

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

President Randy Scott was re-elected for another one-year term, along with Vice President Willie Lim. Commissioner Breslin made the motion to suspend the governance rules on successive terms for one year until June 2018. This was done to provide consistency on the board during the search and hiring process for a new executive director.

A representative from the executive search firm of Ralph Anderson Associates appeared before the HSS Board. She presented an example of the brochure that they would prepare for the job search, and described the process. She stated that the new police chief and the new head of the department of information technology were referred by her firm. She stated that the recruitment process would begin in earnest during July, and would probably be a 90-day process. President Scott stated there would also be individual meetings with constituent groups, and an open meeting in August for all constituent groups. She offered that the cost of housing in San Francisco is a

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Retirement Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski and Herb Weiner

The first order of business was to elect a new board president and vice president. Police Sergeant Brian Stansbury was elected president, and mayoral appointee Wendy Paskin-Jordan was elected vice president.

- The fund earned 13.62% for the first eleven months of FY 2017-18. Public Equity returned 19.55%, with U.S. and international stocks earning 18.02% and 20.97%, respectively. Real assets earned 16.30%, while private equity returned 11.83%. Fixed income has only gained 3.45% over the last eleven months. These high returns bode well for payment of the supplemental COLA. If the fund earns more than the hurdle rate of 7.5%, and there are ample earnings to pay the supplemental COLA, retirees will be paid the 3.5% supplemental COLA. Stay tuned!
- According to Bill Coaker, CIO, the Hedge Fund (aka "absolute return") portfolio has returned 5.71% over the last seven months.
- Managing Director of Public Markets Bob Shaw left SFERS, effective

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Important notice, effective August, 2017!

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

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

Parking available in lower level garage; entrances on 19th Avenue and Sloat Boulevard.

July-August Calendar

Regular Meeting

No meeting in July

Wednesday, Aug. 9

Business meeting & program:

10 a.m.

San Francisco

Scottish Rite Masonic Temple
2850-19th Ave. at Sloat Blvd.

News & Views

Editorial Committee Meeting

No meeting in July

Friday, Aug. 18, 10 a.m.

RECCSF office, 3915 Irving St.
All interested parties welcome.

Executive Board Meeting

No meeting in July

Tuesday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m.

Taraval Police Station
All interested parties welcome.

Public Meetings:

Retired Firemen &

Widows Association

Thursday, Sept. 21, 1 p.m.

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

Veteran Police Officers

Tuesday, July 11 & Aug. 8, 11 a.m.

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

Retirement System

Wednesday, July 12 & Aug. 9, 1 p.m.

1145 Market St., 6th Floor

Health Service System

Thursday, Aug. 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, July 17 & Aug. 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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June 8, to become the chief investment officer in the city's treasurer's office. Another SFERS vacancy is the senior investment Officer for private equity since Glen Schwartz retired in April.

- Minutes from the board's retreat were not approved, as Commissioner Makras pointed out that the agenda reported to the public was not the agenda that was followed. So, the staff was directed to provide the actual agenda with actual minutes at the next meeting.
- Immediate Past President Supervisor Malia Cohen brought the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) to the board for consideration. It is the largest global investor network dedicated to "responsible investment," with more than 1700 institutional investor and service provider signatories worldwide, representing over \$63 trillion in assets under management—over half of the world's investment assets. Priya Mathur, CalPERS Board member, was invited to speak on behalf of PRI. PRI is consistent with the SFERS Board's *Environmental, Social and Governance Values Statement*. Staff indicated it did not have time to review PRI to provide a recommendation, but supports the program for its enhancement of the SFERS engagement level. After much discussion, it was decided to await the staff review and consider the issue at the next meeting.
- Board advisor NEPC made recommendations for the as-

set class return assumptions and asset class mixes for the asset allocation modeling process. In this process, they will rename alternative investments to "private equity," absolute return to "alternative marketable investments," and include one new asset class, private debt. They state that the current actual mix has an expected return of 6.7%, with volatility ("standard deviation") of 13.4%. The goal is to achieve the highest expected Sharpe ratio, probability of a five-year return over 7.5%, and the highest probability of a positive return over the next five to seven years.

- The other major recommendation was to retain Parametric Portfolio Associates for cash securitization and rebalancing overlay services. How much and where cash lays is critical to paying pension benefits. It was pointed out that the contract would be for a full market cycle (one bear and one bull), which is approximately 10 years. The SFERS due diligence process began in early 2016 but the board has many more questions and is most concerned about the fees and the risks, especially given the longevity of the proposed contract.
- Clearly, the July meetings will be important. The Tuesday, July 11 special meeting, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., will be the follow-up to the board retreat. The regular board meeting will be held on July 12.

Questions? Comments?

Contact Claire Zvanski at czvanski@hotmail.com or Herb Weiner h.weiner@sbc.global.net.

Health Service Committee Report

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big issue with candidates. (Department heads are required to live in the city.)

The rates and benefits process concluded with the following:

- confirmation of VSP rates approved last month with no change in COSTCO frame allowance;
- adoption of City Plan rates for actives and early retirees (pre-Medicare, below age 65);
- adoption of UHC Medicare Advantage (new City Plan) rates; and, for blended families, includes both Blue Shield Access Plus and Trio (no Sutter facilities) rates;
- Kaiser Senior Advantage retiree rates adopted;
- approval of Delta dental renewal rates including increasing the annual maximum benefit to \$1250 (up from \$1000);

New Members

Judy Busch	DPH	William Neilson	MTA
Andrew Gaddes	WTR		

- approval of Kaiser's proposal for coverage in Oregon, Washington and Hawaii. Every effort will be made to approximate comparable benefits in each state. The rates are still in negotiation, and they will be significantly higher than local Kaiser rates; and
- approval of Kaiser's enhanced fertility preservation benefit to more closely match same benefit in other plans. The proposal is awaiting approval of the CA Department of Managed Health Care.

The HSS board signed a resolution in support of California Senate Bill 538 hospital contracts that calls for rate transparency. The bill passed the assembly.

Starting in September, Simple Therapy will begin a pilot program. This is the plan that provides 24/7 access to a licensed physical therapist. Rates are still being negotiated (\$.30 a month per member or less?).

There will be no Health Service Board meeting in July.

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

President's Message

By Claire Zvanski

Isn't it frustrating to run into former colleagues—*not* members of RECCSF—who gloat that they benefit from whatever we achieve so they don't need to join?

I'm reminded of the cost of the recent Proposition C lawsuit that brought most of us retroactive supplemental COLAs. I'm also reminded that many of our older colleagues were excluded from that benefit, and are still awaiting the outcome of the pending lawsuit against the SFERS Board.

Last month, I asked if you believe you are worth 30 cents a month—the cost of an additional benefit being considered at the HSS board.

The basic question is always: "How much are your benefits worth to you?" Police and Fire will tell you immediately that their benefits are worth everything! The rest of us pause before we answer. We believe that our benefits can't be changed once we retire. Well, the Proposition C lawsuit should be a clue. If we aren't vigilant, charter amendments can be proposed in any city election to reduce our benefits. How many of us still live and vote in San Francisco?

RECCSF is proud to represent and advocate for you at every Retirement and Health Service Board meeting, and at every meeting with city officials where our benefits are the topic.

We are proud to report to you, as well. But we can't do it all. We need you to help by becoming more active in RECCSF. We also need your ongoing support if we are to continue to



advocate and report. How much is our work worth to you?

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

Wherever You Go, We'll Protect You.

From your friends at the San Francisco Federal Credit Union

We're almost halfway through the summer, which means that your warm-weather travel plans are likely coming up soon. When you travel, it's even more important than usual to keep a close eye on your financial security.

Luckily, you're a member of the credit union, so you can take advantage of the comprehensive security options we offer:

- **VISA® Benefits.** If you have a VISA® Platinum Rewards credit card with us, you're eligible for travel and emergency assistance at no additional charge. VISA® also offers to cardholders an auto rental collision damage waiver and travel accident Insurance.
- **Travel Notification Service.** Alert us

when you travel, and we'll monitor your credit or debit card throughout your trip. Simply call us, or fill out the travel notification form on our website. We'll notify you of any suspicious activity.

- **Online and Mobile Banking.** Keep up with your accounts on the go via your computer or smart phone. Set alerts for transactions, deposits and

payments so that you know exactly when money goes in or comes out.

It's also a great idea to use your VISA® Platinum Rewards credit card to pay for expenses while you travel. Your credit card offers more substantial protection than your debit card or cash. To learn more about travel security, call us or visit SanFranciscoFCU.com.

Rest In Peace

Jose I. Barron	CON	Richard W. Jentsch	DPT
Linnie Carrington	LIB	James H. Kiser	WTR
Birgit T. Chase	DPW	Gloria M. Landon	LIB
Kevitt R. Day	DPT	Lucien M. Langlois	FIR
Frances C. Ellis	BOE	Philip J. Moore	DPT
Mary Gibbons	CRT	Mary V. Poole	DAT
Robert J. Hanssen	POL	Clementine H. Shanahan	GEN
Leroi Houston	DSS	Janie Sturtevant	HHP
Irving Jarkovsky	DPW	Jessie M. Yip	JUV

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

Annual Luncheon and Installation of Officers

Wednesday, June 14, 2017





Annual Luncheon and Installation of Officers

Wednesday, June 14, 2017





***No Editorial
or Board
meetings
in July!***

Annual Luncheon and Installation of Officers

Wednesday, June 14, 2017



RECCSF Needs Your Assistance!

By Board Member
John "Skee" Tostanoski

The RECCSF elections have been concluded, and now we need *regular members* to also step up and share their time, energy, and talents.

The board can't succeed alone: we are in desperate need of new committee members to help keep RECCSF effective in fulfilling our goal of continuing vigilance in monitoring the preservation and enhancement of *all* city retirees' benefits.

A major need is for assistance from

members with IT skills to help manage our website and other media options.

Also, we need a program chair (board position) to arrange speakers and programs for our general meetings.

We have other committees that would benefit from your skills. Also, joining a committee is a great way for new members to get involved with RECCSF and meet other members.

If you can help, please contact me at sfskee@sbcglobal.net, and I will direct you to the appropriate committee chair.

Join us. Remember, they're *your* retirement benefits!

New Bylaws change!

Active employees within five years of retirement are eligible to join RECCSF.

No Editorial or Board meetings in July!



I want to know!

Join

RECCSF

Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco



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.

CCSF vs. SFERS: On June 6, 2017, there was notice in the Register of Actions for the CCSF vs. SFERS case that a notice of appeal was filed. POB will remain vigilant and stay abreast of any further actions. We will also be keeping a keen eye on numerous other court cases now being heard for other municipalities regarding their pension benefits.

Fees for legal services: No change, still in the “process.”

Investment Performance of the retirement fund: As per agenda item for the June 14, 2017 retirement board meeting: “For the quarter ended March 31, 2017, the retirement fund was valued at \$21 billion, providing a net of fees total return of +4.93% for the quarter, and a +10.15% for the fiscal year to date.”

Health News: As far as “early retirees, pre-Medicare ages,” it looks like they’re going to take the hit, as usual. Kaiser has expanded coverage to Washington, Oregon and Hawaii. Dental and vision care have increased their benefits for a nominal fee. The search committee for a new director of the Health Service System will be

meeting with different unions and POB for input. When the booklets come out announcing the benefits for next year, be sure look at them and see which is best for you.

Remember, upon becoming Medicare-eligible a retired member *must* enroll in the Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage plan, or the new City Plan offered by United Health Care. Members currently enrolled in Blue Shield who are becoming Medicare-eligible—and electing to enroll in the new City Plan—have the option of enrolling their non-Medicare dependents in the City Plan or allowing them to remain in Blue Shield until they become Medicare-eligible.

There have been talks lately from some of the State of California legislators with reference to passing a single payer system. It’s just my just my opinion, but if this happens there go all the health insurance companies in the state, i.e. competition. The only thing that I can say is: “If you think it’s expensive when you have to pay for it, wait and see how expensive it is when it’s free.”

As I mentioned in last month’s article, POB is doing more organizing with sub-committees to address your concerns. We have made great inroads, especially since we have won the lawsuit. City hall, who before wouldn’t even acknowledge our existence, now knows who we are. In future months, we will be talking to candidates for

the BOS, mayor, or anybody else who will listen to us in an effort to better represent you, the retirees.

Larry will be stepping down as chair of POB and will be replaced by Fred Sanchez. Larry will be vice chair as of July 1.

We want to express our appreciation for everything Larry has done for us. For the last six years, POB has had the good fortune of having a chairman who led us through this quagmire of politics, both dirty and clean. Larry was part of the first group to take on city hall, wherein he saw the unconstitutionality of Proposition C, and the impact it would have on the retirees. He has put in long hours attending numerous meetings, and is known for his tenacity and fairness, which has benefitted all of us. He has led POB to where we are now—and we’re still growing.

The task before us is still large, but I am confident that the continued undertakings of POB will help chart a better future for the retirees, and the safeguarding of their health and retirement benefits.

Be sure to stay informed at protectourbenefits.org, or Facebook. Your contributions are not tax deductible, but most appreciated. Please mail them to POB at P.O. 320057, San Francisco, 94132.

Remember: “United we stand, divided we fall.”

Membership and Subscriptions

for retired city employees as of July 31, 2015

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

Active city employees within five years of retirement are eligible to join RECCSF.

- \$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

Travel Committee Report

By Beverly Pardini and Marylou Allen

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.

Wed.-Fri., Aug. 30-Sept. 1

The BBQs are fired up and art and craft booths are ready for shoppers, as the annual "Best of the West" Rib Cook-off begins five days of eating delicious food in Sparks (outside the Nugget). Stay two nights at the Silver Legacy in downtown Reno, and spend at least five hours at the Rib-Cook off in Sparks on the second day. Stop at Boomtown on the third day before returning to the Bay Area.

Wednesday, Sept. 13

The 2017 annual production from the Santa Cruz Senior Organization features the music from *The Best of Broadway-Then and Now*. Before the show, enjoy lunch at the Crow's Nest

overlooking the Santa Cruz harbor, with entree choices made tableside.

Tue.-Thur., Sept. 19-21.

Spend three days and two nights exploring the Danish Capital of America, in Solvang. Two nights at the four-diamond Hotel Corque, located in the heart of Solvang; a guided tour of Lompoc to view the beautiful murals that adorn businesses and homes; and a hosted lunch. Roundtrip deluxe motor coach and baggage handling are included in this relaxing tour.

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

RECCSF Officers

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

Board Members

Bonnie Bompert	Raymond Mason
Carol Cochran	Jerry Maxwell
Thomas Dang	Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey
Steve Green	Herb Meiberger
Adlai "A.J." Jew	Sheila Mullen
Sharon Johnson	Tim O'Brien
George K. Lau	Beverly Pardini
Stephanie M. Lyons	Linda Tabor-Beck
John Madden	John "Skee" Tostanoski
Leo Martinez	David Williams

Important notice, effective August, 2017!

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

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

*Parking available in lower level garage;
entrances on 19th Avenue and Sloat Boulevard.*

In Memoriam

Paul Rosenberg 1945-2017

RECCSF member Paul Rosenberg, San Francisco Department of Social Services (now Human Services) retiree and native San Franciscan, passed away on June 18 after an extended illness.

Paul was a dedicated civil servant, historian, labor union activist, and opera and music buff. He was a member of the Irish American Democratic Club, the Irish Israeli Italian Society, and a co-founder of the Market Street Railway organization.

For many years, Paul presented many fascinating San Francisco history programs at RECCSF meetings, and during his all-too-brief time on this earth became quite the local legend for his vast knowledge of San Francisco historical and political history. He had a dry wit, and many of us loved to read the historical fact "corrections" that he would send to local newspapers.

He leaves his wife, Sherrie, and his son, Coleman, and will also be sorely missed by his many friends and colleagues.

Donations may be made in his name to the organization of your choice, or to the Lowell High School San Francisco Alumni Association, P.O. Box 320009, San Francisco, CA 94132.

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

July-August 2017

Volume 118, Number 7

Sheila Mullen, Editor

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Fax: 1 (415) 681-5398

Office email: reccsf@att.net

Executive Board Meeting

No Board meeting in July

Tuesday, August 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

September Deadline:

☛ Friday, Aug. 11, 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, Aug. 9, 2017 • 10 a.m.

New meeting location!

Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, 2850-19th Ave., at Sloat Blvd.

(Parking available in lower level garage.)

“Vial of Life” Wellness Presentation

Emergency Information Presentation