

Official Publication of the Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco

# NEWS & VIEWS

A MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION WORKING FOR ALL CITY RETIREES

## Health Service Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski

HSS Board president Randy Scott provided an update in the search for an executive director. The board was in closed session prior to the regular meeting to consider making an offer of employment to a candidate. It is anticipated that there were will an announcement at the January meeting.

- Acting Executive Director Mitchell Griggs reported that 14,018 open enrollment applications for 2018 were received, a 24% increase over those for 2017. All plans except Blue Shield increased membership. 8,017 opted for Blue Shield Trio, which eliminates Sutter facilities. The VSP upgrade was chosen by 10,123 members. Progress is being made to eliminate paper open enrollment changes, so it is hoped that most 2018 changes will be processed online. 75,000 confirmation letters were mailed in early December. The EAP saw its services increase in 2017, and it reached out to peer support groups among police, fire and sheriff to aid in services to employees dealing with the North Bay fires. 26 sites provided 4,131 flu shots (including the RECCSF health fair) and the Wellness Center continues to increase its successful offerings and expand its programs.
- KPMG presented the results of its annual audit. No material deficiencies were found.
- Chief Financial Officer Pamela Levin reported that the trust fund is healthy at \$72M. She also indicated that the budget directions for 2018/19 have been received.
- Actuary AON Hewitt presented a legislative update on the excise tax. While the "Cadillac tax" has been postponed until 2021, it is anticipated that changes in tax legislation and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) — commonly called "Obamacare" — will cost HSS medical plans \$7,550,000 in excise tax liabilities in 2020. It is anticipated that only the

*continued on page 2*

## Retirement Committee Report

By Claire Zvanski and Herb Weiner

There will be a special SFERS Board meeting on Jan. 24, 2018 to consider fossil fuel divestment. The Investment Committee report stated that there were two educational presentations at its meeting, one from Goldman Sachs on *An Institutional Approach to Climate Transition*, and the other from Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) on *Success of Engagement to Address Climate Change*. Commissioner Driscoll indicated that the investment committee would present more ESG (environment, social and governmental) issues now that ESG has been subsumed into the investment committee, as determined during their retreat.

- Chief Investment Officer Bill Coaker reported that, as of Nov. 30, 2017, the fund is now \$23.7B (gross of fees). Global equities continue to bring high returns. The 2017 returns have been 14.92%. Fiscal year returns are 5.99%. Again, the discussion always cautions about continuing returns. A market correction is anticipated, so the ongoing investment advice continues to suggest investments with a history of stability, or who are determined to "hedge" against a market downturn. Investments with Denham International Power SCSp (\$100 million) and Scout Energy Partners IV (\$50 million) were reported, and questioned by those concerned with fossil fuel investing. These investments are part of the private equity portfolios. Mr. Furlan, who appears and testifies at most meetings, and is not a member of the fund, asked to see the board's "investment letters." Jay Huish responded that state law allows for confidentiality. Mr. Furlan professes that he could advise the board regarding better hedge fund investing that is less risky if only the board would allow him access to these documents.
- New staff: Kurt Braitberg has been hired as the managing director of pub-

*continued on page 2*

## January Calendar

**First RECCSF out-of-county meeting!**

Wed., Jan 24, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

IHOP, 510 El Camino Real, Belmont

Info: Skee Tostanoski at 1 (415) 699-1050 or [sfskee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfskee@sbcglobal.net).

### News & Views

#### Editorial Committee Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 9 a.m.

Taraval Police Station

All interested parties welcome.

#### Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 10 a.m.

Taraval Police Station

All interested parties welcome.

### Public Meetings:

#### Retired Firefighters & Spouses Association

Thursday, Jan. 18, 1 p.m.

Irish Cultural Center,

45th Ave. &amp; Sloat Blvd.

#### Veteran Police Officers

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 11 a.m.

San Francisco Scottish Rite

Masonic Center,

2850 19th Ave. &amp; Sloat Blvd.

#### Retirement System

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 1 p.m.

1145 Market St., 6th Floor

#### Special SFERS meeting

**on fossil fuel divestment**

Wed. Jan. 24, 1 p.m.

1145 Market St., 6th floor

#### Health Service System

Thursday, Jan. 11, 1 p.m.

City Hall Room 416

#### UESF Retired Division

For time/location, contact

Diane Doe at 1 (415) 822-2099 or

[Ddoe@mac.com](mailto:Ddoe@mac.com).

#### SEIU 1021 West Bay

#### Retirees Chapter

Monday, Jan. 22, 12-2 p.m.

Union Hall, 350 Rhode Island St.,

100 South Bldg.

Contact: David Williams

1 (415) 939-5149 or

[iamdhw@comcast.net](mailto:iamdhw@comcast.net).

## Rest In Peace

Names are currently unavailable, and will be listed in the February *News & Views*.

## New Logo!!! New Tee Shirts!!!

The RECCSF Membership Committee has created, and our executive board has approved, a new RECCSF logo featuring the San Francisco skyline.

Many organizations offer for sale an identifying article of clothing that many members wear to their gatherings. In this spirit, RECCSF is now ordering a production run of unisex tee shirts bearing our new logo, offered at \$15 for white, \$20 for colored, in sizes small, medium, large, and extra large.

If you're interested in purchasing a tee shirt, please fill in the attached order form. (If you're ordering a colored tee shirt, please be sure to write your preferred color on the form.)

To submit your form, or request further information, please e-mail Membership Chair "Skee" Tostanoski at [sfskee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfskee@sbcglobal.net).

Thank You!



Would you like to join us in purchasing a new logo T-shirt?  
\$15.00 (white)  
Colors are \$5.00 additional.

All sizes are unisex

\_\_\_\_ small \_\_\_\_ medium \_\_\_\_ large \_\_\_\_ x-large

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Retirement Committee Report

*continued from page 1*

lic markets. Alo Martins has been hired as a security analyst. He formerly worked for Cambridge Associates (SFERS board advisors). Open recruitments continue for a senior portfolio manager for private equity, and a security analyst in private debt.

- The Feb. 14, 2018 meeting of the SFERS board will include items entitled "Approaches to Mitigate Portfolio Risk." Presenters will include educational materials from senior people at NEPC and PIMCO, and Parametric will be making a presentation prior to staff's recommendation to hire them. The items will be hosted by Ellen Brownell, managing director of asset allocation, risk management, and innovative solutions.
- There was a number of changes proposed during the board's retreat. Amendments to Retirement Board Terms of Reference and Policies to Implement Certain Governance recommendations were among those proposals. There were also changes to the Vice President Terms of Reference and the Service Provider Selection Policy. There was very little discussion, except for a few questions, but the documentation was massive. It was not clear if the board members had carefully vetted all the documentation presented. Considering all the terms of reference that were amended, it is not clear if the board has abrogated any of its responsibilities to staff.
- Executive Director Jay Huish reported that SFERS signed on with the 225 Climate Action 100 with PRI and CalPERS, regarding carbon resources. SFERS is a member of PRI (Principles for Responsible Investment). He also stated that he is reviewing Supervisor Peskin's proposed charter amendment language to alter the composition of the SFERS board. There is ongoing discussion as Supervisor Peskin is using this — and the late Mayor Ed Lee's statement — to influence the issue of fossil fuel divestment.
- The board then went into closed session regarding the performance evaluations of both Jay Huish and Actuarial Services Coordinator Janet Brazelton.

Questions? Comments?

Contact Claire Zvanski at [czvanski@hotmail.com](mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com) or Herb Weiner [h.weiner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:h.weiner@sbcglobal.net).

## Health Service Committee Report

*continued from page 1*

Blue Shield HMO for pre-65 retirees will reach this taxable threshold.

- Well-being manager Stephanie Fisher presented updates, including the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) research results. The DPP lifestyle interventions were split into work-site based (seven locations) and online. There was a one-year commitment. In all facets of the program, the worksite interventions were more successful. They included a lifestyle coach and meetings with peers that provided encouragement.
- Commissioner Breslin questioned UHC about the spate of telephone calls to members asking about nursing home visits. There was no pre-communication, and members questioned how they were selected, fearing a scam. UHC apologized and vowed to review this program.

Questions? Comments? Contact Claire Zvanski at [czvanski@hotmail.com](mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com).

# President's Message

By Claire Zvanski

## What will 2018 bring to RECCSF?

- As retired city employees, we will be watching both the June and November elections. Besides contemplating the intrigue of who will hold the mayor's seat for the next two years, we know that there will be issues on the ballot that might have direct impacts on our benefits. We also continue to watch the SFERS vs. CCSF lawsuit to make the pre-96 retirees eligible for the supplemental cola.
- RECCSF sent sincere condolences to the family of Mayor Ed Lee, in the name of all of our members.
- Post-96 retirees will receive the supplemental COLA in the February 28 check, retroactive to July 1 2017.
- Planning our first membership meeting outside of San Francisco is exciting, and we hope that this will be the first of many. Our goal is to create mini-satellite chapters in surrounding counties, and expand our membership. We are also hoping to encourage more members to become active in RECCSF.
- In San Francisco, we will continue to meet at the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, which seems to have been a positive change for our membership.
- Your RECCSF Board wishes each and every one of you a very healthy and prosperous 2018.



Questions? Comments? Please feel to contact me at 1 (415) 341-3085 or [czvanski@hotmail.com](mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com).

## Is It Time for a Financial Check Up?

By your friends at San Francisco  
Federal Credit Union

Financial fitness is more than just having a savings account or being debt free; it's an overall concept that ranges from knowing how much income you need to achieve your goals, to how much money you will need to retire comfortably.

You don't have to be an expert in

all areas to become financially fit. Practicing the basics of smart money management is all it takes for most people to reach their goals. But, sometimes, you have questions and want to know that you are on track. San Francisco Federal Credit Union can help you identify the places in your financial "body" that need the most attention, then prescribe just what you need to become—and remain—financially robust.

Check your money management vital signs by asking yourself the following questions: Are your goals current? Are you meeting them at the rate you would like?

Are you setting money aside for emergencies?

Do you have a positive net worth?

Are your spending habits what you want them to be?

Have you seen your credit report lately? Ever?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, you may benefit from a financial checkup. Call us today or stop in for some financial guidance and information on products and services that can help.

### New Members

Maura Baldocchi	Superior Court
Stuart Gurtman	Investigations
Elmo Satterfield	Community College

### Bequests

RECCSF is grateful to any members who remember our organization in their estate planning.

## Useful Phone Numbers

### RECCSF Office

Email: [reccsf@att.net](mailto:reccsf@att.net)

Web site: [sfretirees.org](http://sfretirees.org)

Phone Number:

1 (415) 681-5949

### Health Service System

Web site: [myhss.org](http://myhss.org)

Phone Numbers:

1 (415) 554-1750

1 (800) 541-2266

### S.F. Retirement System

Web site: [sfgov.org/sfers](http://sfgov.org/sfers)

Phone Numbers:

1 (415) 487-7000

1 (888) 849-0777



# December 2017 Holiday Party









# Protect Our Benefits

By Skip McKinney

*Protect Our Benefits is an organization whose goals are to enhance the dignity and quality of life of all San Francisco city and county retiree,s and preserve their health and retirement benefits. The opinions are those of the writer.*

The month of December is usually the busiest month of the year for the holidays, but not usually for city hall work. The untimely death of Mayor Ed Lee has really has changed the focus. This was a sad day for the city, and our thoughts and prayers are with Mayor Lee's family.

President of the Board of Supervisors London Breed will serve as the

acting mayor until the full Board of Supervisors chooses a new mayor.

## SFERS v. CCSF (pre-1996 retirees)

SFERS Reply brief is due by Jan. 22, 2018, at which time POB will have 14 days to submit our amicus brief. Shortly thereafter we should have a court date. We will keep you apprized.

For post 1996 retirees, your February pay warrant should include the approved supplemental COLA increase.

## Health Service System

The Health Service System held a special meeting on Dec. 14, 2017. One of the agenda items for discussion was for the position of a new HSS executive

director position. We will apprise you of any update as to the selection.

January starts a new health season with the various health plans. Any problems? Be sure to contact HSS or Claire Zvanski at [czvanski@hotmail.com](mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com). **Remember, you are your best advocate.**

## SFERS Retirement Board

Per the SFERS executive director report dated Dec. 13, 2017, the SFERS portfolio assets now total \$23.8 billion; an all-time high, and a very sharp recovery from the global financial crises, when our assets plunged from \$17 billion in 2017 to \$11.1 billion in March 2009. In 2017 the SFERS portfolio has gained 14.92%.

It's nice to see the Retirement System doing well with its earnings. Once again, any controversial issue, i.e. fossil fuel divestment, was put off until after the first of the year.

## POB Reorganization

It is still going through final phases. Hopefully, in early 2018 we'll have everything in place. **Please note that we have a new P.O. Box number: P.O. BOX 210250, San Francisco, CA 94121-0250.** Your contributions are not yet tax deductible, but much appreciated. Please mail them our new P.O. box number, and stay informed at [protectourbenefits.org](http://protectourbenefits.org) or Facebook.

## Final Thought

In closing, even though we recently lost an active member we have also lost many of our pre-1996 retirees. It's a shame we couldn't make it right for them before they passed.

**Remember:**

***United we stand, divided we fall."***

## "Thank You" to Our 2017 Annual Holiday Party Generous Donors

- Bonnie Bompart
- Sue Blomberg
- Carol Cochran
- Thomas Dang
- Randall and Sharon Goetzl
- Vincent L. Guerena
- Sharon Johnson
- Madeleine Licavoli
- John Madden
- Leo Martinez
- Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey
- Municipal Executives Association (MEA)
- Native Sons of the Golden West, Twin Peaks Parlor 214 (in memory of Paul Rosenberg)
- Beverly Pardini
- Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 38
- Retired Firefighters and Spouses Association
- San Francisco Federal Credit Union
- San Francisco Firefighters, Local 798
- San Francisco Police Officers Association
- SEIU 1021 West Bay Retirees
- Star Travelers
- John "Skee" Tostanoski
- David Williams
- Claire Zvanski (partial list)

*The Board wishes to extend a sincere "thank you" to all of our volunteers who make possible RECCSF events throughout the year.*



# I want to know!

Join

# RECCSF

Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco





## Thank you!

The San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 Toy Program volunteers and recipients extend a hearty “thank you” to all San Francisco city retirees who donated toys or cash to the program during the 2017 holiday season. The children, firefighters and volunteers wish the donors a very happy and healthy new year.

## Bylaws Change!

*Active employees within five years of retirement  
are eligible to join RECCSF.*

## RECCSF Officers

Claire Zvanski, President  
Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey, First Vice President  
Linda Tabor-Beck, Second Vice President  
Bonnie Bompert, Secretary  
George Lau, Treasurer  
Leo Martinez, Sergeant-at-Arms

## Board Members

Bonnie Bompert	Raymond Mason
Carol Cochran	Jerry Maxwell
Thomas Dang	Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey
Steve Green	Sheila Mullen
Adlai “A.J.” Jew	Tim O’Brien
Sharon Johnson	Beverly Pardini
George K. Lau	Linda Tabor-Beck
Stephanie M. Lyons	John “Skee” Tostanoski
John Madden	David Williams
Leo Martinez	

## A Note from Star Travelers

I have decided to become a “re-tiree” on Jan. 1, 2018, and wish to extend a sincere “thank you” to the RECCSF members who have supported the tours during the past 25+ years, (and, especially, Beverly Pardini for her support).

Wishing RECCSF members the best, always!

Marylou Allen

## Contact information for Retirement Board Commissioner Al Casciato

Members are invited to contact  
Commissioner  
Al Casciato with any retirement  
questions at  
[al.casciato.sfers@sfgov.org](mailto:al.casciato.sfers@sfgov.org).

All questions will be handled in a  
confidential manner, and referred  
to staff—if necessary. Remember:  
When in doubt, *ask!*

## Membership and Subscriptions

for retired city employees as of July 31, 2015

Membership application: [www.sfiretires.org](http://www.sfiretires.org); email: [reccsf@att.net](mailto:reccsf@att.net).

Active city employees within five years of retirement are eligible to join RECCSF.

- \$48, annual
- \$600, lifetime (payable over four months in four payments of \$150 per month, or annually over four years in increments of \$150 per year)
- Members without computer access should contact the RECCSF office at 1 (415) 681-5949.

*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.

Submissions to *News & Views* are solicited and encouraged.

Submit in Word document to: [sheilamullen@mac.com](mailto:sheilamullen@mac.com), or

Sheila Mullen, editor, RECCSF office, 3915 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-1294

Telephone: 1 (415) 681-5949, Fax: 1 (415) 681-5398

## First RECCSF Outreach Meeting is for the Peninsula!

### Sponsored by your Membership Committee

**Who:** This outreach meeting is for Peninsula members and their retired friends who are potential members.

**When:** Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Where:** IHOP, 510 El Camino Real, Belmont California.  
(We have reserved a separate room for our meeting and hosted breakfast.)

**Why:** RECCSF has been asked by some of our members to have a meeting easier for them to attend in their own communities.

For more information, please contact  
Skee Tostanoski at 1 (415) 699-1050 or [sfskee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfskee@sbcglobal.net).

### News & Views

January 2018  
Volume 119, Number 1  
Sheila Mullen, Editor  
Office: 1 (415) 681-5949  
Office email: [reccsf@att.net](mailto:reccsf@att.net)

### Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 16  
10 a.m.

Taraval Police Station, 2345-24th Ave.  
*All interested parties welcome.*

### Note to members:

Please keep RECCSF updated  
with changes in address,  
phone number and email.

### News & Views

#### February Deadline:

☛ Friday, Jan. 12, 5:30 p.m.

Please email your submissions to:  
[sheilamullen@mac.com](mailto:sheilamullen@mac.com).

Letters to the editor and opinion pieces are welcome.  
All submissions subject to further editing.

### Visit our website:

[sfretirees.org](http://sfretirees.org)

RECCSF office  
email:

[reccsf@att.net](mailto:reccsf@att.net)

3915 Irving St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94122

## General Membership Meeting

### Wednesday, February 14, 10 a.m.

Mark Your calendar now!

Nominations for officers and board members will be taken.

*Program to be determined*

*New meeting location!*

Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, 2850-19th Ave., at Sloat Blvd.

*(Parking available in lower level garage.)*