



Newsletter

Vol. 24, Issue 1 January, 2017

Visit our web site at www.csdrea.org

Jim Baross, President (619) 280-6908

*2017 Goal - use Facebook & Twitter to more effectively communicate on PENSION, Social Security & other current issues. **

Address: CSDREA
1286 University Avenue #396
San Diego, CA 92103
Phone No.: 888-730-4935

The first Regular REA General Meeting for 2017, will be held in the War Memorial Building on Tuesday, January 10, 2017.

PROGRAM - Speaking to us to kick off the New Year will be MEA president Michael Zucchet. Mike joined the San Diego Municipal Employees Association in 2008 as a negotiations consultant, and became General Manager in May 2009. Mike implements policies as directed by MEA's Officers, Executive Committee and Board of Directors. He helps develop operational, legal, political and strategic directions for the organization; oversees MEA staff and benefits department; works with MEA counsel Ann Smith on legal and negotiation matters; communicates with the City Council and other City officials and stakeholders regarding MEA business; and serves as MEA's representative on the San Diego City Employees Retiree Medical Trust.



GENERAL MEETINGS - are on the second Tuesday of each month at the War Memorial Building, 3325 Zoo Drive, located at the north end of the zoo parking lot. General meetings start at 11:00 AM, the speaker starts by 11:30 AM, and lunch is served at around Noon.

BOARD MEETINGS: Anyone is welcome to attend the Board Meetings which start at 9:30 AM in a smaller room in the War Memorial Building.

Lunch this month will be provided by Guillermo's, who came and served us a great Mexican buffet meal at our 50th Anniversary meeting in September!

MENU:

Fresh food made on site and you may choose:

3 tacos - chicken, pork and/or beef
Guacamole
Rice and Beans
Spicy pickled carrots
Salsa Roja (red)
Salsa Verde (green)
Radishes, lemons, chips
Grilled onions and hot peppers
Choice of 2 beverages - hibiscus drink or fresh homemade lemonade

RSVP deadline is Friday, January 6, 2017, to Brad Jacobsen (619) 295-8764 or click on this link: hospitality3@csdrea.org

COST: \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members of REA

***SOCIAL MEDIA:** Did you know REA is on Twitter? Sign up for Twitter (it's easy and free). Just Google, "Sign up for Twitter." Once you have a Twitter account, you can "follow" the REA tweets @CSDREA and you'll see all the tweets we send out on the latest topics relevant to REA by using <https://twitter.com/CSDREA>

And don't forget to friend REA - CSDREA on Facebook. That way you'll get the latest from our Facebook account. Chris Brewster reporting.

NEW MEMBERS: Please welcome FIVE NEW members: Cindy Brady, Jose Hernandez, Lydia Oberlies, Meaza Weldemariam, and Ronald White! We hope you and other new members can become active in our REA.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS: REA Members who are 80 years, or more, celebrating January Birthdays: Roland Ashley, Louis Kujawski, Lee Noorda, Raymond Skinner, and Frank White! Happy Birthday to All!

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JIM BAROSS

Get ready for a New Year beginning January 1, 2017, or December 21, 2016 - the Winter Solstice for those of us that notice the Earth and Sun changing orientations! Personally, I will have been happily celebrating any and all of the

seasonally available holiday events; the more the merrier. Yes, I decorated my bikes with Christmas Lights. In what ways do you celebrate this season?

Our REA Board spent a day at Mission Trails Visitor Center (beautiful spot) reviewing REA's 2016 activities and making plans for 2017. I look forward to enjoying with you some interesting and fun events, thanks to the volunteer support from our mutual friends and former colleagues. Among those, we have made reservations for our 2017 Holiday Party at the Bali Hai - yes, we do plan ahead - anticipating a repeat of great food, wonderful view, lots of friends and shared memories.

So, here's my REA wish for you all to enjoy another New Year; 2017 awaits.

ADVOCACY - Mike Bresnahan Reporting - Meetings are scheduled for fourth Thursdays - All meetings are in the Mission Valley Library (in a conference room on the west side in the library) from 9:30 AM to 11:15 AM. Next meeting will be January 26, 2017.

Hi! Hope you all had a happy holiday season and wish the best for you in the New Year. For our new year's resolution, the Advocacy Committee is going to try to enhance the way we communicate with our current members as well as to communicate with non-REA members to encourage them to sign up with REA. One of the first things I would encourage all of you to do is to Friend REA on Facebook. We are going to take better advantage of Facebook to get out more information about REA and also our advocacy efforts. In addition, our site will be updated more frequently via Twitter with articles about pension issues and other items we think will be of interest to our members. Please be sure to look us up. We will keep you apprised of our efforts. You may have seen some news articles regarding potential modifications to Social Security. Something more on this will be forthcoming.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - November 8, 2016 - Reported by Brad Jacobsen (repeated for January meeting approval)

Approval of the Minutes of the October 2016 meeting was deferred to the January meeting, as they had not been distributed to the membership prior to the meeting. The October 2016 Treasurer's Report was approved. President Jim Baross conducted Board elections. The Nominating Committee recommended approving Joan Hernandez, Joan McNamara, and Ty Rogers for positions on the Board. There were no nominations from the floor.

M/S/C to elect Joan Hernandez, Joan McNamara, and Ty Rogers. Karen Butler and Brad Jacobsen agreed to continue to serve as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. There were no nominations from the floor.

Joe Flynn reminded members that SDCERS Board and Governance Committee meetings are live streamed and available on the SDCERS webpage.

Cynthia Queen announced that she has met with Charles Hogquist, the new retiree representative on the SDCERS Board. She also noted that the SDCERS Annual membership meeting is available for viewing on the website.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM - The program was political science professor and pundit Dr Carl Luna. He noted that San Diego is becoming more blue and that Kevin Faulconer may be the last Republican mayor. He addressed some of the economic issues driving the national races, particularly income imbalance and lack of choice and competition in the marketplace which he believes is not capitalism but feudalism. Things need to change to end the imbalance.

Below are a few photos from the REA 2016 Holiday Party. To see the entire photo gallery, click [here](#)



**REA President Jim Baross
and Mary Lynn Hyde**



Janet and John Burgess



**Parliamentarian
John Tsiknas**

The ADDRESS for ALL CSDREA correspondence is:

**CSDREA
1286 University Avenue #396
San Diego, CA 92103**

The toll free telephone number is **888-730-4935** which is answered by a person during business hours Monday through Friday.

The San Diego City Employees' Retirement System (SDCERS) phone numbers are: toll free 800-774-4977 or local 619-525-3600.

Home Address, Phone Number or Email Address Changed?

Update your information, and help keep our data as accurate as possible. Please let us know when you change your address, telephone number and/or e-mail address, we do not get changes in information you may provide to SDCERS for your pension check. Email membership@csdea.org or call 88-730-4935 with your updated information.

A few months before you turn 80, tell us and furnish a birth date, so you can be included in our birthday listing, and get a birthday card mailed to you. (If you have not contacted us--- we do not have your birth date.)

CareCounsel's health advocacy program supports employees, retirees and their families through a toll free number (1-888-227-3334) that is staffed by expert health advocates. With CareCounsel, you can become effective healthcare consumers.

There is lots of information on the San Diego SDCERS web site (www.sdcers.org) There is also information about death benefits and about updating any personal information. It is very important to keep your records up to date!

REA WEBSITE:

The [REA website](#) is Open to all. Read all the recent postings on subjects important to retirees. You will also discover helpful links to other resources.

Reminder - The [Retired Fire & Police Assn.](#) has welcomed REA members to visit their website. Log-on to see the mutually important retiree information they publish.

REA BOARD MEMBERS

To send a message with your comments, suggestions, or questions, to an officer or board member, copy their E-mail address below and paste into your email providers' 'Send To' Line.

Board members who have consented to listing their phone numbers in the newsletter have done so to provide you another way to contact them.

Position	Name	E-mail Address
President	Jim Baross (619-280-6908)	president@csdrea.org
Past President	Nancy Acevedo (619-579-5930)	pastpres@csdrea.org
Vice President Programs	Dave Twomey	vpprograms@csdrea.org
Vice President Advocacy	Mike Bresnahan	vpadvocacy@csdrea.org
Secretary	Brad Jacobsen	secretary@csdrea.org
Treasurer	Karen Butler	treasurer@csdrea.org
Membership (Emeritus Membership Chair)	Automated Sylvia Tatum	membership@csdrea.org
Rep. to SDCERS Board	Charlie Hogquist	retirerep@csdrea.org
Newsletter Editor	Janet Wood	newsletter@csdrea.org
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Director 3	Clay Bingham	director3@csdrea.org
Director 4	Ted Myrus	director4@csdrea.org
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Director 6 –Webmaster	Mary Ann Stepnowsky	webmaster@csdrea.org
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Rep. To MEA	Ty Rogers	mearep@csdrea.org
Retirees Issues Task Force	Karen Butler	retireetask@csdrea.org
Luncheon Reservation	Luncheon Reservation	hospitality3@csdrea.org