

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 Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey

HSS Executive Director Abbie Yant announced that May was Mental Health month. Awards were presented to employee assistance counselors who have assisted employees in stressful situations.

- Orientation of new Health Board members is being planned, emphasizing economics.
- Chief Financial Officer Pamela Levin reported that the trust fund is healthy at \$77M.
- Dental plans: Goal is to not increase cost for retirees. **DeltaCare USA:** No change to rates from 2019 to 2020, with three-year rate lock throughout 2021. **UHC Insured Dental HMO Plan:** Expect that the rate renewal will not change from 2019 to 2020 for retirees. Expect plan design changes by moving PPO network plan-paid coinsurance from 50% to 60% for certain services, and increase premier network/out of network individual deductible from \$50 to \$75 annually.
- Best Doctors service will not be available after Dec. 31, 2019. Goal is to work with each health plan to facilitate second opinions within system, so that approval of additional fees may be covered. Evaluation of second provider will also be recommended. Goal is maintain integration with health care providers and health plans for improvements. Currently, Blue Shield insured have the right to second opinions, but Primary MD makes referrals within the network. Kaiser assists those requesting second opinions through member services. If outside Kaiser network, payment will be charged to

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Retirement Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski

As of April 30, 2019, the fund is at **\$25.4 billion**. The FY 2018/19 average earnings are at 5.73%, with private equity earning the highest returns. It remains to be seen if the earnings will reach the 7.4% threshold required for a supplemental COLA by June 30, 2019.

- CIO Bill Coaker reports that, since inception, the **Absolute Return program (hedge funds)** has returned 4.79% annualized (net of fees). It is outperforming the Hedge Fund Research Fund of Funds Composite Index return of 3.57% and underperforming the 90-day U.S. T-Bills plus 5% Index return of 6.41%. The MSCI ACWI Net index returned 10.20%, and the Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index returned 1.36% for the same time period. The S&P 500 returned 13.57%.
- Mr. Coaker also reported on the **Investment Committee** meeting of April 17, and reiterated that SFERS liabilities are projected to grow from \$28 billion today to \$40 billion in 2028, and \$60 billion in 2038. Today, the fund pays out \$500 million annually, which is projected to increase to \$1.2 billion in 2028 and \$2.0 billion annually in 2038. To grow the fund to meet these obligations, it is recommended to increase staff from 26 to 40 by 2025 by hiring more investment manager staff instead of contracting out this function (also saving management fees), as is the current practice. There is more flexibility in investments, since SFERS staff is not committed to investing in established portfolios of contracted

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June Calendar

Annual Luncheon and Installation

Wednesday, June 12

11:30 a.m. Social Gathering

12:15 p.m. Luncheon Buffet

Scottish Rite Masonic Temple

2850-19th Ave. at Sloat Blvd.

News & Views

Editorial Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 9 a.m.

Taraval Police Station

All interested parties welcome.

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 10 a.m.

Taraval Police Station

All interested parties welcome.

Public Meetings:

Retired Firefighters & Spouses Association

Thursday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.

Location to be determined.

Veteran Police Officers

Tuesday, June 11, 11 a.m.

San Francisco

Scottish Rite Masonic Center,

2850-19th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

Retirement System

Wednesday, June 12, 1 p.m.

1145 Market St., 6th Floor

Health Service System

Thursday, June 13, 1 p.m.

City Hall, Room 416

UESF Retired Division

For time/location, contact:

Rudi Faltus 1 (415) 956-8373

uesfrd01@gmail.com

SEIU 1021 West Bay

Retirees Chapter

Monday, June 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

investment managers.

- The final report of the risk review for SFERS total plan was presented for risk-adjusted returns, exposure analysis, stress testing, and scenario analysis, for the year. In summary, it was pointed out that **diversification** accounted for the positive returns and minimized risk factors.
- There was an extensive report on the Stable Value fund (now over \$1 billion) of the **Deferred Compensation Plan**. The DCP won two prestigious awards: NAGDCA (National Assn. of Government Defined Contribution Administrators) for member education, and the first place Eddy Award for Marketing Excellence. Voya is scheduled to take over (from Prudential) recordkeeping services, as of Sept. 3, 2019. The most significant news for retirees is that **Joe Collins** will return as a plan representative.
- The **SFERS FY2019/2020 budget** was approved by the board, for submission to the city. The mayor mandated that no new positions would be considered for the coming budget year. She also mandated that only programs and staff committed to her initiatives will be considered. Since the SFERS purpose and function does not meet those initiatives (housing, etc.), there is a challenge involved in getting its budget approved, despite the fact that SFERS does not take general funds for its administration costs.

Mr. Huish stated that he pointed out that SFERS decisions saved the city \$275 million in contributions this year, and anticipates saving the city another \$150 million next year. Commissioners Casciato and Heldfond stated that should be worth some consideration, with Commissioner Heldfond urging careful shepherding as the budget process continues.

- Executive Director Jay Huish reported that Commissioner Joe Driscoll attended the appellate court hearing on May 1, 2019, along with himself and Caryn Bortnik. At that time, the court indicated that it could take as long as 90 days to issue its decision. (At this writing, the decision has been made to uphold the lower court decision against the SFERS board and the pre-96 retirees; the official written decision is being sent.)

Questions? Comments?

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

Health Service Committee Report

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clients/patients. United Health Care works with clients/patients, but copayments will need to be paid if outside plan. Handouts are available from each health care insurance company as to how this may be achieved.

Questions? Comments? Contact Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey at mcguire-hickey@sbcglobal.net.

New Member

Tamara J. Wong ADM

May 21 Board Meeting Results

- Accepted Treasurer's Report.
- Extensive discussion of the need to raise funds to support the organization; referred to Membership Committee for recommendations to the membership for action.

RECCSF Officers

Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey,
President

First Vice President, vacant

John "Skee" Tostanoski,
Second Vice President

Bonnie Bompert, Secretary

George Lau, Treasurer

Leo Martinez, Sergeant at Arms

Board Members

Richard Bridygham
Carol Cochran
Thomas Dang
Adlai "AJ" Jew

Stephanie M. Lyons
Raymond Mason
Jerry Maxwell
Sheila Mullen

Linda Tabor-Beck
Tim O'Brien
David Williams
Claire Zvanski

Useful Phone Numbers

RECCSF Office

Email: reccsf@att.net

Website: sfretirees.org

Phone Number:

1 (415) 681-5949

Health Service System

Website: myhss.org

Phone Numbers:

1 (415) 554-1750

1 (800) 541-2266

S.F. Retirement System

Website: sfgov.org/sfers

Phone Numbers:

1 (415) 487-7000

1 (888) 849-0777

President's Message

By Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey

It's clear that we all need to participate more in activities, so that RECCSF can continue as an organization that demonstrates leadership and skill in protecting our benefits.

Membership Chair John "Skee" Tostanoski has encouraged members to attend our executive board meetings in order to learn how to get involved in recruiting recent retirees to join our organization.

What else do we need to do to increase membership, beyond our repeated pleas in our *News & Views* newsletters? Please respond: your ideas and suggestions are appreciated and welcomed.

We also need input on selecting

speakers and topics for the RECCSF general membership meetings that are held on a bi-monthly basis at the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple at 2850-19th Ave. at Sloat Blvd. (Parking is available in the basement.)

We hope that you have made your reservation for our June 12 Annual Luncheon and installation of officers and board members. If not, a reservation form is available elsewhere in this issue of *News & Views*. **Make sure that you mail your June luncheon reservation form to the RECCSF office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294, by the deadline date of Wednesday, June 4.**

This year it will be a buffet, and volunteers will be available to assist members needing to manage wheel-

chairs or walkers.

Past President Claire Zvanski and I are currently scheduling my orderly transition into assuming presidential office responsibilities. (And at this point I would like to thank Claire for her past service.)

Questions? Comments?

Please feel free to contact me at mcguire-hickey@sbcglobal.net.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Miscellaneous employees comprise the bulk of the city workforce and its retirees, each with their own unique salary scales and benefits. Miscellaneous retirees also comprise the majority of the RECCSF membership.

In light of this, it is necessary that RECCSF members be active in advocating for—and protecting—their health and retirement benefits.

Unfortunately, currently there is low attendance of RECCSF members at the San Francisco Health Service System and Employee Retirement System meetings, where it is critical that our concerns and input should be heard by these bodies. Presence and testimony counts!

To date, the health service and retirement boards have served us well, because of the testimony and presence of a few dedicated members. We can do even better with more activity at these meetings.

In light of the attacks on health and retirement benefits throughout the country, with corporations and municipalities drastically modifying—or even eliminating—these vital services, we have to fight for the benefits that we have worked and paid for.

Each RECCSF member should be a "watchdog," because "the foxes are constantly attacking the henhouse" to steal the benefits that we deserve and enjoy.

Herb Weiner

Pre-96 Appeal result—5/1/19

Reported by Claire Zvanski

In the matter of *CCSF vs. SFERS*, the appellate court released its ruling agreeing with CCSF that the SFERS Board did not have the authority under the charter to exempt pre-1996 retirees from the "full funding" requirement in Proposition C in order to pay the supplemental COLA.

SFERS as the losing party can review the ruling, and, if it deems appropriate, can file a "Petition for Review." The petition must be served and filed within 15 days of the filing of the appellate court's decision.

The SFERS board met in closed session on May 22, 2019, to consider its options. RECCSF will share that information when it is released.

RECCSF Election Results

To be sworn in on June 12

Elected Officers June 2019-2021

Secretary: Bonnie Bompert (*incumbent*)

Treasurer: George Lau (*incumbent*)

Sergeant at Arms: Leo Martinez (*incumbent*)

Elected Executive Board

June 2019-2021

Rich Bridygham
Thomas Dang
David Leeds

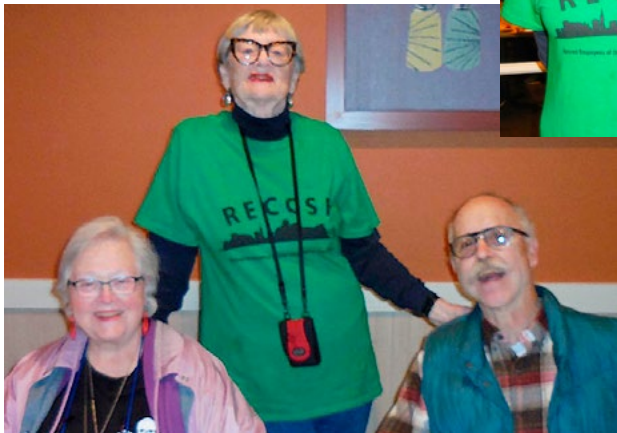
Jerry Maxwell
Sheila Mullen

June 2019-2020

Ed (Rusty) Jepson
(*one-year unexpired term*)

Second Peninsula RECCSF Meeting held on May 22

The second Peninsula area RECCSF Meeting was held in Belmont on Wednesday, May 22, at 10 a.m., at the IHOP, 510 El Camino Real. Several San Francisco RECCSF board members attended (including new President Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey, Past-President Claire Zvanski, and RECCSF mascot, Dexter). Although the attendance of Peninsula RECCSF members turned out to be limited, those who attended really appreciated the chance to interact with their San Francisco colleagues. We are looking forward to having the opportunity of personally meeting even more of our South San Francisco/Belmont members at future RECCSF Peninsula area meetings.



RECCSF Annual Luncheon

and Installation of Officers & Board Members

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

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

Speaker: Shireen McSpadden
Executive Director, Department of Aging and Adult Services

(New Annual Luncheon location!)

(Parking available in lower level garage.)

(We regret that, due to current legal issues, alcohol will not be sold or consumed on the premises.)

11:30 a.m. Social Gathering ♦ 12:15 p.m. Luncheon Buffet

Individual Luncheon Tickets: \$38 ♦ (Reserved tables of eight available at \$304 per table.)

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 4—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.

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 are sold.

If you have any questions, contact RECCSF office at reccsf@att.net or 1 (415) 681-5949;
include your name and phone number in the message.

Luncheon Reservation Form

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

Street Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

Buffet entrée first choices: Roast Beef Salmon Vegetarian

(plus salad, vegetables, dessert, coffee and tea.)

Please mark first entrée choice. (You may select from all choices at the luncheon; this request is to help the caterer with planning.)

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

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

RECCSF Board Member Profile: Richard (Rick) Bridygham

As told to Stephanie Lyons and
John "Skee" Tostanoski

I am originally from Philadelphia, where I attended Drexel and Temple universities. When I came to San Francisco I took additional classes at City College in mathematics, engineering, and computer programming.

I worked in the Operations Division of the Department of Public Works, mainly at the Cesar Chavez (formerly "Army") St. yard. I started out as a locksmith, and eventually was promoted to shop supervisor. Then, I moved on to maintenance planner, and designed a computerized estimating system. Next, I became a maintenance manager and assistant superintendent.

Working at DPW Operations was a daily challenge, coordinating the activities of over 1200 employees, overseeing multiple projects and funding sources,

and dealing with personnel issues.

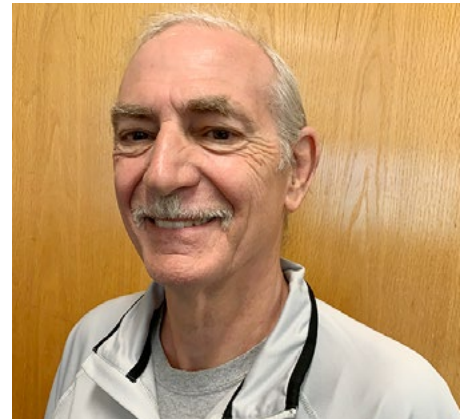
I retired in January 2012 as the assistant deputy director for DPW operations, and acting chief of staff for four DPW bureaus.

My goals in retirement are numerous, but exercise is crucial. Keep yourself active, and volunteer. Don't let age catch up with you!

When I joined the RECCSF Board I wasn't sure what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised by the experience, and have since signed on for another term.

Although the board members all have varied experiences and strong individual opinions, I find them to be very kind and warm people, that I am proud to call friends.

It is important to keep any watchdog organization supported and strong. I would encourage other members to also actively support RECCSF, by



volunteering your skills to the organization in any way that you can.

Nine Ways to Enjoy Summer on a Budget

From Your Friends at San Francisco
Federal Credit Union

1. Check out neighborhood business "freebies." This includes shows, demonstrations and activities that local businesses host to generate summer traffic.
2. Visit the library. You'll find free crafts for kids, story time, discussion groups, and other fun ways to enjoy summer at no cost.
3. Embrace the outdoors. Think hiking trails, beaches, scenic lookouts, and stargazing in your backyard.
4. Set up a homemade carnival and invite the neighborhood kids to be your guests.
5. Take up a forgotten hobby that doesn't cost much.
6. Swap homes with a friend or relative who lives in another city for a cost-free, temporary change of scenery.
7. Check out local farms for free admission hours.
8. Support the local aspiring talent by attending backyard band concerts.
9. Go for the weekday matinee specials, and save loads on theater tickets.

This article is courtesy of San Francisco Federal Credit Union, which offers one of the lowest rate credit cards in the country, along with low interest rates on personal loans, auto and home loans. For more information, visit sanfranciscofcu.com, call 1 (415) 775-5377, or stop by one of our branches.

Some Late-breaking News about our upcoming June 12 Annual Luncheon!

From your June luncheon Planning Committee.

Dear Members,

A quick note regarding our upcoming June Installation Luncheon. Welcome to a new experience! For the first time, the luncheon will be held at our current meeting location, the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple on 19th Ave. at Sloat Blvd.

Due to ever-increasing costs, the board has voted in a new price per person of \$38—a small increase over last year's cost of \$35.

Additionally, the luncheon will be a buffet service. Do not worry if you have any mobility issues, however, as we have a number of volunteers who will be available to provide assistance to any and all who request help.

Looking forward to seeing all of you there!

Your outdated eyeglasses can find a welcome new home!



Are you wondering how to recycle that pile of outdated eyeglasses that you no longer need? Bring them to the next RECCSF *area* membership meeting! Board member Linda Tabor-Beck will collect them; and then forward all to Zimbabwe, where they will be given to folks who desperately need them. Many thanks in advance!

RECCSF Annual Luncheon and Installation of Officers & Board Members

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

**Scottish Rite Masonic Temple,
2850-19th Ave., at Sloat Blvd.**
(Parking available in lower level garage.)

New June luncheon location!

News & Views

June 2019
Volume 209, Number 6
Sheila Mullen, Editor
Office: 1 (415) 681-5949
Office email: reccsf@att.net

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 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

July/August Deadline:

☛ Friday, June 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 website:

sfretirees.org
RECCSF office
email:
reccsf@att.net

3915 Irving St.,
San Francisco, CA 94122

Membership and Subscriptions

for retired city employees

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



I want to know!

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Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco

