

RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Celebrating 60 Years of Service 1964-2024

The only officially recognized organization representing SB County Retirees



PRIME TIME

Volume 42, Number 7 April 2024 RESBCinfo@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Dena Smith

Greetings and good wishes to all my fellow RESBC members.

It's April and, according to the calendar at least, Spring has finally sprung. But April holds special importance to RESBC members because it is the month in which the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) approved by the SBCERA Board of Retirement takes effect. Members and eligible beneficiaries will see a 2.0% increase to our retirement benefit effective April 1, 2024 - which means the COLA will be reflected in the check we receive at the end of April.

Also in April, RESBC will host what we believe is a "first of its

kind" activity – an afternoon social mixer for existing, new and prospective members. This free event will take place on Monday, April 22 at 2:00 p.m. It will be a casual afternoon intended to provide time and space for members of the RESBC community to meet, mix and mingle. We have invited some of our partners to join us and be available to answer questions you may have. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be provided and there will be a no-host bar available. So, grab a friend and come on over for a fun afternoon. Additional information and registration instructions are provided on Page 7 in this edition of *PRIME TIME*. Space is limited so be sure to submit your RSVP as soon as possible.

As one of our core activities, RESBC participates in the monthly "Pre-Retirement Seminars" hosted by SBCERA. You may recall attending one of these informational sessions in the years and/or months leading up to your retirement. During our presentation, we introduce these prospective retirees to RESBC and explain our purpose and function. We also touch on the fact that RESBC is part of a statewide organization, California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA), which is a cooperative umbrella organization serving associations like ours from each of the

20 California counties operating under the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 – also known as CERL or '37 Act counties.

CRCEA monitors legislative, regulatory and administrative activity at the state and federal level so we can be aware of and responsive to any potential risks to our retirement benefits. They provide an ongoing stable presence for information sharing and professional development among their member associations which – like RESBC – are run by volunteer retirees. You can learn more about CRCEA – and our sister county organizations – at www.crcea.org. It is interesting to note that CRCEA was formed in 1969 – five years after RESBC – and the story behind its formation (which is published in this issue of *PRIME TIME*) is strongly reminiscent of our own.

Speaking of volunteer-run organizations...whether you are a new, mid- or long-time retir-

RESBC Board Members

- Dena Smith, President
- Virginia Adams
- Deborah Barmack
- Jack Burke
- BJ Cruz
- Yvonne Johnson
- John Michaelson
- Cheryl Napier
- Ruth Stringer
- Katrina Turturro
- Janet Ward
- Vere Williams
- AB Brand, Treasurer Emeritus

QUESTIONS REGARDING MEMBERSHIP OR ADDRESS CHANGES? PLEASE CONTACT: BJ Cruz, Membership resbcinfo@gmail.com

ee, please consider sharing some of your precious time and talent to help guide and improve RESBC as we enter our 61st year. Drop us an email at resbcinfo@gmail.com or call us at (909) 725-5140 and let us put your heart, mind, hands and feet to perfect use.

That's all for now and I'll see you next month.

BEYOND RETIREMENT (through February 2024)

Pamela Arnold
Terry Bailey
Gerald Bulf
Margaret Burrell
Margaret Carabello
Frances Carrillo
Teresa De La Cruz
Warren Hawkins
Lon E. Jacobs
Gloria J. Johnson
Harvey Loret
Laura Marquez
Coran McCause
Richard Olson
James F. Price
Donald W. Schreiber
Randee J. Sneed
Sandra Snowden
James Squire, Sr.
Margot Varden



*“As long as I live, you
will live;
As long as I live, you will
be
remembered;
As long as I live, you will
be loved.”
~~Unknown*

BEFORE YOU GO!

On February 26, RESBC’s Program Committee co-hosted a seminar entitled “Before You Go” with Emmerson-Bartlett Memorial Chapel in Redlands: This seminar was the brainchild of Janet Ward a member of the RESBC Board. Almost 50 members attended and were provided with invaluable information regarding options for final services and resting places. Information included types of final disposition: burial or cremation; funeral policy options, for the travelers - policies that cover the costs of repatriating remains from beyond a 75-mile radius in the event of an unforeseen occurrence, and encouragement to have the sometimes fearful, but necessary conversation about a future in which they will not be a part. On this issue, the conversation may be feared, but it provides guidance to the remaining family members and allows the person to be in charge to the end and just beyond.

The presenters also spoke about:

- Options people who served in the military may have.
- Coordination with another mortuary, if needed.
- Social Security/retirement issues related to people who are/were married and may have separated and/or divorced and have a significant other. *(It can be Complicated)*.
- What may happen if a minor child, or children, are involved as beneficiaries.
- Insurance policies and how they may work.
- When family interactions get rough over the deceased wishes – real or imagined.

Because of the size of the audience, the topics were covered in broad brushstrokes, but for a more tailored discussion an appointment must be set up with a mortuary of your choice. The members were highly engaged. Many questions were asked by a number of people and the Emmerson-Bartlett staff skillfully answered. Several members set up appointments to get more specific details.

As is generally the custom, where we gather, we try to break bread together. This event was going to be no exception. Emmerson-Barlett Memorial Chapel provided snacks and a very satisfying meal. We were very appreciative of the meal and the information they provided. President Dena Smith sent a Thank You note to them. Let me use this medium to echo the Thanks to EMMERSON-BARTLETT MEMORIAL CHAPEL. Thanks, Much!!

Vere Williams
Program Committee Chairperson





SYMPATHY CARDS are sent to families of our members whenever we are notified of a death.

GET WELL CARDS are also sent to our members who are experiencing health problems.

Please call Janet Ward at 909-793-6113, or contact her via email at: tenja33@msn.com if you know of someone who would be cheered by receiving a card from RESBC.

A GOOD PARTNERSHIP

RESBC is an active member of the California Retired Employees Association (see this month's President's message for additional details about this relationship) and the following is a reprint of the "Our History" page from the CRCEA website (www.crcea.org).

CRCEA was formed in the late 1960's with the efforts of a few recently retired county employees.

All of the early founders had been active in employee associations or unions on both the local and state level. Notable among them were Phil Fickert and Leo Rapp of Kern County, Robert Heuer of Los Angeles, Ed Rush of San Diego, and Billie Hartley of Fresno.

In June of 1969, as a result of a number of letters from Ed Rush, several representatives agreed to a conference to be held that fall. Invitations were sent to counties and cities, as well as officers of the State Retired Employees Organizations.

The meeting was set for October 17 and 18 in the city of Fresno, concurrently with a meeting of the League of California Employees Associations (LOCEA) being held there at that time.

Attending were conferees from nine of the 1937 Act counties: Alameda, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Sonoma, plus the City and County of San Francisco, the City of San Diego, and the California State Retired Employees Association.

At this first conference, the name California County Retired Employees Association was selected. A Bylaws committee was appointed and a second meeting was scheduled for the following year.

The next convention (referred to as a formation meeting) was held on February 12 and 13, 1970, also in the city of Fresno. Representatives from seven counties attended the assembly: Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Sonoma, and Stanislaus. The name of the organization was changed to the current name, the California Retired County Employees Association; the Bylaws Committee presented their efforts and they were approved; the membership decided to meet three times a year, concurrently with LOCEA, and they set dues of ten cents per member, with a maximum of \$50.00.

Elected as the first officers were: Ed Rush, President; Phil Fickert, 1st Vice President; Bob Heuer, 2nd Vice President; and Billie Hartley, Secretary-Treasurer. Shortly after that, on May 1, 1970, the Inter-Com made its debut as the official newsletter of the new organization and although the hyphen was subsequently eliminated from the name, it has been published regularly ever since. The second regular meeting of the fledgling group was held on July 14, 1970, also at Fresno and also concurrently with LOCEA, whose name was changed to the California Public Employees Federation (CALPEF) in the interim between meetings.

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The next meeting, titled as the “First Annual Conference” was convened at Crystal Bay, North Lake Tahoe on October 9 and 10, 1970, again simultaneously with the CALPEF convention.

Marin and Santa Barbara counties became members the following year and then the next two or three years saw a slow but steady expansion of CRCEA. Contra Costa, Ventura, and Tulare joined during this time. After this time the meetings were not held with CALPEF. Sacramento, Alameda, San Mateo, San Joaquin, Merced, and San Bernardino became members and Imperial arrived a few years later. Mendocino, last but not least, became the twentieth county to join in 1991, making the total membership complete.

CRCEA came into being through the efforts of a few dedicated people and it has grown steadily over the years through the efforts of other dedicated people. Without their unpaid efforts, the organization would have withered and died. They have been responsible for some noteworthy changes in the 1937 Act, which have worked to the benefit of every retiree in the system.

www.crcea.org



There are always many things to do when you move to a new address. One of the most important is to let the Retirement Board know your new address so you won't miss receiving your pension check. On their change of address form is a place for you to sign that authorizes them to release your new address to RESBC.

It would also be wise to send RESBC a letter, or postcard, telling us directly that you have moved. Mail changes to: RESBC, PO Box 136, Highland, CA 92346.



MIX AND MINGLE – NOW THAT YOU ARE UNSUPERVISED Monday, April 22, 2024

Come! Join us Mixing and Mingling – Now That You Are Unsupervised (retired) on Monday, April 22, 2024. We have invited San Bernardino County HR, SBCERA, VOYA, My Senior Health Plan (MSHP), AAA Travel, Pacific Group Agencies, and Welsh Insurance Services, and they will be available to answer questions you may have. As usual, when we meet, we break bread together and at this event we will be serving hors d'oeuvres. Please see event flyer on Page 7 of this publication.

Please respond via resbcinfo@gmail.com by Wednesday, April 17, 2024 so that we may be properly prepared. A friend may accompany you to the Mixer. The venue is the American Legion – Redlands. An informative and fun afternoon is planned. See you there!

Vere Williams - Program Committee Chairperson



GOOD TO KNOW - CONTACT INFORMATION



San Bernardino County HR Employee Benefits and Services Division General Information (ebsd@hr.sbcounty.gov)	909-387-5787
Retirement Benefits	
Sandy Meier, Benefits Manager (Sandy.Meier@hr.sbcounty.gov)	909-387-9638
Jennifer Robbins, Supervising Office Specialist (Jennifer.Robbins@hr.sbcounty.gov)	909-387-6140
Mikayla Kissel, HR Analyst I (Mikayla.Kissel@hr.sbcounty.gov)	909-387-9671
Yolanda Ramirez, Ofc Specialist (Retiree Medical/Dental Plans) (Yolanda.Ramirez@hr.sbcounty.gov)	909-387-9674
San Bernardino County Employees' Retirement Association (SBCERA) (www.sbcera.org)	909-885-7980 877-722-3721
My Senior Health Plan (MSHP) (www.myseniorhealthplan.com) (both numbers are toll free)	877-255-6273 800-735-2929
Pacific Group Agencies, Inc (PGA) (www.pgagencies.com)	800-817-8838
Welsh Insurance Services (www.welshadvantage.com)	909-307-5900

**RESBC has an
email address:**

RESBCinfo@gmail.com

***If you have questions, sug-
gestions, or
comments, please
let us know.***

***We would like to hear from
you!***

If you have recently joined RESBC, and do not see your name, please keep watching. There is a time lapse between when you submit your payroll deduction paperwork and when we are notified you have joined us.

If you don't see your name after two months, please let us know.

We are always looking for other RESBC members who can join us in making this a great organization.

If you are interested in lending your time and skills to protect the interest of our retirees, just let us know!

**TREASURER'S REPORT
February 2024**

February 1, 2024 Balance Forward **230,254.08**

REVENUES

Dues	7,917.00
Interest	<u>37.18</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	7,954.18

EXPENDITURES

Travel	230.56
Administration	
Other	167.84
Newsletter	
Printing	7,042.76
Postage	3,898.05
Meeting and Events	
Meals	500.00
Rent	<u>300.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	12,139.21

February 29, 2024 Balance **226,069.05**

Checking Account	2,944.21
Savings Account	136,792.98
CDs	85,942.32
Petty Cash Fund	<u>389.54</u>
Total	226,069.05

PERB Reserve* 138,860.57

Membership

Prior month	7,907
Current month	7,917
Growth	10

BUDGET



**Katrina Turturro
Treasurer**

*Preservation and Enhancement of Retirement Benefits (PERB): Reserve funding and/or expenditures to support educational and advocacy activities to protect and enhance pension benefits for RESBC members.



**NEW MEMBERS
(through February 2024)**

- Lucia Allagas
- Francine L. Beedie
- Sharrante Terrell Brown
- Kevin Canepa
- Jeri L. Caperton
- Sammie Cayton
- Douglas Craig
- Janet M. Dana
- Tina L. Davis
- Cynthia Folgner
- Juana Gamez
- Ronald Good
- Michelle R. Grossi
- Michael Halcomb
- Diana Hernandez
- Anna Herrera
- John S. Hoggan
- Virginia Knowlton
- Melissa A. Ladenson
- Helen Lavender
- Hong Li
- Rachel Madrid
- Freshteh Moslemi
- Vicki A. Nakayama
- Pamela Nelson
- Luis Ortiz
- Shari K. Page
- Joy Peters
- Christine Ricker
- Judyth L. Scott
- Timothy C. Seibert
- Paul J. Sharpe
- Ang'la Smith
- Lori Sotelo
- Meri L. Vandom
- John Velardes
- Regina C. Weatherspoon-Bell
- Joey A. Webb
- Wayne Womack
- Jen Yeoh



Save
The
Date

RESBC MIXER

So, You're Retired - Now What?



Date: Monday, April 22, 2024
Location: American Legion
814 West Colton Avenue
Redlands, CA
Time: 2:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
RSVP deadline: Wednesday, April 17, 2024
RSVP to: RESBCinfo@gmail.com

- ◆ Please join us to mix and mingle with your fellow retirees in a casual and relaxed setting. Enjoy fun activities and prizes. Tap into the expertise of some of our key partners.
- ◆ Invited partners: SBCERA, Human Resources, VOYA, AAA Travel, My Senior Health Plan, (Medicare broker), Pacific Group Agencies (supplemental insurances such as travel, dental, vision, pet, etc.)
- ◆ Hors d'oeuvres will be served along with beverages, and a no-host bar will be available.
- ◆ You are welcome to bring a guest.
- ◆ Space is limited!

RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

P.O. BOX 2323
SAN BERNARDINO CA 92406-2323

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

RESBC MISSION STATEMENT

As a voluntary non-profit association, the singular goal of the Retired Employees of San Bernardino County (RESBC) is to support and cherish the obvious need to maintain and improve our quality of life during retirement. The focal points of RESBC are to: keep its members informed and knowledgeable about retiree issues and concerns; provide programs and information on topics that will give members insight into the challenges affecting seniors; and focus on benefits retirees have earned, and, in the process, foster friendship and positive relationships among all retirees.

NOTICE: The information presented in *PRIME TIME* is believed to be from reliable sources. However, no responsibility is assumed by RESBC, the Editor, or the writers, for inaccuracies in articles published.

Privacy Statement:

RESBC is very aware of the need for the privacy of its members and is committed to protecting your personal information. The only information RESBC has about you is your name, mailing address, and payment of membership dues. RESBC does not sell or share our member list. RESBC does not disclose any of this information about our members to third parties. The companies with which RESBC does business, such as Berg Print & Mail (for printing and mailing *PRIME TIME*), and Pacific Group Agencies (supplemental insurance), are obligated to keep your information confidential.

Spouses of deceased RESBC Members are eligible to become Associate Members of RESBC.

If you would like more information, please contact our Membership Chair, BJ Cruz, by writing to P.O. Box 136, Highland, CA 92346, or via email:
resbcinfo@gmail.com
909-725-5140

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Please send changes of address to the address above.

Monthly dues are paid by payroll deduction only. For information and/or a payroll deduction form, please contact:

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