



Newsletter

Vol. 24, Issue 2 February, 2017

Visit our web site at www.csdrea.org

Jim Baross, President (619) 280-6908

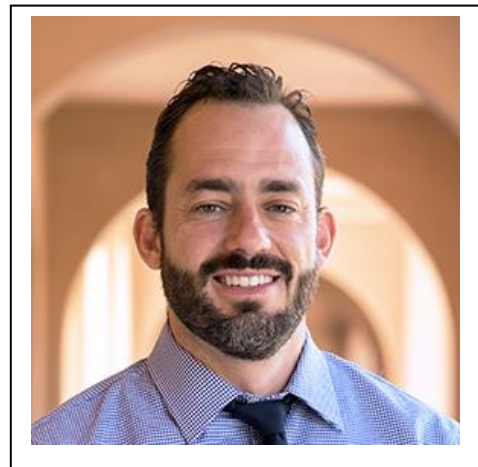
*2017 Goal - use Facebook & Twitter to more effectively communicate on PENSION, Social Security & other current issues. **

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

Second Regular Meeting for 2017, is in the War Memorial Building on Tuesday February 14, 2017.

PROGRAM: Speaking to us will be Scott Lewis, Editor in Chief of the Voice of San Diego (VOSD). He should like the photo; it from their website. Scott speaks to us candidly every year on what is going on in San Diego. We expect he will have insights for 2017! But maybe since the meeting is on Valentine's Day he may talk about our unrequited love with the Chargers, and how they left us after 56 years because we wouldn't buy them a new playpen. I understand we will have visitation rights to our adopted players (whom we still love) but the visits will be supervised by five people in striped shirts.

(Thanks to Joe Flynn for this introduction of Scott Lewis)



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. 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 catered by

EL POLLO LOCO

MENU:

Citrus Fire Roasted Chicken - 2 Pieces of Your Choice;

Mixed Tortillas; Flour or Corn;

Loco Salad w/Creamy Cilantro Dressing;

Pinto Beans;

Salsa- House Mild or Pico Medium;

Tortilla Chips w/Guacamole and Lemon Wedges

RSVP by Friday, February 10, 2017, to Brad Jacobsen (619) 295-8764 or hospitality3@csdrea.org Cost is \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members of REA.

* 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" @CSDREA and you'll see all the tweets we send out on the latest topics relevant to REA: <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.

Please welcome THREE NEW members: Sandra Dufour, Sheila Pena, and George Thomas! We hope you and other new members can become active in our/your REA.

REA Members who are 80 years, or more, celebrating February Birthdays: Rogelio Cesena, Andrew Drop, Theodore Jones, Charles Klein, Lawrence McGlone, Lyla Olson and Mary Oomroin! Happy Birthday to All!

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JIM BAROSS

It's still a New Year with a potential for fresh re-beginnings, resolutions to work at, and a full year ahead to contemplate; what will 2017 bring and what will we bring to 2017. I just came from a useful meeting of the Retiree's Issues Task Force; representatives from the various retiree associations meet periodically with the staff leadership of SDCERS to air concerns, plan improved member services, and share information about issues of importance to City retirees. The

information exchange helps me and my fellow retiree representatives better understand such things as the importance of choosing *Continuances*, why *Silver Sneakers* aren't available everywhere, what might we expect for a COLA adjustment this year, etc. Lots to know, and no, I don't know it all still after so many years being involved. I do appreciate that I get to learn more about the issues we care about; someday I'll know it all - nope. I encourage you to get involved too, dig in. REA has some opportunities via the Advocacy Committee, and from learning from our General Membership Meeting speakers. Or find your own nitch where you can learn and contribute...

ADVOCACY - Mike Bresnahan Reporting - Monthly 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 February 23, 2017.

Hi! Hope everyone had a good and safe New Years Eve and will have a prosperous new year! With the new year comes the new administration in Washington D C. We can expect that with the House, Senate, and Presidency in the hands of one party, changes may be in our future.

Attached please find a write up on possible changes to Social Security.
<http://www.aol.com/article/finance/2016/12/20/surprise-republicans-just-introduced-a-bill-that-would-complete/21631786/>

This legislation authored by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-Tex) chairman of the Ways and Means Social Security subcommittee. This bill is called The Social Security Reform Act of 2016. Among its various features are:

- 1) Raise the retirement age from 67 to 69 by 2030;
- 2) Reduce the cost of living adjustment (COLA) for higher earning individuals, and eliminate the COLA entirely for individuals in excess of \$85k and couples earning more than \$170k per year;
- 3) Phase out taxation of Social Security benefits by 2045;
- 4) Place caps on benefit amounts for spouses and children of higher earning individuals.

While there are lots steps between proposed legislation and a final bill, nonetheless, this is an important area for very many of us and it is important to keep our eyes trained on this. Finally, I again encourage you to go online and look at or 'friend' REA's Facebook page. You will find many other articles of interest to retirees. Mike Bresnahan

JANUARY 2016 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - Reported by Brad Jacobsen

Approval of the Minutes of the November 2016 meeting was deferred to the February meeting, as they had not been distributed to the membership prior to the meeting. The December 2016 Treasurer's Report was approved.

Marcelle Rossmann of SDCERS reported that the valuation report, a 5-year experience study, is upcoming. She also reported that the funding ratio is dropping from 75.6% to 71.6%, resulting in a larger contribution from the City.

REA is expecting an increase of our use of Twitter and Facebook to keep members up to date on current events that may affect us. The accounts will also be linked to our webpage.

PROGRAM:

The program was MEA General Manager Michael Zucchet. Mike was optimistic that the new City Attorney, Mara Elliott, will not practice the political grandstanding of the two previous attorneys and actually advise the City. He reported that a 4-4 tie vote at the US Supreme Court kept in place the means by which public employee unions collect dues. Also, written arguments and amicus briefs have been filed for the Prop B appeal; oral arguments could be in February with a decision within 90 days of the arguments. Finally, he commented that the City is recognizing that there is a recruitment and retention problem, especially in the unclassified ranks, although they won't admit it's because of Prop B.

Karen Butler, our Treasurer, will be making some changes and improvements to our budget reporting forms and categories.

Joe Flynn reminded members that SDCERS Board and Governance Committee meetings are live streamed and available on the SDCERS webpage (www.sdcers.org).

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 - those 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 888-730-4935 with your updated information.

If you now have e-mail and can drop the print version of this newsletter, please let us know. January update: Yes! We are getting responses to this!

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. Lots of information is on the link to the San Diego SDCERS web site. 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
Parliamentarian	John Tsiknas	parl@csdrea.org
Director 1	Ty Rogers	director1@csdrea.org
Director 2	Joan Hernandez	director2@csdrea.org
Director 3	Clay Bingham	director3@csdrea.org
Director 4	Ted Myrus	director4@csdrea.org
Director 5	Joan McNamara	director5@csdrea.org
Director 6 –Webmaster	Mary Ann Stepnowsky	webmaster@csdrea.org
Assistant Webmaster	Art Brown	webassist2@csdrea.org
Rep. To MEA	Ty Rogers	mearep@csdrea.org
Retirees Issues Task Force	Karen Butler	retireetask@csdrea.org
Luncheon Reservation	Luncheon Reservation	hospitality3@csdrea.org