



NEWS & VIEWS

Retired Employees of the City & County of San Francisco, Inc.

Important Announcement from your RECCSF Executive Board

All members please take note.

The Executive Board has decided that it is time for RECCSF to follow the lead taken by other organizations into the electronic age.

To that end, commencing with the July/August issue, our *News & Views* newsletter will be delivered **only** by e-mail. By implementing

this policy, we will be able to direct the resulting fiscal savings toward improved outreach and member services. We will also be able to deliver timely alerts to members on critical issues that arise between newsletters.

However, we know that some members do not have computer access, and will still need to receive their printed copy. If this is your circumstance, please mail a note requesting a hard copy of the newsletter to the RECCSF Office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294. You only need to send one request.

If you are currently receiving the hard copy and also have an e-mail address that we don't know about, please e-mail it to the RECCSF office at reccsf@att.net, so that we can ensure a smooth transition.

We also wish to thank all of our members for ongoing support of all of our efforts to ensure our fiscal health, such as participation in our raffles and the voluntary donations at the refreshment table. Also, we wish to remind you that any direct donations made to the Friends of RECCSF are most appreciated.

President's Message

By Sue Blomberg, President

April showers bring May flowers—at least, that's how the old saying goes. Everyone knows we need the rain, but I wish that we could be more like Camelot, where it only rains between midnight and 4 a.m.

April is the month when all those plants we put in the ground last year start blooming; but that, too, has its drawbacks. Although my hay fever has disappeared since I moved to San Francisco, I have many friends who seem to be allergic to almost

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April 2014 Calendar

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 9

Socializing and refreshments:

11:10 – 11:50 a.m.

Program: 11:30 a.m.

Business meeting: noon

Bingo: 12:45 p.m.

Irish Cultural Center,
45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

News & Views

Editorial Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 15, 9 a.m.

Taraval Police Station

All interested parties welcome.

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 15, 10 a.m.

Taraval Police Station

All interested parties welcome.

Public Meetings:

Retired Firemen & Widows Association

Thursday, May 15, 1 p.m.

Irish Cultural Center,
45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

Veteran Police Officers

Tuesday, April 8, 11 a.m.

Pacific Rod & Gun Club,
520 John Muir Dr., at Lake Merced

Retirement System

Wednesday, April 9, 2 p.m.

30 Van Ness, Suite 3000

Health Service System

Thursday, April 10, 1 p.m.

City Hall, Room 416

UESF Retired Division

For time/location, contact
Diane Doe at (415) 822-2099
Ddoe@mac.com

SEIU 1021 West Bay

Retirees Chapter

Monday, April 21, Noon-2 p.m.

Union Hall, 350 Rhode Island St.,
100 South Bldg.

Claire Zvanski at (415) 341-3085 or
czvanski@hotmail.com

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New Members

Stoney Lai	USD
Frank Lum	MTA
Valerie McGrew	CRT
Michael Ryan	FIR
Patricia White	POL

Last-Minute Tax Tips

By Bert Lee, Financial Services Manager

We've all had years when our taxes come down to the wire. If this is one of those years for you, follow these last-minute tax tips from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to ensure that your taxes are complete—and accurate—when April 15 rolls around:

- **File online.** Save time and postage by e-filing your Form 1040. The process is safe, secure and simple. Visit IRS.gov to get started.
- **Double-check the important stuff.** When you're in a rush, it's easy to make mistakes on important information. Make sure all identification numbers (such as Social Security numbers), refunds, or balance amounts and tax-table figures are correct.
- **Sign on the dotted line.** Don't forget to sign and date your return. If you file a joint return, you and your spouse both must sign it, even if only one of you had income. Additionally, paid tax preparers also must sign.
- **Pay online.** If you owe money this year, make your payments on time by sending them electronically. The IRS allows taxpayers to authorize electronic funds withdrawals or pay via debit or credit card.
- **Request an extension.** If you know your taxes will be late, request an extension to file. You must have either requested an extension or filed your return by the tax deadline. The IRS reminds taxpayers that an extension to file is not an extension to pay.

We're here to help you prepare your San Francisco Federal Credit Union account for tax season. Speed up your refund by setting it up for direct deposit to your account. Or set up automatic transfers to a special savings account to cover this year's tax payment. Stop in today to take advantage of these convenient options.

Membership and Subscriptions

Retired City Employees: annual membership is \$36 per year or \$400 for a lifetime (may be payable over four months or over four years in increments of \$100 per year).

- Subscription only is \$36 per year.
- Please download membership application form from our Web site, www.sffretirees.org.

News & Views is the publication of the Retired Employees of the City & County of San Francisco, Inc., a nonprofit organization. *News & Views* is published to express the policies, ideals and accomplishments of the organization. Nothing shall be published herein that is racist, sexist or ageist, or that is derogatory toward religious beliefs and other personal issues; nor shall be published anything in violation of Article VII, Section 1 of the RECCSF Constitution. Editorial contributions from individuals, organizations, and groups other than RECCSF and its members may be included in *News & Views* only upon the approval of the Editorial Committee. Subscriptions to *News & Views* are available for \$36 per year.

Submissions to *News & Views* are solicited and encouraged, and should be submitted to:

RECCSF Office, Attn: Sheila Mullen
3915 Irving Street, S.F., Ca. 94122-1294
Telephone: (415) 681-5949 Fax: (415) 681-5398
sheilamullen@mac.com

Sheila Mullen, Editor
RECCSF OFFICERS:
Sue Blomberg, President
Al Casciato, 1st Vice President
John Madden, 2nd Vice President
Claire Zvanski, Secretary
George Lau, Treasurer
Leo Martinez, Sergeant-at-Arms

Rest In Peace

The following members have recently passed away.

Edward J. Begley	FIR	June M. Graham	REC
Angelo J. Bernardi	FIR	Betty L. Holt	DPT
Dorothy C. Connell	TTX	Wing C. Kwong	DPH
Francis R. Fahey	POL	Teresa Reilly	DPT
Norman Faix	FIR	William L. Wickliffe	FIR
America Garcia	POL		

Useful Phone Numbers

S.F. Retirement System
Web site: www.sfgov.org/sfers
Phone Numbers:
(415) 487-7000 • (888) 849-0777

Health Service System
Web site: www.myhss.org
Phone Numbers:
(415) 554-1750 • (800) 541-2266
Phone Hours for both:
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Health Service Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski

You have an opportunity to name the HSS Wellness program! Words that rhyme are *always* best and most memorable. While the staff recommendation is “stay strong, live long,” it was agreed that all members should be involved in this effort. Send your suggestions to HSS, attn: Rosemary.

Rates and Benefits: The 10-county survey was presented, increasing less than previous survey trends. The economy, plus efforts to provide lower cost health benefits to public employees, was cited as the reason. The monthly contribution for 2015 will be \$567.80, which is 1.46% above the current \$559.65.

Determining rates for 2015 when 2014 has just begun is a challenge. But, good experience (no high claims) seems to be continuing in all plans, so it is anticipated that rates will remain stable. One should know that—unlike the other two plans—Kaiser information has a three-month lag, so updated data could impact premium rates in time. The Accountable Care Or-

ganizations in Blue Shield seem to be very successful, and are keeping claim costs low, which translate into lower premiums.

Vision plan rates are guaranteed through December, 2015. At this point, plans to offer an increased benefit at an additional cost remain stalled, because of the limitations of the eMerge system. The retiree dental survey is scheduled to be sent at the end of March.

A very extensive membership demographics summary was presented at the meeting. The System covers nearly 110,000 lives, which include about 35,000 retiree lives. 92% reside in the seven Bay Area counties. Actives are 58%, while retirees are 42%, and 55% of dependents are children under age 26. The average age of retirees is now 71.34 years. Retirees live in nearly every state in the nation, with 51 living outside the US. 94% live in California.

The **Wellness Center is open for business on the first floor at 1145 Market St.** “Lunch and learn” sessions, plus EAP services, are underway. **HSS moved its offices**

to the Third Floor on March 14. Don't forget to send your wellness program slogan suggestions to Rosemary at HSS!

Questions? Comments? Contact Health Service Committee Chair Ray Mason at (650) 344-1506, or Claire Zvanski at (415) 341-3085 or czvanski@gmail.com.

Travel Committee Report

By Beverly Pardini and Marylou Allen

Wed.-Fri., May 14-16

Spend two nights at the cozy Carson Valley Inn in Minden, Nevada; next day, a tour of the Nevada State Museum in Carson City (formerly the Carson City Mint). Included: picnic lunch in the historic town of Genoa and Basque dinner in Gardnerville.

Wed.-Fri., June 18-20

After 75 years in the same family, the Nugget in Sparks has changed hands, and features new renovations. Spend two nights in the Nugget's East Tower and visit other casinos while in Reno; also, enjoy the Nugget's indoor swimming pool and spa.

Info: Marylou at (800) 334-3465 or mrylallen@yahoo.com.

Info: Marylou at
(800) 334-3465 or
mrylallen@yahoo.com.

President's Message

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everything.

April is tax time. No need to expand on *that* subject.

April includes: National Tartan Day (6); International Day of Human Space Flight (12); Thomas Jefferson's Birthday (13); Chinese Language Day (20); Earth Day (22); Arbor Day (25); and Confederate Memorial Day (28), for those citizens who still haven't concluded the “War Between the States.” And the month has many more holidays that I haven't mentioned!

April is the first month of my retirement back in 2005, and I celebrate it every year.

Why such an interest in holidays? Although, theoretically, every day is a holiday for us since we're

retired, that's not always true. We have self-imposed commitments: lists of regular chores; spring cleaning; whatever we have put off until April.

We look forward to holidays because they are breaks from life's regular responsibilities. Somehow, I always think of a holiday as the carrot on the stick in front of my face, keeping me going until I have reached the point of “deserving” the reward of stopping the world for a day or two, to relax.

So, maybe all those holidays in April are not as foolish as they might seem at first glance. Maybe I can start celebrating Jefferson's birthday—why should Washington and Lincoln have all the fun?

Don't call me on April 13—I'll be enjoying a holiday!

RECCSF Office Hours

Office Manager Reyna Kuk will be staffing the office Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon; and Wednesdays, 3 to 6 p.m.

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING



From left, Jack & Pat Jordan, and Betty Jane Eckmann.



Standing, from left: Jill Selchau, Charles Hastings, Seated, from left: Nancy Inferrera, Beverly Nelson, and Evelyn Bennett.



From left, Pat Hall, Sharon Martenson, and Margaret Cui.



From left, Larry & Julie Fong, and Shizako Turmon.



From left: Mareike Carter, and Gary & Betty Sommerfeld.



Marylou Allen, Star Travelers, gave a presentation on exciting upcoming trips.



Speaker Shirley Chen Ledbetter, San Francisco Adult Protective Services, gave an informative talk on elder abuse prevention and treatment.

For your calendars:

RECCSF Annual Luncheon to be Held on Wednesday, June 4

The cost is the same as in the past four years—\$30 per person. If you reserve a table for ten, please include with your payment a complete list of names and entrée choices of those at your table. *No payment will be accepted without a properly completed reservation form, and no form will be accepted without payment.*

Checks are to be made payable to "RECCSF," and may be mailed, along with the reservation form, to the RECCSF office at 3915 Irving Street, San Francisco, CA 94122-1294. *Reservations and payments must be received by Friday, May 30—no exceptions! No tickets will be*

sold at the door, and no seating will be rearranged at the door.

On the day of the luncheon, each attendee (except *reserved tables*) will be given an envelope that has the table number on the outside; inside will be a "ticket" for your entrée, to be placed on the table so that the waitresses know which entrée to serve you. All seating will have been previously arranged by the Hospitality Committee.

Raffle tickets will be sold at the luncheon for \$1 each, or six for \$5. The number of cash prizes of \$25 each to be awarded depends on how many tickets sold, with 50% percent of the proceeds going to

prizes and 50% to the RECCSF operating fund.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact RECCSF Office Manager Reyna Kuuk at reccsf@att.net or (415) 681-5949; include your name and phone number in the message. Reyna will contact you as soon as possible.

We look forward to an enjoyable June 4 luncheon, and celebrating the installation of our new officers and board members.

Hope to see you there!

Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco Annual Luncheon and Installation of Officers Wednesday, June 4, 2014

United Irish Cultural Center, 45th Avenue and Sloat Boulevard
11 a.m. No-host Cocktails ~ 12:15 p.m. Luncheon
Luncheon Tickets: \$30.

Make your reservation at the **April 9** or **May 14** general membership meetings OR mail this form with your check (payable to RECCSF) to the RECCSF Office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294.

All below information must be filled out or your reservation form will be returned to you.

Table number assignments and meal tickets will be distributed at the luncheon.

Reservations and payments must be received by Wednesday, May 21 – no exceptions!

Questions? Contact reccsf@att.net or (415) 681-5949.

Annual Luncheon Reservation Form ~ Please Print!

Name(s) (e.g., John and Jane Doe): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail address: _____ Daytime Phone (w/area code) _____

Entrée choice: If making a reservation for more than one person, please indicate how many of each entrée type:

☐

Chicken Pomodoro with Mashed Potatoes

☐

Parmesan Crusted Sole with Rice

☐

Cheese Ravioli

Please note the names of all other attendees with whom you would like to sit at your table.

Name/s: _____ Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Detach and mail to: RECCSF Office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294. Thank you for your support!

Retirement Committee Report

By Jean S. Thomas,
Herb Meiberger, CFA,
and Stephen Herold

Current Plan performance and a look ahead

Reported preliminary results as of 2/28/2014 are: Plan value, \$18.85B—yet another all-time high—and eight-month fiscal year-to-date (FYTD) earnings, 13.22%. These results are indeed impressive, but an over-arching question remains: Will the Plan be able to attain the 7.58% per year estimated earnings level in the future? To meet that challenge, new Chief Investment Officer (CIO) **Bill Coaker** is recommending an enhanced program—called “active share”—to capture excess earnings above standard benchmark returns. Successful in other jurisdictions, the program emphasizes in-depth, on-site, due diligence and advanced technology-based research by dedicated staff. SFERS anticipates the additional needs—especially augmented investment staff and research materials—and includes them in its FY 2014/15 budget requests. In addition, the CIO recommends selling bonds and investing 10%-15% of assets in hedge funds.

Actuarial matters: FY 2014/15 City contribution rate; funding ratios, 7/1/2013 vs.7/1/2012

At its 3/12/2014 meeting, the SFERS Board accepted consulting actuary, **Cheiron's, July 1, 2013 Actuarial Valuation's** recommended City contribution rate for FY 2014/15: 26.76%. After employees' pickup (*thanks to 2011-passed Proposition C*) the City's effective rate is reduced to 23.18%, giving the City's estimated FY 2014/15 out-of-pocket cost of approximately \$610M. We're happy to report that the City's FY 2014/15 total rate is about 1.5% less than actuaries projected in 7/1/2012.

Funding ratio comparison follows:

	<u>7/1/2013</u>	<u>7/1/2012</u>
Market value	84.1%	78.9%
Actuarial value	80.6%	82.6%

Notice: For the first time since 2007, the 7/1/2013 market value of assets exceeds the actuarial value, meaning that earnings are improving. However, the 100% market value of assets ratio still eludes us. (Say a prayer for POB's lawsuit!)

Other Items of Interest

- At a special-called meeting on 2/19/2014, the Board unanimously agreed to apply *Social Investment Policies and Procedures*, Level I, to fossil fuel investment (holdings worth \$500M+ within SFERS' total existing portfolio). Level I limits expression of social concerns to shareholder voting. The Board also set a 60-day timeline for additional educational materials.
- The S.F. Board of Supervisors approved SFERS' relocation to 1145 Market Street! SFERS Executive Director **Jay Huish** says the move could take place as early as next August, but more likely in September or October.

Correction to the March 2014 Retirement Committee Report, Other Points of Interest, regarding the Retirees Health Care Trust Fund (RHCTF) Board

We apologize to the RHCTF Board, and to our readers, for an incorrect statement that the RHCTF Board had decided to invest its \$40M “alongside” SFERS' trust assets. RHCTF Board President **Pauline A. Marx** states the correct situation in a 3/11/2014 e-mail to **Jean Thomas** (author of that section of the report), as follows: “At the 1/28/2014 meeting of the RHCTF Board, the Board's advisor, *Meketa Investment Group*, presented four implementation options for investment of the Trust Fund. The Board discussed the options presented and asked *Meketa* to further analyze two of them: direct co-investment with San Francisco Employees' Retirement System, and investing through the California Employer's Retirement Benefit Trust. In either case, the RHCTF Board will continue to have fiduciary responsibility for the assets.”

Questions? Comments? Contact Herb at *herb.sf@gmail.com*, Jean at *jeansthomas@yahoo.com*, or (415) 665-4149. Stephen is still recuperating from his knee operation; please keep him in your thoughts for a full recovery soon.

Errata

The News & Views Editorial
Committee regrets the content error
that appeared in the March 2014
Retirement Committee Report.

Protect Our Benefits

By Sharon Johnson

Protect Our Benefits is an independent political action committee which falls under the provisions of the San Francisco Ethics Commission and is not part of RECCSF. The opinions are those of the writer.

The primary purpose of POB's work is to ensure that retirees' benefits are protected. The Proposition C lawsuit to overturn a provision of voter-approved

Proposition C has dominated the work of POB; as the matter is in the appellate court, there's an opportunity to refocus our efforts and increase our visibility, both inside and outside City Hall. Hence, we are discussing a Six-Month Strategic Plan to increase the visibility of POB efforts in protecting our earned benefits while we work with our legal team and others to submit amicus briefs.

Writ of Mandate Update

The POB legal team has apprised the committee that they are continuing with their work on the opening brief addressing the appeal. The work is based on updating legal research of defining and refining the issues on appeal. For example, one of the issues decided against POB

is that legislative enactments are presumptively valid.

According to our attorney, while this statement is generally accurate, the court of appeal is authorized and required to exercise its independent review of legal issues, especially pension statutes, which are construed liberally in favor of pensioners. POB remains confident that we all will prevail in the appellate court.

Your continuing contributions toward financing the lawsuit and POBs continued efforts are greatly appreciated. Please make your check payable to Protect Our Benefits, (POB), P.O. Box 320057, San Francisco, CA 94132. Your donation is not tax deductible under federal or state law.

Earthquake Preparedness

By Ray Favetti

On April 18, 2014 San Francisco will hold its annual 1906 Fire and Earthquake memorial. We should mark this occasion by reflecting on how we can protect ourselves in the event of another major earthquake (such as in 1906), and, most recently, the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989. ***Preparation and planning can help save lives. Some suggestions are:***

Before

- Prepare an emergency plan, conduct drills, and practice safety procedures.
- Keep emergency supplies on hand, and check the stock frequently.

During

- If you are indoors, stay inside and take cover under a sturdy table or desk.
- If you are outside, head for an open area away from falling debris.

After

- Check that everyone is safe, and inspect for damage.
- If the power goes out use battery operated flashlights—not candles.
- Have a portable radio handy for receiving public safety information.

Stay Safe!

Slate of candidates for RECCSF Office

Fiscal Year 2014/2016

Nominations can be made from the floor at the April 9 RECCSF General Membership Meeting; nominations will close at the conclusion of the meeting.

Nominees should be present to meet the membership.

President:	Claire Zvanski
First Vice President:	Linda Tabor-Beck
Second Vice President:	John Madden
Secretary:	Open

Board of Director candidates, five to be elected:

Eugene Barron	Sharon Johnson
Brian Cunningham	Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey
Richard Dolbec	Beverly Pardini
Ray Favetti	David Williams
Nancy Gin	

**Election will be held at May 14 General Membership Meeting.
Installation ceremony will held at June 4 Annual Luncheon.**

News & Views

April 2014

Volume 115, Number 4

Sheila Mullen, Editor

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LOOK NOW AT YOUR MAILING LABEL.
The month posted on the label
is the date your dues expire.



Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 9

United Irish Cultural Center,
45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 15

Taraval Police Station
2345-24th Ave.

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Note to members

**Please keep RECCSF updated
with changes in address,
phone number and e-mail.**

Letters to the Editor welcome at
sheilamullen@mac.com

News & Views

May Deadline:

☛ Friday, April 11
5:30 p.m.

Please e-mail your articles to:
sheilamullen@mac.com

Visit our Web site:

sfretirees.org

RECCSF office

e-mail address:

reccsf@att.net

Welcome, New Retirees

Upcoming General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 9

S.F.P.D. ALERT Program

Join us for a presentation by *retired S.F. Police Sergeant Mark Hernandez* of the San Francisco Police Department's S.F. ALERT Program, which mirrors the NERT Program in that it trains volunteers to assist the police in emergencies. He will describe the features of the program, and explain how you can participate to help keep San Francisco safe.

Regular Meetings

Second Wednesday of each month

Refreshments available: 11:10 – 11:50 a.m. • Program: 11:30 a.m. • Business meeting: noon • Bingo: 12:45 p.m.
United Irish Cultural Center, 45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.