

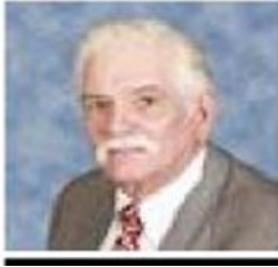


THE INTERCOM

Newsletter of the California Retired
County Employees Association (CRCEA)
January 2019

www.crcea.org

Issue #1-2019



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have gotten through the ghosts and goblins of Halloween, the overeating and family gatherings of Thanksgiving, and the spiritual holidays of Christmas, Chanukah, or whatever your personal faith choice may be. I hope that each of these found you in health and happiness as the year of 2018 disappears and the new year of 2019 appears.

Like I have stated in many messages, no matter when I write this column, we are either just finishing a conference or are heading into one. We recently concluded with the Fall Conference in Marin County concluding with our Annual Meeting taking care of the business of CRCEA. The conference

was well planned, well executed, and from what I can gather, well received. My personal "VERY WELL DONE" to all the MCARE representatives and volunteers who made it another successful conference. Of interest at this conference was the inclusion of technology into the mix. Having access to the program, the speakers' biographies and other pertinent information on your smart phone or tablet was an interesting experiment that seemed to be a success.

As a result of this past conference technology, the Executive Committee agreed that we should put together a Technology Committee that would look at what we do, how we do it, and can we do better utilizing current technology tools. I have asked MCARE President Gene Pennington to chair this committee and he has agreed to do so. He will be reaching out to local associations for information on what might be desired by our members as well as looking into specific questions that the leadership might have to

improve the organizations outreach. If you get an inquiry from Gene, please let him know what you think about the issue. Many of our members are not "tech savvy", but as we move into the future, so many more of our members will be knowledgeable in this arena.

The Executive Committee took its Fall recess, not having a formal meeting in November or December. A couple of matters that came up were handled by email or phone calls. Once again, rest assured that we have not ignored anything that might touch on the myriad of issues that may impact retirees.

With the October Conference being the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of CRCEA, the business meeting passed a budget for 2019 and scheduled some topics to be discussed during the year. One of the items on the agenda was the election of the CRCEA officers for the next two years. With the exception of Vice-President Mike Sloan, all the incumbents were elected for a continuing term. Mike

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chose not to continue for his own personal reasons, but will continue to be active in the organization as the Affiliate Committee chair and the Conference Committee chair, as well as monitoring and coordinating our website. Many thanks to Mike for his past and continued commitment to CRCEA!

So, we now welcome a new member on to the Executive Committee. Doug Fletcher was unanimously elected to the position of Vice-President. Doug is a retiree of Marin County, and was an active participant in the most recent conference planning. I am confident that he will be an excellent resource as we go forward.

Marin County (MCARE) has a history of good leadership, with Ann Gregory having served as an excellent Vice-President of CRCEA in the past. Ann was a strong supporter and did so many things for this organization, including making sure I got my tasks done on time and did keep me in line. She continues to keep her fingers in both MCARE and CRCEA and is a true asset to both organizations.

A thank you also to Will Hoag from Ventura County for looking for people willing to serve CRCEA in a leadership position. Will is a low key

person, but I know he spent time and effort to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to participate if they wanted to. So, now he gets the next year off (maybe).

The California Legislature is on the brink of coming back in session for the start of a new two-year session. With both the Senate and the Assembly with a "super-majority", we will be watching carefully legislation and what might impact our County Employees Retirement Law (CERL), or other items impacting our retiree members.

The Kingston Trio many years back had a song that started with, "Here we go round again", so let me put on the old record - so it repeats and repeats and repeats. CRCEA continues to reach out for Affiliates. Those are businesses that provide services to retirees or otherwise support public employees and retirees that we can approach to be affiliates of CRCEA. All of our affiliates believe that they have something of benefit for your members, and the local associations will be looking at each of them to evaluate at the local level. You can check on the basic information on each at our website under the Affiliate tab. If you

have a question on their service/product, do not hesitate to give them a call in order to see if that affiliate can be of benefit to your association. As always, if anyone has any idea or potential affiliate that would be of benefit to CRCEA and its members, give Mike Sloan, Carlos Gonzalez, or any Executive Committee member the information and we will follow up.

In closing, let me give a major THANK YOU to all of the delegates for your confidence in the election of the CRCEA officers for the next term. Your commitment to the organization and willingness to trust them to carry on the business is greatly appreciated.

Until next time.....



SKIP MURPHY, President



**CRECEA Technology
Committee
by Gene Pennington,
MCARE**

At our CRCEA 2018 Fall October Conference, President Skip Murphy created a Technology Committee and asked me to chair it. In later discussions with Skip, I accepted the Chairman's position. Skip gave me some general directions for our Committee.

His expectations are:

- Use technology better to run CRCEA and our Associations.
- Use technology to run and manage our conferences.
- Use technology to make it easier for CRCEA and our Associations to manage themselves.
- Use technology to communicate with our members. Skip wants to communicate with all CRECEA members, not just the Presidents and Delegates.

In order to meet those expectations and to make the new committee of value, Skip and I agreed on the following actions for me.

- Send a message to CRCEA's Executive Board Member taking a short survey to help identify their goals and objec-

tives for our new committee.

- After receiving those survey results, I'll send a message to each Association President and Delegate asking them to take a short survey to help identify their goals and objectives for our new committee.
- Recruit members for our Technology Committee.
- Report back to the CRCEA Executive Committee on a regular basis.

If you have any suggestions for members of our new Technology Committee, please let me know. Please provide their name, e-mail address and phone number as well as the Association they belong to at this time. My contact information may be found at the end of this article.

While not a requirement, some experience with technology will be helpful.

I will invite the current CRCEA webmaster, Lori Vandemeir, to be a member so we'll have an insider to help our committee get off to a good start. Mike Sloan has been in contact with her so she knows I'll be in touch with her soon.

In the meantime, if any of you have any suggestions or

comments, please send them to me.

Some of you asked about the SCHED app (<https://sched.com/>) MCARE used for our conference. I checked with SCHED and the app is available at a discounted price of \$125.00. If you want more information please contact me. I am available to help you set it up and train someone from your Association to use and maintain it. It is very easy and does not require a lot of work.

A couple of you also expressed interest in learning more about Wild Apricot (www.WildApricot.com) the web company MCARE uses for its website and membership management. If you want to either write me or call, I'll be glad to share as much as I can and also to help your Association if you want to set it up, etc.

Gene Pennington

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genepenn1@comcast.net

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Cell Phone: 415-254-3839

GOOD TO KNOW

On December 14, 2018, the Internal Revenue Service today issued the 2019 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the de-

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ductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on January 1, 2019, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 58¢ per mile driven for business use, up 3.5¢ from the rate for 2018;
- 20¢ per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, up 2¢ from the rate for 2018, and
- 14¢ per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The business mileage rate increased 3.5¢ for business travel driven and 2¢ for medical and certain moving expense from the rates for 2018. The charitable rate is set by statute and remains unchanged.

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
"POST 82" LAWSUIT
by Bill Mitchell, President
Retired Public Employees
of San Joaquin County
(RPESJC)**

Like most - if not all - counties, San Joaquin negotiated a Settlement Agreement following the Ventura Decision in 1999. One provision of the Agreement

was that individuals who retired between 1982 and December 31, 2000 would receive an increase to their retirement pay in the amount of \$10 per month for every year of County service, up to a maximum of \$300. These retirees are referenced as the "Post 82" group. The account was not initiated with the full actuarial amount calculated to fund the supplemental benefit throughout the lifetimes of these retirees. However, the agreement also specified how the Post 82 account was to be funded going forward.

In 2006-07, the supplemental benefit was suspended for about 19 months because the Post 82 account had been depleted. In the year 2007, a committee of the RPESJC Board, with advice from a consulting attorney, identified funds they believed should have been deposited into the Post 82 account, and requested that the Board of Retirement put those monies into the fund and restart the payments. The Board of Retirement agreed to put a substantial amount of those funds into the account in late 2007, and the payments began to flow again in December 2007. We believed the amount placed into the account at the time would be sufficient

to last for many years, and the Retirement Board would add more money in the future, if necessary.

It became apparent sometime in 2015-16 that the Post 82 account was again going to run out of funds in early 2017. The RPESJC Board again leaped into action and attempted to work with the Retirement Association staff and Board of Retirement to identify means of averting suspension of the supplemental benefit. This time, however, solutions were not found. With the support of the same consulting attorney, and an accountant experienced in public retirement matters, a comprehensive analysis was performed of the financial and actuarial reports from 2001 forward. Monies were identified that, in the opinion of RPESJC, should have been used to fund the Post 82 account as specified in the Settlement Agreement. A successful resolution was not reached, and the payments were stopped as of March 1, 2017. Ultimately, RPESJC filed an administrative claim with the Board of Retirement, alleging that the Settlement Agreement was violated because funds that should have been added to the Post 82 account were not distributed in accordance with the

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Agreement. The claim was rejected.

It was determined that the only remaining alternative was to initiate a class action lawsuit, which was filed later in 2017. The case is still in fairly early stages, as key depositions are just being completed. The filing included a request to treat the matter with some urgency, as the average age of individuals in this group is mid-80s. Retirees received an early favorable ruling on a question of statutes of limitations when the judge decided the case could move forward.

Additional updates will be provided as major developments occur.

**Build it and They
Will Come
Your Own Local
Coalition
by CRCEA Retirement
Security Committee
George Shoemaker,
Chair, and Lou Scarpino**

The CRCEA Retirement Security Committee (RSC) met at the CRCEA Fall Conference to discuss furtherance of the general goals previously set – **“To protect current retirees’ hard-earned pensions and benefits”**. By exten-

sion, this also includes protection of the retirement system that current employees are counting on to be there when they retire.

Major work by the RSC to date, has determined that Coalition Building and Early Threat Identification are the major keys to success. On the surface, coalition building may seem daunting, given the very limited resources the twenty CRCEA association member counties have at their disposal. However, San Diego RESDC has pioneered a successful and easily replicated model that was premised on the “Build it and they will come” philosophy. Their model is proving both workable and highly valuable.

Specifically, Valuable Benefits of the Coalition Include:

- Strength through increased numbers
- Constant and consistent approaches to core common issues
- Proliferation of knowledge about issues in your area
- Better communication and working relationships
- An Improved Rapid Response capability to attacks
- A broader base to help Identify Threats, and As-

sess and Respond Early

- A broader advocacy base and audience
- Greater Access to Relevant Research Materials
- Administrative resources to operate and help maintain and run the coalition
- Engagement of far more resources to address common issues

Highly Valuable RESOURCES that naturally become available through coalitions include:

- Full Array of Legislative Resources
- Staffing – Operational as well as Administrative
- Advocacy Mechanisms
- Message Development Mechanisms
- Message Dissemination Mechanisms
- Research Materials and Sources, and
- Ad Hoc Funding

So how has San Diego pulled off this seemingly impossible feat? Their approach was to simply invite participation in informal meetings of groups with the same or similar concerns about the attack on pensions we and they have been suffering. This provided the advantage of allowing all participant groups to address just common issues without the cumbersome work of formal organizational development.

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The result has been a focus on just common goals, with none of the resource expenditures normally associated with melding the various uncommon and different issues multiple coalition groups face. To date the following common concerns and positions have been identified for defending and advocacy by the San Diego Coalition:

- All workers should have a retirement security
- Public retiree pensions are reasonable
- Public employees pay for their pension benefits
- Retiree pensions contribute to the economy

Building Your Own County Coalition based on the San Diego model is feasible, even with your limited resources. We believe this because most of the eleven groups, that attend the San Diego Coalition informal meetings, have a statewide presence and generally have in place regional, county, or city representatives.

The RSC sees this as a major leg up for developing similar local coalitions in our 37 Act counties since the path has been paved and the model for participation already set. The goal would be a similarly constituted coalition to that in

San Diego that could include some of the following type groups:

- Retired Employees of San Diego County (RESDC)
- City of San Diego Retired Employees Association (CSDREA)
- San Diego County Employees Retirement Association (SDCERA)
- Retired Fire & Police Association of San Diego
- California Retired County Employees Association
- Retired Public Employees Association
- California State Retirees Association
- California State Employees Association (CESA)
- National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association
- California Alliance for Retired Americans
- Californians for Retirement Security

While the larger CRCEA Counties have a lot of territory to cover and may, therefore, want to replicate the San Diego effort strictly within their own county, there is nothing to prevent two or more – especially smaller counties, from pooling their resources for a single multi-county effort.

As we are currently monitoring developing threats, the RSC sees a strong

need to expand this Coalition model as quickly as possible and looks forward to working with CRCEA Associations to rapidly get similar local coalitions in place. If you need further information, or when you are ready to proceed, please contact George Shoemaker at: george@shoemakerhome.com

Holiday Dump Cake

1 16 oz can whole cranberry sauce
1 21 oz can apple pie filling
1 box (2 layer size) yellow cake mix
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
1/2 cup chopped almonds or walnuts; or granola

- Heat oven to 325°.
- Dump cranberry sauce into an ungreased 9"x13" pan; spread evenly.
- Dump apple pie filling into pan, and spread evenly over cranberry sauce.
- Sprinkle dry cake mix over top of fruit layers.
- Cut up butter and dot top of cake.
- Sprinkle evenly with nuts or granola.
- Bake 1 hour 15 minutes.
- Cool 10 minutes.
- Serve with ice cream.

Enjoy!



CRCEA 2019 Spring Conference - Hosted by Retired Employees of San Diego County, Inc. (RESDC) by John McTighe, RESDC President

Retired Employees of San Diego County, Inc. (RESDC) is looking forward to hosting the CRCEA Spring 2019 Conference, April 14-17 at the DoubleTree San Diego – Hotel Circle. Please see Page 9 for a flyer for the event.

The DoubleTree Hotel's recent remodel includes recently upgraded guest and meeting rooms with private balconies, the newly opened Seaglass restaurant and a relaxing pool area. RESDC is excited to offer CRCEA conference attendees either 2 Queen Room or 1 King Room at \$155 per night (with the option of three additional day's stay pre and post the event dates at the conference rate), includes free self-parking and breakfast (and don't forget about the warm chocolate chip cookie upon check-in!).

Our board and staff are working hard to bring you valuable and engaging content, and we are excited to share with you a sneak peek at our programming.

On Monday, the Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Paul Aisen, Professor of Neurology, Director USC Alzheimer's Therapeutic Research Institute (ATRI). Then we will have two presentations:

- The Retirement Security Coalition, a local partnership of pro-pension organizations, will discuss how the coalition formed and how a similar network could be built in your area. Panel participants to include: Chris Brewster, Board Member, City of San Diego Retired Employees' Association (CSDREA); Mark Nanzer, Executive Director, RESDC; and Gaspar Luna, Director, District G, California State Retirees.
- Then get tips about Avoiding Scams & Preventing Elder Abuse from Paul Greenwood, retired Deputy District Attorney and Lead Elder Abuse Prosecutor at San Diego County DA's Office.

On Tuesday, we will have four presentations, in addition to the standard Legislative Report and Standing Committee Breakout Sessions:

- Hear about The Future of Retirement from Hank Kim, Executive Director

and Counsel at National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS).

- Discover how to find life-long learning opportunities and Enrichment Activities for Seniors with representatives from the Osher Institute, Oasis, and the San Diego Continuing Education Emeritus Program.
- Learn how individuals and businesses can plan for Disaster Recovery with speaker Bennett Cummings, San Diego County Senior Emergency Services Coordinator, Office of Emergency Services.
- Gain Strategies for Communication with Members, including methods to help recruit and retain members, from RESDC Technology Manager Liz Silverman.

In addition to the presentations, we also have an array of fun activities, including a "RESDC Roundup" no-host social mixer on Sunday evening at Stone Brewing in Liberty Station. We have also secured a discount on Old Town Trolley sightseeing tour passes, and a discount to the Padres vs. Rockies baseball game on Monday night at Petco Park. Plus, we will have a free Tuesday BBQ buffet lunch, thanks to the gener-

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ous sponsorship of My Senior Health Plan. And of course, we will have receptions on Monday and Tuesday, and a banquet dinner on Tuesday evening.

Keep an eye on your mailboxes in early February for the packet with more details and the registration form. We can't wait to welcome you to San Diego in April!

**Meet Doug Fletcher
Incoming Vice
President, CRCEA**

Doug Fletcher has been elected as the newest member of CRCEA Executive Committee, for the position of Vice President currently held by Mike Sloan. Doug is excited to be involved in the organization and to be part of its vital role in representing retirees.

Doug retired from the Citrus Heights Police Department as a Lieutenant after 32 years in law enforcement after first starting his career at the San Rafael Police Department where he worked for 22 years and reached the rank of sergeant.

Doug lives in Sonoma County where his three grown children and father

also reside. His daughter attends Sonoma State University where she will graduate in spring of next year, and both stepsons are also in law enforcement. After retirement Doug purchased a 5th wheel trailer and enjoys traveling with his wife, Debbie, and their two dogs.

Doug is on the board of the Marin County Association of Retired Employees, and is looking forward to his role with CRCEA. Doug specifically would like to thank Mike Sloan for his dedication to the organization and mentoring.

**CRCEA 2019 Dues
by Carlos Gonzalez,
CRCEA Treasurer**

2019 Annual dues season is on! Please remember to include with your payment the additional \$150.00 corresponding to the County Delegate fee for the annual CRCEA conferences (Spring & Fall). This is in agreement with our Delegates' decision at our business meeting of October 17, 2018. If you have any questions, please call or email Carlos Gonzalez: at: 760-519-5834 or usmcr.gonzalez@gmail.com

**Future
CRCEA
Conferences**

Spring 2019
San Diego (RESDC)

Fall 2019
Sonoma/Mendocino
(SCARE/AMCRE)

Spring 2020
Tulare (TCREA)

Fall 2020
Stanislaus/Merced
(RESCO/REMCO)

Spring 2021
Los Angeles (RELAC)

Fall 2021
Fresno (REFCO)

Spring 2022
Orange (REAOC)

Fall 2022
Sacramento (SCREA)

Spring 2023
San Bernardino (RESBC)

**WE HOPE YOU WILL BE
ABLE TO JOIN US FOR
GREAT INFORMATION,
NETWORKING, AND, OR
COURSE, FUN!**



CRCEA SPRING 2019 CONFERENCE APRIL 15-17, 2019

HOSTED BY RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY, INC. (RESDC)



HOTEL

DOUBLETREE SAN DIEGO — HOTEL CIRCLE
1515 HOTEL CIRCLE SOUTH, SAN DIEGO, CA, 92108

Hotel Reservation Deadline: March 15, 2019



2 Queen Room or 1 King Room
\$155 per night + taxes
Includes self-parking, breakfast, & in-room WiFi.

Book online at www.resdc.net/crcea or call
(800) 486-5315 and reference California Retired
County Employees Association.

*The conference rate is available the nights of
Thursday, April 11 through Friday, April 19 (check
out on Saturday, April 20), subject to availability.
Please note that the hotel does not provide shuttle
service from San Diego International Airport.*

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

WWW.RESDC.NET/CRCEA

Visit the conference website for the
following information:

- Registration instructions and printable form
- Hotel details and reservation link
- Schedule (posted closer to conference)
- Driving directions & transit options
- Sponsors
- Things to do around San Diego



QUESTIONS

For questions, contact the RESDC Office at
(619) 688-9229, toll-free at (866) 688-9229, or
by email at resdc@resdc.net. Office hours are
Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

**CRCEA
Executive Committee**

E.F. "Skip" Murphy
President

Doug Fletcher
Vice President

Carlos Gonzalez
Treasurer

Virginia Adams
Secretary

William "Bill" de la Garza
Immediate Past President

**CRCEA
Committees/Chairs**

Affiliate
Mike Sloan

Audit/Finance
Jerry Jacobs

Benefits
John Michaelson

Bylaws
David Muir

Communications
Virginia Adams

Conference
Mike Sloan

Executive
E.F. "Skip" Murphy

Legislative
Art Goulet

Legislative Advisory
E.F. "Skip" Murphy

**CRCEA
Committees/Chairs
(continued)**

Membership
Rhonda Biesemeier

Nominating
Will Hoag

Retirement Security
George Shoemaker

**CRCEA
Member
Associations/
Presidents**

Alameda County
Mary Miller, Acting

Contra Costa County
Mike Sloan

Fresno County
Bob Dowell

Imperial County
David Prince

Kern County
John DeMario

Los Angeles County
David Muir

Marin County
Gene Pennington

Mendocino County
Sue Thornhill

Merced County
Leon "Sandy" Teague

**CRCEA
Member
Assocs/Presidents
(continued)**

Orange County
Linda Robinson and
Doug Storm

Sacramento County
Barbara Smith

San Bernardino County
Deborah Barmack

San Diego County
John McTighe

San Joaquin County
William Mitchell

San Mateo County
Linda Bruzzon

Santa Barbara County
Annette Paladino

Sonoma County
Alix Shor

Stanislaus County
Rhonda Biesemeier and
Myrna Lebert

Tulare County
Kevin Mizner

Ventura County
Nancy Settle

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