

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

After five years of providing leadership to the Well-Being team, Stephanie Fisher resigned to move to Atlanta, Georgia with her family. It was very clear that she will be greatly missed. Carrie Beshears has been appointed acting Well-Being manager.

- Current focus is on implementation of the **Strategic Plan**. This includes mid-year budget adjustments with the mayor's office. It seems that the financial market slump since the elections has impressed the mayor's office to the point of adversely impacting the HSS administration budget. (HSS is a very small department that operates without cushion.) HSS has long maintained that the multimillions it regularly saves the city should be taken into consideration to offset these budget cut demands.
- The **dependent eligibility verification** audit has been completed. The results are being audited, and a full report will be available at the Jan. 10 meeting.
- Open Enrollment has concluded. The trial electronic enrollments (**eBenefits**) were very successful, and it is anticipated that eBenefits will be available for all members of the system next year. (The school districts still need to be integrated into the system.) It was noted that many exited from Blue Shield Trio (includes Sutter) and quite a few also opted for Access Plus (without Sutter). Optional dental and the VSP (Vision Plan) upgrade increased enrollment.
- Mike Clarke of AON presented an analysis of Medicare Advantage

continued on page 2

## Retirement Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski

The SFERS Board remained in closed session for an extended period of time, so only action items were taken once the Board convened in open session. The meeting was relatively brief, as loss of a quorum was anticipated by 5:30 p.m.

- Three laid-off Toys "R" Us employees attended, and addressed the SFERS board about Solis, a hedge fund managed by Blackrock on behalf of SFERS. Solis purchased Toys "R" Us, and closed it. Many employees laid off in this process have only worked for Toys "R" Us, and are having difficulty finding other employment despite work histories of 10 to 20+ years. The emotional impact of suddenly facing unemployment is taking a severe toll on both employees and their families. In many instances, both spouses were Toys "R" Us employees. The employees' plea was for SFERS to ask Solis to contribute its fair share into the severance fund. My related testimony pointed out that Solis and Blackrock are companies that are known to regularly oppose defined benefit plans and invest in programs and companies that oppose public employee pension plans and public employee organizations. I stated that our pension plan should not be investing in companies that consistently work against our best interests.
- According to Chief Investment Officer Bill Coaker, the market is still in a slump, but our fund is gradually recovering due to a number of investment changes. The fund value as of Nov. 30, 2018 was **\$24.7 billion**.

continued on page 2

## January Calendar

### Regular Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 13

**Business meeting & program:**  
10 a.m.

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

### News & Views

#### Editorial Committee Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 15, 9 a.m.

Taraval Police Station  
All interested parties welcome.

#### Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 15, 10 a.m.

Taraval Police Station  
All interested parties welcome.

### Public Meetings:

#### Retired Firefighters & Spouses Association

Thursday, Jan. 17, 11 a.m.

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

#### Veteran Police Officers

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 11 a.m.

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

#### Retirement System

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 1 p.m.

1145 Market St., 6th Floor

#### Health Service System

Thursday, Jan. 10, 1 p.m.

City Hall, Room 416

#### UESF Retired Division

For time/location, contact:  
Rudi Faltus 1 (415) 956-8373  
[uesfrd01@gmail.com](mailto:uesfrd01@gmail.com)

#### SEIU 1021 West Bay

##### Retirees Chapter

Monday, Jan. 28, 12-2 p.m.

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

Contact: David Williams

1 (415) 939-5149 or

[iamdhw@comcast.net](mailto:iamdhw@comcast.net)

## Health Service Committee Report

continued from page 1

(MA) plan offerings in the market place, noting that since 2017, when HSS consolidated exclusively to two MA plans (UHC and Kaiser), there have been significant annual savings. MA plans differ from “original Medicare” in a number of ways that benefit members, including providing drug coverage (no separate Part D enrollment), vision, hearing, and/or dental coverage and an annual out-of-pocket limit where the plan pays the full cost of care after the limit is reached. Members with chronic conditions—such as diabetes and congestive heart failure—experience better quality of care and quality of life than similar fee-for-service Medicare beneficiaries, and MA plans achieve this at lower cost for the most high-need

beneficiaries, including those who are clinically complex.

- Finally, the Annual RECCSF Health Fair was acknowledged for continuing promotion of retiree wellbeing at meetings and through *News and Views*, and also for holding the highest rated flu-shot clinics offered through HSS. Two hundred and forty-six high-dose flu shots were distributed at 23 clinics, and 91 of those (six per cent) were given at the RECCSF Health Fair in 2018. RECCSF continues to support social activities through its meetings and other activities, whilst also mitigating against the social isolation that is severely devastating to senior health and quality of life.

Questions? Comments? Contact Claire Zvanski at [czvanski@hotmail.com](mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com).

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## Retirement Committee Report

continued from page 1

The fiscal year return is only 0.64%. Investments are being shifted from public equity (negative returns due to trade tensions between the U.S. and China which are now at a stalemate) into private equity (positive returns) where returns are higher. The absolute return portfolio (hedge funds) gained only 1.01% in calendar year 2018. It was stated that interest rates are kept low to reduce the impact of recession. Otherwise, nations print more money to offset the impact of global debt.

- Select Equity Group (“SEG”) was hired to manage a public equity portfolio for up to \$500 million in SEG’s Baxter Street strategy. Baxter Street invests primarily in international equities, with a focus on companies with

predictable and growing streams of cash earnings, strong or improving returns on invested capital, and sustainable competitive advantages.

- The Deferred Compensation administrative contract is on a five-year cycle. The RFP (request for proposal) process was conducted this year, and a new administrator was selected. However, controversy and opposition by employee groups surround this process, so the new administrator has not been officially named. Executive Director Jay Huish shared the “meet and confer” requests that he received from several employee unions, along with his response that states that the Department of Human Resources confirmed that it is the city’s long-held position that the Retirement Board has exclusive managerial authority over its selection process for deferred compensation vendors. SFERS agrees to meeting with interested parties to discuss the “process and answer” questions.
- Committee assignments were issued by President Stansbury. He stated the assignments will be reviewed in six months. Commissioner Casciato will chair Finance, Commissioner Leona Bridges will chair Deferred Compensation, President Stansbury will chair Governance, Commissioner Driscoll will chair Personnel, and Commissioner Wendy Paskin-Jordan will chair Investment.
- As of this writing, The Dec. 19 Investment Committee meeting should discuss plans to meet cash flow obligations (liquidity of the fund) to pay benefits. It will also discuss asset allocation, and provide projections for the future. Watch for future reports.

Questions? Comments?

Contact Claire Zvanski at [czvanski@hotmail.com](mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com) or Herb Weiner at [h.weiner@sbc.global.net](mailto:h.weiner@sbc.global.net).

### RECCSF Officers

Claire Zvanski, President

Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey, First Vice President

John “Skee” Tostanoski, Second Vice President

Bonnie Bompert, Secretary

George Lau, Treasurer

Leo Martinez, Sergeant at Arms

### Board Members

Richard Bridygham

Raymond Mason

Carol Cochran

Jerry Maxwell

Thomas Dang

Sheila Mullen

Adlai “AJ” Jew

Linda Tabor-Beck

Sharon Johnson

Tim O’Brien

Stephanie M. Lyons

David Williams

# President's Message

By Claire Zvanski

It's a New Year! The pension check post-1996 retirees will receive at the end of February will include the retro payment of the FY2017-18 earned supplemental COLA. The calculation is compounded, retroactive to July 1, 2018, and for the full 1.5%.

We await the final outcome for the police officer whose pension was stopped by SFERS due to conviction of a crime of "moral turpitude," while he was working. When your pension stops, so do your health benefits (including dependent coverage). The SFERS board meets Jan. 9, 2019, but the next hearing on this case before the SFERS board is scheduled for Jan. 11.

It has been pointed out that all active employees are at risk since it only applies to acts committed during active employment. Pensions are earned, can't be "forfeited," and are part of compensation. Apparently, this is also a violation of the eighth amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which addresses excessive fines, etc.

A number of vested retirement cases are presently before the California supreme court. It is speculated that the appellate court is awaiting decisions in those cases before it will consider the *City and County of SF vs. SFERS* regarding the pre-1996 retirees and the supplemental cola.

Happy New Year!



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

## *"Thank You" to our 2018 Annual Holiday Party Generous Donors*

- Mollie Agahi
- Sue Blomberg
- Diane Carr
- Carol Cochran
- Thomas Dang
- Charles Hastings
- Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey
- Martha Lewkowitz
- Madeleine Licavoli
- Katie Loo
- Leo Martinez
- Tim O'Brien
- International Association of Professional & Technical Engineers, Local 21
- Retired Firefighters and Spouses Association
- Protect Our Benefits
- Barbara Reilly
- San Francisco Federal Credit Union
- San Francisco Police Officers Association
- SEIU 1021 West Bay Retirees
- Stephanie Lyons, in memory of Beverly Pardini
- John "Skee" Tostanoski
- David Williams
- Germaine Wong
- Jo Ann Wong
- Claire Zvanski

The Board wishes to extend a sincere "thank you" to all of our volunteers who make possible RECCSF events throughout the year.

### New Member

Diana Padilla Superior Court

### Bequests

RECCSF is grateful to any members who remember our organization in their estate planning.

### Useful Phone Numbers

#### RECCSF Office

Email: [reccsf@att.net](mailto:reccsf@att.net)

Web site: [sfretirees.org](http://sfretirees.org)

Phone Number:

1 (415) 681-5949

#### Health Service System

Web site: [myhss.org](http://myhss.org)

Phone Numbers:

1 (415) 554-1750

1 (800) 541-2266

#### S.F. Retirement System

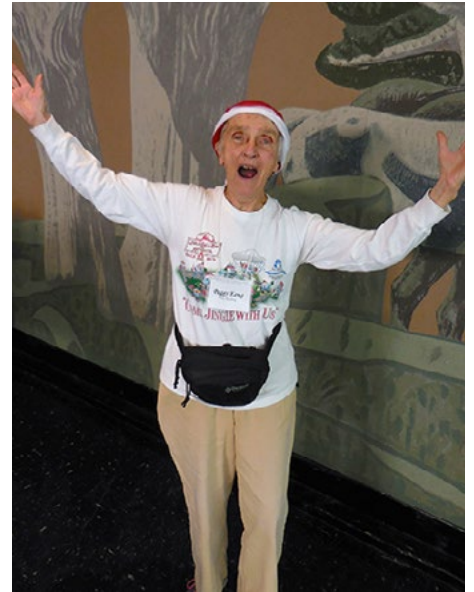
Web site: [sfgov.org/sfers](http://sfgov.org/sfers)

Phone Numbers:

1 (415) 487-7000

1 (888) 849-0777

# DECEMBER 12, 2018 HOLIDAY PARTY





# DECEMBER 12, 2018 HOLIDAY PARTY



# Dealing With Debt

*From Your Friends at San Francisco Federal Credit Union*

Living on a fixed income can be difficult. Many retirees have resorted to using credit cards to cover a shortfall, which can lead to having to repay large balances while still covering living expenses. And this leads to debt.

If you are experiencing financial trouble, it is important to communicate with your creditors *before* you miss a payment. Equally important is taking the time to consider possible ways to increase your cash flow:

- sell some **savings and assets**;
- if your health and motivation are up to it, **go back to work**;
- if your **permanent life insurance policy** has accumulated a substantial cash value, take a cash-surrender loan;
- take out a **home equity line of credit or second mortgage**. Be especially careful when tapping home equity, since payment default could lead to foreclosure; or
- obtain a **reverse mortgage**, a loan against your home that you don't have to repay while still in residence.

After gaining a complete understanding of your finances, contact your creditors. Work with them to develop a realistic spending plan that lists your monthly income, expenses,

and ability to pay.

If you are a senior citizen living with this kind of stress, make sure that you take immediate action by exploring all of your options, so that you can take pride in knowing that you are responsibly meeting your obligations.

This article is courtesy of San Francisco Federal Credit Union's financial partner, BALANCE, which provides members free access to personal financial counseling. SFFedCU offers debt consolidation loans and home equity lines of credit at low rates. Apply at [SanFranciscoFCU.com](http://SanFranciscoFCU.com), call 1 (415) 775-5377, or stop by one of our branches.



## The San Francisco Zoo needs you!

Looking for a meaningful activity in your spare time? Consider becoming a zoo docent. If you love animals, enjoy sharing information with others, and think that it's important to conserve wildlife, this activity is for you.



Come to the Zoo's special event on Sunday, Jan. 20, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and find out what being a docent is all about. The event includes light refreshments, a powerpoint presentation, a biofact

demonstration, and a brief tour. To participate, call 1 (415) 753-7122 or email [docent@sfoo.org](mailto:docent@sfoo.org).



# Upcoming General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 13, 10 a.m.

*Speaker: Jay Huish*

Executive Director, San Francisco Employees' Retirement System

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

*(Parking available in lower level garage.)*

## News & Views

January 2019

Volume 209, Number 1

Sheila Mullen, Editor

Office: 1 (415) 681-5949

Office email: [reccsf@att.net](mailto:reccsf@att.net)

## Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 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

February Deadline:

• Friday, Jan. 11, 5:30 p.m.

Please email your submissions to:

[sheilamullen@mac.com](mailto:sheilamullen@mac.com).

Letters to the editor and opinion pieces are welcome.

All submissions subject to further editing.

## Visit our website:

[sfretirees.org](http://sfretirees.org)

RECCSF office

email:

[reccsf@att.net](mailto:reccsf@att.net)

3915 Irving St.,

San Francisco, CA 94122

# Membership and Subscriptions

for retired city employees

Membership application: [www.sfretirees.org](http://www.sfretirees.org); email: [reccsf@att.net](mailto: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](mailto:sheilamullen@mac.com), or

Sheila Mullen, editor, RECCSF office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294

Telephone: 1 (415) 681-5949



## I want to know!

Join

# RECCSF

Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco

