



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
Monday, March 30, 2015

I. Called to Order at 9:40 by AREOC President, Sara Ruckle Harms

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

Absent: Gaylan Harris

II. Brief Background of formation of AREOC

Doug Storm and Linda Robinson explained that the association began after entering into the lawsuit. To avoid problematic issues, a new legal firm (Rotan and Tucker) was obtained who recommended that we establish a 501(c) 4 group separate from REAOC. We had to have a legal ability to do what we needed to do and could not do in REAOC. AREOC was also used as a “pass-through” and monies would go from REAOC to AREOC to pay legal expenses. It began with a very narrow plan and goals without any political ideology.

Sara Ruckle Harms discussed the evaluation process as we moved forward including to the Process evaluation, outcome evaluation and impact evaluation. She also thanked Directors who have contributed greatly to the efforts of AREOC.

III. Review of AREOC Program Plan and Year One Objectives

Sara Ruckle Harms reviewed the chart and she believes we have made great headway into the goals established in this document. We have also moved forward with the Action Plans to educate and advocate for the retirees.

The legislative piece has grown with regular reports from OCERS, OCEA, and CRCEA that are utilized for AREOC/REAOC to track and follow legislation that may impact retirees so that we can be more proactive and preemptive.

Action Plan: Ilene Bárcenas will make changes in this document to reflect that we do not have members but rather that we are representing retirees.

IV. Identify Goals for 2015

Sara Ruckle Harms led a discussion regarding the proposed goals each director has.

- Larry Leaman would like to see us develop a rapid response ability to challenge news/op-ed pieces that are incorrect;

- Bob Griffith said that we should tie our goals into the part of AREOC activity regarding legislative and political monitoring and reporting. We should use this information to share with retirees and our allies.
- Lou Scarpino stated that he would like to have a goal for AREOC to have action items related to Retirement Security legislative advocacy at the federal level. He proposes AREOC work at the local, state and federal level with a group of coordination partners being formed through CRCEA, but also through our own efforts at the local and State level. Resourced in large part by these partner organizations, three groups should be formed: One to develop and continually update strategy to reach various influential audiences, one to develop messaging for various audiences, and one to develop and feed a message delivery organization. Lou propose AREOC take on a lead role within the strategy group. As part of this, financial and other resource allocation strategy would need to be developed to help coordinate effective use of all coordination partner resources.
- Doug Storm stated that his goal would be to send three editorials with the documents we have created under AREOC's name. We should share the positive information out to the public.
- Linda Robinson stated that we should diversify our resources in AREOC. Would there be a way to get others on the AREOC Board so that they are not serving on the two Boards? Could AREOC function without all the REAOC Board members?
- Rebecca Guider talked about the need to look at the skill sets needed for new Board members as we consider succession planning.
- Sara Ruckle Harms discussed an outreach effort for those who attend the retiree seminars. We could use the sign-in lists at the seminar and contact some of the attendees and create potential ambassadors to assist AREOC/REAOC.
- Sara Ruckle Harms distributed her draft goals for 2015. These include monitoring legislation and initiatives; building coalitions with stakeholders; and educate members.

For the first goal, we should add to monitor court decisions. There was a discussion regarding the second goal of building coalitions/partnerships/liaisons with our stakeholders. One of the first could be meeting with the BOS one time per year (April?) and when there are "hot" topics. We could also institutionalize having a regular (annual) meeting with Steve Delaney (OCERS).

Action Item: Sara Ruckle Harms will send the draft paper to Ilene Bárcenas who will update the Goals document per the discussion.

V. Adjournment

The planning meeting adjourned at 12:03 PM.