The hot news is in the stock market! CIO Bill Coaker presented a very extensive analysis, with a tentative prediction for the future. One—and possibly two—more resurgences of the COVID-19 virus that will impact the financial system are very likely. Unemployment rates are expected to remain high, and many businesses will not recover from the pandemic. The market is now recovering and Coaker believes that his proposal for a restructured investment division will sustain and improve the fund over time.

As of April 30, the fund remains strong at $25.8 billion. The return rate for the fiscal year so far is 1.37%. No supplemental COLA is on the horizon, but also no increases in the city’s contribution or employee contributions.

Coaker reported that there are three different types of recovery to contemplate: V-shaped, U-shaped, and L-shaped. Coaker went on to state that we are experiencing the U-shaped recovery at this point, and he believes it is most likely for the future. It’s slower than the V-shaped. If it becomes L-shaped, it will be the most devastating economic collapse in over 100 years. Coaker provided a very extensive analysis, but the future remains unknown.

Three long-term, under-performing public market portfolio managers were terminated in keeping with the plan to focus on private equity.

The absolute return portfolio update (hedge funds) was the other major topic.

This was the first SFGOVTV meeting of the HSS board. The timing delay made it difficult to follow the agenda, while those who called in on the telephone were hearing the meeting in real time. It is important to note that during the meeting the public comment telephone line crashed! That caused most business to be carried over to a special meeting—at this writing, scheduled for May 28—since the board could not take action as long as public comment was not available.

All members were present at this meeting. President Breslin gave congratulations and gratitude to Willie Lim for his service since this was his last meeting as a board member, and also announced the reappointments of both Randy Scott and Dr. Follensbee.

Director Abbie Yant reported that HSS now has a new telephone system, which should mean greater efficiency, and also stated that calls into the office should be responded to the same day so that members are no longer having to wait a day for a response. This has been a special concern for those early retirees who are transitioning into Medicare.

Staff are working remotely as no one is in the office, although a return-to-work plan has also been developed for the near future.

Brown and Toland has been reorganized under a new contractor, but this change should be invisible to all members.

The EAP (employee assistance program) is working extremely hard during this challenging time. The irony
of discussion. Managing Director of Absolute Return David Franci stated that everything changed on March 1 when the returns were minus 10.94%. He indicated that there is a lot of fluctuation in these funds, and that they are modifying the portfolios to be more liquid without any substantial or material changes. Bill Coaker pointed out that it is important to hold tight to realize recovery of the full principal.

There was an extensive risk management presentation for residential mortgage credit. That is where most fluctuations are occurring. The credit and residential mortgage market is impacted by the pandemic. The good news is that the investments are very diversified. The Blackstone representative confirmed David Franci’s report and emphasized that the market is expected to return soon. The strategy is also to provide liquidity to the SFERS plan as needed and to expand sourcing of co-investment opportunities both within absolute return and for the broader SFERS plan. It is essential for the fund to maintain a substantial liquidity during this time to meet its pension liability, so the investment staff is recommending a short-term credit facility up to $250 million with BNY Mellon through a cash release program from its securities lending cash collateral reinvestment account.

Lastly, Jay Huish reported that oral arguments were heard on May 5 before the California Supreme Court on Alameda County Deputy Sheriff’s Assn v. Alameda County Employees’ Retirement Assn (State of California). This is about “the California Rule” and it was noted that the court will issue its finding in 90 days. The staff has improved the response time for those contacting SFERS to retire.

Questions? Comments?
Contact Claire Zvanski at czvanski@gmail.com or Herb Weiner at h.weiner@sbcglobal.net.

Useful Phone Numbers

RECCSF Office
Email: reccsf@att.net Website: sfretirees.org
Phone Number: 1 (415) 681-5949

Health Service System
Website: myhss.org
Phone Numbers:
Member services: 1 (628) 652-4700
Employee Assistance: 1 (628) 652-4600 (24/7)

S.F. Retirement System
Website: sfgov.org/sfers
Phone Numbers:
1 (415) 487-7000 1 (888) 849-0777

Health Service Committee Report
continued from page 1

is that May was mental health month!

As soon as the meeting began, the public comment lines became full. RECCSF, POB, IFPTE 21, SEIU 1021, SF Labor Council, Firefighters 798 and many other members, including many nurses from SFGH, were calling in to protest the proposal to double and triple certain copays for Kaiser benefits, in addition to raising the premium rates for actives and early retirees! Few respected the staff request to direct comments to the specific item being discussed at the time.

It is clear that members are currently facing financial hardships and that such recommendations are unaffordable. Kaiser provides a lower-cost choice for members, and that choice is essential. President Breslin was adamant in her comments, as was Commissioner Willie Lim. Most of the board members concurred and the actuary was told to reconfigure the recommendation, including reworking the premiums.

The proposal was about saving the city over $600,000 on the backs of members. Savings to members was a minimal $78,000. Since the public comment line died, this item and the other premium recommendations (Blue Shield, Delta Dental, etc.) were put over to the May 28 special meeting.

The only action taken was approval of the Hartford insurance rates for active employees for 2021.

Blue Shield, UHC-City Plan and Delta Dental (active) rates plus a revisit of the Kaiser proposal were put over to the May 28 special meeting. More members called in, and much discussion was held by commissioners, to the effect that raising rates for actives and early retirees at this time was onerous should insurance companies continue to increase their profits when so many workers are suffering. HSS wanted to see adjustments in the rate proposals at the May 28 special meeting.

Medicare rates are scheduled for the June meeting. SF-GOVT will broadcast. Tune in!

Questions? Comments? Please feel free to contact me at mcguire.hickey831@gmail.com.

RECCSF Officers
John “Skee” Tostanoski, President
Jerry Maxwell, First Vice President
David Williams, Second Vice President
Bonnie Bompart, Secretary
George Lau, Treasurer
Leo Martinez, Sergeant at Arms

Board Members
Richard Bridygham
Carol Cochran
Thomas Dang
Ed “Rusty” Jepson
A.J. Jew
David Leeds
Stephanie M. Lyons
Raymond Mason
Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey
Sheila Mullen
Linda Tabor-Beck
Tim O’Brien
Claire Zvanski

June 2020
President’s Message

By Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey

Support for all of us needs to continue during this COVID-19 stressful period. Some select public spaces are now reopening, but we still need to be extremely cautious about exposure to anything that may impact on our health.

Many fellow retirees have mentioned that this has been great time to clean out closets, organize drawers, clean the garage, and donate items no longer needed. I am sure that many of you have even better ideas about what to accomplish. Please share your thoughts with us all.

At this time, I would like to thank you for all the support that you all have given me during my tenure as RECCSF president. It was, and is, much appreciated.

Now, we need to celebrate our newly elected RECCSF President as of June 10, 2020, John “Skee” Tostanoski. Skee has demonstrated his strong commitment to the organization by his continuing efforts on recruitment, membership, bylaws, and many other activities. He has always been available to support us in any number of ways.

Congratulations, Skee: We all look forward to working with you in your new role!

Questions? Comments? Please feel free to contact me at mcguire.hickey831@gmail.com.

Nominations Committee Report

By John “Skee” Tostanoski

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce that the names of those members who have agreed to serve as officers of the RECCSF Executive Board from June 10, 2020 through June 7, 2022 are as follows:

President, John “Skee” Tostanoski
First vice president, Jerry Maxwell
Second vice president, David Williams

The names of those members who have agreed to serve as executive board members at large from June 10, 2020 through June 7, 2022 are as follows:

Linda Tabor-Beck
Richard Bridygham
Ed “Rusty” Jepson
A.J. Jew

(One position remains vacant.)

The board, for the foreseeable future, will conduct all RECCSF meetings on the Zoom videoconferencing application.

“Thank you” to all members who have considered joining the board in order to serve our retired co-workers.

May 19 Electronic Board Meeting Results

• Approved agenda as well as the minutes of the April 8 meeting.
• Accepted Treasurer’s Report.
• Approved motion to postpone in-person installation ceremonies until further notice.
• Unanimously approved motion to approve 2020-2022 officer and board member nominations on behalf of the RECCSF membership. The president is to distribute to all nominees’ documents that contain their name, date, and title of office as of June 10, 2020, for their signatures and return to president.
• Nominations were delineated by John “Skee” Tostanoski. The consideration of nominations was moved, seconded and passed to all for further positions to be filled by new volunteers.
• Officer nominees approved: John “Skee” Tostanoski, president; Jerry Maxwell, first vice president; and David Williams, second vice president. Board member nominees approved: Linda Tabor-Beck, Richard Bridygham, Ed “Rusty” Jepson, and A.J. Jew.

Due to the current corona virus emergency, RECCSF is postponing our out-of-area meetings for the foreseeable future. Stay tuned!

The RECCSF Membership Committee is reaching out to our Vallejo and North/East Bay Members!

RECCSF would like to schedule another meeting in your area. We are asking local members to help us secure a new meeting site, since the former restaurant site turned out to be uncomfortable for some of our members.

A new meeting site would not necessarily be at a restaurant. It could be held at any cost-free venue suitable for the serving of refreshments.

If you have any suggestions, please contact Linda Tabor-Beck at cane_elder@yahoo.com or leave a message at 1 (415) 622-8093.

Thanks in advance for your help in helping RECCSF to set up Vallejo and North East Bay RECCSF meetings!
Getting Help with Money Problems

From Your Friends at San Francisco Federal Credit Union

Many seniors avoid seeking help for money problems; they feel ashamed, don't want to bother people, or do not know whom to trust. While money problems are uncomfortable to talk about, resources are available.

Friends and family are often willing to help. Don't let pride get in the way. Discuss your situation with a loved one before debt spirals out of control, or that you are living so sparingly that your basic needs are not being met.

Dealing with a financial problem early is best. Before you approach someone, know what to ask for. Be clear about the terms if you are looking for a personal loan*. Propose a repayment time frame, payment amount, and any potential interest. If you know that you won't be able to pay the money back, also be clear about that.

If you want professional and objective financial support, contact a reputable credit-counseling agency. These non-profit organizations provide comprehensive, educational, and goal-oriented services at little, or no, cost. They offer budget and debt counseling to assist with money management, as well as debt management plans for help with outstanding bills.

Search for an organization that has been in business for a long time, is accredited by a third party, and is certified by HUD for housing counseling. It should be education-orientated, and provide full financial coaching (including goal establishment, spending plan review and establishing savings). Avoid any organization that aggressively solicits you for business, makes “too good to be true” offers, and is vague about interest rates, fees, and other charges.

There is no reason that you should have to deal with debt problems alone. Reach out and get the assistance you deserve from a trustworthy source.

*SFFedCU is currently offering personal loans with rates as low as 1.99% APR. For more information, stop by one of our branches, visit SanFranciscoFCU.com, or call 1 (415) 775-5377.
Our RECCSF members
Our community

Stay home!  Stay safe!
Upcoming General Membership Meetings

Due to the current COVID-19 (corona) virus emergency, all upcoming RECCSF meetings have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. Please be assured that your RECCSF Board will keep members updated on future developments through our RECCSF News & Views newsletter, periodic “email blasts,” and RECCSF website at sfretirees.org. Our age group is particularly vulnerable for contracting this infection, and we urge all of our members to stay safe by self-quarantining at home as much as possible.

Membership and Subscriptions

for retired city employees

Membership application: www.sfretirees.org; email: reccsf@att.net.
Active city employees within five years of retirement are eligible to join RECCSF.

- $68, 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

July/August Deadline:
- Friday, June 12, 5:30 p.m.
Please email your submissions to: sheilamullen@mac.com.
Letters to the editor and opinion pieces are welcome.
All submissions subject to further editing.

Executive Board Meeting

All in-person board meetings cancelled until further notice. Your RECCSF Executive Board is meeting by Zoom for the foreseeable future.

Note to members:

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

Visit our website:

sfretirees.org
RECCSF office email:
reccsf@att.net
3915 Irving St.,
San Francisco, CA 94122

I want to know!

Join
RECCSF
Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco