



Association of Retired Employees of Orange County  
A California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation  
Meetings Held at OCERS, 2223 Wellington Avenue, Santa Ana CA  
Minutes of the AREOC Board of Directors Annual Meeting

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

**I. The AREOC Board meeting was called to order at 10:43 AM by the President, Sara Ruckle Harms.**

Present was Sara Ruckle Harms, Jan Stephenson, Lou Scarpino, Linda Robinson, Larry Leaman and Doug Storm. Also present was Ilene Bárcenas, Office Manager.

Absent: Bob Griffith, Gaylan Harris, John La Roche

**II. Approval of Minutes from May 2014 meeting**

*A motion was made by Larry Leaman and seconded by Jan Stephenson to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2014 as written. Motion carried. Linda Robinson abstained from voting as she did not attend the May meeting.*

**III. Treasurer's Report**

**A. Monthly – June 2014**

Jan Stephenson presented the Treasurer's Report for the month June 2014.

**B. Quarterly Report April/June**

Jan Stephenson presented the Treasurer's Report for the quarter of April through June 2014.

*Motion made by Linda Robinson and seconded by Lou Scarpino to accept the monthly Treasurer's report for June 2014 and the Treasurer's Report for the quarter of April through June 2014. Motion carried.*

**IV. Legislative Report**

Lou Scarpino reported that Sacramento is on recess until August 4 so it is quiet right now. AB 1824, sponsored by CRCEA, that would permit a retired member to revise certain the designated beneficiary for those specified optional settlements got all the way to the Senate for hearings. It appears this bill will pass. Discussion regarding having the sponsor of this bill appear at the next CRCEA conference.

*Motion made by Linda Robinson and seconded by Doug Storm to receive and file the legislative report. Motion carried.*

**V. Review of Chronological History, Mission, Values of AREOC**

AREOC was created to have legal standing to be able to file litigation on behalf of all retirees. The original lawsuit was questioned by the County as REAOC was a social organization and could not file a lawsuit. AREOC was created to represent all retirees not just those who are members of REAOC. Sara Ruckle Harms shared a discussion regarding the mission, values and vision that were established for AREOC.

*Larry Leaman moved that we affirm and not change the mission, vision and values adopted in September 2010 and June 2009; seconded by Lou Scarpino. Motion carried.*

**VI. AREOC in the Future**

**A. Investment in Advocating – actively communicating beyond our members**

Sara Ruckle Harms lead a discussion regarding items that have been discussed as future plans for AREOC. Items that were discussed are included on the “AREOC Guiding Principles” document that was created by Larry Leaman.

There was a discussion of sending the news information that is prepared by Larry Leaman to the REAOC members on a weekly basis so that our members are informed of the interesting news topics that may relate to them.

**B. Does AREOC contract with a communicator?**

Sara Ruckle Harms discussed a draft proposal regarding a Media Relations Consultant. This person would be able to effectively counter the negativity campaign against retirees. A discussion followed to discuss how to communicate with the public and to find someone to write using the strategy that comes from AREOC. A suggestion was made to create a smaller Communication Committee who would be tasked to work on relevant topics. They would need to develop a strategy of how and where we would disseminate information. Sara Ruckle Harms also discussed the idea of establishing guiding principles for AREOC.

*Action Items:*

- *Board members will try to identify a person(s) who can assist us with Media Relations. This person would be a writer, proactive and not too expensive. We would pay for each product received; this person would not be on a retainer.*
- *The draft Guiding Principles document will be updated with the end goal of sharing the document with OCERS or other organizations. Larry Leaman will lead this sub-committee; Sara Ruckle Harms and Lou Scarpino will assist with this assignment.*
- *We will announce at the next luncheon that there will be a weekly news review that will be sent out to the REAOC members on our e-mail list. Sara Ruckle Harms will ask Lori Vandemeir to determine if we can have an unsubscribe ability for the e-mail list for those members who do not want the weekly news sent. John La Roche will also prepare an article for the Informer to announce this weekly e-mail.*

**C. Protecting Retiree Health Care Benefits – educating ourselves and creating a strategy into the future –**

**Does AREOC contract with a Health care consultant?**

We have needed someone to assist us with protecting retiree health care benefits. That person would work with AREOC/REAOC Boards and the County Employee Benefits staff. By 2015, the County has told us that we will all be in public or private exchanges. We need to be aware of how we can shape those plans for the retirees in the future.

*Action Items:*

- *Sara Ruckle Harms will e-mail Gaylan Harris regarding potential consultants AREOC/REAOC could work with regarding health care benefits.*
- *Doug Storm and Linda Robinson will be meeting with Tracy Vonda at the County regarding the pending health fair that is being planned.*
- *Lou Scarpino will contact CRCEA to determine which counties have already changed their medical insurance to be a part of the exchanges.*

**VII. Developing future leadership for AREOC**

**A. Do we establish a relationship/board position for a Safety member**

Sara Ruckle Harms has been approached by safety members who are interested in becoming involved in AREOC/REAOC. We need to look at coalition building and this should include looking at the active employee unions.

**B. Future Officers for 2015**

There was a discussion regarding who may be a candidate for the AREOC/REAOC Boards for the future.

**VII. Set Next Meeting**

After discussion, it was decided that a stand-alone AREOC meeting is more effective. We will have our next meeting for AREOC on October 15, 2014 beginning at 9:30.

*Action Item: Ilene Barcenas will arrange for a meeting room on that date.*

**VIII. Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Doug Storm and seconded by Linda Robinson adjourn the meeting at 1:16 PM. Motion carried.*