

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

NEWS & VIEWS

A MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION WORKING FOR ALL CITY RETIREES

April 10 Zoom Electronic General Membership Meeting



Alison Romano, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer, San Francisco Employees' Retirement System, addressed the membership on current investments and returns, and future longterm investment planning.

Alison Romano
CEO & CIO

San Francisco Employees' Retirement System

Below is a sampling of RECCSF members in attendance at the RECCSF April 10 Zoom Electronic General Membership meeting.



**RECCSF 2024 General Membership Meetings
Wednesday at 10 a.m.**

- May 15
- June 19
- July 17
- August 21
- September 18
- October 16
- November 20
- December 18

**All Regularly Scheduled
May 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: ricksf1723@gmail.com.)

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 15, 10 a.m.

Program Committee

Monday, May 6, 1 p.m.

Editorial Committee

Monday, May 20, 10 a.m.

Executive Board

Tuesday, May 14, 10 a.m.

Membership Committee

Wednesday, May 22, 11 a.m.

Frugal Few Committee

Future committee meetings postponed until further notice.

Retirement System

Health Service System
sfgov.org and SFGO-TV.

Public

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

Retired Fire Fighters and Spouses Association

To be announced.

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.

**Commencing in May, 2024
New RECCSF Executive Board and
General Membership Meeting Date Changes!**

Per a February 20 RECCSF Executive Board decision, commencing in May the Zoom electronic General Membership Meetings will be moving from the second Wednesday of the month to the third Wednesday of the month, at 10 a.m.

The Zoom electronic Executive Board Meetings will be moving from the third Tuesday of the month to the second Tuesday of the month, at 10 am.

The reason for these moves is enable RECCSF to provide to our members more up-to-date reports on current city retirement and health board meeting results. The corresponding ZOOM links will be emailed out about three to five days before the meetings.

Please be sure to mark these important date changes on your calendars!

**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>

RECCSF Officers

Adlai “A.J.” Jew
President
First Vice President
Vacant

David Williams
Second Vice President
Bonnie Bompert
Secretary

John “Skee” Tostanoski
Treasurer
Leo Martinez
Sergeant-at-arms

Board Members

Sue Blomberg
Richard Bridygham
Carol Cochran
Thomas Dang
Ed “Rusty” Jepson
Ann Killebrew

David Leeds
Stephanie M. Lyons
Ray Mason
Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey
Sheila Mullen
Tim O’Brien

Linda Tabor-Beck
Assistant Treasurer
Jean S. Thomas
Herbert Weiner
Claire Zvanski

Health Service System Board Meeting Monitor Needed Now!

Volunteer needed to fill vital area within RECCSF that affects *all* city retiree health care.

RECCSF is in dire need of a volunteer to help monitor monthly Health Service System Board Meetings that, as part of our mission statement, we have monitored since our inception.

Claire Zvanski, our long-term “watch person” who attends HSS meetings and writes the subsequent reports, now needs to have a fellow member work in conjunction with her to ensure that monthly HSS written reports are completed in time to meet our monthly RECCSF *News & Views*

newsletter deadlines.

The ability to produce these vital and interesting reports ensures that RECCSF can continue to keep our members updated in a timely manner on current city retiree health care status.

If you can offer to help to continue this critical function that affects *all* retired city employees, please contact John “Skee” Tostanoski at sfskee1@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your consideration!

New RECCSF In-person Get-togethers continue!

Everyone is invited to join in a “coffee klatch” meeting—*yes, in person*—on Friday, May 31, at 10:30 a.m. at the Westlake Coffee Shop, 1901 Junipero Serra Blvd, Suite D, in Daly City—good parking and very close to the BART station. Hope to see you there!



April 16

Zoom Electronic

Board Meeting Results

- A motion that Linda Tabor-Beck be appointed as Assistant Treasurer was adopted by voice vote.
- A motion that Claire Zvanski be removed as a signee on all financial accounts was adopted by voice vote.

Health Service Committee Report

by Linda Tabor-Beck through Fred Sanchez, (POB)

The HHS board election for two positions is scheduled for May 15, 2024. There are three candidates: **Jack Cremen**, fire department, five years retired; **Art Howard**, police department, active employee; and **Kelly McCray**, airport management, active employee.

The HSS board is currently in talks on rates and benefits. Abby Yant sits on the state advisory board; there is going to be an effort to put a 3% limit on rate increases from insurance companies.

The dental plan for new retirees is problematic, as is the case for all benefits for new retirees who are not yet eligible for Medicare. I raised the ques-

tion of a possible replacement for Delta Dental insurance since many dentists have left Delta due to the company’s reimbursement delays. Unfortunately, HSS cannot seek out alternative options since that must be done during union negotiations.

The HSS Trust Fund is 60% funded and currently has a value of \$1,000,000,000.00. It is anticipated that the fund will be 100% funded in 2046, and funds cannot be drawn to lower the costs of funding health benefits until then. At that point, the costs will be lowered for the *city*, but *not* for the retirees. (This is an issue that Fred Sanchez intends to address with the board of supervisors.)

Retirement Committee Report

by Linda Tabor-Beck through Fred Sanchez, (POB)

The retirement fund is up to 7.08; needs to be 7.3 for a 3% COLA, but that number can change rapidly. June is critical because the reported rate for that month determines whether or not a COLA will be paid.

The current fund balance is \$35.4

billion: It increased \$900 million in one month.

The city retirement system is in the top 1% of world retirement systems because it functions independently of city government.

(Point of interest: Investments in China are down. Mexico is now the new largest exporter of goods.)

2024/26 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.

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

Nominations will be open for the following positions: president, first vice president, second vice president, and five board members at large. We encourage members to consider enriching their RECCSF experience by serving in one of these capacities.

For more information, contact John “Skee” Tostanoski at sfskee1@gmail.com, Sheila Mullen at sheilamullen@me.com and Claire Zvanski at czvanski@gmail.com.

Understanding Foreclosure and Strategies for Prevention

From your friends at San Francisco
Federal Credit Union

Foreclosure represents a critical financial predicament wherein a homeowner loses their property due to unpaid mortgage debts, and the lender repossesses and sells it. This legal process is initiated after a homeowner consistently fails to meet mortgage obligations, triggering a stressful series of legal actions.

The foreclosure journey begins when the lender issues a notice of default to the homeowner that details the missed payments and the necessary steps to remedy the default. If the homeowner cannot rectify the situation, the lender then files a lawsuit aiming to obtain the property. Following court approval, the property is put up for public auction where it's sold to the highest bidder. Should the auction fail to cover the outstanding mortgage, the lender then assumes ownership and may sell the property on the open market. However, foreclosure can often be avoided through various strategies, as follows:

- **open communication with the lender.** Engaging with your lender at the first sign of financial trouble is crucial. Lenders may work with homeowners to modify loan terms to avoid foreclosure. Providing



- updated financial information and explaining any extenuating circumstances can help in negotiating more manageable repayment terms;
- **prioritizing mortgage payments.** It's vital to prioritize mortgage payments above other financial obligations. Reducing unnecessary expenditures and boosting income through additional jobs can help maintain mortgage payments;
- **exploring government assistance.** Numerous state and federal programs offer support to homeowners in distress. These programs can provide financial relief to help maintain mortgage payments;
- **considering refinancing.** Refinancing might offer a viable solution, potentially lowering interest rates

- and extending loan terms, thus reducing monthly payments; and
- **professional guidance.** Consulting with accredited housing counselors can provide valuable advice and assistance. These professionals can help navigate the complexities of foreclosure laws and develop a personalized budget strategy.

By understanding and utilizing these preventive measures, homeowners can avoid the severe consequences of foreclosure and work toward financial stability.

This article is courtesy of San Francisco Federal Credit Union, with branches in San Francisco and San Mateo counties. For more information on our products and services, call 1 (415)775-5377, stop by one of our branches, or visit www.SanFranciscofcu.com.

Members Connect *...over the years*



RECCSF Zoom Electronic General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 15, 10 a.m.

Angie Pandher, MPH, RD
Kaiser Permanente

Ms. Pandher will conduct a "Healthy Heart" presentation.

News & Views

May 2024
Volume 125, Number 4
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, May 14, at 10 a.m.

Note to members:

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

News & Views

May 2024 Deadline:

☛ Friday, May 17, 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.

- **Promotional introductory rate for new members only: one-year membership for \$25.**
- **\$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

