

City of San Diego Retired Employees' Association Newsletter July 2007

Vol. 14, Issue 7

Visit our Website at www.csdrea.com

July, 2007

Nancy Acevedo, President (619) 579-5930
Carmen Lutes SDCERS Board Representative (619) 303-2246
Sharon Beach, Sunshine Lady (858) 273-4067
(Call Sharon Beach to send cards to members who are ill.)

Menu \$10

Chicken/ Fish

Scalloped Potatoes /Vegetable/salad/rolls

Coffee, Tea, Lemonade/ Dessert

Reservations: call before Fri., July 6th at noon

Dora Garcia(619) 464-8595 / Sylvia Tatum(858) 272-0494

Program:

Andrew Donohue, Co-Executive Editor of Voice of San Diego, will be the speaker for our July program. Donohue manages a news staff of five reporters and also is the author of numerous articles on local issues. The Society of Professional Journalists has announced that it has given Donohue its national Sigma Delta Chi award for investigative reporting in the independent online category. The award was given for Donohue's reporting on San Diego Southeast Economic Development Corp.'s handling of some housing projects that were intended for low-income families but instead feathered the nest of a developer and an agency consultant. The piece was published October 2, 2007 and was entitled, "Affordable No More." Andrew Donohue will be introduced by Sylvia Tatum, SDREA's Treasurer. Sylvia was an Executive Secretary with the City's General Services Department for 30 years. She served with five consecutive Public Works Directors. In her capacity as Treasurer of the Association, she processes all dollar transactions, pays bills, provides audit information, and keeps the organization aware of its finances.

Message from President Nancy Acevedo

The June program, by tradition, has been a presentation on health care plans - so that new information may be shared for those who need to make a decision on whether to continue with their prior plan or make a change. Guests speakers this year included Val VanDeweghe, the City's Benefits Administrator; Rebecca Wilson, CERS Member Services Director; Nancy Guernon, Care Counsel; and representatives of Pacific Care and Kaiser.

One thing different this year was that we invited members of the Retired Fire and Police Association to attend. The turnout was excellent. We received many

July 10th Meeting

War Memorial Bldg -Balboa Park

Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.
General Meeting 11:00 a.m.
Program 11:30 a.m.

UPDATE! WATERFALL ISSUE AT CITY COUNCIL AGAIN IN JULY 2007.

On June 5th, the Waterfall Item was finally discussed at the City Council. There was testimony by several stakeholders, including retirees, all asking the Council to revise the ordinance to protect our benefits. The Council approved a motion to direct the City Attorney to bring back, within 30 days, a revised ordinance which includes language to pay the benefits.

Your letters and emails definitely helped persuade the Council to ask for revisions, so Good Work! There is more detail on our website and in the email version of the newsletter available now.

heard again. Or, call Virginia Silverman at 619-224-1876 for information. **WE MAY NEED YOUR HELP TO TELL THE CITY COUNCIL TO PROTECT OUR BENEFITS** -- attend the meeting, or write, phone or email your Councilmembers. More details will follow by email. and on the website (or call Virginia Silverman at 619-224-1876).

VERY IMPORTANT! If you are already receiving news via your Email about the City Council meetings concerning the "Waterfall issues", **DO NOTHING!** All others, please send your email address to www.csdrea.com so we can make sure you on the email list. There will be more updates over the next several days/weeks ABOUT ACTIONS NEEDED TO PROTECT our "waterfall" benefits. You will want the updates quickly which can be distributed ONLY by email and on the website. For **those who do not have email**, you will receive the news via newsletter or the website.

comments from their members about how helpful the program was to them, and shows us another way that our two groups, whose interests are the same, can cooperate to the advantage of all retired City

employees. In case you are not familiar with it, Care Counsel is an excellent free service, provided by CERS, whose motto is "Your Personal Healthcare Advocate." They are an independent organization that is available to help you navigate the complexities of your health plan benefits. From personal experience I can state that they are an excellent service that can help you determine which plan best suits your personal situation and provide claims troubleshooting on any dispute with your plan providers. Their number is 1-888-227-3334.

We have recently learned about an organization called, "Rebuilding Together San Diego." It is a non-profit that preserves and revitalizes low-income houses and communities. They assist low-income families, particularly seniors and people with disabilities, who because of age, fixed income or physical disabilities are unable to address their home repair needs. If you, or someone you know owns their home but is unable to do necessary repairs or maintenance, let me know and we will do what we can to help apply for their assistance.

On July 11, the day before our meeting, the CERS fund balance was \$4.907 billion, down \$15 million from last month's report. But within a few days the stock market has bounced back up so we expect next months report to be more positive.

Nancy

SDREA WEB News! Logon <http://www.csdrea.com>
Members only section for the latest news. This month you can access the update information about the

"waterfall" issues and all additional information that unfolds between newsletter distributions.

SDCERS Retirement Trust Fund Board Update by Carmen Lutes , Retiree Rep. to the Board

A Reminder that SDCERS Offices are moving to 401 West A Street, 4th floor on July 30th. One block from the current location. There will be more updates next month from the monthly SDCERS Board meeting.

Meanwhile, please go to our website for some interesting notes by Joe Flynn about the new SDCERS Board member, Susan S. Gonick, an attorney appointed by Mayor Sanders and confirmed by City Council on June 12. She was sworn in at the June 15 meeting of the Retirement Board. She wasted no time in getting involved in the Board's discussion.

THANK YOU to our June Greeters:

Janet Burgess & James Veasley

VOLUNTEER as a **GREETER**.. Give some time for CSDREA. Call Dora (619) 464-8595.

Do you know of a member who is ill or hospitalized? Notify Sharon Beach 858 273-4067 so the word gets passed along and a card is sent.

City of SD Employee Assistance Program (EAP) The problem solving assistance of **EAP is available to city retirees**. They offer counseling on an array of personal problems, such as marital/relationship; alcohol/drug; emotional stress; child/eldercare; medical; family; legal; financial; HIV/AIDS. This **assistance is confidential**. Call EAP **619-533-3460**