



Newsletter

Vol. 24, Issue 12, December 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 REA Annual HOLIDAY PARTY and Luncheon is the Last Event for 2017.

The Party will be at the Bali Hai Restaurant on Tuesday, December 5.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS ASAP, by FRIDAY DECEMBER 1st!

Mail Checks for \$30 per person to:

REA

1286 University Avenue #396

San Diego, CA 92103

The address for the restaurant is:

Bali Hai

2230 Shelter Island Drive

San Diego, 92106

Reservations must be received NO later than Friday, December 1, 2017.

For further information contact either

Dave Twomey @ 619-236-1407

or

Brad Jacobsen @ 619-295-8764.

If it is too late for your check to get through the mail by December 1st, please call to confirm your reservation with Dave or Brad, and bring your check to party. You can also bring checks or cash for the Food Bank to the party.

The view is wonderful of our San Diego Bay, and the Food is Good and Plentiful.
The menu is:

Entrees:

**Blackened Salmon
Teriyaki Roasted Chicken
Kalua Pulled Pork**

Sides:

**Seasoned Vegetables
Garlic Mashed Potatoes**

Salad:

House Blend Local Greens

Dessert:

Chef Selection of a Festive Dessert

Drinks:

2 Bowls of Non-alcohol fruit punch

Alcohol is available for sale at the event

Remember whether or not you attend the Holiday party, this is our annual time to donate to the San Diego Food Bank. All donations go to San Diegans in need. Please send checks to our REA address, or bring to the party. The Food Bank can always use donations throughout the Year. We will have a collection barrel at the luncheon event. Items that are needed are: canned and packaged goods, feminine and household products, please no glass or expired items. THANK YOU very much!

EIGHT REA Members who are 80 years, or more, celebrating December Happy Birthdays: Joseph Brungard, Carl Cowell, John Gardner, Gilbert Grajeda, George Ikeda, G. Reynolds, James Schooler, and Ernest Strzelecki!

PLEASE WELCOME ELEVEN NEW REA MEMBERS: Vladimir Balotsky, Linton Close, Charles Delao, Ramin Hatam, Troy Keach,

David Newton, Kenneth Norton, Aurelio Puente, Ray Purtee, Mary Ann Troxell, and Huw Williams. We hope you will join us for meetings and activities.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JIM BAROSS

We had our last regular meeting of 2017 last week; there will be no December General Membership meeting. My next chance to see you will be at our Holiday Party, Dec. 5th. I hope that you will be able to attend if you are in town. Reservation information is at the top of this newsletter.

The membership elected, actually re-elected five Board members whose terms of office end in 2017; welcome back Dave Twomey, Mike Bresnahan, Shirley Hall, Joan McNamara, and - yes - me too.

But we will have an unexpected opening soon on the Board as Treasurer Karen Butler has asked to be replaced as Treasurer. We will be combing among our REA members for someone interested in helping REA keep track of our funds and expenses. Anyone that might be interested in this important position may contact me to discuss; I can provide a list of tasks via email or by telephone.

And, thanks to Joan McNamara for organizing our first REA Field Trip! I certainly learned a lot about the operation of the Old Globe theaters and got to see some retirees that I hadn't seen in years. Great outing!

ADVOCACY - Mike Bresnahan Reporting

Hello, hoping that everyone had a good Thanksgiving Day.

I wanted to take a moment and let you know of a few things the Advocacy Committee has been working on. We crafted a letter to SDCERS concerning the appointment of their new CEO. As you may know Mr. Mark Hovey is retiring and the Board thought it appropriate to provide input to SDCERS concerning issues it thinks are important. Our letter to SDCERS stressed two points; first, the new CEO should continue the effort of Mark and his staff to maintain a good working relationship with REA and the other retiree organizations representing retired city employees. Second, we encouraged the new CEO to be proactive in advocating on behalf of SDCERS and retired employees with the plan sponsor, the media and general public. This letter will be distributed to all SDCERS Board members prior to the selection of the new CEO.

We have also begun the process of updating and we think improving our WEB site. This process will take some time but when completed you should see a better product. There are a number of people from the Advocacy Committee contributing their time, but Mary Ann Stepnowsky in particular is doing great work on this effort.

Finally, I would encourage all of you to reach out to retired City employees you may know who NOT a member of REA and encourage them to join. The more the merrier!!

Please be sure to attend the holiday party on December 5, it is always a great time with good food and friends.

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 is December 28, 2017.

Second and Final Announcement of Notice of

LAWSUIT TO COLLECT UNDERPAID OVERTIME THE CITY MAY OWE YOU

For Retired Employees Association (REA) members who have recently retired, if the City paid you “time and a half” overtime for working more than forty (40) hours during a seven-day week at any time in the PAST THREE YEARS -- **while you were also participating in the City’s Flexible Benefits Plan** - it is likely that the City has underpaid you for your overtime work.

The City has known for a long time that it was underpaying overtime by using the wrong overtime rate. In fact, the City sent an email to current employees to say that this underpayment problem was fixed as of July 1, 2017. But the City has said nothing about paying what current or retired employees are owed for past underpayments. With each day that passes, the City’s liability for past underpayment overtime is reduced because the statute of limitations on claims is running. This is why MEA has filed a case to assure that every Municipal Employee Association (MEA) represented employee who has a claim has the opportunity to join to protect his or her rights to full payment. MEA has now agreed to allow affected REA members to also join this suit. If you choose to join, MEA will pay the fees and costs to file and litigate this lawsuit. MEA will also provide critical staff support to facilitate the communication and completion of necessary paperwork. Once you complete and return the paperwork required of you, your work is done.

Using your private email account - not City email - notify Nichole Johnson at MEA that you want to join the lawsuit. Send an email to njohnson@sdmea.org giving her your name. Nichole will send you documents to your private email which you

should complete and sent to her. You can call MEA at 619-264-6632 if you have any questions.

Retirement Report from Charlie Hogquist: The 13th check and Corbett payments should be in the November pension checks (Friday December 1, 2017). Also, the first round of selections for the new SDCERS CEO has been completed. The SDCERS board hopes to announce the new CEO at the JANUARY BOARD MEETING.

Report on Old Globe Tour by Joan McNamara:

On November 13th, forty-three members attended REA's behind the scenes tour of The Old Globe theater in Balboa Park. Everyone had a wonderful time.

We visited all three theaters and toured the basement underneath the main stage. We learned that actors have lots of superstitions. For one, peacock feathers can never be on stage. They contain an "evil eye" that will jinx a production.

In the costume shop we learned how the Grinch's green feathered costume was created this year. We also saw where dangerous props (swords, knives and guns) are stored and got a glimpse of the orchestra pit. Insider tip: If you have a garment that has a strange odor, spray it with vodka. The vodka won't leave a stain and the smell will disappear. Inexpensive vodka will do the trick!

The Old Globe tour was a great success. REA hopes to offer other tours in 2018. If you have any suggestions please let us know.

Hope you'll be able to join us next time!

NOVEMBER GENERAL MINUTES - Reported by Brad Jacobsen

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

Jim Baross presented a slate of Board members running for re-election; there were no nominations from the floor. **M/S/C** to Elect Jim Baross as President; Dave Twomey as Vice-President for Programs; Mike Bresnahan as Vice-President for Advocacy; and Shirley Hall and Joan McNamara as Directors.

Jessica Packard of SDCERS reported that the Board approved issuing both the 13th Check and the Corbett check as part of the November pension payment. She also reported that video of the Annual Meeting has been posted on the SDCERS website.

Joan McNamara gave a summary of the Old Globe tour on November 13. Another activity is being planned, probably for February.

Mike Bresnahan reminded members about the lawsuit MEA is filing on behalf of employees and recent retirees whose overtime pay was miscalculated. He stressed that this is not a class action lawsuit; those affected must contact MEA to be included or benefit from the suit.

PROGRAM

The program was our annual visit from Carl Luna, political science professor at Mesa College. Dr Luna spoke about general political and economic trends in the country. He noted that these trends do not bode well for us as a nation that we are in danger of becoming run by corporations. In fact, *The Economist* has already declared that the US is no longer a “full democracy” because of the lack of power of the common citizenry. Finally, he warned that the current and future level of income disparity is pushing us into a feudal society.

JOE FLYNN Reporting for Retirees:

Last newsletter we said Nov. 3, 2017 would be Mark Hovey's last Board meeting. Well, after that, Mark agreed to stay on until the Jan. 12, 2018 meeting, mainly so the Board would not have to appoint an Interim CEO. So, Mark's last meeting will be Jan. 12, 2018. At that meeting the Board plans to announce the new SDCERS CEO. If you cannot attend that meeting, be sure to go to the SDCERS website and watch it live.

Did You Know?

(Second inclusion of Information)

That there is a wealth of activities available to senior citizens? The City of San Diego publishes a quarterly issue of *The Scroll*. You'll find listings for services, programs, volunteer opportunities, arts and crafts sales, dances, walks, performing arts, bus trips, community news.

You can access the entire publication online at www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/activities/seniorservices/ or join their mailing list by calling (619) 239-6905.

Here's a topic that has been of interest to many senior citizens:

Senior Computer Group of San Diego

Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.

For 32 years, the Senior Computer Group of San Diego has been helping explain how to use computers and smart phones effectively and safely. Open to all ages, and free to visitors. Costs \$1.00 a month to join and get weekly updates, same price as when the group was first founded. Group and individual instruction provided. Coffee, tea and chocolate provided at no charge.

Location: Wesley Palms, 2404 Loring Street, San Diego, 92109

Tom Sprague at (858) 459-9065 or www.scgsd.org

(Thank you to Mary Ann Stepnowsky for this information)

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 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.

Position	Name	E-mail Address
President	Jim Baross (619-280-6908)	president@csdrea.org
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Vice President Programs	Dave Twomey	vpprograms@csdrea.org
Vice President Advocacy	Mike Bresnahan	vpadvocacy@csdrea.org
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