



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

MAY 9, 2017 PROGRAM:

The speaker for our May meeting is Nancy Voltero from Kaiser. She will be speaking to us about the basics of the federal Medicare program (aka Medicare101). Topics she will cover include who can join, description of the various parts of Medicare, costs of Medicare, and how to apply. She will not cover the specific provision of the various health providers; rather she will speak about the federal program.

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.

LUNCH will be catered by returning favorite - Bonnie Jean's Soul Food Café

MENU:

2 Pieces Southern Fried Chicken
Yams
Green Beans
Corn Bread
Sweet Potato Pie
Bottle Water or Meyer Lemonade

COST:

\$10 for Members, \$12 for Non-Members

RSVP by Friday, May 5, 2017, 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 need a few more people in our volunteer pool to assist with set-up, serving, and clean-up at our monthly meetings. We only 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.

Please welcome TWO **NEW Members**: Maria Theresa Dull and John Wells!

FUTURE PROGRAMS at War Memorial Building to complete 2017:

(No June meeting- defer to SDCERS Health Fair - Open Enrollment);

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; and

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

REA Members who are 80 years, or more, celebrating May Birthdays:
Albert Ackert, Richard Christopherson, Archie McPhee, Maydell Pontecorvo, and Wilbert Weaver! Happy Birthday to All!

Retirees: On March 24, 2017, we lost a dedicated City employee and a major mover in the City of San Diego Retired Employees Association. In REA we lack a term of gentle dignity to describe the passing of one of our members. When Police and Fire lose one of theirs, they say that member "has answered their last call." When we lose one of our WW II Navy veterans, we say, "They sailed west." So with the passing of **Sylvia Tatum** on March 24, we will have to work on a linguistic farewell salute. We could start with a beautiful San Diego sunset, a clear blue sky and the sun sinking into

the Pacific, with that little flash as it disappears. We need lots of color because Sylvia was very colorful, in thought, word, and dress.

I first met Sylvia in 1957 when she was a secretary in Public Works Department at 20th & B. Later she was secretary for Terry Flynn, Director of General Services for 20 years. Terry was always truthful. He said, "Sylvia taught me the job, and kept things moving." Sylvia was one of those secretaries that we all loved and who were key to our successful interaction with their department, with emphasis on "their department." In the military, it is said that the Non-Commissioned-Officers and Chiefs are the backbone of the Services. In City Government, the same was true of Secretaries like Sylvia. After retirement, Sylvia didn't miss a step; she became the Secretary and Treasurer and membership director of the REA. And until a couple years ago, the only address and phone number REA had was Sylvia's home address and home phone. Her Treasurer's reports were always up to date, and down to the penny. We will miss her work ethic, her positive outlook and her beautiful smile. It was a privilege to have known her; we will miss her dearly.

Joe Flynn, Retiree

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JIM BAROSS -

What a resourceful group you have supporting REA! Several people deserve some thank yous for stepping up to fill in when our scheduled General Membership Meeting speaker could not attend. Mary Ann Stepnowsky, John Tsiknas, Chris Brewster, and Jessica Packard from SDCERS provided our replacement program, ***Internet for Retirees***. After an overview of the SDCERS website, laptops were deployed at several stations showing and explaining of to use the REA website, the REA Facebook page, the SDCERS website, and how to use Twitter - so that you too can get Tweets directly from the President of the United States! We helped several retirees to be more comfortable with using the resources of the Internet.

Notice about proposed Bylaw change: We are calling for a vote, at the May 9, 2017 General Meeting to get it officially done. The REA Board is recommending a Bylaw change. The Board considers that new text to more accurately explain the quorum requirements (officers are board members).

Proposed new for Rules of Order, Rule III, Quorum, Section 1 - ***"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** - Most meetings are in the Mission Valley Library from 9:30 AM to 11:15 AM. Next meeting will be May 4, 2017 TBA location.

PROPOSITION B - UPDATE April 2017:

As you may have read or heard on Tuesday April 11, 2017, the 4th District Court Of Appeals reversed a decision by PERB that had ruled that the passage of Proposition B was illegal. Remember, Prop B replaced the city's defined benefit pension with a 401k program for all new city workers except for police officers. PERB had decided that Proposition B needed some negotiation with the city labor unions because of the mayor's involvement on the passage of Prop B. The proponents of Prop B declared it to be a Citizens' Initiative thus not needing labor union discussions.

The Fourth District Court ruled that Prop B was a Citizens' Initiative and that while the mayor's office supported that effort, that support did not require consultation with the unions. The next step in this process could of an appeal of the District Court's decision to the State Supreme Court. We will know shortly if this appeal will proceed. This decision leaves the City of San Diego as the only jurisdiction in California without a defined benefit program for all of its employees.

Stay Tuned! Mike Bresnahan

Chris Brewster: You can follow this case: the primary case number is D069630. Visit the following website to learn more: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/4dca.htm>.

APRIL GENERAL MINUTES - Reported by - Brad Jacobsen

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

President Jim Baross announced that the Board had appointed Shirley Hall to fill a vacancy on the Board.

Vice-President for Advocacy Mike Bresnahan informed members that the Board is considering a proposal to offer additional insurance coverage to REA members, including dental, vision, travel, and pet insurance. Many important details need to be worked out, but we will keep members informed.

Jessica Packard of SDCERS reported that all the presentations at the health care preview are available on the SDCERS website. Open enrollment is June 5-30, with the Health Fair on June 15.

COLA will be discussed at the May SDCERS Board meeting.

To read the Board Meeting Minutes, click [here](#).

PROGRAM Our announced guest speaker, Scott Chadwick, was unable to attend due to a last-minute call to attend a City Council meeting.

Instead, a group of REA members conducted a workshop on “Social Media for Seniors” at four different workstations in the auditorium. Mary Ann Stepnowsky focused on the REA website, encouraging input for improvements to it. John Tsiknas and Jessica Packard showed the features of the SDCERS website. Jim Baross gave a demonstration of Facebook, and Chris Brewster showed how we can follow President Trump on Twitter.

Retirees: Another scam; the woods are full of them. This one must be targeted on the seniors, because I must admit, there are times when I do have trouble hearing callers. So now I think I will just ask, "Is this a recording?" That always confuses the live callers, and if I don't get a response I will know it's a recording.

Ever Vigilant, Joe Flynn, Retiree

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTEBOOK - SAN DIEGO ‘Can you hear me?’ phone scams on rise.

Let’s call the automated voice on the phone “the headset lady.” She asks, “Can you hear me?” and feigns some sort of malfunction with her headset. If you answer “yes,” you can fall victim to one of the newer incarnations of phone scams targeting people across the U.S. She sounds pretty real at first, so people tend to respond. What should you do if she calls? Hang up, the Federal Communications Commission says.

These scams are designed to record your affirmative response to obtain a “voice signature,” and can later be used to authorize unwanted charges for products or services on a phone, utility or credit card account. How can you get charged if you don’t provide other personal information, such as credit card information? The con artists may already have it— as a result, for example, of a data breach. If there’s an objection to the charges, the scammers can play back the recorded “yes” to intimidate the victim to pay up. In San Diego County, 60 people since Jan. 27 have reported to the Better Business Bureau a suspicious call from someone who asked, “Can you hear me?” Plenty responded with a “yes,” according to the reports submitted through the organization’s website. Several people in the county said the caller, this time male, introduced himself as Josh, from an unidentified company’s customer service department. “First thing he asked was, ‘Can you hear me?’” a Lakeside- area resident wrote in a report. “Before I realized it, I said, ‘Yes.’ Many more said the caller was someone who claimed to have trouble with a headset.

The latest report in the county was submitted week ago by a Ramona-area resident. At a national level, the Better Business Bureau has logged 8,500 reports of similar calls since January 2017. Of those, more than 500 were reported in California. Although the reports across the U.S. seem to continue, there have been no reports of specific instances in which someone was swindled. Still, if you have gotten this type of call, the FCC suggests you check your bank statements and other bills for unfamiliar charges.

If you fear you've become a victim of a scam, report it to the Better Business Bureau's Scam Tracker at <https://www.bbb.org/scamtracker/us/>

And click [here](#) to go the FCC Consumer Help Center or click on this link: <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers>

Better Business Bureaus can alert you to complaints against companies in your area.

Thank You to Joe Flynn for this newsletter information on scams.

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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