



# Newsletter

Vol. 24, Issue 8 August 2017

Visit our web site at [www.csdrea.org](http://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. \**

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## **August 8, 2017 PROGRAM:**

The speaker for our program is Mara W. Elliott. She was elected City Attorney of San Diego in 2016 after serving as the Chief Deputy City Attorney for the Office's Public Services Section and legal adviser to the City's Independent Audit Committee and Environment Committee.

Mara and the lawyers in her section held polluters accountable, reformed city contracting, cut administrative red tape, and strengthened the city's Living Wage and Non-Discrimination in Contracting Ordinances.

The first in her family to graduate from college, Mara worked her way through the University of California at Santa Barbara and McGeorge School of Law. Prior to joining the city, she was a Senior Deputy County Counsel, where she advised the County of San Diego's Finance and General Government Group, Public Safety Group, Community Services Groups, and Health and Human Services Agency. She also served as Deputy General Counsel to the San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board, where she advised on the expansion of public transit, and as general counsel to K-12 and community college districts throughout California.

Mara, her husband, Greg, and their two sons live in the community of Scripps Ranch.

Our 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.

**August 8, 2017 LUNCH will be catered by returning favorite:**

**Chef Maui & Jenn**

Chef's Style Kalua Pig with Cabbage

Roasted Veggie Medley

Mama' Sesame Korean Chicken

Steamed Garlic Rice

Kamikaze Wonton Chips

Bottled Water or Meyer Lemonade

Cost is \$10 for Members and \$12 for Non-Members

RSVP to Brad Jacobsen at [hospitality3@csdrea.org](mailto:hospitality3@csdrea.org) or (619) 295-8764 by the deadline, 5 PM on Friday, August 4.

**NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH? There *is*, if you volunteer to help with the REA lunch! We need a few more people in our volunteer pool to assist with set-up, serving, and clean-up at our monthly meetings. We only need two people per month, so you won't have to do it every time. It's a fun way to become involved with REA - *and* you get a free lunch!**

If you'd like to volunteer or want to know more, please contact Brad Jacobsen at [hospitality3@csdrea.org](mailto:hospitality3@csdrea.org).

**Please Welcome 53! New REA Members:**

Cynthia Adams , Lisa Adams, Richard Adams, Charles Alvarez, Kathy Anderson, Bridget Barnett, Ralph Carrizosa, Dwight Carter, Claudia Copitas, Sandra Estes, Laura Fox-Williams, Charmaine Gillis, Patricia Grabski, Jorge Guevara, Kenneth Guyer, Gregory Haisan, Theresa Hall, Janet Hawkesworth, Donna Hayward, John Hendrix, Damon Humphrey, Willis Kaufman, Brian Kidwell, Bruce Klein, Jeanne Krosch, PK Kushner, James Lee, Mary Marino, Joseph Markwell, Phyllis Marrow, Josie Martinez, Brendan McClory, Ana Meyer, Glenn Meyer, Mary Middendorf, Eliot Miller, William Montejano, John Morales, Mary Neff, Timothy O'Hara, James Pfister, Michael Poston, Cheryl Robinson Sellers, Robert Rodil , Brian Ruark, Danell Scarborough Gavares, Diane Silva-Martinez, Brenda Thomas, Glenn Thomas, Milo Vaughs, Alan Watkins, John Welter and Dolores Zapata!

## **FUTURE PROGRAMS at War Memorial Building to complete 2017:**

September 12: Mike Stone, Founder of property redevelopment at Qualcomm Stadium in Mission Valley;

October 10: SDCERS financial update; and

November 14: final program will be Carl Luna on all things political, local and national.

And Last Event of 2017: December 5 Tuesday: HOLIDAY PARTY and Luncheon at Bali Hai. \$30 per person, please mark your calendars!

**REA Members who are 80 years, or more, celebrating August Birthdays: Wayne Carr, Frank Cortez, Susie Davenport, Elaine Griffin, Pete Jungers, Gerald Kretovics, Lawrence Norris, Willis Raymond, Joseph Sediway, John Tsiknas, and Virgil Turner. Happy Birthday to All!**

## **MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JIM BAROSS -**

Wow! Congratulations to the REA Advocacy Committee, led by Mike Bresnahan, for bringing the additional insurance options program to us via our partnership with the new San Diego Public Employee Benefit Association (SDPEBA), the MEA, and the support from SDCERS. Not only will REA members have more choices, but the incentive for joining REA has brought us more than 50 additional members. To the extent that there is added strength with greater numbers, we all win. Thanks Mike!

Now, get on with enjoying your summertime!

## **ADVOCACY - Mike Bresnahan Reporting -**

Monthly Meetings are scheduled for FOURTH Thursdays - Meetings are in the Mission Valley Library from 9:30 AM to 11:15 AM. Next meeting will be August 24, 2017.

Hope everyone is having a great summer! I thought I would include in my Advocacy report some good news. I have recently read about concerning investment returns for several pension systems. As you all know whenever there are poor investment returns it often makes major headlines, good returns not so much. Attached please find an article from the Sacramento Bee:

[http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/the-state-worker/article162679638.html?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/the-state-worker/article162679638.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

This article relays the news that the California State Teachers Retirement System had a 13.4% return on its investments for the year ending June 30. That system is the second largest in the State of California. It also relayed that the California Public Employee Retirement System (the states' largest system) had investment returns of 11.2% for the same period of time. These returns are higher than they have been for the past few years and also higher than their assumed rate of return. All in all welcome news. It is important to remember that pension system investments need be evaluated over very long periods of time. One good year should not lead to too much celebration just as a bad year should not lead to too much anxiety.

Nevertheless, good news is nice to see.

### **Update on Retirement Security Roundtable - by Chris Brewster**

In 2014, the REA, in collaboration with the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association, created the San Diego County Retirement Security Roundtable – a collaborative group that advocates for public retirees in San Diego County. One of the recent decisions of the group was to attempt to place editorials in local media that can be expected to create a positive view of pensions, rather than to wait and react to attacks.

The first of these editorials appeared in the Union Tribune on June 23, 2017. The editorial encouraged the State of California to move forward with the Secure Choice program, which is intended to offer a defined contribution retirement program for private sector employees, despite actions by Congress and the President to undercut this initiative. The rationale is that we believe all Americans deserve retirement security and that accomplishing that will reduce “pension envy.”

You can read a copy of the editorial here: <http://bit.ly/2uFZZbY>. We have more of these in the works.

### **JULY GENERAL MINUTES - Reported by - Brad Jacobsen**

The minutes for the May 2017 meeting and the May Treasurer's Report were approved. (There was not a meeting in June)

President Jim Baross asked for a volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee; Clay Bingham volunteered.

Jessica Packard of SDCERS announced that the Board approved the COLA, which will appear on the July checks.

**PROGRAM** - Our speaker was Paul Greenwood, Deputy District Attorney, who spoke about ways to avoid financial scams that target seniors and are a form of elder abuse. He stated that the largest number of abusers - both fiscally and physically - are adult sons living at their mother's home. Other scammers prey on lonely older people, becoming a "friend" who eventually gains financial control. Greenwood advised against hiring caregivers through advertisements; instead, hire through a bonded, licensed agency. Keep an inventory and photos of all jewelry in case of theft, run a credit check through Experian periodically, shred documents, and in general: It's OK to be skeptical, cynical, watchful, and questioning!

**The ADDRESS for ALL CSDREA correspondence is:**

**CSDREA**

**1286 University Avenue #396**

**San Diego, CA 92103**

**And the toll free telephone number is 888-730-4935.**

This telephone is answered by a person during business hours Monday through Friday. San Diego City Employees' Retirement System (SDCERS) information numbers are: toll free 800-774-4977 or local 619-525-3600.

**Has your 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.**

If you now have e-mail and can drop the print version of this newsletter, please let us know. A few months before you turn 80, tell us and furnish a birth date, so you can be included in our birthday listing, (If you have not contacted us--- we do not have your birth 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.

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