

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

This was the final meeting for HSS Director Catherine Dodd. She made a wonderful parting speech, with specific reference to each commissioner and a review of her service to the system. It's very clear that she set a very high bar that will be challenging to match in the future.

The job description was adopted by the board so that the replacement search can commence. Assistant Director Mitchell Griggs was appointed as acting director.

- The 10-county survey is the charter-mandated offset for retiree rates. The average monthly contribution of \$649.17 for the 2018 plan year is 7.33% above \$604.84, the current 2017 plan year average. All counties had a change in contribution rates. (Please note that HSS has never diminished or eliminated benefits as done in other counties and CalPERS over the years.)
- In 2016, the federal Health Insurance Tax (HIT) was applied to the Blue Shield Flex Funded Plan, due to filing with the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) as a fully-insured plan. Upon re-evaluation by the DMHC, flex-funded plans are being treated as not fully insured and therefore not required to pay the HIT tax. That decision resulted in an estimated refund to HSS by Blue Shield of \$9,934,909. It also means that under current law, even if there are changes in Washington, D.C., we will no longer be eligible for the HIT tax.

It was determined for benefit parity that:

- A one time sperm retrieval and

continued on page 2

Retirement Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski and Herb Weiner

- The value of the fund as of Feb. 28, 2017 is \$21.5 billion, with the fiscal year rate of return at 8.23%. The valuation is reported gross of fees. U.S. equities have performed well but global equities have declined dramatically, so the final performance remains unknown.
- The SFERS remains in the top 10% of public plans nationally, in the top 5% within the last five years, and in the top 1% in the last three years for performance.
- Northern Trust (NTGI) has been removed from the "under review" list. In 2014, it received a subpoena from the SEC requesting information on its securities lending activities. As a result, investment staff placed NTGI under review. In November 2016, NTGI received a "no-action letter" from the SEC, which indicates that the matter is closed. No charges were made by the SEC.
- In October 2016, the board approved a change in custodians from Northern Trust to BNY Mellon. The legal teams at Mellon and SFERS, as well as the SFERS investment team, have worked to advance the transfer of data and set up accounts to have Mellon operational on July 1.
- Hedge fund returns as of Jan. 17 are 1.0%. The next investment committee meeting will be May 23.
- At a staff retreat, a number of key points were made by Blackrock. In the past year or so, five of the 10 largest countries in the world have experienced a leadership change. Political decisions in the U.S. and elections in France, Germany, and elsewhere in Europe present in-

continued on page 2

April Calendar

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 12

Business meeting & program:
10 a.m.

Irish Cultural Center
2700 45th Ave. at Sloat Blvd.

News & Views

Editorial Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, 9 a.m.

Taraval Police Station
All interested parties welcome.

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, 10 a.m.

Taraval Police Station
All interested parties welcome.

Public Meetings:

Retired Firemen &

Widows Association

Thursday, May 18, 1 p.m.

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

Veteran Police Officers

Tuesday, April 11, 11 a.m.

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

Retirement System

Wednesday, April 12, 1 p.m.

1145 Market St., 6th Floor

Health Service System

Thursday, April 13, 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, April 17, 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

continued from page 1

creased risks to markets. Brexit is still a risk about which the markets may be too complacent. There is significant mistrust toward politicians, CEOs, Wall Street, and the media. Emphasis from the Trump Administration will be on taxes, trade, regulation, infrastructure, and immigration. Corporate tax reform will have implications on importers and exporters, inflation, and the value of the dollar. Major infrastructure spending will lead to higher employment, deficits, inflation, and economic growth. Dynamics are changing from globalism to populism, stagnation to possible inflation, monetary to fiscal policy, and regulation to deregulation. Blackrock (SFERS hedge fund manager) is more constructive on returns in emerging markets (China and Europe) than they are in the U.S., and they expect very low single digit returns from U.S. stocks over the next 10 years.

- Callan Associates is the Deferred Compensation Plan's investment consultant. Its performance summary for the 2016 calendar year stated that the DC Plan was valued at \$2.9 billion on Dec. 31, 2016. Commissioner Driscoll indicated there is a task list for Callan Associates, but no date has been set for the next committee meeting.
- Each year, audited financial statements for the SFERS are prepared by outside auditors selected by the controller's office. Macias Gini & O'Connell LLP stated that their audit disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering SFERS' internal control and compliance.
- The 2017-2022 Strategic Plan was presented, but the board

could not agree on the elements presented. The item is continued to the next meeting. Working together, senior management staff has identified business risks, opportunities and needs for the department, and identified priority strategic goals and objectives designed to address them. The FY2017-18 department budget included both staff and other resources to address these goals and objectives for the strategic, plan beginning in the coming year.

- President Malia Cohen made the following committee assignments:

Investment Committee:

Chair Bridges: Committee of the Whole;

Finance Committee:

Chair Makras: Bridges, Cohen, Makras;

Personnel Committee:

Chair Cohen: Cohen, Casciato and Driscoll;

Governance Committee:

Chair Stansbury: Makras, Paskin-Jordan, Stansbury;

Deferred Compensation Committee:

Chair Driscoll: Bridges, Driscoll and Stansbury; and
ESG Committee:

Chair Driscoll: Driscoll, Paskin-Jordan, Stansbury.

- Executive Director Jay Huish presented a request from Commissioner Makras for the April meeting for a fossil fuel and thermal coal investment report to cover the period from 2013 to the present.

Questions? Comments?

Contact Claire Zvanski at czvanski@hotmail.com.

Health Service Committee Report

continued from page 1

sperm storage for up to 12 months per lifetime benefit would be added. Sperm retrieval and sperm storage are available to members for whom medical treatment will result in the member becoming infertile; it is not for members who are undergoing voluntary sterilization.

- Gender dysphoria benefits need conformity among plans. A more comprehensive review should be done and presented in April for final approval. The discussion focused on the definition or interpretation of "medical necessity."
- Simple Therapy, a program of personalized pain recovery performed 100% at home through videos and direct communication with a physical therapist, was presented for consideration. For retirees, the program reduces the fear of falling, increases confidence in independence, and contributes to avoiding bone fractures, hospitalization, surgery and rehabilitation.
- HSS Finance was recognized for its contribution to the Financial System Replacement Project (F\$P) for provid-

ing solutions for outreach to over 50,000 vendors that do business with the city. The solutions were implemented by the controller's office.

- Catherine Dodd has been meeting with DPH to have Zuckerberg SFGH added as a network hospital for both Blue Shield and UHC.
- The HSS adopted an investment policy. This won't impact how the fund is managed, but the practices are now quantified in a policy.

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

New Members

Names are currently unavailable, and will be listed in *May News & Views*.

President's Message

By Claire Zvanski

First of all, I want to thank all of our members who sent in contributions. They are greatly appreciated. Currently, we need to replace our RECCSF office computer and printer/copier, so these dollars will be put to good use. Also, as of this printing we are progressing with our search for a new office manager, and still accepting resumes.

We continue to monitor the "pre-96 retiree" supplemental COLA suit that continues in the courts. And, we continue to monitor the fate of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) should it potentially impact our health benefits.

In August, our general membership

meetings will move to the San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, 2850, 19th Ave., (at Sloat Blvd.). Our April 12 general membership meeting and June 14 annual luncheon will still be held at the United Irish Cultural Center, 2700-45th Ave. (at Sloat Blvd.).

(Reminder: Since we now meet bi-monthly, as of this printing our remaining 2017 meetings are being held in April, June, August, October and December.)

My intent is still to hold meetings in outlying counties. Coordinating those meetings has taken longer than I intended, so if you live in Novato, Vallejo or San Mateo, and are interested in helping to set up a meeting with your local colleagues, please let me know.

Regardless of where you live, your benefits remain governed by the San Francisco City Charter, local officials, and local voters. Your continued support



is essential to our ability to represent you. Thank you.

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

Keep the Heat on Congress to Protect and Improve Medicare and Medicaid!

Contact Representative

Nancy Pelosi: 1 (866) 828-4162.

Contact Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris: 1 (855) 976-0757.

"My name is _____ and I am a constituent from your district. I am calling to tell you that I am expecting you to fight against any proposals to cut, privatize, or limit America's most essential social programs—Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. These programs must be protected, improved and expanded—not cut. I depend on these programs. I earned them and I could not live without them—just as millions of other Californians do. I am counting on you to represent my interests and those of my friends, family and colleagues in your district. I am watching you and how you vote on these critical programs. Thank you."

You can call every day!

Rest In Peace

Names are currently unavailable, and will be listed in May News & Views.



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

Nominations Committee Report

2017-18 New Board Member/ Officer Installation Schedule

**For your calendar:
Save the date**

By John (Skee) Tostanoski, Nominations chair

In my opinion, we are blessed to have a board that cares so much they are willing to “go the extra mile” for us to keep getting the job done.

However, we are specifically appealing to you, our members, to join us in the business of keeping RECCSF growing and active, by running for the board and helping to get our message out on issues critical to the health and financial well-being of all our members.

To date, the following have been nominated:

Secretary: Bonnie Bompert (Incumbent)

Treasurer: George Lau (Incumbent)

Sergeant at Arms: Leo Martinez (Incumbent)

Hospitality Chair: Steven Green

Additional nominations needed for: Program Chair

Board members (four positions):

Thomas Dang (Incumbent)

Adlai “A.J.” Jew (Incumbent)

Jerry Maxwell

Sheila Mullen (Incumbent)

If you are interested in running for any of those positions, want more information, or have questions, please contact me at 1 (415) 699-1050 or sfskee@sbcglobal.net.

*Please consider responding to the call;
RECCSF needs you!*

2017/18 New Board Member/ Officer Installation Schedule

Nominations presented by the Nomination Committee, taken from the floor, and voted on at the April 12 General Membership Meeting.

Installation at June 14 RECCSF Annual Luncheon.

**For Your Calendar:
Save the date!**

2017 RECCSF Annual Luncheon & New Board
Member/Officer Installation Ceremony

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

No-Host Cocktails - 11 a.m. Luncheon - 12:15 p.m.

United Irish Cultural Center

45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

San Francisco

Abbreviated Financial Statement for RECCSF for the six months ended Jan. 31, 2017

Revenue:

Membership dues	\$15,784.00
Contributions	2,933.36
Others	3,720.33
	<hr/>
	\$22,437.69

Expenditures:

• News and Views	\$ 3,207.93
• Meeting & office expenses	22,081.26
• Others	2,946.08
•	<hr/>
	\$28,235.27
• Deficit for the period	(\$5,797.58)



Annual Luncheon and Installation of Officers

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

United Irish Cultural Center, 45th Avenue and Sloat Blvd. San Francisco

11 a.m. No-host Cocktails ~ 12:15 p.m. Luncheon

Luncheon Tickets: \$30.

Make your reservation at the **April 12** General Membership Meeting or mail this form with your check (payable to RECCSF) to the RECCSF Office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294.

Reservations and payments must be received by **Wednesday, June 7** — no exceptions!

All information must be filled out, or your reservation form will be returned to you. No payment will be accepted without a properly completed reservation form, and no form will be accepted without payment. No tickets will be sold at the door, and no seating will be rearranged at the door.

For your information:

- Raffle tickets will be sold at the luncheon for \$1 each, or six for \$5. The number of \$20 *each* cash prizes to be awarded depends on how many tickets sold, with 50% percent of the proceeds going to prizes and 50% to the RECCSF operating fund.
- If you have any questions, contact RECCSF office at reccsf@att.net or (415) 681-5949; include your name and phone number in the message.

Annual Luncheon Reservation Form ~ Please Print!

Name(s) (e.g., John and Jane Doe): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email address: _____ Daytime Phone (w/area code) _____

Entrée choice: If making a reservation for more than one person, please indicate how many of each entrée type:

Beef Pot Roast with Mashed Potatoes

Parmesan Crusted Sole with Rice

Cheese Ravioli

Entrée choice(s) _____

Please note the names of all other attendees with whom you would like to share your table.

Name/s: _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Detach and mail to: RECCSF Office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294.

Managing Your Checking Account

From Your Friends at
San Francisco Federal Credit Union

When you use your debit card or write a check, do you know if you have enough money in your checking account to cover the transaction? Not knowing can cost you. If you write a check for more than your account balance and do not have overdraft privileges, the check will bounce and you can be charged a nonsufficient funds fee. If you can overdraw, but do not have overdraft protection, you can be charged an overdraft fee for every

transaction you make while you are in the red.

Following a few simple steps can help you avoid these expensive fees:

Check your account balance.

- If you know your account balance, you will know if you have enough money for a particular transaction. You can check it any time of the day by calling (415) 775-5377 or visiting SanFranciscoFCU.com. Don't forget to subtract from the balance the amount of any automatically paid bills that will be deducted before your next deposit as well as outstanding checks.

Have a balanced budget.

- If you regularly find yourself short on cash and need to overdraw to pay for essentials, look for ways to reduce your spending and/or increase your

income. Overdrawing can provide immediate relief, but will probably only create more difficulties next month, when you face the same cash flow shortfall plus have to pay back the amount you overdraw.

Use overdraft protection.

- It is best to avoid overdrawing or bouncing checks completely, but if you feel that may be difficult, consider overdraft protection. It deducts or charges any amount you overdraw from a savings account, credit card, or line of credit linked to your account. At San Francisco Federal Credit Union, this service is free.

Want more advice on money management? We can help you manage and take control of your San Francisco Federal Credit Union accounts. Stop in today to take advantage of our services. Federally insured by NCUA

Travel Committee Report

By Beverly Pardini and Marylou Allen

Friday, June 9

Before the era of the Indian Casino explosion, there was Golden Gate Fields for an afternoon of good food and fun, "betting on the horses." Join us for Turf Club finish line seating and prime rib buffet lunch; casual dress code advised.

Thursday, July 6

The motor coach travels to Felton and the Big Trees Railroad Station in the Santa Cruz Mountains, then through Henry Cowell Redwood State Park before arriving at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. Enjoy lunch on your own, play a few games, or take a ride on the roller coaster before boarding the motor coach for the return trip home.

Wed. - Fri., July 19-21

Spend two nights at the Silver Legacy in downtown Reno, relaxing and enjoying the amenities at the hotel. As an option on the second day, board our bus for a shopping excursion to the Outlets at Sparks. A four-hour stop is made at Boomtown before returning home on the third day.

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

March 21 Board Meeting Results

- Accepted Treasurer's Report
- Adopted theme for annual June luncheon: "International Flag Day"

Important notice, effective August, 2017!

As of Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2017, RECCSF General Membership Meetings will be held at the following new location:

San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Temple
2850 19th Ave., (at Sloat Blvd.)

San Francisco

(parking available)

Please note!

April 12 and June 14 meetings will continue to be held at the United Irish Cultural Center, 2700-45th Ave. (at Sloat Blvd.).

Protect Our Benefits

By Skip McKinney

Protect Our Benefits is an organization whose goals are to enhance the dignity and quality of life of all San Francisco City and County retirees, and preserve their health and retirement benefits. The opinions are those of the writer.

On Thursday, March 9, 2017, the San Francisco Superior Court filed a writ of mandate in favor of the city that exempts the city from paying the pre-1996 retirees the supplemental COLA unless the retirement fund is fully funded or the charter is amended. SFERS will now have 60 days from the date of filing to file a notice to appeal.

POB is not a party to the suit: As it is CCSF vs. Retirement Board of SFERS, we can only act as an amicus curie (friend of the court). We have been apprised that, even in light of continued pressure from the city to discontinue with this litigation, the SFERS Board voted in favor of filing an appeal to have

this case heard by the appellate court.

It has always been our opinion that this case would ultimately be decided by the court of appeals, regardless of what happens in the superior court.

And the beat goes on. As to wondering about reimbursement for our attorney's fees, we have been told the process is moving through channels. City hall: "Oh, trust us, this is normal." Well, the next time you're late on a bill, fine, property taxes, parking ticket etc., you know that the city would be all over you. Just tell them: "The monies are just moving through channels."

And the beat goes on. POB has been informed of some "snafus" with the installment of United Health Care as health care provider. This was bound to happen when you have an enrollment of approximately 13,000 new members into the system. By and large, I hope it has worked out for most of the retirees. *If you are having problems, telephone the Health Service System at 1 (415) 554-1750 and be persistent. It is your*

health care and you pay for it. Remember, you are your best advocate.

And the beat goes on. POB has been informed that our new ERS Commissioner Al Casciato has "jumped into" his new post and is being very productive. Keep it up, Al, but always remember that POB will be watching.

As always, POB will keep you informed of any new developments. You can also visit POB's website at protectourbenefits.org, or Facebook.

Many times, you may wonder how an organization like POB survives. It survives by your generous financial contributions. There is an ongoing aggressive assault on your wellbeing as a city retiree. POB exists to ensure that it all comes right with "you, the retiree."

Your contributions are not tax deductible, but most appreciated. Please mail them to POB at Box 320057, San Francisco, CA 94132.

Remember: "United we stand; divided we fall."



I want to know!

Join

RECCSF

Retired Employees of the City and County of
San Francisco



Membership and Subscriptions

for retired city employees as of July 31, 2015

Membership application: www.sfretirees.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

We need member photos and notes!

Since our general membership meetings are now scheduled bi-monthly, our editor will welcome notes from and personal photos of our members—at work or play—to be published in *News & Views* in non-meeting months.

For photos, include captions with member name and activity description, and email to sheilamullen@mac.com. For notes, we are especially interested in hearing from members located outside the Bay Area, California, or United States.

Items suitable for publication will be printed as space allows.

Editor's Note:

We urge more submissions from our members—both letters to the editor and articles—that reflect the varying opinions of *all* our members on issues of interest to all city retirees. Submissions are printed on a space-available basis and subject to being edited for grammar, length, and appropriate language; but *never* rejected for opinion.

News & Views

April 2017

Volume 118, Number 4

Sheila Mullen, Editor

Office: 1 (415) 681-5949

Fax: 1 (415) 681-5398

Office email: reccsf@att.net

RECCSF Officers:

Claire Zvanski, President
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, April 18,
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

May Deadline:

☛ Friday, April 14, 5:30 p.m.
Please email your submissions to:
sheilamullen@mac.com.

Letters to the editor and opinion pieces are welcome.
All submissions subject to further editing.

Visit our Web site:

sfretirees.org

RECCSF office
email address:

reccsf@att.net

Upcoming General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 12

Election of RECCSF Officers and
Board Members for Fiscal Years 2017/2018

Natural Approaches to Pain
with Michelle Schurig, M.A.

*Ms. Schurig, the owner of The Traditional Method
(a holistic wellness practice), will address naturally
alleviating chronic, joint, and other pain related conditions,
as well as insomnia, depression and anxiety.*

Welcome,
New
Retirees

