



# Newsletter

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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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**APRIL 11, 2017 PROGRAM:** Speaking to us will be Scott Chadwick who is the City of San Diego's Chief Operating Officer. He has served the City of San Diego and its communities for over a decade, holding several positions in the municipal government. Scott rose through the ranks in the Human Resources Department, working in the Labor Relations area and then becoming the Human Resources Director in 2009. As such, Scott was responsible for a multi-million dollar budget and the working conditions for over 11,000 employees. His work earned him the City Council's unanimous support of his appointment as Chief Operating Officer in 2013. In his role, Scott oversees the daily operation of over 11,000 City employees in 39 departments and programs, with a \$3.3 billion operating budget.



Since his appointment, he has worked to strengthen and rebuild the management structure of the City and implemented a plan to improve operational efficiency. The plan included the reestablishment of management and leadership academies for City employees. As his career with the City has largely focused on caring for the City's workforce, he strongly believes in investing in City employees and developing skilled talent that will serve the City and community members for decades to come.

Scott began his career in public service in the United States Army, serving overseas as an Intelligence Analyst. After his service, he attended and graduated from Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in political science. A native of the San Diego region, he returned to his home community and began working for the City of San Diego in 2004. His interest improving the community extends beyond his job. Scott is a member of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors. He also served on the Board of Directors for the California Public Employers Labor Relations Association for several years, completing his tenure as the Board President. Scott was recognized in 2009 by San Diego Metropolitan Magazine in their "40 Under 40" feature. He lives in Point Loma with his wife, Christina.

**GENERAL 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.

**LUNCH** will be catered by CHEF MAUI & JENN

**MENU:**

Chef's Style Kalua Pig W/Cabbage  
Mama's Sesame Korean Chicken  
Roasted Vegetable Medley  
Garlic Steamed Rice  
Kamikazi Wonton Chips  
Choice of Bottled Water or Meyer Lemonade

**RSVP** deadline is Friday, April 7, 2017, to Brad Jacobsen at (619) 295-8764 or click on [hospitality3@csdrea.org](mailto:hospitality3@csdrea.org)

**COST:** \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members of REA

Please welcome THREE NEW members: Frank Belock, June Long and James Pickett! We are looking for one new Board member and new folks who will step up and be more involved with REA issues. Any recent new members interested!?

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

May 9 - Nancy Voltero from Kaiser about Medicare program;

No June meeting- defer to Health Fair;

July 11: Paul Greenwood on senior issues and scams;

August 8: City Attorney Mara Elliot;

September 12: Mark Stuart from San Diego Zoo;

October 10: SDCERS financial update;

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

**REA Members who are 80 years, or more, celebrating April Birthdays: Tony Bezer, Opal Clay, William Cotton, James Foley, Leo Harris, Raymond Herrera, Barbara Rogers, Willie Shipley, Donald Stenson and Sylvia Tatum! Happy Birthday to All!**

**MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JIM BAROSS** - I am entering the eighth year as your REA President. It is said that "Time flies when you are having fun" and I have enjoyed my role with REA. Yes, there are tasks/headaches to be dealt with, but involvement brings many rewards. I hope and encourage that you find and pursue the activities that bring you fulfillment and the rewards from contributing to our community. Oh, and by the way, the REA Board has a vacancy for one of you to consider filling; let me know if you'd consider stepping up to serve your fellow retirees - monthly meetings at 9:30 AM before the General Membership meeting, one annual Retreat to chart out a yearly plan, and help us provide for a vibrant REA.

**The General Membership will be asked to approve a proposed Bylaw modification, Rules of Order, Rule III, Quorum, Section 1 to read "Eight Board members, of which at least two must be officers, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors."**

**ADVOCACY** - Mike Bresnahan Reporting - Monthly Meetings are scheduled for **FOURTH** Thursdays - All meetings are in the Mission Valley Library from 9:30 AM to 11:15 AM. Next meeting will be April 27, 2017.

We have all heard and read about how pensions are the cause of the fiscal problems for local and state jurisdictions not to mention many companies in the private sector. 401(k) individual retirement accounts have become the solution of choice for many policy makers. I am sure you have read about how unprepared many in our nation are

for retirement, with retirement savings levels well below what they will ultimately need.

In this environment it is nice to see some actual data on what Americans think about pensions and their retirement security. The National Institute on Retirement Security produced a report entitled Retirement Security 2017: A Roadmap for Policy Makers. I think it is very informative and I would encourage all of you to review it.

To read the article, click on the link:

[http://www.nirsonline.org/storage/nirs/documents/2017%20Conference/2017\\_opinion\\_nirs\\_final\\_web.pdf](http://www.nirsonline.org/storage/nirs/documents/2017%20Conference/2017_opinion_nirs_final_web.pdf)

Among its major conclusions are:

- 1) Americans are worried about their retirement security
- 2) responders regard pensions as a way to retirement security and think they are superior to 401(k)s, with 85% saying all workers should have access to a pension plan
- 3) protecting social security benefits is important for current retirees as well as future generations of retirees
- 4) there is strong support for public sector pensions and see them as a good recruitment and retention tool. We need to stand in strong in defense of current pensions and also efforts to provide pension security benefits to all workers.

### **MARCH GENERAL MINUTES - Reported by Joan McNamara**

The minutes of the February 2017 meeting and February 2017 Treasurer's Report were approved. Charles Hogquist, SDCERS Retired Trustee, reported good news for the pension fund. For the first six months of FY2017, the fund gained over 5%, approximately 354 million dollars. SDCERS is doing quite well. Fund value is now over 7 billion dollars. Retirees should get the full COLA in July.

Jessica Packard, Communications Manager SDCERS, reported on the following workshops:

Retiree Health Workshop: April 5, 10:00 to noon re: open enrollment choices.

Health Day: June 16, 10:00 to noon.

Open Enrollment is 6/5 - 6/30.

Medicare Presentation: October 6, 10:00 to noon.

All workshops will be held at the Balboa Park Club Ballroom. She will post videos and the presentations on the SDCERS website. She indicated that SDCERS will not know if there are any changes to the health care plans until just before open enrollment.

**PROGRAM** - Today's program was presented by Jack Brandais, the Joyride Guru. Jack has a Masters degree in Public Administration and is a former City of San Diego Employee. He has written two books on back country driving in San Diego County. His latest is entitled, "Joyrides around San Diego." He also has a periodic column in the San Diego Union called "Weekend Driver." The next column to appear will be about driving the 2017 Jeep Cherokee in Anza-Borrego State Park. Jack wants to encourage people to get out and explore the back country of San Diego County. As he put it, it only takes about 1.5 hours to drive from the coast to the desert. He owns a 1991 Miata and loves driving on curvy roads all around San Diego. He also likes to take trips on the public dirt roads in the back country. Jack showed us two videos he has produced on his joyrides. The first was a trip to Font's Point in Anza-Borrego State Park. For that trip, he was driving a 2013 Chevy Equinox. There was lots of good footage driving in the sand and looking out over the Badlands. He equated the Badlands to the Grand Canyon. They did look spectacular.

The other video took us down Old Highway 80 which parallels Highway 8. He rode it from Imperial Valley to Pine Valley. He started out at the Desert View Tower, stopped at the Wisteria Candy Cottage (est. 1921), went to the Golden Acorn Casino and had a hamburger at Frosty Burger.

One of his favorite drives is the Old Highway 80. Another favorite is a ride which starts by the Lawrence Welk Resort and parallels Highway 15 in the North County. On that ride, the Deer Park Winery and Auto Museum is worth a stop. They have a great collection of convertibles. He also likes the Nate Harrison Grade up to Mt. Palomar. Nate Harrison was a freed or escaped slave that moved there in the 1860s. He graded the road to get to the top. Overall, it was a very interesting presentation. It certainly encouraged me to hit the road.

#### **PROPOSITION B Update and Review of March 17, 2017 Appeal - Reported by Chris Brewster**

On March 17, 2017 a three judge panel of the Fourth District Court of Appeal heard an appeal of the Proposition B vote that prospectively removed all newly hired employees except police from the San Diego pension system. City of San Diego v. Public Employment Relations Board/San Diego Municipal Employees Association, et al. and Boling, et al. v. Public Employment Relations Board/City of San Diego, et al. were argued before the judges at a courtroom in the Symphony Towers building downtown. A variety of prominent people were in attendance, including Mayor Kevin Faulconer, City Attorney Mara Elliot, the leaders of the Municipal Employees Association and San Diego City Firefighters Local 145, and our own Jim Baross.

The judges were Presiding Justice Judith McConnell, Associate Justice Richard D. Huffman, and Associate Justice Gilbert Nares. The issue arises from a complaint by various unions to the Public Employee Relations Board, which ruled in their favor. The City of San Diego and April Boling (lead plaintiff) appealed the PERB ruling. The appeal process begins in the appellate court and, if desired by the losing party, can be appealed to the California Supreme Court. The case was argued by two deputy city attorneys, attorneys for Boling, et al, an attorney representing the PERB, and Ann Smith on behalf of all the San Diego unions involved in defending the PERB ruling. Key questions included whether Mayor Jerry Sanders (and the city) violated state labor law by violating meet and confer obligations under the Myers Milias Brown Act and whether a vote of the people can be overturned due to a failure by certain of the parties (city officials) to meet and confer in good faith (as well as to use their city office(s) to promote the measure).

Ann Smith, suggested to the court that if a city's governing officers can avoid California labor law (MMBA) by simply stepping out of their elected positions to act as private citizens and promoting a ballot measure, might this not come to be the norm and upend the basic tenet of labor law that meeting and conferring is required before imposing changes to benefits? The City Attorney representatives maintained that a vote of the people is sacrosanct and that the then mayor had a right to promote the ballot measure as a citizen. This is, of course, a complicated case that cannot be adequately distilled in a short overview.

You can follow this case if you wish and subscribe to email updates. The primary case number is D069630. Visit the following website to learn more:

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/4dca.htm>.

**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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