of miscellaneous retirees and 87.5% of miscellaneous active members of balanced Board representation.

Meiberger has served admirably on the SFERS Board for 24 years, including 10 as a retiree. He’s the only elected

board member with direct investment experience, having worked 20 years as an SFERS employee. Casciato has no direct investment experience, nor do the two current elected active board members.

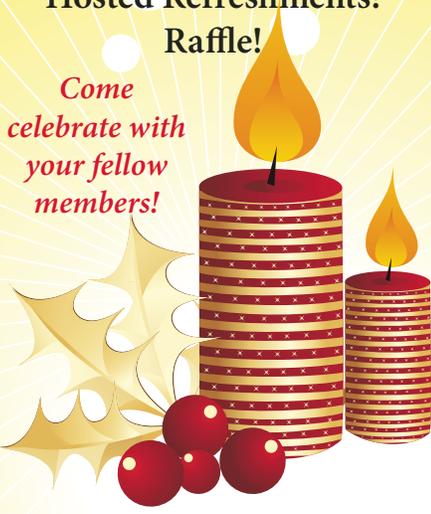
In response to POB’s candidate questionnaire, Casciato claimed: “Being a lone voice is not enough,” saying that the retiree board member needs to have strong working relationships with other board members—implying that Meiberger is a “lone wolf.”

That’s nonsense! Meiberger’s accomplishments have involved collaboratively obtaining four Board votes to pass investment decisions. The failed Currency Overlay investment (a hedge fund)—Board Member Joe Driscoll’s not-so-brilliant idea—lost over \$65 million. The full Board (including Driscoll) voted unanimously to terminate the investment in May 2013.

When your ballots arrive by U.S. mail around Christmas, vote for Meiberger in order to retain balance and investment experience on the SFERS Board!

Save the Date!
Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2016
RECCSF Annual
Holiday Party
Hosted Refreshments!
Raffle!

Come celebrate with your fellow members!



Holiday Party Donations Needed!

RECCSF is seeking donations for our Dec. 14 annual holiday party raffle. “Cash is king,” and **NEW** donated items are also welcome for the raffle.

If you can help, please leave a message by Nov. 23 at the office:
reccsf@att.net
 or
 1 (415) 681-5949.



Protect Our Benefits

By Skip McKinney

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.

On Oct. 4, 2016, both SFERS and the City and County of San Francisco appeared in superior court, wherein Judge Mary Wiss heard arguments from both parties as to whether or not to issue a preliminary injunction that would prevent SFERS from issuing supplemental COLA benefits to the pre-1996 retirees in a manner consistent to the method that post-1996 retirees were paid. Counsel for Protect Our Benefits appeared as amicus curiae (friend of the court).

On Oct. 5, 2016, having found—according to Judge Mary Wiss—that there is a likelihood that the City will prevail on the merits of their claim, the court issued its ruling; a preliminary injunction.

On Nov. 1, 2016, a case manage-

ment conference is scheduled between the judge and the parties. The main purpose of the conference is to try some—or all—of their issues in dispute before going to trial. It is our understanding that the retirement board members will not rescind their votes.

One may well ask why POB cannot file on their behalf. The answer is that we already “had our day in court,” as ruled by Judge Wiss.

As you can see, the City—as in the past—has gone into “stall mode.” The truth of the matter is that they don’t want to pay any money at all into our pension system, even though it’s *your* money and you’re entitled to it by the charter. Despite all of its rhetoric, in the City’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for end of year balance as of June 30, 2015 (last published report) the fund was valued at \$20.4 billion. That would fill a lot of potholes, which the City thinks is more important than making matters right for you.

This is all part of a strategy by cities across the nation who have a “defined

pension system” like ours. There’s a question that is used by corporations: How do you (City) get rid of the 800 lb. (retirees) in the living room? The answer is: piece by piece (pre-96ers). This is just a start. Vesting is the next issue. The actives had better take a more proactive approach to what is currently happening, because this heat-seeking missile is aimed at *all* city retirees.

POB is looking into various options, such as; press conferences, ballot issues, and lawsuits by named retirees against CCSF. *The City would like nothing better than to see retirees “go away.” Prove them wrong!*

Final note: At POB’s October monthly meeting, the board voted to endorse Al Casciato for the retirement board.

Please stay current on city retiree issues by visiting protectourbenefits.org or our Facebook page.

Your contributions are not tax deductible, but most appreciated; please mail them to POB at P.O. Box 32007, San Francisco, CA 94132.

United we stand, divided we fall.

See’s Candy Gift Certificates

RECCSF is taking orders for See’s Candy one-pound gift certificates at the discounted price of \$17 each. Order by mail, or at the Nov. 9 general membership meeting. Certificates will be distributed at the Dec. 14 Holiday Party.

If you wish your certificate(s) mailed to you, please check the box below, include 50¢ per certificate in your check, and make sure to write your address on the order form. Do not send an envelope—we can’t use them to mail the certificates. Certificates not being mailed will be available at the Dec. 14 Holiday Party.

We do not order actual boxes of candy—only gift certificates.

All orders must be received by Dec. 4, and accompanied by a check. No exceptions!

Questions? Contact RECCSF Office Manager Reyna Kuuk at reccsf@att.net or 1 (415) 681-5949.

See’s Candy Order Form (Please print!)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of one-pound certificates: _____ @ \$17 per certificate = \$ _____

Attached is my check payable to RECCSF, in the amount of \$ _____

Mail order form and check to:

RECCSF, 3915 Irving Street, San Francisco, CA 94122 ATTN: See’s Candy

Please mail my certificates to the address below. I have included 50¢ per certificate in my check.

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

RECCSF General Membership Meeting Date Changes!

Effective 2017, RECCSF General Membership meetings will be held bimonthly.

This is a necessary austerity measure.

The RECCSF Board has decided that meetings will be held every other month, starting February, 2017.

Therefore, the meeting schedule for 2017 will be:

- February (nominate new officers)
- April (vote)
- June (installation luncheon)
- August
- October (health fair)
- December (holiday party)

Bi-monthly meetings will continue to be held at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at the United Irish Cultural Center.

News and Views will continue to be published monthly (except in August) and sent electronically.

Email blasts will continue to be sent, when necessary, to update members on critical benefit issues.

RECCSF endorses
HERB MEIBERGER, CFA
for re-election to
the San Francisco Employees'
Retirement Board.

Oct. 18 Board Meeting Actions

- Accepted Treasurer's Report.
- Voted to reduce monthly meetings to six per year, effective 2017: February, April, June, August, October and December.
- Voted to consider various Frugal Few austerity recommendations after more research on parameters of RECCSF's 501.c(4) status with CPA.
- Voted to defer action on adjustment of office hours.
- Voted to give out 16 grocery store gift cards to the "sign in with your email" winners.

Speed up your computer: Clean out your junk/spam folder!

Perhaps you haven't discovered it yet, but all of our computers and laptops have "junk" or "spam" folders. Piling up items in these folders can cause your computer to run sluggishly, or even stop! The content of these folders needs to be deleted or emptied on a regular basis. (You should take your time doing this.)

As you check the items in your junk/spam folder, don't click on any unknown emails, because you don't want to activate the spam.

However, your electronic copy of News and Views may mistakenly find its way into the junk/spam folders. If this happens, click on the email and locate the prompt that states: "This is not spam/junk." With some spam filters, you will need to make sure that RECCSF is listed among the emails that you will accept.

Common scams: an incoming email with a friend's name may claim to be from a friend who is suddenly caught overseas and needs money; or an offer from someone who is offering you huge sums of money in exchange for minor services. These are all scams.

Don't get caught!

Membership and Subscriptions

for retired city employees as of July 31, 2015

Membership application: www.sfiretires.org; email: reccsf@att.net.

- \$48, annual
- \$600, lifetime (payable over four months in four payments of \$150 per month, or annually over four years in increments of \$150 per year)
- Members without computer access should contact the RECCSF office at 1 (415) 681-5949.

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: 1 (415) 681-5949, Fax: 1 (415) 681-5398



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News & Views

November 2016
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Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey,
First Vice President
Linda Tabor-Beck,
Second Vice President
Secretary, Bonnie Bompert
George Lau, Treasurer
Leo Martinez, Sergeant-at-Arms

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 10 a.m.
Taraval Police Station
2345-24th Ave.
All interested parties welcome.

Note to members:

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

News & Views

December Deadline:

☛ Friday, November 11, 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 Web site:

sfretirees.org

RECCSF office

email address:
reccsf@att.net

Upcoming General Membership Meetings

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m.

Presentations by Candidates for Election to the
San Francisco Employees' Retirement Board
Retired SFPD Police Captain Al Casciato

Herb Meiberger, CFA, current Retirement Board member

Wednesday, Dec. 14

10 a.m.

Annual RECCSF Holiday Party

Mark your calendar now!

