



**WISHING YOU A LOVING
VALENTINE'S DAY AND A FESTIVE
ST. PATRICK'S DAY!**



RESBC
805-568-5933
SBCERS
805-568-2940
Deferred Comp
Care Counsel

www.resbc.us
www.sbcers.org
805-252-9312
888-227-3334



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Annette Paladino



Hello, Retirees:

If you read my December '22 column, you are probably wondering why the heck you are again gazing at a photo of me on the front page of this edition. You may recall that last year, I announced my resignation after 13 years, and you were likely anticipating a new photo, a new writing style and a completely new person in this position. Well, none of that is happening, and you deserve an explanation:

Despite great effort, we have not successfully recruited new people to serve on our board; therefore, our business is run by a very small group of dedicated, but aging, directors. In board discussions late last year, it became obvious my departure would force a shuffling of current directors creating a vacancy in one or two critical positions. To avoid this dilemma, I will serve one more year as president, with the goal of enlarging our board and providing cross-training for all director positions. So, to quote my favorite Sicilian Mafia boss, Michael Corleone, "Just when I thought I was out, they pulled me back in!" Remember, the continued vitality of RESBC ultimately depends on fresh ideas from new directors. If you are interested in joining our board, please let me know.

As you will see by the photos in this issue, 2022 was filled with amazing activities. This year, we will recreate the excitement, so stay tuned. I encourage you to enter our Pot of Gold drawing - 15 winners will receive a \$50 restaurant gift certificate. New day trips and lunches are being planned, and will be announced in future editions. If you have questions, comments or ideas for us, please contact me at annetteapaladino@gmail.com ♥ Annette

Retirement News January 2023

Submitted by Zandra Cholmondeley, Elected Retiree Trustee



Greetings and Happy New Year! A new year brings a feeling of optimism, promise and fresh beginnings, so it's no wonder that we make "resolutions" and strive mightily, for a month or so, to uphold them. However, there's at least one resolution that we all can keep over the coming year: Enjoy, appreciate and give thanks for each day we're here! At a celebration of the Chinese new year, I learned that 2023 is the year of the Water Rabbit. The rabbit is considered a gentle animal that thinks before acting. The Year of the Rabbit represents peaceful and patient energy. After a volatile 2022, do we need that in 2023! More on that later, but first, to catch you up on highlights of recent meetings.

SBCERS Preliminary Actuarial Valuation and Triennial Experience Study as of June 30, 2022 was presented at the October 26, 2022 meeting by Cheiron, the Fund's actuaries. Key points in the valuation are as follows: Actuarial liability increased by \$253 million from the prior year to \$4.7 billion; market value of assets decreased by \$94 million to \$3.89 billion; funded value of the plan decreased from 89.5% in June 30, 2021 to 82.7% in June 30, 2022; and the net employer contribution rate increased slightly from 39.07% of payroll to 39.48% of payroll. Based on the Fund's cumulative returns, and the current rate of inflation, there was no change to the 7% assumed rate of return.

However, changes in other assumptions were recommended and the most significant was an increase in the COLA assumption for retirees, from 2.75% to 2.9%. This change will result in an increase in the actuarial liability in the coming years. The Plan sets a maximum COLA of 3% and increases in the CPI above 3%, are "banked" in individual accounts for each retiree. This bank supplements the COLA you receive in years when the CPI falls below 3%. Given the high rate of inflation in 2022 and continuing in 2023, it is likely that most retirees will see a 3% COLA for the next two years. The final reports were presented at the December 7, 2022 meeting. At the same meeting, the results of an independent audit of Cheiron's valuation, conducted by Milliman actuaries, was also presented. Milliman concurred with Cheiron on all key points in the valuation.

At the January 26, 2023 meeting, the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Actuarial Valuation was presented. In brief, retirees currently receiving a health benefit subsidy under this plan can be assured that this benefit will continue.

The County is funding the OPEB plan at 4% of payroll, higher than the 3.4% needed for "tread water" or pay as you go. The Plan's actuarial liability is declining, mostly due to higher payments by the County, no new entrants and a declining number of retirees opting for the \$15 per year subsidy.

Also at the January 26 meeting, the Board received a Real Estate Market Overview from Hamilton Lane, recently hired by the SBCERS Board as the real estate discretionary consultant. In sum, office, retail and hospitality assets are struggling while industrial, residential and healthcare properties are posting strong returns. Currently, rising interest rates and increased borrowing costs have led to a slowdown in bank loans and real estate transactions. However, this creates investment opportunities in distressed debt and in equity investments in high quality assets with strained balance sheets.

And finally, the status of the Fund: At the end of November 2022, the Fund had stood at \$3.95 billion, with a return of 2.14% for the 5 month period (July 1-Nov. 30). However, at the end of December 2022, the Fund closed at \$3.91 billion, losing earlier gains, with a return of 1.04% since July 1, 2022. The decline in equities is attributed to high inflation, continued interest rate increases, global impacts of the war in Ukraine, and fears of a recession. Investors hope that inflation might abate, and in the meantime, look for opportunities in the current market, and practice the patience of the rabbit.

That's it for now. It's a pleasure to serve as your representative on the retirement board. Please send any questions to zcholmondeley@gmail.com.
Zandra

RESBC HOLIDAY LUNCHEON – 12/08/22

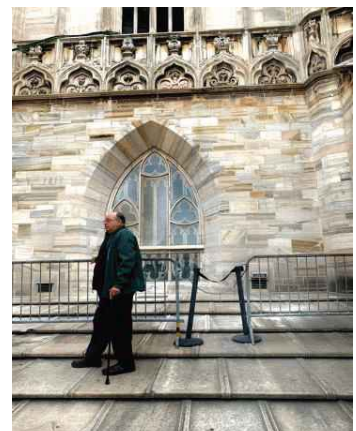


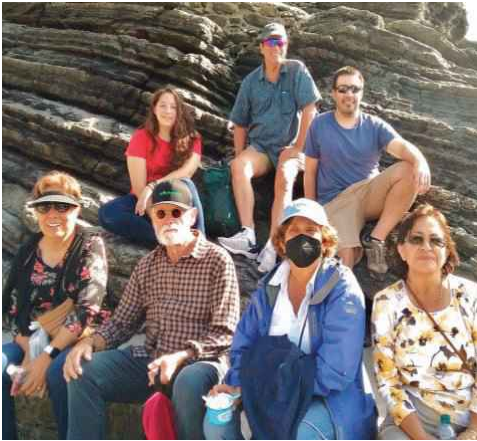


TRAVEL CLUB NEWS by Annette Paladino

Hi, Travel Buddies: As you may have heard, in October 2022, our Travel Club embarked on another exciting travel adventure – once again in fabulous Italy. Blame it on the food, wine, art and architecture - we're simply addicted!

This trip focused on food and wine, and we enjoyed plenty of both. In Parma, we visited a small Parmigiano-Reggiano producer. After learning about the cheese making process, we moved into the aging room where we were surrounded by wheels of cheese piled to the ceiling. Each wheel was worth several hundred dollars, and the taste was worth a million bucks! We visited several beautiful wineries. From the Nebbiolo grapes in the Piedmont area, we drank incredible Barolo and Barbaresco red wines. In the Veneto area, we were treated to fabulous Amarone and Prosecco. Each pour was very generous, accompanied by a beautiful lunch or dinner, and no headache afterward! Another highlight was our cooking lesson in Bologna where we made Bolognese sauce and two pastas. In Modena, we visited a Balsamic vinegar producer – truly liquid gold. And then there was Venice ... so enchanting! There was so much more...impossible to explain. You had to be there! Stay tuned for our next travel adventure. Maybe you'll join us.







Submitted by
Tony Manuel, Treasurer

2023 TREASURER'S REPORT

Well, another year is gone. What a year that was! Financially, it was a roller coaster ride, although it seemed more like a downhill slide. Our investments went down, then up, then down, and finally up a little. Our investment account ended with "only" a \$22K loss, an improvement over the \$38K loss in mid-year.

However, our Board decided that we should celebrate the end of the Covid pandemic as much as possible. We made a promise to our members to make our events as good as possible and have as many attendees as possible. And we succeeded! We had the largest attendance at our Spring luncheon at the Timbers. We held a wild Hawaiian BBQ at Santa Maria's Waller Park in June, and finished the year with a Christmas luncheon at the Marriott Hotel in Buellton with over 130 members in attendance. Wow. We spent so much, we actually had to transfer funds into our budget from our reserves to cover the additional expenses. This is your money at work for you.

Our Board is not sure if we can top what we did in 2022, but we will try. We are again very close to our goal for our reserves. So to that end, our budget for 2023 will again reflect that we intend to spend all 2023 dues received from you on luncheons and social events and hope investment increases will bring us to our financial goal. See the Proposed Budget on this page for more details. Keep in mind that everything has gone up in costs, not only event costs, but also our newsletter costs.

If you have any questions about our 2023 budget, please contact me through our website, or send an email, a letter, or a voice message, and I'll reply as soon as possible.

Tell your loved ones as often as possible you love them. Stay well, stay safe, and stay away from those scams that target seniors.

2023 Proposed Budget	Proposed Budget 2023	12 Months Actual 2022	Approved Budget 2022
Interest Income	6,000.00	2,305.97	3,000.00
Membership Dues	72,000.00	71,835.48	72,000.00
Transfer from Equity	0.00		6,000.00
Total Income	78,000.00	74,141.45	81,000.00
	78,000.00	74,141.45	81,000.00
Board Expenses			
Board Officer Allowances	9,300.00	8,400.00	8,400.00
Board Travel/Meals/Lodging	3,500.00	3,121.80	3,500.00
Total Board Expenses	12,800.00	11,521.80	11,900.00
Contract Services			
CPA Accounting Fees	1,700.00	1,625.00	1,600.00
Outside Contract Services	150.00	0.00	250.00
Total Contract Services	1,850.00	1,625.00	1,850.00
CRCEA Association			
CRCEA Association Dues	1,325.00	1,307.35	1,325.00
CRCEA Registration Fees	300.00	175.00	900.00
Total CRCEA Association	1,625.00	1,482.35	2,225.00
Membership Benefits			
Education & Outreach	4,000.00	3,180.90	5,000.00
Luncheon Benefit	14,000.00	20,961.00	19,000.00
Social Events	10,000.00	9,660.37	10,000.00
Total Membership Benefits	28,000.00	33,802.27	34,000.00
Newsletter Costs			
Newsletter Printing Costs	12,000.00	9,223.47	12,000.00
Postage, Mailing Service	2,900.00	2,600.00	2,500.00
Total Newsletter Costs	14,900.00	11,823.47	14,500.00
Operations			
Bank Fees	300.00	300.00	300.00
Insurance - Liability, D&O	2,200.00	2,068.00	2,000.00
Misc Office Expenses	100.00	76.01	225.00
Miscellaneous Exp	250.00	263.00	250.00
P O Box Rental	200.00	182.00	160.00
Printing and Copying	0.00	0.00	500.00
Website Costs	400.00	362.97	600.00
Telephone, Telecommunication	460.00	504.90	340.00
Total Operations	3,910.00	3,756.88	4,375.00
Other Expenses (donations)	10,000.00	4,309.20	10,000.00
Taxes, Federal & State	4,500.00	5,499.67	0.00
Total Expense	77,585.00	73,820.64	78,850.00
	415.00	320.81	2,150.00
Other Income			
Investment Gain/(Loss)	10,000.00	(21,981.22)	(10,000.00)
Total Other Income	10,000.00	(21,981.22)	(10,000.00)
	10,000.00	(21,981.22)	(10,000.00)
	10,415.00	(21,660.41)	(7,850.00)

RESBC HEARST CASTLE TRIP – 11/30/22





IN MEMORIAM
GEORGE BOBOLIA
1924-2022

Each year, RESBC honors George Bobolia with a special luncheon in appreciation of his successful 1988 class action suit that secured health insurance benefits for retirees equal to those of County employees. Our celebrations of George will continue, but we will forever miss his unique wit and humor. Below is a profile George wrote a few years ago. Enjoy!



GEORGE BOBOLIA by G. Bobolia

I was born and later grew up to 5'8" in Peekskill, New York. I was taller when I later married, but eventually, I settled down. My future wife, during this period, lived a block away. We attended the same schools and were in the same grades. Since she didn't play basketball, baseball or football, we rarely, during those school years, even spoke to one another. What was there to talk about?

After high school graduation, I was drafted as well as my four brothers. I was assigned anti-aircraft. A year was spent in the U.S. and two years in England, France and Germany. I picked up the English language rather easily. Our unit arrived in France shortly after D-Day. By the end of the war, we had an enviable record. No planes shot down - neither allied nor enemy. This achievement garnered no military medals. Actually, there were few enemy aircraft functioning. I received no battle wounds, although I almost lost a finger in France while at a carnival. It did not qualify for a purple heart.

I had high hopes after my discharge. Higher education. I enrolled at Hobart College, Geneva, N.Y. I was amazed at how much I earned because after my junior year, I realized that that other sex individual, who lived a block away, was the cream of the crop. To me, she was beautiful, intelligent and had saved money while working. Conditions were perfect. It was time to commit matrimony!

My dreams were somewhat shattered after graduation from Hobart with a Liberal Arts degree. My wife started to make demands upon me. She wanted to live in California where she had worked and expected me to support her and the child she would later bear. To pacify her, and to improve my earning capacity, I applied to the USC School of Law. So, in 1949, we left N.Y. by car and headed for California. Upon arrival, it was learned that I had been accepted at USC.

After graduation in 1952, I was employed as a deputy D.A. in Inyo County. Six and one-half years later, I became a deputy D.A. in Santa Barbara County. I retired in 1982.

IN RETROSPECT:

After 59 years of formal cohabitation, the only kind my mother would tolerate, I can easily ascertain what my most satisfying achievements were. Applying for a marriage license and participating in a ceremony, no portion of which I ever paid because I had neither job nor money, were the most fortuitous events of my life. Especially gratifying is that, to me, that kid down the block retained all of those attributes that I felt so appealing.

RESBC MADONNA INN DINNER – 11/30/22



RESBC HOLIDAY LUNCHEON – 12/08/22

Three Days in Sacramento The Fall 2022 CRCEA Conference

By Mark Brickley



The old adage “there’s strength in numbers” can be a deciding factor in protecting retirement benefits. It’s the reason RESBC is a member of the twenty-county strong California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA). Our organization (RESBC) pays a yearly fee to be member of this statewide association and in-turn, receive its benefits. I attended CRCEA’s conference in Sacramento, CA from October 9-11, 2022. Our Embassy Suites hotel abutted the beautiful, wide Sacramento River and was steps away from Sacramento’s “Old Town.” I hadn’t been to our State Capitol since my college days, when I spent the Spring Quarter of my junior year (1973) working for the UC Student Lobby.

CRCEA represents 170,000 retired county employees throughout the state and employs one of Sacramento’s most experienced and savvy lobbyists (Amy Brown of *Arc Strategies*) to track and help influence retirement legislation in the State’s Assembly and Senate. Amy’s Sacramento conference speech confirmed that there is no immediate, problematic pension reform legislation currently before the State legislature.

The conference was also highlighted by an insightful presentation on Will & Trusts by Attorney Ed Fong, Esq. and a meaningful presentation by Dr. Lisa Chai, the Chief of

Elder Care at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center. She discussed “Levels of Care in Nursing Homes and Skilled Living Facilities. CRCEA’s twice yearly conferences (which rotate among member county locations) offer opportunities to network, problem solve and develop statewide contacts and friendships.

After Tuesday’s break-out committee sessions which focused on the internal running of CRCEA, the conference held a banquet which featured a comedian who had appeared on Johnny Carson’s and Jimmy Kimmel’s Late-Night shows. Ignoring the “old people jokes,” comedian Jack Gallagher was affable and entertaining. Like RESBC’s quarterly luncheons, the banquet ended with a Door Prize Drawing.

Attending a CRCEA conference is both a responsibility and perk for RESBC Directors. While delegates attend many presentations, there is also adequate time to mingle built into the conference schedule. Like all new experiences, there is often a learning opportunity or social interaction you didn’t expect or couldn’t have predicted. If you join our Board of Directors, there is high likelihood you will be selected to attend a future CRCEA conference!

GOOD NEWS for 2023 – YIPPEE!!

- Medicare Part B standard monthly premium will decrease from \$170.10 to \$164.90.
- Medicare Part D average monthly premium will decrease from \$32.08 to \$31.50.
- Medicare Part B deductible will decrease from \$233 to \$226
- Social Security beneficiaries will see a 8.7% COLA increase to their monthly benefit



**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
POT OF GOLD DRAWING
WIN A \$50 GIFT CARD TO A FUN RESTAURANT!**



Complete this ticket. Mail it to **RESBC**, PO Box 30401, Santa Barbara, CA 93130 by **3/10/23!** We'll enter you in our drawing -15 winners. Luck o' the Irish to you!



**ST. PATRICK'S DAY POT OF GOLD DRAWING TICKET
\$50 RESTAURANT GIFT CARD**



Name _____ Phone _____

Home Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Email Address _____

CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE (1 choice only)

Applebee's	Olive Garden	Chipotle	Cheesecake Factory	Islands	Lure	Chili's	IHOP
------------	--------------	----------	-----------------------	---------	------	---------	------



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022
HOLIDAY MEAL WINNERS!**



Ed Ashburn - Nipomo, CA

Gayle Hedrick - St. Regis, Montana

Gary Blair - Carpinteria, CA

Steve Robel - Denver, North Carolina

Sandra Bullard -Herriman, Utah

Cheryl Smith - Carpinteria, CA

James Cloonan - Solvang, CA

LuAnn Sullivan - Oceano, CA

Judi Galindo, Santa Barbara - CA

Maria Vanden Bosch - Lompoc, CA

RESBC HOLIDAY LUNCHEON – 12/08/22



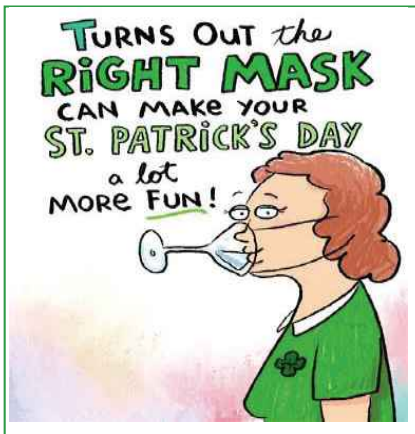
A great time was had by all!! We hope to see everyone again next year for another fabulous holiday gathering.

CHUCKLE CORNER

by Bob Spinner

Sometimes you just need
a good laugh...

LUCK O'
THE IRISH
TO YA!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MARIA ARELLANO	ERIC DODSON	CURTIS GOBLE	SOLOMON LINVER	DEBORAH SHEA
MARTHA DE LA MORA	CARMEN ESCOBEDO	LORENA GONZALEZ - DELOA	SHELLY MCRAV	KAREN SULLIVAN
MAVIS DEPARINI	FRANCES GILLILAND	ELLA LEWIS	ROB PERRY	

IN MEMORIAM

NAOMI CARROLL	DAVID DORSEY	F. GEORGE KAMMER	DORIS PIMENTAL
SHIRLIE CARTER	JOHN GARAVITO	MICHAEL KEMP	RONALD PLACE
MARILYN CURRY	DALE HARRINGTON	MARJORIE KRAFT	SALLY RAMIREZ
WILLIAM DANIELS	CATHERINE JOHNSON	JON MITCHELL	RONALD ROMERO

NOTE TO OUR MEMBERS: KEEP YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS INFORMATION CURRENT

If you are not receiving email messages from RESBC, please update your email address information with SBCERS. The updated information will be passed on to RESBC quarterly. Do not "unsubscribe" from RESBC emails. You may miss important information.

FROM SBCERS: Important Notice about IRS 2023 Mandated Withholdings

SBCERS Members are affected by recent **Federal Tax Withholding** form changes made by the IRS.

Your SBCERS member services team wants you to know how this may impact you.

Effective January 2023, the IRS changed the withholding forms used by employees and pension recipients to request changes to their federal withholding elections. These changes will be effective for any new payee of the System, or any existing payee wishing to make changes to their Federal withholdings, in 2023. If you are not making changes to your Federal withholdings, you do not have to take any action at this time. If you do want to change your withholdings, we encourage you to contact a tax professional for assistance. SBCERS staff members are legally not able to provide any tax advice.

SBCERS is required to adopt these changes effective January 1, 2023. We have updated our website, www.sbcers.org, and the secure member portal, MySBCERS, with the new Federal form. Payees are required to use the new form W-4P 2023 for any tax withholding changes on benefit payments paid in 2023, as the tax tables and fields formerly used on previous tax forms are no longer available.

What has changed? While the IRS Form W-4P 2023 does still contain a field that requests your personal designation of Single or Married filing separately, Married filing jointly, or Qualifying surviving spouse Head of household, the withholding amount fields are significantly different:

Instead of noting the number of allowances you are withholding, the form now requests that you note income from a job and/or multiple pension or annuities, including a spouse's job, pension, or annuity, if any.

The form now provides a category for claiming Dependent and other credits, if applicable to you. The form now provides a category for other income not from jobs or pension/annuity payments, if you want tax withheld on other income you expect this year that won't have withholding.

I am not changing my withholdings, do I have to complete this form? No, you do not have to complete this form if you are not making changes to your withholdings at this time. You are not required to make any updates to your current withholding elections if your current withholding arrangements are sufficient for your tax needs. However, any future changes will require the new form.

I would like to elect no Federal Withholdings, but I don't see a category for that on the new form. If you choose to have no Federal income tax withheld, you may indicate "no withholding" under Step 4(c) on the new form by writing "No Withholdings".

I've consulted with my tax professional about changes to my withholdings, can SBCERS help me understand how the proposed withholdings will impact my pension payment gross to net? Yes! While we are not able to provide tax advice, the SBCERS pension software "Withholding What If" module can calculate hypothetical gross to net calculations, so please feel free to contact a Member Services representative by calling (877) 568-2940, emailing benefits@sbcers.org, messaging us through MySBCERS, or via our on-line scheduling feature at www.sbcers.org, to make a 20 minute appointment, either over the phone, Zoom, or in person, so that we can review the impact of your proposed withholding changes with you.

Safeguarding the security of your account is a key priority, so SBCERS requires that all changes be made in writing, with your wet signature, on the forms provided in our office or at www.sbcers.org. We are also happy to mail forms to you for you to complete. Any change received by the 15th of the month will be effective on the next benefit payment. If you have any questions or concerns, we are always happy to hear from you, and help you!

January, February, March, 2023

RESBC Newsletter
Post Office Box 30401
Santa Barbara, CA 93130-0401

Edition 5

Vol. 1

Periodicals Postage
Paid
Santa Barbara, CA
and Additional Entry
Permit No. 009381

Retired Employees of Santa Barbara County Officers

President	Annette Paladino
Vice President	Zandra Cholmondeley
Secretary	Mark Brickley
Treasurer	Tony Manuel

Directors

Rory Moore Bob Spinner Michael Hardwick

RESBC Officers and Directors meet monthly. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic these meetings are conducted on a virtual platform, and on a schedule that is not entirely regular. If you would like to attend a board meeting, please contact RESBC to confirm when the next meeting will be held, and how to participate. We all look forward to when we can regularly resume our quarterly luncheon meetings with all who want to attend in person.

CRCEA DELEGATE: Annette Paladino
RESBC NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Michael Hardwick
RESBC WEB MASTER: Claude Rateau

Santa Barbara County Retirement Board



Michael Vidal, Chair
Steve Lavagnino, Vice-Chair
Trent Benedetti
Zandra Cholmondeley
Michael Daly
Harry Hagen
Laurie Lee
Ted Sten
Paul Uhl
Gary Blair (Retiree Alternate)
Frederick Tan (Safety Alternate)

Meetings for the Santa Barbara County Retirement Board are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, and have been live-streamed through YouTube for the past few months. The public can view and participate in these meetings by following the link and procedures posted as part of the Board's agenda at <https://www.sbcers.org/board-of-retirement/meetings-agendas-minutes/>. Simply click on the PDF link in the Agenda column for the meeting desired.