

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

Health Service Board President Karen Breslin appointed Commissioners Mary Hao, Randy Scott and Chris Canning to the Governance Committee, and also appointed Wilfredo Lim, Stephen Follansbee, M.D. and Raphael Mandelman to the Finance and Budget Committee.

Highlights:

- The rates and benefits package was passed by the board of supervisors on Aug. 9, 2019.
- A reminder was issued that member services phone and in-person assistance will not be available for members on Thursdays, until after 10 a.m.
- The research on effectiveness of medical treatments may increase premiums.
- The financial report indicated a fiscal year-end balance of \$88.4 million.
- A care management vendor presentation profiled the emerging future, with emphasis on population health management through holistic care management. This would be provided by the health plan or covered by a third-party vendor. The goal is to increase utilization of best providers based on cost and quality outcomes, and develop networks and referral systems so that treatment options may be shared.
- The current San Francisco Health Service System fertility or in-fertility benefit policy statement needs to be revised, since the development of new complicated issues. After much discussion and comments from an attendee who was refused and af-

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Retirement Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski

The news that we anticipate as post-1996 retirees is the **final rate of return** at the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Did the fund reach the minimum rate of return of 7.4%, and, if so, to what final level? It's all about the **Supplemental COLA**. As of July 31, 2019, the fund is valued at \$26.5 billion.

- The initial estimate on July 1, 2019, was 7.81%, but the anticipated **final rate of return** as of Aug. 14 is **8.20%**. According to CFO Bill Coaker, the markup is due to final data from private equity, real assets, absolute return, private credit, and public equity managers. Although the ending returns are still preliminary, Mr. Coaker states that any change from the current estimate of 8.20% is unlikely. Apparently, the last two weeks of July saw an unexpected boost in returns. The threshold has been reached for a **Supplemental COLA**. Will it generate .5%, 1% or the full 1.5%? That is unknown, and probably won't be announced before December. An **audit must be completed to verify the final rate**, and to determine the actual percentage of the Supplemental COLA.
- SFERS has been named the **Public Pension Plan of the Year** by the institutional investor LLC, in their small fund category (\$15 billion plus). Institutional investor LLC research is highly respected for both buy-side and sell-side research, and its conferences are highly respected programs for senior investment executives among pension plans, endowments, foundations, and public and private markets investment

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September Calendar

East Bay RECCSF Outreach Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 25, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

(See Page 7 of this issue for details.)

Annual Health Fair & Regular meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 9
(Free senior flu shots!)

Business meeting & program, 10 a.m.
San Francisco Scottish Rite
Masonic Temple
2850-19th Ave. at Sloat Blvd.

(See Page 6 of this issue for details.)

News & Views

Editorial Committee Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m.

Taraval Police Station
All interested parties welcome.

Executive Board Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 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, Sept. 10, 11 a.m.
San Francisco
Scottish Rite Masonic Center,
2850-19th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

Retirement System
Wednesday, Sept. 11, 1 p.m.
1145 Market St., 6 Floor

Health Service System
Thursday, Sept. 12, 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, Sept. 16, 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

managers. SFERS is rated in the **top 3% of public pension plans nationally**.

- Mr. Coaker provided an analysis of the **current market expansion**, citing that in July 2019 it became the longest one in history, at 121 months. He stated the current expansion has been weaker than all expansions since WWII, and provided an analysis of factors leading to a bear market. **Government debt** seems to be a very worrisome development in recent years. The U.S. in 2019 will run a deficit of more than **\$1 trillion**. The current low interest rates and large government deficits and debt to GDP levels leave fiscal and monetary policymakers without traditional tools used to minimize the impact of downturns and restore a resumption of growth.
- The majority of the meeting was devoted to the **deferred compensation plan**. Discussion and information had been postponed for the last several months while staff worked with Prudential and VOYA on the transition. **The transition to VOYA** (formerly ING) is scheduled for **Sept. 3**. **Retirees** who meet the threshold, and are so inclined to participate in the self-directed brokerage (SDB) platform, will discover a return to TD Ameritrade as the SDB provider. It was pointed out that SDB is for more knowledgeable investors who understand the risks associated with SDB investments *not* overseen by the retirement board. **Retirees** needing information about the **minimum DCP withdrawal** required by the IRS should consult with VOYA representatives. (Joe Collins has returned to serve retirees.)

- President Joe Driscoll announced **committee assignments**. Operations Oversight: Chair Casciato, Chu and Safai. Deferred Compensation: Chair Bridges, Stansbury and Driscoll. Personnel: Chair Stansbury, Heldfond and Casciato. Governance: Chair Driscoll, Chu and Stansbury. Investment: Chair Heldfond, Committee of the Whole.
- Executive Director Jay Huish announced that an ordinance amending the administrative code, to amend **heart trouble and pneumonia presumptions for firefighter and police officer industrial disability and death as a result of duty**, has been submitted to the board of supervisors (sponsors: Brown, Safai, Stefani, Walton, Yee and Haney).

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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ected, it was agreed that further discussion would be continued until the next meeting. There are questions relating to interpretation of the usage of the words “infertility,” “partners,” “partner’s insurance coverage,” etc. The feeling in the meeting and on the board is that this usage needs to be investigated further, in order to correct the current language that prevents same-sex couples who desire to have children from qualifying for coverage,

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

Aug. 20 Board Meeting Results

- Accepted minutes and treasurer’s report.
- John “Skee” Tostanoski appointed as 1st Vice President, (2nd vice president slot now vacant.)
- Board voted to recommend to general membership that annual dues be increased from \$48 to \$68 annually and to be presented to the membership for a vote at the Dec. 11 general membership meeting (& holiday party).

RECCSF Officers

Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey,
President

John “Skee” Tostanoski,
First Vice President

Second Vice President, vacant

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

Ignore Those Health Insurer Mailers!

At this time of year, a flood of health insurer flyers tend to hit our mailboxes, enticing us to change to various health plans, or to sign up for drug or Medicare-supplement plans. Ignore their pleas, and chuck their materials into your recycle basket. *Respond only to the packet issued by the Health Service System during October.* Open Enrollment for coverage in calendar year 2020—that counts.

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*

Abbreviated Financial Statement for RECCSF For the Fiscal Year ended July 31, 2019

Revenue:

Membership Dues	\$15,134.00
Contributions	3,275.50
Others	6,723.79
	<u>\$25,133.29</u>

Expenditures:

News and Views	\$4,100.00
Meeting & Office Expenses	19,706.98
Others.....	3,828.06
	<u>\$27,635.04</u>

Deficit for the year	<u>(\$ 2,501.75)</u>
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As per the above financial statement, RECCSF finances are currently in a state of deficit. Please read the important notice from RECCSF President Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey, also located on this page, that addresses this deficit, as well as proposed RECCSF Board strategies to help ensure its reduction. As always, donations of any amount from our generous RECCSF members are most welcomed and appreciated.

Important Notice: from RECCSF President Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey

Due to our current RECCSF severe fiscal crisis, at our Dec. 11 general membership meeting members will be voting on the issue of increasing RECCSF annual membership dues. This proposed dues increase has been voted on, and recommended by, the RECCSF Executive Board. The motion is to increase annual membership dues by \$20, raising it from \$48 to \$68 annually.

Although it may seem awkward to conduct this business on the same date as our annual holiday party, we need as many RECCSF members present as possible (at least 50) to be able to take a comprehensive final vote on this critically needed dues increase.

It's our future in the balance: if you can, please plan to be there!



Reminder!

RECCSF Annual Holiday Party

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 10 a.m.

Mark your calendars now!

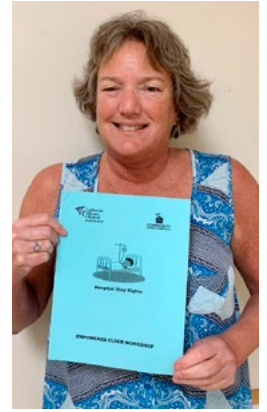


From left: Andrita Tostanoski, DPW, purchasing Frugal Few raffle tickets from Ed "Rusty" Jepson, DPW.



Joe Collins, VOYA Financial representative, gave an updated presentation on member deferred compensation accounts.

Speaker Jodi Reed, Executive Director of the California Alliance of Retired Americans, gave a vital, comprehensive presentation on the procedures and perils of successfully navigating the Medicare System. Ms. Reid can be contacted at jreid.cara@gmail.com or 1 (510) 663.4086.



August 14 General Membership Meeting



From left: John "Skee" Tostanoski, DPW, Speaker Jodi Reid, and RECCSF President Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey, DPH.



An attentive membership listens to Speaker Jodi Reid's comprehensive discussion on members' Medicare health benefits and critical RECCSF financial issues.



From left: Denise Crocker with her mother: Gladys Shannon, Police.



From left: Geri Gill (Water Dept.) and Sandra Hirzel, DPH.

Let's share our RECCSF membership benefits with other city retiree groups!

By John "Skee" Tostanoski

I was recently privileged to speak about the benefits of RECCSF membership at an annual gathering of some retired city painters, some of whom are already RECCSF members (group featured in image at right). I encouraged them to participate; not only by becoming members, but by also attending our meetings.

Also, I was also recently able to attend a city retirement luncheon, at which I was allowed to encourage attending retirees to join RECCSF, as well as being permitted to hand out brochures containing applications.

My efforts seem to have been well received. Perhaps *you* are gathering with a city retiree group soon, and would like to volunteer for conducting a short presentation on the many benefits of becoming an RECCSF member. Of course, if you are uncomfortable presenting the information yourself, please feel free to contact me with your request for representation at your event. Some suggested talking points would be:

- During our tenure with the city, many of us belonged to union bargaining units that were also resources for resolving questions



or problems. When we retired, we found ourselves basically on our own—and the periodic information we receive from the Health Service System and Retirement Board is sometimes difficult to understand.

- RECCSF is continuously monitoring the ongoing status of *all* retired city employees' hard-won benefits. We conduct bimonthly general membership meetings that feature speakers who present updates on such critical issues as health benefit costs, COLA increases, and proposed charter amendments, etc.
- Members are emailed the RECCSF monthly newsletter —

News & Views—that features articles by members who regularly attend, and report on, the results of current health service and retirement board meetings.

- Of course, becoming an RECCSF member also offers the unique opportunity of continuing to socialize with other city retirees; old friends and new.

For further information, please feel free to contact me at 1 (415) 699-1050 or sfskee@sbcglobal.net.

Let's go for it—In solidarity!

Six Ways to Avoid Getting Taken in By an Auto Dealer

From Your Friends at San Francisco Federal Credit Union

Within a few short weeks, auto manufacturers will be stocking dealer lots with 2020 models, as well as trying to clear out the 2019 models. Here are some things to remember when shopping:

1. Do your research before visiting the dealer. Identify which type of vehicle you're looking for, determine your budget, and read up on customer reviews. If you arrive without having done the research, the dealer will quickly take advantage of your lack of knowledge.

2. Be ambiguous. Don't give the impression that you're definitely buying through this dealer, because then they won't make the effort of offering you the best deal. (You can even drop hints that you've already found several other vehicles that you are seriously considering.)
3. Don't agree to any "extras" for protection. Etching, rustproofing and paint-and-fabric protection aren't worth much—and they definitely aren't worth the extra charges!
4. Don't automatically agree to all offered damage waivers. Many are unnecessary, and provide insufficient coverage. Do careful research

on each service before signing up.

5. If you have good credit, expect an interest rate between 1.49% and 3.49%. Don't fall for anything higher, because that means the dealer is increasing the rate at your expense.
6. No matter how great a deal may sound, be sure to visit San Francisco Federal Credit Union for financing. Our rates start as low as 0.99%APR!

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

RECCSF Board Member Profile: Linda Tabor-Beck

As told to Stephanie Lyons and John “Skee” Tostanoski

I was born in Wyoming, and remained through the first grade. Then my family moved to Los Angeles where we lived until early high school. I finished high school and got my B.A. in San Diego. Later, I moved to San Francisco in order to obtain my Master’s Degree and teaching credentials from San Francisco State College.

I was hired by the San Francisco Unified School District while completing my triple student teaching assignment in Social Studies, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, and Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Instruction. I had the privilege of being one of the first two O&M instructors hired by a public school system in the State of California. O&M services teach the visually impaired (blind and low vision) to travel safely and independently to the best of their abilities.

I taught O&M for 20 years, K-City College. I spent the next 18 years in the high school Resource Room Program, initially located at McAteer until I got the program moved to Washington High School, where I functioned as the teacher, support teacher, and counselor for the visually impaired students.

My main passion in life revolves around conservation and the environment. Also, I hope to do more traveling, as there are still some conservationists to whom I donate that I would like to personally visit at their sites. I enjoy a wide range of music, and spend many happy hours at Davies Symphony Hall. I am also a supporter of the Symphony’s Youth Orchestra.

As many of you may know, I learned about RECCSF from my friend and work colleague, the late Beverly Pardini. (I actually joined to ensure that I would continue to see Bev in our retirement years.) I’ve since developed



a deep appreciation of RECCSF, and its vital role as the primary organization that represents the interests of *all* retired city employees. Even though the majority of San Francisco teachers are enrolled in a different pension plan, we join all other retired city employees in sharing the fate of our current—and future—health insurance benefits.

Be sure to attend our Wed. Oct. 9 Health Fair!

- Health Service System open enrollment
- Health Service System well-being practices
- Kaiser Permanente
- UnitedHealthcare
- Delta Dental
- Vision Service Plan
- Deferred Compensation
- See’s candy order forms

Find out everything that you need to know for 2019 about:

Free senior flu shots for retirees, spouses/ domestic partners/dependents.

Bring health care and I.D. cards. Please wear short sleeves.

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

Calling all members!

Volunteers needed for Oct. 9 Annual Health Fair

At 8:30 a.m., volunteers are needed to help with coffee and room setup, and at 9:30 a.m. for registration, snack service, and other duties.

To sign up, contact Richard Bridygham at ricksf1723@gmail.com.

Please volunteer, and help to make this year’s Annual Health Fair the most successful ever!

Also, we encourage all members to proudly wear our RECCSF T-shirts!

Coffee! Snacks! Goodies! Friends!

East Bay RECCSF Outreach Meeting

Who: for East Bay members, and their retired friends who are potential members.

When: Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Where: Denny's Restaurant, 250 Fairgrounds Dr., Vallejo, CA 94589.

A separate room has been reserved for our meeting and no-host breakfast.

Coffee and Tea provided by RECCSF.

Why: RECCSF has been asked by some of our members to have meetings easier for them to organize and attend in their own communities.

We are required to submit a head count.

If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, please respond, by Sept. 22, to Claire Zvanski at czvanski@hotmail.com.

We hope to see you there!

The SFDCP is transitioning to VOYA

The City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) is committed to providing you with the best retirement plan and investments available. That's why we are pleased to announce that the San Francisco Deferred Compensation Plan (SFDCP) will be using a new record keeper, VOYA Financial, effective Sept. 3, 2019.

Through VOYA, the SFDCP is delighted to offer:

- **Lower fees:** Your recordkeeping costs will be reduced from 4.2 bps to 3.75 bps, allowing your retirement savings to go even further.
- **Advice options:** Whether it's through **no-cost future** ready model portfolios designed by Financial Engines®, or a fee-based Professional Management service, you'll have access to the help you need.
- **Integration of pension benefits:** View your SFERS pension estimate alongside your SFDCP savings for a more complete view of what your monthly income may look like in retirement.
- Some IRAs can be rolled over into your VOYA accounts. Speak to your VOYA financial representative for details.

These are just a *few* of the many enhancements you will experience as part of the SFDCP in September. You should have received details about the transition of your SFDCP account, enhanced SFDCP features and services available, and a detailed timeline of key dates and educational meetings to answer any questions about the transition to VOYA.

Visit sfhcp.org to learn more, or call the SFDCP main line at 1 (415) 487-7500 to speak with a staff member.

What to expect from Prudential

As of Aug. 20, 2019, Prudential deducted a pro-rated (or partial) record keeper fee for Q3 (July-August) based on your account balance. This partial fee will be reflected alongside Q2 costs shown on your final Prudential statement that will be mailed in September.

Prudential accepted SFDCP transactions until close of market (1p.m. PST) on Aug. 26, 2019. After that, the SFDCP will be in a blackout period until Sept. 3, 2019 (after Labor Day).

If you have any questions, please call 1 (888) 733-2748, and select option 2, to speak with an SFDCP retirement counselor.

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 10 a.m.

Annual Health Fair

◆ Open enrollment information ◆

Free senior flu shots for retirees, spouses/domestic partners/dependents.

Bring health care and I.D. cards. Please wear short sleeves.

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

(Parking available in lower level garage.)

Reminder! RECCSF Annual Holiday Party Wednesday, Dec. 11, 10 a.m. Mark your calendars now!

News & Views

September 2019

Volume 209, Number 8

Sheila Mullen, Editor

Office: 1 (415) 681-5949

Office email: reccsf@att.net

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 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

October Deadline:

☛ Friday, Sept. 13, 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!

Join

RECCSF

Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco

