



Newsletter

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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

In November: Social and Educational EVENT!

Organized by Joan McNamara

Old Globe Theater Tour - November 13, 2017

RSVP by October 22

Discover how the magic is created with a Behind the Scenes tour of The Old Globe including a backstage look at the Globe's theatres. REA has arranged for a private 90-minute tour for our members, family and friends on Monday, November 13, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students and seniors 62 or older. **We will meet at the Old Globe at 10:00 a.m. and collect the tour fee at that time.** Cash only please.

RSVP no later than October 22nd by email to hospitality3@csdrea.org or call Brad at (619) 295-8764. Please provide your name, number of attendees, and your phone number or email address in case we need to contact you. Also, let us know how many in your group qualify for the student or senior discount. Children in grades 3 and above are welcome. The tour is wheelchair accessible.

Hope you join REA at the Globe on November 13th. Save the date!

Regular October 10, 2017 PROGRAM

The Program is our annual get together with SDCERS Staff. The core leadership group of CEO Mark Hovey, Member Services Director Cynthia Queen, Senior Investment Officer Liza Crisafi and Chief Benefits Officer Marcelle Voorhies-Rossman will be here to present their annual update of your retirement system. Look forward to a very special message from Mark regarding his future with the system leading up to his announced retirement, especially the process that will be followed in the search for a new leader.

If you only attend 1 or 2 meetings a year, this certainly should be on your must do list. These are the folks with the answers to any and all questions regarding your retirement benefits and the outlook to the future.



Mark Hovey

Liza Crisafi

Cynthia Queen

Marcelle Voorhies-Rossman

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.

October 10, 2017 LUNCH will be catered by returning favorite:

El Pollo Loco MENU:

Citrus Flavored Grilled Chicken,

Rice,

Corn,

Mixed Tortillas,

House and Avocado Salsas

Bottled Water or Meyer Lemonade

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

Reservation Deadline 5PM Friday, October 6, 2017. RSVP to Brad Jacobsen at hospitality3@csdrea.org or (619) 295-8764.

NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH? There *is*, if you volunteer to help with the REA lunch! We **DO STILL** need a few more people in our volunteer pool to assist with set-up, serving, and clean-up at our monthly meetings. We 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

No New members to Report this month.

FUTURE PROGRAMS at War Memorial Building to complete 2017:

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, save the date!

REA Members who are 80 years, or more, celebrating October Happy Birthdays:
Rosario Herrejon, Emeline Pineda and Arturo Quinto!

MESSAGE FROM Out-of Town PRESIDENT JIM BAROSS

Thank you to Mike B., Dave T., and others who filled in while I vacationed out of town for more than week. Visiting Seattle, Vancouver, and San Juan Islands was nice but I'm not moving, not even to higher ground. I hope to see many of you at our October meeting - time flies.

SDCERS Retirement Board Report by Charles Hogquist

At the September SDCERS Board meeting, the trustees voted to reduce the expected rate of return from 7% to 6.5 % in .25% increments over the next two years. This

action will have no direct financial impact on retirees. The Board also formed an Ad Hoc committee to start the search for the new SDCERS CEO. The current CEO, Mark Hovey, will be retiring on December 1, 2017. The SDCERS staff is also working on the final SDCERS annual income report. Hopefully by the October meeting they will have a decision on the payment of the 13th check.

ADVOCACY - Mike Bresnahan Reporting

For any Retired Employee Association (REA) members who may be unaware, please note that your association has entered into an agreement with the Municipal Employees Association (MEA) which enables REA members to take advantage of a variety of benefits previously available only to members of MEA. Among these benefits are dental and vision plans, travel insurance, identity theft protection and a wide variety of other benefits.

The REA board would like to thank MEA for its assistance in this effort. Their cooperation enabled REA members to have the fees for the services they select to be taken directly out of their pension payments, rather than having to write a check or pay for these services in some other manner. This ability was a very important element of why your board selected to work with MEA on this matter. As evidence, you should be aware that the Retired Fire and Police Association (RFPA) has joined with us in providing their members these additional benefits with the ability to have the costs taken directly from their pension payments.

The MEA/REA/RFPA partnership has created the San Diego Public Employee Benefit Association (SDPEBA). Members of MEA or REA or RFPA belong to SDPEBA at no cost and are automatically eligible to enroll in the benefits offered by SDPEBA. You can contact SDPEBA at 1-888-315-8027 or www.sdpeba.org should you need additional information.

Monthly Advocacy 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 September 28, and October 26, 2017.

AUGUST GENERAL MINUTES - Reported by Brad Jacobsen

The minutes for the August 2017 meeting and the August Treasurer's Report were approved.

Joan McNamara announced an upcoming backstage tour for REA members at the Old Globe on November 13. Details will be in the newsletter. (On First Page of this Newsletter)

Cynthia Queen of SDCERS announced that the Board voted to reduce the assumed rate of return on investments from 7.0% to 6.5% over a two-year period. She said that the Mayor and City Council want the system to remain stable, and that despite what naysayers like Carl DeMaio are saying, the system is both stable and secure. Finally, she announced that Mark Hovey, CEO of SDCERS, is retiring.

PROGRAM

The speaker was Mike Stone, a proponent of the Soccer City development to reuse the Qualcomm Stadium property. Stone emphasized the growing interest in Major League Soccer in both southern California and the US, especially among college students. Soccer City would include a soccer stadium within a mixed-use development that will also have housing, retail, and commercial elements as well as a hotel and a riverside park. He said that traffic impacts will be spread throughout the day, unlike the 11,000 vehicles that current exit the parking lot all at once. He asserted that the project would be a good deal for the City, eliminating the \$12 million spent per year on upkeep for Qualcomm while spending no tax money for the construction of Soccer City.

Working for Private Sector Retirement Security - Thanks to Chris Brewster

The National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems, which refers to itself as The Voice for Public Pensions, has been working over many years to promote retirement security in the *private sector*. This is something that has also been promoted by the San Diego Retirement Security Roundtable, of which SDREA is a founding member.

You may have heard of this initiative, which is known as Secure Choice. Public employees know and appreciate the value of retirement systems in which contributions from themselves and their employers are locked up and invested for their benefit. Few private sector employees have this benefit. This creates “pension envy” that can result in those without pensions attacking those with pensions.

Rather than reducing everyone’s retirement security, the initiative seeks to improve retirement security in the private sector to levels rivaling those in the public sector; at which point there should be no need for working class Americans to attack each other’s retirement benefits.

There are many reasons that private sector employees, as a group, are so woefully unprepared for retirement. These include the disappearance of private sector pensions, the over-reliance on 401(k)s (which were never intended as primary

retirement mechanisms), and the fact that in financial stress people “raid” their own retirement savings.

It has the potential to create a national crisis with millions of people who have worked hard their entire lives being left in poverty. Retirement anxiety has been demonstrated to be a solidly bipartisan concern.

The Secure Choice model is a defined contribution plan, not a defined benefit plan. So, employees have no guarantee of specific benefits upon retirement. However, they are assured that their contributions will be conservatively invested at low rates and that their savings will be available to them upon retirement.

Under the California version, employees will automatically have 3% deducted from their wages by default. They will be allowed to opt-out or ask that greater or lesser amounts be deducted. Evidence shows that opt-out plans are more successful at incentivizing saving.

President Obama was a strong advocate for the Secure Choice movement. One of his initiatives was to modify the U.S. Labor Code to create a “safe harbor” for Secure Choice systems that would protect them from legal attack. This did not set well with some, particularly Wall Street investment advisors who make lots of money from overseeing 401(k) and other retirement investments.

Under the Secure Choice model, investment advisor costs would be sharply limited, to the benefit of participating employees. Congress and the Trump administration recently rolled back these protections; but many states, including California, are moving forward regardless.

If you would like to know more about the history of the Secure Choice movement, you can find it here: <http://bit.ly/2flyxHw>. If you’d like to know more about California Secure Choice, you can find it here: <http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/scib/>.

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 or you can leave a voice mail message.

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.

Since we do not have birth dates, a few months before you turn 80, contact us and furnish a birth date, so you can be included in our birthday listing.

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 Association](#) has welcomed REA members to visit their website. Log-on to see the mutually important retiree information they publish. SDCERS has information that is relevant and interesting for retirees at www.sdcers.org - their website.

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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