

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

Commissioner Karen Breslin welcomed Chris Canning, San Francisco Police Department, as a new Health Service Board commissioner.

Executive Director of the Health Service System Abbie Yant announced that the Health Service System office will open at 10 a.m. every Thursday, commencing Aug. 1, 2019. (This decision is intended to clarify any previous opening time confusion).

Other Highlights:

- A special educational meeting with subject matter experts will be held on Thursday, July 11, at 1 p.m., to present changes in the health service market and how these may impact on the need for HSS changes. Topics include: market consolidation, emerging integrated delivery systems, physician practice changes, and other partnership presentations. The goal is to solicit discussion and feedback regarding health benefit model development. *All RECCSF members are invited.*
- A regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 8, at 1 p.m. *All RECCSF members are invited.*
- There are changes in pharmacist vaccine regulations, to provide that minors 12 years of age or older, who may have had contact with infectious, contagious, or communicable diseases, may consent to medical care.
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is considering changes, which, if becoming effective in 2021, would increase costs.

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Retirement Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski

- Officer elections were held, and **Joe Driscoll** was elected President and **Leona Bridges** was elected vice-president.
- Our Retirement Fund remains strong at **\$25.2 billion**. While CIO Bill Coaker stated it was the worst May in 10 years—equity markets fell 7% due to trade tensions between the U.S. and China as well as Mexico—he revealed that the fund’s FYTD earnings were at **6.49%**. No mention of a supplemental COLA, which is virtually impossible to achieve by the end of June (minimum 7.4% return).
- The **investment team** continues to grow, with two new staff members and one intern. Their backgrounds are most impressive; two coming from UC Berkeley’s Haas School of Business, and one from the University of Georgia (with honors).
- It’s been about seven years since **investment consulting services** have been put out to bid. An RFP (**Request for Proposal**) is being issued. Executive Director Jay Huish pointed out that contracts are usually for five years. (Sometimes contracts will be extended, but the extensions should not be perpetual.) President Joe Driscoll stated that he wants to know the names of the subject matter experts who will be on the review panel at least one month before the results are presented to the SFERS Board.
- The goal is to minimize risk to maximize return. **Investment Manager NEPC** provided the details for the

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July-August Calendar

Regular Meeting

No meeting in July

Wednesday, Aug. 14

Business meeting & program: 10 a.m.

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

News & Views

Editorial Committee Meeting

No meeting in July

Tuesday, Aug. 20, 9 a.m.

Taraval Police Station

All interested parties welcome.

Executive Board Meeting

No meeting in July

Tuesday, Aug. 20, 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, July 9, 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 13, 11 a.m.

San Francisco

Scottish Rite Masonic Center,

2850-19th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

Retirement System

Wednesday, July 10, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 14, 1 p.m.

1145 Market St., 6 Floor

Health Service System

Thursday, July 11, 1 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 8, 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, July 15, 12-2 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 19, 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

returns on the quarter ending March 31, 2019 and then provided 2019 Capital Market Assumptions. The fund rose to \$25.3B at the end of the quarter as hopes for a U.S.-China trade deal remained high. The Capital Market Assumptions review five-to-seven year projections (intermediate) and 30-year projections (long term). For both return assumptions, the same asset classes appear to do well. Emerging international equities, private equity, private credit, natural resources, and real assets appear to be the highest performing, bringing in returns over the 7.4% minimum expectation in both categories. Absolute return assets (hedge funds) are supposed to “hedge” in bad markets and prevent large losses. Curiously, this category returns 5.85% in five-to-seven year returns and 6.77% in 30-year returns.

- PIMCO Emerging Market Debt was added to the list of managers under review. The AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust was targeted for termination at the May 2019 meeting, but remains under review for another 60 days.
- The rest of the meeting involved discussion about the disability application process. Deputy Executive Director Caryn Bortnik has been working to expedite the process. As of mid-April 2019, SFERS had approximately 400 pending disability cases, including approximately 160 ordinary disability cases, 200 safety industrial disability cases, and 40 CalPERS disability cases. Forty-two of these cases have been filed since the beginning of 2019. Many members who file for disability are eligible for a service

or vesting allowance at the time they file. It means that those members are receiving a monthly allowance while their application is pending. The SFERS staff works hard to expedite those cases where the member is not receiving an allowance.

- It was reported that Supervisor/Commissioner Carmen Chu gave birth to a baby girl.

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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- The Health Service System Board approved United Health Care (UHC) retiree rate changes by increasing costs for specialist office visits from \$15 to \$20. The second suggestion to support delivery of “Mom’s Meal Nourishcare” was not enthusiastically accepted. The board requested that UHC return with another proposal.
- The Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage discussion emphasized that wheelchair transportation must be included. The commission requested that Kaiser return with a proposal that included the wheel chair benefit.

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

June 18 Board Meeting Results

- Accepted Treasurer’s Report
- Recommended that RECCSF annual dues be increased from \$48 to \$68, as of Sept. 1, 2019. (The current Lifetime Membership dues would remain at \$600.) The motion is to be voted on at Aug. 14 General Membership meeting.

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
Ed “Rusty” Jepson
David Leeds

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

My current message is about the future of RECCSF.

In the April *News & Views*, the Abbreviated Financial Statement for the six months ending on Jan. 31, 2019 demonstrated a deficit of \$2,596.73 for the period.

Discussions had been ongoing, but without specific proposals that would be shared with the membership.

To assist in this process, Treasurer George Lau prepared a proposed budget for 2019-2020. The result, containing all entries from income and expenses, revealed a deficit of \$8,212.

At the June 18 Executive Board meet-

ing, the discussion focused primarily on what needs to be recommended by the board in order to maintain our status as a viable organization and return RECCSF to solvency. The board briefly reviewed suggestions of securing paid advertisements from appropriate organizations for publication in *News & Views*. It was also emphasized that more followup is necessary in recovering past-due membership fees. (There had also been some previous support for membership contribution gifts, but a question remains as to its tax-deductible status.)

After much discussion, it was recommended that RECCSF annual dues

be increased from \$48 to \$68, as of Sept. 1, 2019. (The current Lifetime Membership dues would remain at \$600.)

The Executive Board passed the motion, and, in accordance with the RECCSF bylaws, it will be voted on at our Aug. 14 General Membership meeting.

We encourage as many RECCSF members as possible to attend to vote on this Executive Board motion, as well to suggest additional means of addressing the deficit.

Questions? Comments?

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

Tips for Scoring Cheap Summer Getaways

From Your Friends at San Francisco Federal Credit Union

How do you travel this summer without draining your wallet? Here are some suggestions!

- **Look for a Hot Spot.** During the hotter summer months in places like Palm Springs, Arizona, and New Mexico—if you can take the heat—you can score some great deals at premium resorts, golf courses, and other attractions.
- **Buy a Package.** Try to find travel packages that combine flights and hotels. As a member of San Fran-

cisco Federal Credit Union, you can take advantage of discounts and special pricing on vacation packages and tickets from our partner, Get Away Today. A portion of the packages will be donated to the Children's Miracle Network. For more information, visit sanfranciscofcu.com/relationship-rewards.

- **Get Social.** Some travel operators offer special deals for those who follow them on social media. The best deals go quickly, so follow your favorites on Facebook and Twitter, and subscribe to their promotional

email lists.

- **Capitalize on the Strong Dollar.** Look for a destination where the dollar is stronger—meaning that exchange rates are favorable, and that your money will go further. In recent years, Japan and Canada have been popular.

This article is courtesy of San Francisco Federal Credit Union, which offers lower interest rate loans and no-fee savings accounts. For more information, go to SanFranciscoFCU.com, call 1 (415) 775-5377, or stop by one of our branches.

RECCSF Members "On the Mend"

Leo Martinez reports that his recovery is now at "about 85%," and thanks all who called and sent cards.

Those of us who attended the June 12 Annual luncheon witnessed Past President Stephanie Lyons' dreadful fall from the podium, which resulted in a serious hip injury. Stephanie reports that she is now recovering from hip surgery and doing well in therapy. She thanks all of her well-wishers.

Calling all RECCSF lifers!

Let's be honest about this. Many of us joined long ago as life members, and have been sailing along on other members' recurrent annual dues ever since.

If you believe—as I do—that it is extremely important to preserve an organization that equally represents *all* city retirees, then you also need to continue to support it.

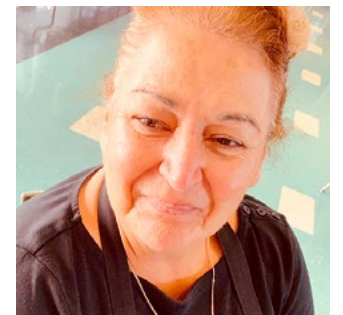
In the future, actively recruit new members.

In the meantime, for more immediate assistance to the organization that continues to represent *you*, mail in a donation to the RECCSF office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122. You know that you'll feel better when you do!

And if you have any viable ideas about new ways to raise some much-needed funds, please share them with me at cane_elder@yahoo.com.

Thank you! Linda Tabor-Beck, chair, The Frugal Few

June 12 Annual Luncheon and Installation of Officers and Board Members







RECCSF Board Member Profile: Jerry Maxwell

*As told to Stephanie Lyons and
John "Skee" Tostanoski*

In 1949, I was born in South of Market District, and moved to the Mission District in 1955. I attended Sanchez Elementary, Everett Junior High, Mission High, and City College. I moved to the Sunset District in 1973. I have been married almost 47 years, and have two children and a grandson.

In 1968, I joined the Merchant Marines. After that, I drove a taxi. (Some notable customers were Karl Malden, Frank Gorshin, Bruce Jenner, Horace Silver, Johnny Bench, and Soupy Sales.)

I worked as a painter at Bay Area shipyards, became a licensed painting contractor, and joined the Painters Union, Local #4, where I also served as president. I was a delegate to the San Francisco Labor Council, San Francisco Building Trades Council, and National Painters Union Convention. I served on labor negotiating teams for for city employees, and in the private



sector.

In 1996, I became a city employee, as painter. I worked at Laguna Honda and S.F. General Hospital, and retired in 2015.

I enjoy participating in boxing, football, track and baseball, organizing sports tournaments and gymnasiums,

and training and coaching athletes. I'm the current president of the Northern California Veterans Boxing Association.

My wife works in the pet grooming industry, and I support her work. We love traveling, both in the U.S. and abroad. I also enjoy having the leisure for fishing.

My primary reason for working for the city was the opportunity for "steady work." I also earned a pension and health benefits that are probably the best in the country, and it's important to me to do all that I can to understand and preserve these benefits.

I joined RECCSF with a friend, and was then asked to become a board member. I encourage other city retirees to also become involved, in order to stay current on the status of the ongoing changes to our financial and health benefits.

It's also great to be able to stay in touch with our fellow city retirees!

"THANK YOU" TO OUR JUNE LUNCHEON DONORS

*Special donor: San Francisco Federal Credit Union,
for printing our June luncheon program*

Carol Cochran

Tony Fazio

Suzanne George

Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey

Protect Our Benefits (POB)

Retired Firefighters and Spouses

Association

SEIU, Local 1021, West Bay Retirees

Linda Tabor-Beck

Herb Weiner

David Williams

Claire Zvanski

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday,
Aug. 14, 2019,
10 a.m.

Speaker to be announced at later date via email to members



Happy 4th of July

News & Views

July-August 2019
Volume 209, Number 7
Sheila Mullen, Editor
Office: 1 (415) 681-5949
Office email: reccsf@att.net

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 20, 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. 16, 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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RECCSF

Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco

