

Official Publication of the Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco

NEWS & VIEWS

A MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION WORKING FOR ALL CITY RETIREES

Retirement Committee Report

Retirement Board Report

(Reprinted with permission from Commissioner Brian Stansbury as excerpted from his message as printed in the April 2020 POA Journal.

As you well know, the San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS) has some 73,000 active and retired city employees, including health care workers and first responders. Many are on the front line trying to find a way to help others. Some have contracted COVID-19 at work, while others have been exposed, and are anxiously awaiting test results.

SFERS felt it was important we start the following conversation: all of us need to stop standing on the sidelines with the expectation that someone else is going to step forward and win the fight against COVID-19 for us. We all need to be in the fight.

Had American industry sat on the sidelines during WWII, the outcome would have been very different. Per the **World Health Organization**, the outcome in the fight against COVID-19 is still undecided, which is why we need American industry to find a way to contribute. That is why **SFERS issued a press release** asking members of the **S&P 500 index** to find a way to get in this fight: Both *The Wall Street Journal* and *CNN* ran a story.

If members of the S&P 500 knew in December 2019 they would lose tril-

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Health Service Committee Report

President's Message

By Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey

I hope that all our members are doing well during this stressful time. Many of us are spending time sorting out projects in our home that we meant to follow up on later, but somehow never got around to completing. So why haven't I yet begun? Excuses, Excuses!

Now, I have time to: take longer walks; finish reading that book that I started almost a year ago; write to friends and relatives that I haven't been in touch with since Christmas; reorganize the linen closet; redo my address book information on the computer; update my calendar so that friends' and relatives' birthdays are noted; and maintain the list so that next year's calendar may be updated in January 2021. The list goes on and on!

It is also time to evaluate the need for new resolutions for this year and the next. Hopefully, we all can take this time to define our main priorities, as well as those that we may need to change.

Since we are limited in our activities, due to the restrictions in place, we need to be encouraged to participate in even more activities that we might normally leave to the politicians. Currently, a proposed charter amendment for the November ballot is being supported by RECCSF and POB. It is the push to correct the previous action of making

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All Regularly calendared May Meetings Cancelled!

The current COVID-19 virus is affecting all of us. Both Governor Gavin Newsom and San Francisco Mayor London Breed have issued directives for everyone—*particularly seniors*—to “shelter in place” as much as possible for the foreseeable future. In that spirit, the following regularly scheduled meetings have been cancelled for the month of May. As the situation develops, regular meeting updates will be communicated to our members through “email blasts” and future editions of *News & Views*. Stay safe!

RECCSF meetings:

General Membership Meeting

Editorial and Executive Board meetings

Membership Committee Meeting

Public Meetings:

Retired Fire Fighters and Spouses Association

Veteran Police Officers

Retirement System

Health Service System

UESF Retired Division

Contact: Rudi Faltus 1 (415) 956-8373
or uesfrd01@gmail.com

SEIU 1021 West Bay Retirees Chapter

Contact: David Williams
1 (415) 939-5149 or

iamdhw@comcast.net

RECCSF Future in Facebook!

By John "Skee" Tostanoski

My following request is particularly addressed to RECCSF members who use Facebook on a regular basis.

Initiating a Facebook page has long been one of our RECCSF goals, so that we could target information to other City and County of San Francisco retired employees.

In addition, we realize that is very important for us to be able to embrace technologies popular with many of our recent retirees, such as Facebook.

In that regard, we have identified a member who has volunteered to help us to set up an RECCSF Facebook page, and another member who is willing to help with monitoring content that either appears or may be inputted from others outside of our membership.

Facebook page monitors would need to prevent unauthorized or untruthful information from being posted to the page. *We need at least one more volunteer to help us successfully monitor the Facebook process.*

For more information, or to volunteer, please feel free to contact me at sfskee@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you in advance for considering helping us to achieve our Facebook implementation goal.

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	Jerry Maxwell
Carol Cochran	Sheila Mullen
Thomas Dang	Linda Tabor-Beck
Ed "Rusty" Jepson	Tim O'Brien
David Leeds	David Williams
Stephanie M. Lyons	Claire Zvanski
Raymond Mason	

President's Message

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pre-1996 retirees ineligible for the supplemental COLA.

San Francisco District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee is striving to correct this. Please contact him to thank him for his support of the charter amendment by the deadline, May 19. Unless initiated, approved, and passed by the Board of Supervisors, the proposal will not appear on the November election ballot. Supervisor Lee can be contacted at: 1 (415) 554-6516, or Norman.Yee@sfgov.org.

If any questions, please feel free to contact me at 1 (415) 467-6862.

Finally, I send all of our members my best wishes during this stressful period. Be good to yourselves and each other.

Questions? Comments? Please feel free to contact me at mcguire.hickey831@gmail.com.

New Members

Michael J. Richards	Fine Arts Museums
James F. Fields	Human Rights Commission

April 8 Electronic Board Meeting results

- Accepted amended agenda.
- Accepted Treasurer's Report.
- Accepted motion to conduct electronic RECCSF board meetings.
- Accepted motion to support POB's charter amendment to restore COLAs to pre-'96 retirees, and for RECCSF to send a letter to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urging them to support POB's request for the charter amendment by the May 19 deadline.
- Accepted motion to establish RECCSF Facebook page.
- Accepted motion to set up a PayPal account on the RECCSF website.
- Accepted motion to move forward, for a period of two years, with the implementation of an introductory one-year \$25 RECCSF membership, commencing June 1, 2020.
- Accepted Nominations Report from Nominations chair John "Skee" Tostanoski, as amended. (Nominations closed, and nominees being installed on June 10, 2020.
- Accepted a motion to affirm a "white ballot," and that nominees be installed in June.
- Accepted a motion that committee reports be presented under "other agenda items."

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

Zoom and RECCSF

By John "Skee" Tostanoski

The RECCSF Watchbird



During this strange "new normal" time we are experiencing, *changes are going to happen*, and we all need to make choices as to how we are planning to deal with them. Some of us are single; some of us have a partner. Some of us have families and extended families that live with or near us; some of us live alone. Some of us make our own choices; some of us make choices with others.

In March's *News and Views*, I spoke a little about myself and my bride, but not about family members currently living with us. Our middle daughter and her husband are residing with us until they have completed work on their own place, which we encourage and support; but it does change the family dynamic.

RECCSF's annual normal face-to-face meeting schedule, now prevented by Governor Newsom's social distancing directive, has historically provided bimonthly general membership meetings, 10 executive board meetings, and several monthly committee meetings. These meetings were held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, the Taraval Police Station, various restaurants, and members' home.

By now, many of you have probably heard about various groups adapting to video conferencing applications to conduct their meetings. RECCSF president Mary Anne

McGuire-Hickey designated me to investigate these applications. One of the most popular is Zoom. Zoom has done a great deal to recruit school classes, business meetings, and social gatherings to their platform. Of course, I was concerned about security issues surrounding the exposure of personal and professional materials on the Zoom platform. I forwarded my concerns to Zoom, and they immediately responded with instructions on how to secure the videoconferencing experience—instructions which, of course, I am diligently following.

To date, RECCSF has conducted its first video conferencing executive board meeting. It was a learning experience for many of us, and a few board members were unable to successfully sign on at the appointed time. We experienced some challenges but had a great turnout. One benefit is that some board members residing at a physical distance from San Francisco were able to join the Zoom meeting.

At this stage, it is uncertain how long California "sheltering in place" will be mandatory. However, we *do* know that the Zoom videoconferencing is one way that we can continuously meet together to continue the business of RECCSF.

Retirement Board Report

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lions from their combined market capitalization, would they have diverted some of their resources to help contain COVID-19? If SFERS knew that encouraging these companies sooner would have stemmed some of the economic damage, would we have done so? I (Stansbury) think the answer to both these questions is "yes." We're in the same predicament now and **need to act**. This is not a political campaign, it's a practical effort with a sense of urgency, **to save lives and stabilize the economy**.

The current fiscal year return of the pension fund is -1.5%

Errata

In the *Updated Practical Advice re Coronavirus!* article printed in the April issue of *News & Views*, the following statements have subsequently been proven to be incorrect.

"Pulmonary fibrosis is detectable by holding your breath for 10 seconds. Drinking water every 15 minutes repels coronavirus."

and the total fund remains at \$25.6 billion as of April 9, 2020. Jay Huish indicated that this return will **not increase** the City's contribution, nor will it increase the employee contribution rate.

The RECCSF Membership Committee is reaching out to our Vallejo and North East Bay Members!

RECCSF would like to schedule another meeting in your area. We are asking local members to help us secure a new meeting site, since the former restaurant site turned out to be uncomfortable for some of our members.

A new meeting site would not necessarily be at a restaurant. It could be held at any cost-free venue suitable for the serving of refreshments.

If you have any suggestions, please contact Linda Tabor-Beck at cane_elder@yahoo.com or leave a message at 1 (415) 622-8093.

Thanks in advance for your help in helping RECCSF to set up Vallejo and North East Bay RECCSF meetings!

RECCSF Board Member Profile: Tim O'Brien

As told to Stephanie Lyons and John "Skee" Tostanoski

I am a native San Franciscan, raised in the Outer Mission District. I attended School of the Epiphany grammar school and Riordan High School and received a Fire Science Degree from City College of San Francisco. I joined the San Francisco Fire Department, where I served for 30 years and retired in 1996.

I met my wife in San Francisco, and we will have been married 50 years this coming August. We have two sons; one lives in New York City and the other lives in Mill Valley, California. Each has two children. We enjoy visiting and watching the grandchildren grow up. The oldest is 10, and the youngest is eight. We plan on seeing all of them graduate from college and continue with successful, fulfilling lives.

I was a member of the South End Rowing Club where I enjoyed swimming in the bay with my uncle; and also have swum across the Golden Gate several times. I also enjoyed running with the SFFD Road Runners and the Dolphin/South End Runners. Since I am no longer able to run, I ride a bicycle with retired firefighters and my bicycle club.

While a firefighter I served on the Local 798 executive

board for over 20 years. During those years we faced many challenges, ultimately overcame them, and improved the working conditions and benefits for firefighters.

Upon retirement, I joined the Retired Fire Fighters and Spouses Association, RECCSF, and Protect Our Benefits. Together, we reduced health insurance premiums by 50% and gained the supplemental COLA. I have served on the executive board of these organizations, including as a past president of RECCSF.

By participating in RECCSF, I have made new friends, as well as keeping abreast of our retirement and health benefit challenges. Please consider joining our executive board or one of our committees, in order to make new friends and help strengthen RECCSF.



Nominations Committee Report

By John "Skee" Tostanoski

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce that the names of those members who have agreed to serve as officers of the RECCSF Executive Board from June 10, 2020 through June 7, 2022 are as follows:

President,

John "Skee" Tostanoski (myself)

First vice president, Jerry Maxwell

Second vice president, David Williams

The names of those members who have agreed to serve as executive board members at large from June 10, 2020 through June 7, 2022 are as follows:

Linda Tabor-Beck

Richard Bridygham

Ed (Rusty) Jepson

A.J. Jew

(One position remains unfilled.)

The board, for the foreseeable future, will conduct all RECCSF meetings on the Zoom videoconferencing application.

"Thank you" to all members who have considered joining the board in order to serve our retired co-workers. If you are still considering joining the board at some point, or would like more information, please feel free to contact me at 1 (415) 699-1050.

We Are Here For You!

From Your Friends at San Francisco Federal Credit Union

San Francisco Federal Credit Union continues to monitor the status of COVID-19. The health and safety of our employees, members, and communities are important to us and remain a top priority.

Although our financial district branch is temporarily closed, business hours remain the same for all other branches; and, for our members aged 55+, our Golden Gate branch is open *just for you* every Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. We want our senior members to bank in an environment where they feel safe, and where social distancing is being easily managed.

As always, we are here to help with financial needs in both good and challenging times. If you need payment relief on any of our loans, just call. We are offering 60-day payment deferments on all loans* that you have with us, with no late fees or adverse credit reporting to worry about. If you haven't

requested a deferment and incur a late fee, we will reverse it.

If you don't have a loan with us and are looking for ways to pay bills, we have solutions. For both members and non-members, SFFedCU is offering these super-low loan rates:

- personal loans as low as 1.99%, up to \$50,000;
- debt consolidation loans as low as 3.49%, up to \$50,000;
- credit cards as low as 3.20%, up to \$50,00, (which is the **lowest rate in the nation**); and
- auto loans as low as 0.99%, up to \$100,000.

Also, in order to help keep our economy going, and to put our money to use in ways also beneficial for the environment, we are offering 1.00% off published loan rates for hybrid/electric cars.

For more information, call our service center at 1 (415) 775-5377, stop by a branch, or visit SanFranciscoFCU.com.

**Loans must have been in place for a minimum of 30 days.*

MEMBERS CONNECT

Mary Figliulo's Creative Face Mask

Yes, it's a sock!

1 (925) 480-7272.

First Responders

by RECCSF life member Ted Bauer

The name says it best,
that group that shows up before the
rest.

They save you, protect you, keep you
out of harm's way;
some salaried, some without pay.
Dedicated in what they do,
their only mission is to take care of
you

They come from all walks of life,
maybe someone's husband, maybe
someone's wife.

They risk it all,
knowing before this may be the end,
and they, too, might fall.

Laud them, thank them,

give them help when you can.

Better things happen when you lend a
helping hand.

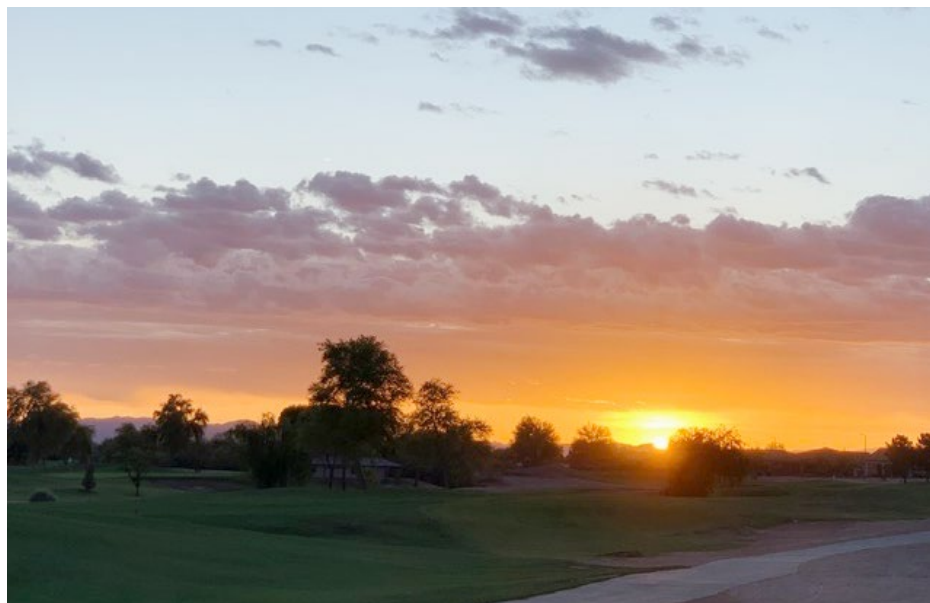


Travel warning from John Stenson!

Before booking any trips to Hawaii in the immediate future, please confirm Hawaii's current "sheltering in place" regulations. John stated that the day before he was scheduled to leave for a Hawaiian vacation that he was informed that the governor of Hawaii had stated that any visiting tourists would be quarantined within their hotels for 14 days.



René Thomas, Emeryville, "I am sewing masks."



Dennis Owen, Retired SFFD: "Sunrise from our backyard in Gilbert, Arizona."



Thomas Dang at Lloyd Lake in Golden Gate Park.

Virtual Arts Programs and Travel Opportunities for Members during the Coronavirus Emergency

Submitted by Harry Lew

The Kennedy Center <https://tinyurl.com/y75p23c7>

Ford's Theatre <https://tinyurl.com/y59dzjuj>

Wright Patterson National Air Force Museum

<https://tinyurl.com/sdbo2mq>

NASA Glenn Research Center

<https://www.nasa.gov/glennvirtualtours>

NASA's 4K virtual tour of Earth's moon

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_KKx42MGTm4

Portland Japanese Garden

<https://japanesegarden.org/a-day-at-the-garden/>

Highgrove Gardens, UK

<https://tinyurl.com/y7h6k6x5>

Kew Gardens, UK

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioG_Vfh0Kxw

North American Gardens

<https://tinyurl.com/y7p8hh2h>

Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Garden

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=pjbmGhqCRGh>

Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7rkUBkhgdE>

Aerial Tours Around the World

http://www.airpano.com/360video_list.php

Yellowstone Tours

http://www.airpano.com/360video_list.php

Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

<https://tinyurl.com/ybzp22kf>

The Cotswolds, England

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfIPGOI9dOc>

View from Empire State Building

<https://tinyurl.com/ya6tyl3n>

Wales, UK from the Sky

<https://tinyurl.com/yb94l3qj>

Mount Vernon – George Washington's home

<https://virtualtour.mountvernon.org/>

360 View of Stonehenge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUFBUL6b6TO>

Visit Greece

<http://www.visitgreece.gr/>

Smithsonian Natural History Museum

<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour>

British Museum, London

<https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com/>

Guggenheim Museum, New York

<https://tinyurl.com/sylhzpg>

National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

<https://tinyurl.com/rgxosvx>

Musée d'Orsay, Paris

<https://tinyurl.com/tngnj5b>

National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul

<https://tinyurl.com/yd7x39ja>

Pergamon Museum, Berlin

<https://tinyurl.com/tp8h3dv>

Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

<https://tinyurl.com/vmzc8dm>

Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam

<https://tinyurl.com/ru6fyzt>

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

<https://tinyurl.com/t3rbj23>

Uffizi Gallery, Florence

<https://tinyurl.com/rnfvu6q>

MASP, São Paulo

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/masp?hl=en>

National Museum of Anthropology, Mexico City

<https://tinyurl.com/wzusoqx>

The Louvre, Paris

<https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne>

The Vatican, Vatican City, Rome

<https://tinyurl.com/wq5xc2h>

Google Arts & Culture

<https://tinyurl.com/qres6ru>

Baseball Hall of Fame

<https://tinyurl.com/ydask3c7>



**Our RECCSF members
Our community**



Stay home! Stay safe!



Upcoming General Membership Meetings

Due to the current COVID-19 (corona) virus emergency, all upcoming RECCSF meetings have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. Please be assured that your RECCSF Board will keep members updated on future developments through our RECCSF *News & Views* newsletter, periodic "email blasts," and RECCSF website at sfretirees.org. Our age group is particularly vulnerable for contracting this infection, and we urge all of our members to stay safe by self-quarantining at home as much as possible.

News & Views

May 2020
Volume 121, Number 5
Sheila Mullen, Editor
Office: 1 (415) 681-5949
Office email: reccsf@att.net

Executive Board Meeting

All meetings cancelled
until further notice.

Note to members:

Please keep RECCSF updated with changes in address, phone number and email.

News & Views

June Deadline:

☛ Friday, May 15, 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.

- \$68, 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

