



NEWS & VIEWS

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

President's Message

By Claire Zvanski

Hearing from so many of you who live outside of San Francisco has been very exciting. I will be visiting Vallejo and Marin in mid-and-late September with other RECCSF board members. Please ensure that the office has your e-mail address so we can e-mail you meeting details.

Longtime member Jean Thomas (past president), who for many years has co-written the *News & Views* Retirement Committee Report, is moving to Portland, Oregon. If you live in the area, please feel to e-mail her at jeansthomas@yahoo.com, with the view of setting up periodic RECCSF meetings.

Jean's September report is especially important, as it updates the latest issues of greatest impact to retirees. ***The most pressing SFERS issue remains the proposed investing of nearly 28% of the Retirement Fund into hedge funds and other high risk assets.*** All members, retired and active, would experience financial consequences,



depending on the outcome of this proposal. Many critical SFERS decisions are being discussed and voted on in closed session. As your representatives, we find this process unacceptable and alarming.

Our Sept. 10 RECCSF meeting (details on Page 1 calendar) will feature your elected representatives addressing members on these issues. We are hoping that all local members will attend, and recommend that you come early to secure parking.

It's your money; be there!

September 2014 Calendar

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 10

Socializing and refreshments:

11:10 - 11:50 a.m.

Program: 11:30 a.m.

Business meeting: 12 p.m.

Irish Cultural Center

45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

News & Views

One-time location change

Editorial Committee Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m.

Ingleside Police Station

1 John V. Young at San Jose Ave.

(next to Balboa Pool)

All interested parties welcome.

One-time location change

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m.

Ingleside Police Station

1 John V. Young at San Jose Ave.

(next to Balboa Pool)

All interested parties welcome.

Public Meetings:

Retired Firemen &

Widows Association

Thursday, Sept. 18, 1 p.m.

Irish Cultural Center,

45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

Veteran Police Officers

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 11 a.m.

Pacific Rod & Gun Club,

520 John Muir Dr., at Lake Merced

Retirement System

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 1 p.m.

30 Van Ness Ave., Suite 3000

Health Service System

Thursday, Sept. 11, 1 p.m.

City Hall, Room 416

UESF Retired Division

For time/location, contact

Diane Doe at (415) 822-2099 or

Ddoe@mac.com.

SEIU 1021 West Bay

Retirees Chapter

Monday, Sept. 15, 12-2 p.m.

Union Hall, 350 Rhode Island St.,

100 South Bldg.

Contact: Claire Zvanski at

(415) 341-3085 or

czvanski@hotmail.com.

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New Members

Nancy Arata	DPH
Carol Esola	USD
Alice Lee	DPH
Thomas K. O'Neill	WTR
Cindy Shamban	MTA
Dennis Tracy	FIR
Bond M. Yee	MTA

News & Views **will have a fresh look as of the October issue!**

And it's all due to
the creative efforts
of *The Bulletin*
Redesign Committee:

Sue Blomberg, chair
Sharon Johnson
Linda Tabor-Beck
Jean Thomas
Claire Zvanski

Georgette Petropoulos,
Designer

Many Thanks!

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.

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.sfbretirees.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:

Claire Zvanski, President

Linda Tabor-Beck, First Vice President

John Madden, Second Vice President

Secretary

George Lau, Treasurer

Leo Martinez, Sergeant-at-Arms

Rest In Peace

The following members have recently passed away.

Richard E. Adams	FIR	Raymond F. Loosli	WTR
Edna P. Caldwell	POL	Evelyn M. Marty	OPT
Calvin Chin	CSC		
Claire D. Jensen	GEN	Carlton L. Warner	DPH

Retirement Committee Report

By Jean S. Thomas and
Herb Meiberger, CFA

SFERS Plan Performance— ever upward—but Supplemental COLA in 2014/15 is unlikely.

Although SFERS' reported performance figures for the fiscal year (FY) ended June 30, 2014 are now only preliminary and gross of fees, they nevertheless clearly show that FY 2013/14 was a banner performance year: earnings of about 18.7% and June 30, 2014 asset market value at approximately \$19.7B—the latter another all-time high. That's the good news. The not-so-good news is: SFERS management says that the current reported June 30, 2014 market value of assets falls well short of the 100% funding level that "Prop. C" requires for our supplemental COLA. So, we retirees should not expect our one-and-a-half percent supplemental COLA this fiscal year. Of course, if **Protect Our Benefits** wins its suit against this "Prop. C" section, we might have a happy surprise! (Read the **Protect Our Benefits** column for update.)

Final performance figures for FY 2013/14 will be available in October or November when the outside auditors have completed their review.

As of July 31, 2014, preliminary-reported Plan value increased to about \$20.3B — another all-time high!

RECCSF Members speak up

Concern continues among RECCSF members and other retirees, especially about SFERS' investment staff's recommendation to allocate 15% of the portfolio's market value to hedge funds. At the Aug. 13 SFERS Board meeting, RECCSF President **Claire Zvanski** com-

mented on the Plan's potential for excessive risk if a hedge fund program is approved, and on the enormous negative impact it would have on active and retired employees, as well as on the City, if the program proved unsuccessful. She also objected to the recent "closed session" rules that delay public information and negatively affect transparency. **Dave Williams**, RECCSF executive board member and president of the SEIU West Bay Retirees' Chapter, also spoke in opposition to the hedge fund proposal.

Other Points of Interest

- Chief Investment Officer **Bill Coaker** reports that board member requests for analyses of hedge fund and other investment choices are "on course" for the Sept. 10 board meeting.
- SFERS plans to move to its new headquarters at 1145 Market St. in October. However, the Board has formally decided—as a long-term project—that SFERS will acquire a dedicated building in the Civic Center area. It will be included in SFERS' investment portfolio. Staff will determine personnel needs to get the program going and will report back to the Board in 90 days.
- After extensive research and contract negotiation, the Board approved a real assets consultant, *Cambridge Associates, LLC*. "Real assets" encompass real estate, now a separate investment class in the SFERS portfolio, and add natural resources—such as energy, mining, timber and agriculture—and infrastructure, to the investment opportunity mix.
- The Board permanently changed its regular monthly meeting start time from 2

p.m. to 1 p.m., effective August 2014. They believe their lengthy agendas require this earlier start.

- *Angeles Investment Advisors'* review of the Deferred Compensation Plan for the six months ended June 30, 2014 show: total June 30, 2014 assets of \$2.7B. Stable Value, about 35% of the portfolio, is still the largest segment, but participation has steadily declined since 2012 because conservative fixed income components have resulted in disappointing returns. Target date funds have become increasingly popular and have outperformed their index. *Watch your periodic performance reports for your own portfolio results!*

If I may, please accept my (Jean Thomas's) final comments as RECCSF Retirement Committee chair. Effective Aug. 19, I have resigned from the RECCSF Executive Board. I have moved to Oregon. Of course, SFERS Commissioner **Herb Meiberger, CFA**, will continue as co-author of this column and will direct the new chair and other committee members. **Herb Weiner** will contribute his considerable writing talents to this column; he has already scoped out the task. We owe him, and other members who join the committee, our thanks and good wishes. To board members—both SFERS and RECCSF—who have honored my service, I humbly thank you. And I have to admit: Over the years I've thoroughly enjoyed my stint on the Retirement Committee! Best to all.

Questions? Comments? Contact Herb (Meiberger) at herb.sf@gmail.com.

July Membership Meeting



Larry Fong, Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey and Julia Fong.



From left: Ruth Silva, Rose Miller and Ellen Johnson.



George Lau and new member Alice Lee.



Paul Rosenberg and Robin Dupree.



From left: Mareike Carter, Evelyn Bennett and Carol Cochran.



John Stenson and Mollie Agahi.



Eulalia Fernandes, Mary Poole and Ray Allen.



Speaker Gary Holloway and new RECCSF President Claire Zvanski. Mr. Holloway gave a fascinating presentation on San Francisco History, from the Earthquake and Fire of 1906 to the Summer of Love in the '60s.

Health Service Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski

The Mayor's Policy on Commissioner Attendance expects 100% attendance requiring timeliness, and an expectation to "sit for the duration of the meeting." Apparently, this is the annual reminder to all commissioners.

HSS staff is busy preparing for **Open Enrollment**. Sadly, Communications Director Rosemary Passantino is out on extended sick leave. Everyone is now discovering how much Rosemary does to make Open Enrollment materials attractive and comprehensive; we are all wishing Rosemary a speedy recovery.

Wellness was the major focus of presentations, with Wellness Manager Stephanie Fisher providing the details. Recreation and Park staff, as well as HSS's EAP staff, are teaching the majority of classes. Yoga, Zumba, Belly Dancing, Walking and Tai

Chi are available to all members of our system. Classes are held at the new Wellness Center, as well as City Hall. Seminars on stress management, cancer prevention foods, kitchen medicine, and creating happiness are also available. Details are available at the myhss.org Web site.

The office budget remains a great concern, as hiring for vacancies is delayed to January 2015 in order to create salary savings. Departments are also being requested to find an additional 1.5% cut to fund November ballot Proposition B that sets aside another \$20 million for the MTA. The HSS is a very small department needing all positions filled in order to provide the best services to members. This additional 1.5% cut in the budget is challenging, and will directly impact member services.

When was the last time you consulted the HSS rules? **Early retirees** must remember that

they are required to enroll in Medicare when eligible, and that applies to their eligible dependents, as well. **Medicare retirees** should know that members and their dependents enrolled in HSS Medicare Advantage or Medicare-sponsored plans "cannot be simultaneously enrolled in a non-HSS administered Medicare plan. Medicare will allow only the most recent enrollment to apply, and will require disenrollment from the prior plan."

Lastly, the location and accessibility of **urgent care** centers for UHC and Blue Shield members remains problematic and insufficient. Urgent care is the less expensive alternative to emergency room visits when there is an urgent need for medical attention that is not life-threatening. Representatives were directed to return to the board with staff responsible for contracting such services. This issue will continue to be reviewed until sufficient services are provided.

Questions? Comments? Contact Claire Zvanski at czvanski@hotmail.com or (415) 341-3085.

↔ Please Note: ↔

Change in Health Service System Thursday Office Hours

*On alternate Thursdays, the Health Service
System office opens at 9:30 a.m.*

This delayed opening allows management to provide staff with team training on up-to-date information on health and wellness benefits. For annual calendar of Thursday hours, visit http://myhss.org/member_services/hours.html.

*(Other weekdays, normal office hours
are held, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)*

Members Connect

Senior Tennis Group

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Mondays and Thursdays,
Balboa Park

Wednesdays and Fridays,
Glen Park

Contact: Harry Lew,
happylew@aol.com



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.

Celebrate San Francisco Retirees and Labor Day!

Reception with a toast saluting recently elected RECCSF President Claire Zvanski at Sinbad's, Pier 2 Restaurant, San Francisco, on Thursday, Sept. 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. RSVP: (415) 508-9126.

Writ of Mandate

The City's response brief was due Friday, Aug. 15. (This article was submitted prior to reviewing the City's response brief.) POB's brief was due shortly after Aug. 15, and our legal team may request an extension depending on the issues raised in the city's brief; the extension can

move a ruling until the end of September.

According to our legal team, there is, without a doubt, pressure on the city attorney's office on this case. We have indirect information that there have been varying opinions from their office, including the conflicting statements in the lower court proceedings regarding the 2008 charter amendment; and, specifically, the word "changes." At least a part of our reply brief will point out to the court of appeal that the City's side of the case has serious inconsistencies. Our arguments, in contrast, have been consistent from the beginning. We will also point out that when there are changes in pension benefits they must be offset by comparable advantages. We will clearly point out that there are **no** comparable benefits; it is an unconstitutional takeaway, pure and simple, and must be

reversed.

Amicus curie briefs will be filed after the POB reply brief is filed.

POB remains enthusiastic about the outcome of the lawsuit. We know the lawsuit was the right thing to do regarding Proposition C. When elected officials, union leaders, downtown interests, and some community leaders easily dismiss us, we must take action. There have been delays; but the journey is filled with the knowledge that it is the right thing to do to protect our interests. There are no real challenges, and no excuses needed, to defend our earned benefits.

Your contributions are appreciated. Please make your check payable to POB, P.O. Box 320057, San Francisco, CA 94132. Your donation is not tax deductible under federal or state law. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Travel Committee Report

By Beverly Pardini
and Marylou Allen

Thur., Sept. 11

Moments in Time, as presented by the Senior Citizens of Santa Cruz, will dazzle you with delightful singing, and high-step dancing to music you love. Before performance, enjoy lunch at the Crow's Nest overlooking the Santa Cruz Harbor.

Mon.-Thur., Sept. 15-18

Board the motor coach for relaxing journey to "Sin City," Las Vegas. Spend three nights at the Golden Nugget Hotel/Casino downtown, where three buffet breakfasts are included; afternoons and evenings free.

Sun.- Tue., Oct. 12-14

Reno's Great Italian Festival is packed with crafts, music, and Italian cuisine; includes two nights at Silver Legacy with visits to two other casinos, roundtrip motor coach, and baggage handling.

Thur., Oct. 30

High Hill Ranch, located on Apple Hill in the town of Camino, just above Placerville, is today's destination. Enjoy an included lunch with free time to browse the craft booths.

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

Reception & Toast Saluting Incoming RECCSF President Claire Zvanski!

Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Sinbad's Pier 2
Restaurant

The Embarcadero &
Mission St.

San Francisco

**Appetizers &
No-host Bar**

RSVP (415) 508-9126

Online Banking Safety Tips

By Raymond Tang, Information Technology Manager

When we hear about large-scale data breaches in the news, it's natural to wonder about the safety of our own information when we conduct business online.

But, don't let the media hype scare you off online banking. The reality is that online banking is still very safe. Financial institutions—including San Francisco FCU—continue to improve security systems to ward off such attacks.

You still should take precautions to protect your information against security risks on your own devices. Take these steps to do your online banking safely:

- **Double-check that URL.** Some scammers create copycat Web sites of financial institutions, with URLs just one or two letters off. If you mistype the URL of your institution, you could end up at one of these false sites instead. Bookmark the site so you don't run the risk.
- **Lock down your computer and smartphone.** Ensure that

your antivirus software is up to date and regularly running. Also, don't choose the "remember me" option offered by some online banking sites. Typing in your password each time adds an extra layer of security.

- **Click with caution.** If you receive a questionable message claiming to be from a financial institution, always verify the legitimacy of the e-mail. At San Francisco FCU, we do not send e-mails or texts asking you to provide account information. Contact us if you question any message claiming to be from the Credit Union. (And if you contact us via e-mail, make sure you start with a new message. Do *not* hit "reply" on the suspicious message.)

Protecting your personal information is our biggest priority, and it should be yours, too. If you have questions about ways you can better protect your information, don't hesitate to contact us at (415) 775-5377 or Contacts@SanFranciscoFCU.com.

Letter to the Editor:

Editor,

In the July/August issue of *News & Views* I was dismayed to read that there was a possibility of a portion of our retirement funds being invested in a hedge fund.

I worked over 38 years for the City of San Francisco. My city pension is my primary source of income. Hedge funds are not an appropriate investment tool for a retirement fund such as ours. I am strongly opposed to *any* of our retirement funds being invested in any hedge funds.

Speculation in hedge funds nearly took down our economy. There are many options of smarter and less risky investments, which provide a reasonable return. I urge the board to vote against investing any of our funds in any hedge fund.

Richard Mc Kay, retiree

RECCSF Fall Office Hours

**Monday through Friday,
9 a.m. – Noon**

Attention all RECCSF members!!!

***New General
Membership Meeting
Hours as of our
Oct. 8 meeting!***

10:15 a.m.

**Program
(Coffee & sweets
available.)**

11 a.m.

Business Meeting

***This time change was
necessary because the
Retirement System
Board has revised its
meeting time to
1 p.m. the same day,
and it is critical
for your RECCSF
representatives
to attend.***

Great T-Shirt Sayings

- No one ever suspects the short ones.
- Your proctologist called... he found your head.
- I would love to insult you but I'm afraid I won't do as well as nature did.
- Lead me not into temptation... OH HELL...Just follow me. I know a shortcut!

News & Views

September 2014

Volume 115, Number 8

Sheila Mullen, Editor

Office: (415) 681-5949

Fax: (415) 681-5398

Office e-mail: reccsf@att.net



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



Executive Board Meeting

One-time location change!

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m.

1 John V. Young at San Jose Ave.
next to Balboa Pool.

All interested parties welcome.

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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

October Deadline:

☛ Friday, Sept. 12
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 Meetings

Wednesday, Sept. 10

Critical member discussion
re proposed \$3 billion
Retirement System hedge
fund investments. Retirement
Board representatives
Herb Meiberger and Brian
Stansbury are invited to
explain. ***It's your money.
Be there!***

Wednesday, Oct. 8

Open Enrollment Month
health fair, with tables for
health/dental/vision care
providers. Also, Nov. 4
election candidate and issue
representatives on site.

Wednesday, Nov. 12

Education programs
rescheduled from September,
coordinated by Annette
Lonich.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

Mark your calendar now for
the RECCSF annual holiday
party.

Regular Meetings

Second Wednesday of each month

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