

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

By Claire Zvanski

We wish to welcome newly elected Commissioner A. J. Thomas to the SFERS board. He is a miscellaneous city employee and active member of IFPTE, Local 21. Per the city charter, he was elected without opposition. He replaces Commissioner Al Casciato, who did not seek re-election. The elected seats on the board now include a miscellaneous employee and a return to the “traditional” board composition of elected board members.

The report as of Dec. 31, 2021 places the SFERS fund in a very stable position and number one ranking compared to its peers. The total at that time was over \$37 billion in assets. It was pointed out that our fund is extremely diversified and has a significant portion of investments in private equities, which allow for great versatility to minimize risk, as well as for higher returns. The market is decidedly down since then, but our fund remains relatively stable and not experiencing significant losses. **Inflation** is an important factor now, but the shift to private equity over the last few years has given the fund greater leverage and also allowed for significant liquidity—both of which keep the fund performing well. The fund had added over \$4 billion over the last five years. The board was given projections regarding 10 and 30-year assumptions and expectations. The 10-year projections have the fund continuing to perform well.

The value of the fund as of Feb. 28, 2022, is \$35.3 billion. It is stable and the

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Health Service Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski

Executive Director Yant began the meeting with a supportive message acknowledging the current struggle of the Ukrainian people. This was the first in-person meeting in City Hall of the HSS board in nearly two years. Both IT and AV (audio-visual) staff were extremely efficient and helpful.

President Follansbee joined the meeting remotely and Commissioner Breslin chaired the in-person meeting. For the following 30 days, all commission meetings—including committee meetings—now begin with a resolution allowing teleconferenced/hybrid meetings.

While most staff returned to the office on March 7, please note that the offices remain closed, as does access to 1145 Market St. It is unknown when the offices will open. Staff is working closely with our medical advisor as we move into the recovery phase of the COVID 19 pandemic. There is an effort to increase the availability of home test kits through our health plans.

Members are being urged to tap into *diverse activities and support resources* offered through HSS Well-Being, including virtual yoga and pilates classes. Well-Being is also preparing sessions for the upcoming (DPP) Diabetes Prevention Program. Additionally, the department is leveraging guidance from the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC), health plans and providers, purchasers, and stakeholders to help quantify demographics related to social determinants

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All Regularly Calendared April Meetings

RECCSF

(For the immediate future, RECCSF will be communicating with members through *News & Views* and regular “e-mail blasts.” Stay safe!)

Zoom Electronic meetings

(Members welcome to attend:
Contact: sfskee1@gmail.com.)

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 10 a.m.

Program Committee

Monday, April 4, 1 p.m.

Editorial Committee

Monday, April 18, 10 a.m.

Executive Board

Tuesday, April 19, 10 a.m.

Membership Committee

Tuesday, April 26, 11 a.m.

Frugal Few Committee

Friday, April 15, 10 a.m.

Retirement System

Health Service System

sfgov.org and SFGOVTV.

Public

(The following listed entities are individually choosing communication methods with their members.)

Retired Fire Fighters and

Spouses Association

Thursday, May 19, 10 a.m.

UESF Retired Division

Contact: Rudi Faltus

1 (415) 956-8373 or

Uesfrd01@gmail.com.

SEIU 1021 West Bay Retirees Chapter

Contact: David Williams

(Zoom meetings)

iamdhw@comcast.net

or 1 (415) 939-5149.

Health Service Committee Report

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of health and health inequities faced by our membership.

For those following the public safety mental health and substance use disorder treatment, it was noted that HSS met with Kaiser and Blue Shield regarding the possibility of including the IFAA Substance Use Treatment Center as part of their respective networks. The in-depth evaluation of this request will take up to six months, as there are many issues and standards involved. A request has been sent to the mayor requesting additional financial assistance to enhance mental health

benefits for all. It was also noted that the EAP (Employee Assistance Program) has experienced increases in cases and calls lately.

On the finance side, the departmental budget has been submitted to the mayor's office. The budget director is now preparing responses and supporting documentation for the internal control questionnaire for the annual controller audit.

The annual 10-County Survey (City Charter Section A8.423) is used to determine employer contributions. It

was approved as submitted and noted that there was an increase of 3.10% in the final amount of \$780.76 over last year's \$757.31. San Diego County had the highest increase of 14.02%, while Riverside decreased 4.96%. Most counties remained in the 1-3% change range; all counties experienced changes, but only Riverside experienced a decrease.

The rates and benefits process has begun. Mostly active plans are being reviewed at this stage. Blue Shield Flex Funded Non-Medicare is the first with the active/early retiree plan, as well. While preventive care utilization rates are substantially lower in 2021 than in pre-pandemic levels two years ago, it was noted that lower preventive care utilization is associated with higher emergency room utilization in the HSS population.

The active (self-funded) dental benefits were discussed at this meeting. The retiree dental plans will be presented at the next HSS board meeting. Commissioner Breslin commented on the changes in the panels of Delta Dental dentists available in various categories, citing that virtually no Premier network dentists remain. It was stated that members are encouraged to seek Delta Dental PPO dentists for most services as that is the most cost effective—especially for active members. Commissioner Breslin continued her comments on the higher member costs of services, blaming the rating practices of Delta Dental that adversely impact PPO and Premier dentists so that fewer dentists remain in the network. It was restated that retiree dental issues will be discussed next month.

The board did manage to approve the results of the 2021 annual board self-evaluation report and the education plan for 2022. However, technical difficulties arose about this time so that the board was unable to go into closed session regarding the annual public employee performance evaluation. The situation did not resolve itself to allow the closed session or reconvening in open session, so the meeting was adjourned with those items carried forward to the next meeting.

Questions? Comments?

Please feel free to contact Claire Zvanski at czvanski@gmail.com.

RECCSF Officers

John "Skee" Tostanoski,
President
First Vice President
Vacant

David Williams,
Second Vice President
Bonnie Bompert,
Secretary

George Lau,
Treasurer
Leo Martinez,
Sergeant-at-arms

Board Members

Sue Blomberg
Richard Bridygham
Carol Cochran
Thomas Dang
Ed "Rusty" Jepson
A.J. Jew

David Leeds
Stephanie M. Lyons
Ray Mason
Mary Anne
McGuire-Hickey
Sheila Mullen

Tim O'Brien
Linda Tabor-Beck
Jean S. Thomas
Herbert Weiner
Claire Zvanski

Useful Contact Information

RECCSF Office

Email: reccsf@att.net
Website: sfretirees.org
Phone Number:
1 (415) 681-5949

S.F. Retirement System

Website: sfgov.org/sfers
Phone Numbers:
1 (415) 487-7000
1 (888) 849-0777

Health Service System

Website: sfhss.org
Phone Numbers:
Member services:
1 (628) 652-4700
Employee Assistance:
1 (628) 652-4600 (24/7)
Toll-free: 1 (800) 541-2266
Fax: 1 (628) 652-4701
Benefits: sfhss.org/benefits/retirees

Health Service Quick Links

Blue Shield HMO Plans
<https://sfhss.org/access-hmo-blue-shield-california>

Kaiser Permanente HMO
<https://sfhss.org/kaiser-permanente-hmo>

City Plan & City Plan 20 PPO
<https://sfhss.org/unitedhealthcare-ppo-city-plan>

UHC Medicare Advantage PPO
<https://sfhss.org/uhc-medicare-advantage-ppo>

Dental and Vision:

Delta Dental
<https://sfhss.org/delta-dental-ppo>

UnitedHealthcare Dental
<https://sfhss.org/unitedhealthcare-dental-dhmo>

DeltaCare USA
<https://sfhss.org/deltacare-usa-dhmo>

VSP Vision
<https://sfhss.org/vsp-vision-plans>

President's Message

By John "Skee" Tostanoski

It's great news that the mandatory covid-19 restrictions placed on us have now been lifted, although my family continues to practice our personal choice of social distancing, mask wearing, frequent sanitizing, and hand washing.

We are still staying with our daughter and struggling to cope with the inevitable changes this makes in all our lives. Our hope is that someday soon she will be able to care for herself again, and that we can return to our normal activities.

I stress in every President's Message about the importance of focusing on our physical and mental health. I believe that by taking care of ourselves we increase our chances of enjoying a healthy future. (Physically, we strive to walk every day and eat healthy.)

In that vein, we have taken advantage of the *AbleToTherapy360 Program*, an eight-week counseling program that offers counseling either online at the above email address or by phone at 1 (866) 287-1802. This program has been a great additional tool for us in helping to deal with and resolve some troublesome emotional issues. We have all earned our great medical benefits and need to use them when necessary!

Also, we have signed up for the Silver Sneakers Program offered through United Healthcare. Silver Sneakers has emailed us a variety of program options to enable us to decide on which would work best for us.

There is great news about the efforts to secure our elected officials' support for the upcoming ballot initiative that strives to restore pre-1996 city retirees' supplemental COLAs. The organization in charge is entitled *FairnessForSFRetirees.org*, and you should be contacted soon on how you may lend your support.

Our April General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 13, at 10 a.m. Our scheduled speaker is San Francisco Assessor-Recorder Joaquin Torres.

If you would like to be placed on our Zoom general membership meeting invitation contact list, or if you know of an interesting speaker whom you think may be open to speaking at one of our meetings, please contact me at me at sfskee1@gmail.com, and I will follow up.

After our March General Membership Meeting's completion, our usual raffle was held, resulting in three winners! To purchase future chances, please contact Linda Tabor-Beck at lindareccsf@gmail.com.

Our election for the RECCSF Executive Board is approaching soon. If you are interested in serving, please let me know!

Please feel free to contact me at sfskee1@gmail.com with any comments or questions.



Retirement Committee Report

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investment staff is watching the markets very closely. The fiscal year to date return is 2.31% with the unlikelihood of achieving the minimum 7.2% rate of return required to generate the supplemental COLA—but the fund remains **100% funded**. Private credit, private equity and real assets provided the highest returns to date. The fund continues to perform in the top one percentile of its peers.

The most pressing question on everyone's mind these days is **divestment in Russian assets**. The mayor sent a memo to the SFERS board inquiring about Russian investments and requesting that the board consider divestment. The city attorney also sent a directive. Analysis of investments indicate that there is approximately **\$3.2 million** that might be subject to action in the near future. Most possible investments are tied up in portfolios that are long term and not available for analysis or modification (and might be valued around \$30 million). Therefore, this \$3.2 million was included within the ESG divestment policy of the SFERS board (Sudan, tobacco, firearms, fossil fuels). **The motion was to**

halt all new investments in Russian assets; take steps to divest as soon as prudent and practicable from all Russian securities and energy configurations; and provide regular staff updates, including specific criteria used to implement divestment and criteria for lifting restrictions in the future. The vote was unanimous. It is important to note that the federal guidelines change almost daily. This discussion took almost all meeting time as it was complex and required delving into details, both legal and financial.

The deferred compensation plan has reached over \$5 billion in assets as of Dec. 31, 2021. The target date and stable value funds are just under \$1 billion each. It was noted that if there were any Russian investments that they were already removed through VOYA, the administrator of the funds, in keeping with the nature of the program. Going forward it was noted that employees can make appointments on a very limited basis to visit the office for services for the deferred compensation plan. Notices were sent out to **retirees both under age 72 and over age 72 regarding taking an annual distribution** within the year to avoid tax penalties. Distributions

are made by Voya if the member does not designate a specific distribution.

Board committee assignments were renewed with Commissioner Thomas replacing Commissioner Casciato. The new meeting schedule was provided, indicating that **meetings only in April, May and June will be held on the second Thursdays at 10 a.m. Meetings will resume on their regular second Wednesdays in July at 1 p.m.** and continue until the end of the calendar year. The schedule change is due to a conflict with the Budget Committee of the board of supervisors, upon which supervisor and SFERS board president Ahsha Safai serves.

Finally, staff change updates were presented. **Deputy Executive director Caryn Bortnick has been appointed SFERS chief operating officer** in keeping with the reorganization and newly combined position of CEO/CIO. **Congratulations, Caryn!**

The SFERS offices are reopening on **a very limited basis—by appointment only—on Tuesdays and Thursdays**. Otherwise, the building remains closed for business.

Questions? Comments?

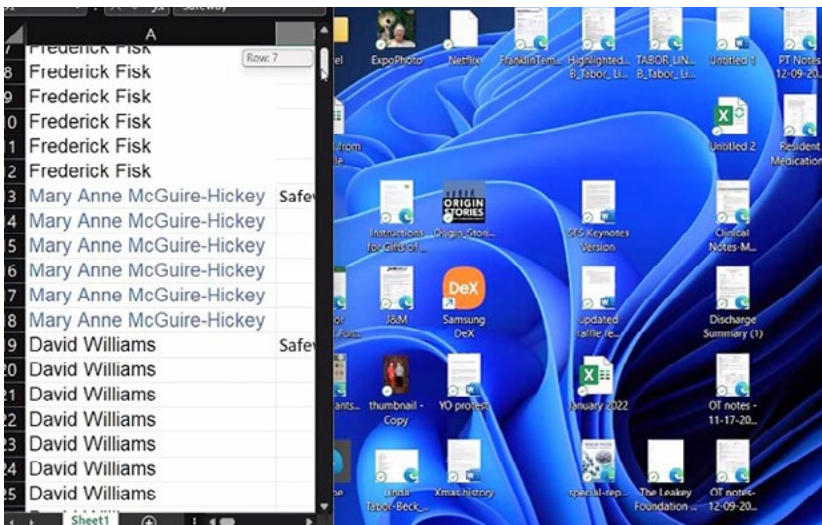
Contact Claire Zvanski at czvanski@gmail.com, or Herb Weiner at h.weiner@sbcglobal.net.

March 9 Zoom Electronic General Membership Meeting



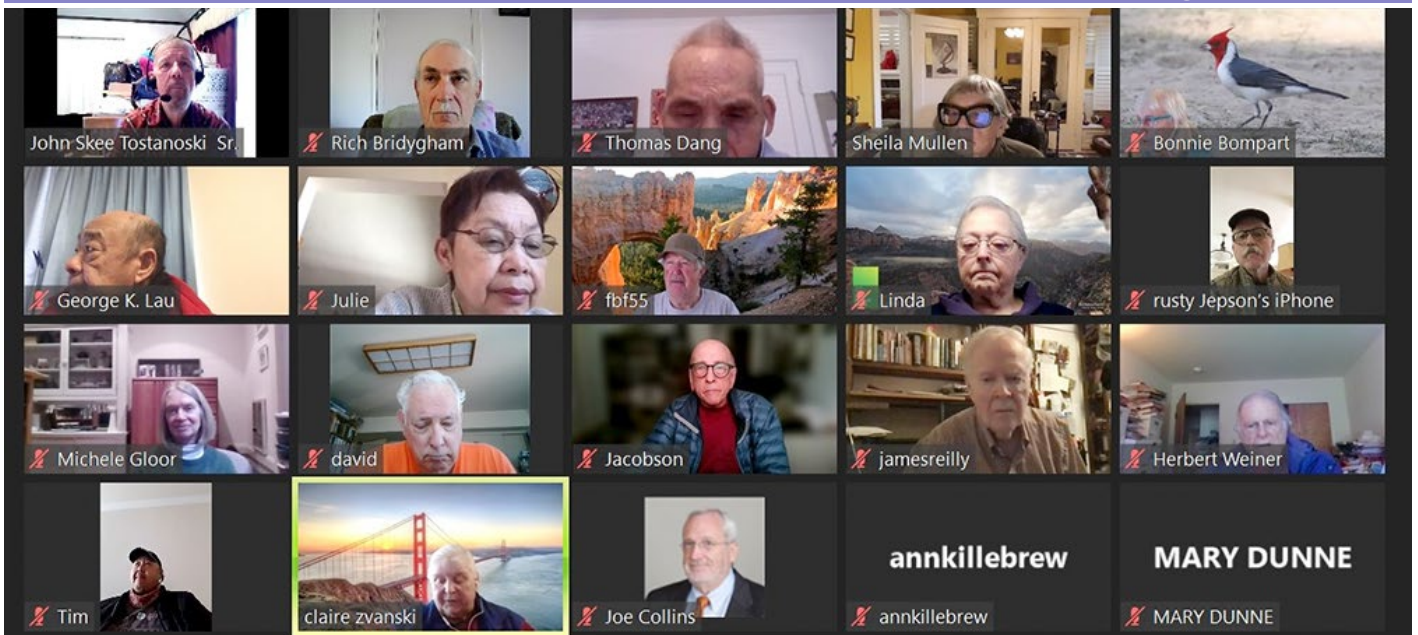
Scheduled speaker San Francisco Assessor-Recorder Joaquin Torres was unable to attend the meeting because he was called by Mayor London Breed to an emergency meeting of all San Francisco City and County department heads. Mr. Torres kindly agreed to return as speaker for our April 13 RECCSF General Membership Meeting.

RECCSF President John "Skee" Tostanoski rose to the occasion and admirably conducted our revised, and informative, general membership meeting.

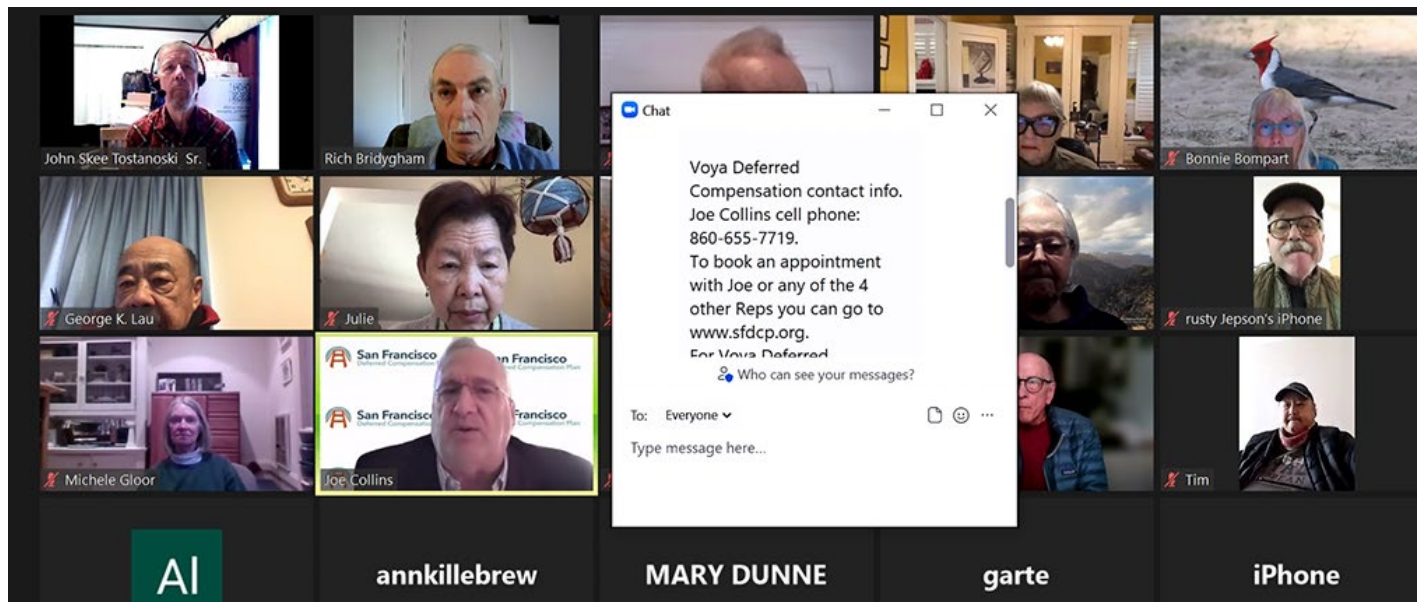
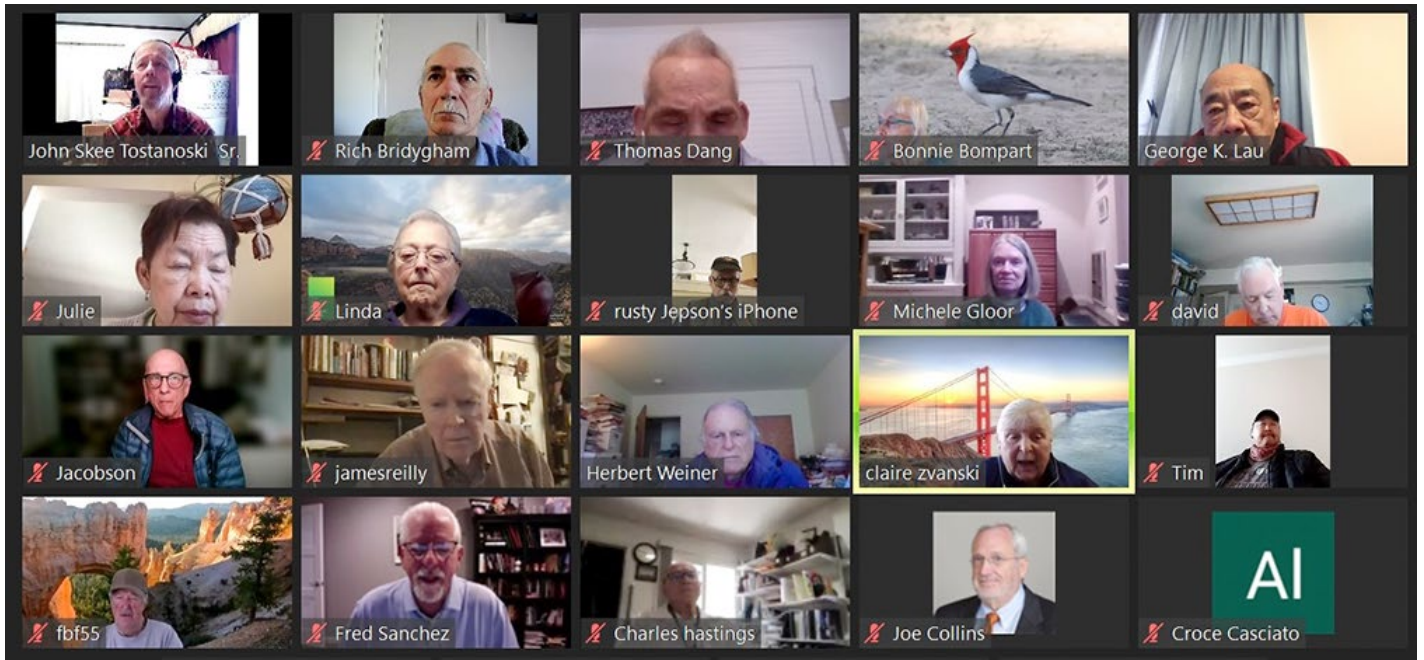


Raffle master Linda Tabor-Beck conducted her usual popular post-meeting raffle. If you would like to join other members as part of this fun event, please contact Linda at lindareccsf@gmail.com.

Below is a sampling of RECCSF members in attendance at the RECCSF March 9 Zoom Electronic General Membership meeting.



Below is a sampling of RECCSF members in attendance at the RECCSF March 9 Zoom Electronic General Membership meeting.



RECCSF 2022 General Membership Meeting Dates Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

- April 13
- May 11
- June 8
- July 13
- August 10
- September 14
- October 12
- November 9
- December 14

March 15 Zoom Electronic Board Meeting Results

- Accepted Treasurer's Report (Year-to-date-deficit \$3,041.43)
- Adopted a "Wishful Wednesday" program to be held twice a year to encourage people to donate to RECCSF.



National Credit Education Month

*From your friends at San Francisco
Federal Credit Union*

March is National Credit Education Month, which means that there is no better time to educate yourself and others on the importance of understanding the important details of your credit score. Did you know that one in five Americans find errors on their credit reports, and that more than 90% of home and auto insurers use credit ratings to decide whom to cover and which premiums to charge? It's for these reasons you should actively monitor your credit score, as well as educate yourself on how to properly manage it.

Here are three simple ways to observe National Credit Education Month:

1. **check your credit rating;** It is important to know your credit score

for a variety of reasons. One of the benefits of a high credit score rating is being able to borrow money at a lower interest rate. When you need to purchase a new automobile, for example, they will check your credit rating to determine the interest rate of your auto loan. Even when you believe your credit score to be in order, it can change very quickly, so be sure to check it out this month; and

2. **focus on meeting payment deadlines;** One of the best ways to maintain or build a good credit rating is to make your payments on time. If you tend to forget to pay bills in a timely manner, set up payment reminders through your personal calendar system. Also, you can enroll in auto-withdraw with many of your accounts to ensure that you

never miss a payment; and

3. **teach your children about debt.** Do your children a favor and teach them good overall money habits early. Did you know that more young adults aged 20–24 declare bankruptcy than graduate from college? Credit card misuse is mainly responsible. Teach them early about saving money, wise spending, and how to build good credit.

This article is courtesy of San Francisco Federal Credit Union, with branches in San Francisco and San Mateo counties. For other financial tips, visit sanfranciscofcu.com/financial-education, and for more information on our products and services email sanfranciscofcu.com, call (415) 775-5377, or stop by one of our branches.

March 2022: Fairness for SF Retirees Campaign Update

*By Fred Sanchez,
President/Protect Our Benefits
Chair/Restore Retired City Workers
Earned Benefits 2021*

I cannot thank RECCSF enough for joining our broad-based coalition to amend the city charter so that our most senior city workers who retired before Nov. 6, 1996 can retroactively receive their earned supplemental COLA benefits—frozen since 2012.

We have made great progress in getting four members of the board of supervisors to sponsor our measure so that it can move forward for the November ballot. Three supervisors said “yes” the second week in March. We feel confident that the other supervisors will sign on shortly.

The next step is the approval of the charter change language by the city attorney's office, which would then forward the language to the Rules Committee (Supervisors Peskin, Chan and Mandelman), which then sends it to the full board for two readings.

Upon completion, The Ballot Simplification Committee and the controller make statements for the Voter Pamphlet Guide.

We will ask many groups to provide statements of support, and then get out the vote to assure victory!!

Visit our website at <http://www.fairnessforsfretirees.com/> to add your name to the endorsement page—and to make a donation, if you can.

Our website also includes instructions on how to write to your supervisors and the mayor about putting the charter amendment on the ballot. You don't need to live in San

Francisco; simply state that you are a **retired city worker** asking for fairness!! (This is time critical for next few weeks).

RECCSF is a crucial component of our broad coalition. We hope that you will join this ever-expanding coalition of public safety, labor, seniors, educators, and democrats and republicans to **ensure fair treatment for our retired city workers.**

Together, we can do this!!

2022/24 RECCSF New Executive Board Member Election!

RECCSF is currently soliciting members to run for the RECCSF Executive Board, either as board members or officers.

Terms are for two-year periods.

We encourage members to consider enriching their RECCSF experience by serving in one of these capacities.

For newcomers, in particular, it's a great way to get to know your fellow members, and to get your ideas heard!

Nominations will be open for the following positions: president, first vice president, second vice president, and five board members at large.

For more information, contact:

John “Skee” Tostanoski at sfskee1@gmail.com.

RECCSF Zoom Electronic General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 10 a.m.

San Francisco Assessor-Recorder Joaquin Torres
will address the membership.

For your information, following is listed a link to Mr. Torres' biography.

<https://www.sfassessor.org/about-us/assessor-recorders-biography>

News & Views

April 2022

Volume 123, Number 3

Sheila Mullen, Editor

Office: 1 (415) 681-5949

Office email: reccsf@att.net

Zoom Electronic Executive Board Meeting

All in-person board meetings cancelled until further
notice. Your RECCSF Executive Board is meeting
by Zoom for the foreseeable future.

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on
Tuesday, April 19, at 10 a.m.

Note to members:

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

News & Views

May 2022 Deadline:

Friday, April 15, 5:30 p.m.

Please email your submissions to:

sheilamullen@me.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@me.com.



I want to know!

Join

RECCSF

Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco

