



# NETWORK

Newsletter of The Retired Employees of San Diego County Since 1961

Vol. 43, No. 6

Honoring Yesterday—Protecting Tomorrow

June 2011

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susan Mallett



On June 7<sup>th</sup>, our association reaches a significant milestone—our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 1961 to 2011. Also sharing this golden anniversary with RESDC are the Peace Corps, NASA's first U.S. manned spaceflight, the Freedom Riders, the Angels baseball team, and the college tradition of Spring Break. I know that some members are also celebrating their golden marriage anniversaries this year, so best wishes

to you as well. Back to RESDC, our earliest records note that 70 retirees attended the association's founding membership meeting at the Puppet Theater in Balboa Park on June 7, 1961. Among the topics of discussion were legislation and representation of retirees' interests. Over the years, our successes and ongoing challenges as an association, continue to be concentrated in these two areas.

Thanks to dedicated volunteer leadership, past and present, and a supportive membership our association remains a strong voice for all County retirees at the local and state level.

Also this month, our Flag Day Luncheon will be held on Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup>. Some internet research revealed the official date of June 14<sup>th</sup> was selected by school districts in Wisconsin, New York and Pennsylvania in the late 1890s to recognize the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as our nation's official flag, on June 14, 1777, by the Second Continental Congress. The event was typically observed by schoolchildren holding small flags and singing patriotic songs. In 1949, President Truman signed an Act of Congress to designate June 14<sup>th</sup> as National Flag Day, (information provided by ) [www.usflag.org](http://www.usflag.org).

Update on SDCERA's appeal of the Superior Court's decision to release certain retiree personal information to the watchdog group, California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility (CFFR), the 4<sup>th</sup> Appellate Court Division 1 will hear oral arguments, on June 13<sup>th</sup>. The Appellate Court accepted the Amicus Curiae brief, prepared for RESDC and CRCEA, in support of SDCERA's position to protect the privacy of retirees. Additionally, supportive Amicus briefs were filed by Sacramento and Los Angeles Counties retirement systems. On the other side, supporting

CFFR's position were Amicus briefs filed by the Fullerton Association of Concerned Taxpayers, the Pacific Legal Foundation, California Newspaper Publishers Association, and several newspapers including the San Diego Union-Tribune and the Los Angeles Times. Clearly, the debate over the privacy of retired public employees vs. the public's right to know rages on. We will post further information, as it is available, on the RESDC website and in future newsletters.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lynda Bowden  
John D. Chambers  
Martin Cherry  
Richard M. Conklin  
Randall Dibb  
Nancy A. Gabel  
Josephine M. Loss  
Christine Ohannesson  
Cecilia Ruiz

## TOUR OF NEW PALOMAR MEDICAL CENTER WEST

By Merrilyn Carpenter, Member Services

Last month's NETWORK let you know about a special VIP tour of the new Palomar Medical Center West (located at 2195 West Citricado in Escondido) before it's even open. Here's a little more information about the tour.

We just learned that the free tour scheduled on **July 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm** will be limited to 20 people. So it's even more important for you to call in your reservation to the RESDC office now. If we surpass the 20-person limit, we'll establish a waiting list and schedule an additional tour date. This tour, because the area is still an active construction site, will require walking on uneven surfaces and possibly navigating flights of stairs if the elevators are not yet operable in all areas. We will meet at the site. Detailed driving instructions and suggested dress code will be e-mailed or phoned to participants.

**Please call RESDC at (866) 688-9229** to let us know if you are interested in attending the tour.

## June Calendar of Events

- 2—(Thurs.) SDCERA Board of Retirement Meeting**  
2275 Rio Bonito Way, Suite 200, 8:30 am
  
- 9—(Thurs.) RESDC Board of Directors Meeting**  
Ronald Reagan Community Center, 8:30 am  
195 E. Douglas Ave., El Cajon, 92020
  
- 9—(Thurs.) Flag Day Luncheon, General Meeting**  
Ronald Reagan Community Center, 11:00 am  
195 E. Douglas Ave., El Cajon, 92020
  
- 16—(Thurs.) SDCERA Board of Retirement Meeting**  
2275 Rio Bonito Way, Suite 200, 8:30 am

## THE BRIGHTER SIDE

*By Stan Coombs, Benefits Committee Chairman*

The nice thing about writing for the RESDC "NETWORK" is the stream of interesting material I'm exposed to. I get to read, summarize and, if important, pass it on to member readers while adding to my education.

A case in point; the January/February 2010 "News Scan," a newsletter of Gabriel Roeder Smith & Company, Consultants & Actuaries, mentions several reports available on the net, one reporting State and Local Government Spending on Public Employee Retirement Systems, and the second, a State and Local Government Organizations Issue Pension Fact Sheet. They're free, so I explore.

Both these reports, plus other footnoted studies, are products of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA), and other equally prominent organizations, including The National Association of Counties, The United States Conference of Mayors, The National League of Cities and several others.

The first report, "State and Local Government Spending on Public Employee Retirement Systems," notes that despite frequent claims to the contrary only a small portion of total state and local government spending went to public retirement in 2008, averaging only 2.9% nationwide! California and Virginia spent more, at 3.83%, while West Virginia spent 3.91%, New York 3.96%, Connecticut 4.07% and Rhode Island 4.65%. Nevada tops the list at 5.44%.

The four lowest spending states were North Dakota, at 1.40%, Nebraska 1.36%, Wyoming, 1.28% and Vermont 1.03%. The District of Columbia reports only 1.24%.

Total state and local government spending for retirement has also been reasonably predictable. During the 14 years between 1995 and 2009, it ranged from 3% in 1995, to 1.9% in 2002 and back to 2.9% in 2009.

Of course, 2008 was before the economic crash and resulting market losses. And, even though earnings have strongly rebounded (San Diego County retirement fund gained 48% since the low point in February 2009), the smaller fund earned less actual dollars than a larger fund would have, resulting in the need for higher employer contribution rates to make up the difference. San Diego County faces that situation now, their contribution rising about 5.5% for fiscal year 2011.

But there are positive sides too. Recent SDCERA reports indicate San Diego County contributions regularly rise and fall, down 16% between 2008 and 2010, for example, from \$329 million to \$276.7 million and saving the County almost \$67 million. Then in 2008, \$175 billion in retirement benefits was distributed to more than 7.5 million retired public employees and their survivors across the nation, which rippled through the economy. That's more than double the amount paid in by taxpayers through employer contributions. We're told that federal, and state and local taxes on that retirement distribution totaled \$29 billion and \$21 billion respectively, and had a compounded economic impact in excess of \$358 billion. Not small change!

So what about the second report, the State and Local Organizations Issue Pension Fact Sheet? Public pensions are not in crises, they say! Most public retirement systems have plenty of assets to weather the storm, with \$2.7 trillion set aside nationwide for current and future retirees. And, annual demands on those funds are relatively small in comparison. The San Diego County Retirement fund totals \$8.1 billion and pays out about \$409 million annually in pension payments, roughly 5%. Meanwhile fund earnings, and some employer contributions and payroll deductions from active employees, rolled in to the tune of about \$830 million in 2010.

Moreover, public fund earnings have exceeded expectations for decades. For the 25 year period ending in December 2009, including three economic recessions, the median average investment return nationwide was 9.25%, and 12.8% for the fiscal year ending June 2010. Both are well over the typical 8% earnings goal, or "assumption rate." San Diego County's 2010 fiscal year retirement fund earnings were reported to be 13%.

The moral of this story seems to be that we shouldn't believe all we're hearing and reading about systemic public retirement woes. Yes, the crash heavily impacted the retirement fund and employer contributions are rising to meet future obligations. But, the situation has improved substantially since the crash, earnings continue to exceed projections and there are funds to pay for retiree pensions. Public retirement benefits retirees and taxpayers alike.

During March 2011, San Diego County retirement plan net assets increased by \$66.8 million, in turn increasing net gains for the fiscal-year-to-date to \$1.2 billion and total net assets to \$8.1 billion.



## SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR RESDC'S FIFTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Board of Supervisors will honor RESDC at an upcoming meeting, with a proclamation celebrating our 50th anniversary. Look for more details in next month's NETWORK.

**ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

President.....Susan Mallett  
 1st Vice Pres.....Skip Murphy  
 Secretary.....Joan Wright  
 Treasurer....Frank Bittner

**ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS**

Merrilyn Carpenter, Stan Coombs,  
 Oliver Cromwell, Christopher Glenn,  
 Carlos Gonzalez, Joe McGuire,  
 La Rue Pierce, Roma Stronach

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

George Shoemaker

Office Staff.....Karen Hazel  
 ...Sharon Kay  
 ...Anne Schwartz

NETWORK Editor...Karen Hazel



RESDC Directors, Joan Wright, Carlos Gonzalez, and George Lejeck at April's CRCEA Conference. Photo by Mila Thurber, RESDC Member.

**GREAT WEBSITE**

*By Merrilyn Carpenter, Member Services*

At the CRCEA Conference in San Diego, one of the presenters was Jacqueline Zimmer Jones with Trilogy, Inc. The company produces a website for seniors and people with disabilities to provide a myriad of valuable resources within their area. Not all counties (nor all states) have this valuable resource, but San Diego County does. The Health and Human Services Agency teamed with Trilogy to produce a resource with lots of valuable up-to-date information. There is also useful information for veterans and their families.

Go to [networkofcare.org](http://networkofcare.org) to find legislation, references for all emergency and crisis intervention services, support groups, all assistive devices searchable by function, news from around the Country, and a help desk to answer/research questions. One of the more interesting facets is a secure Personal Health Record to store valuable medical information and share only with those you deem appropriate such as your doctor and family members.

When you visit the website, go to [networkofcare.org](http://networkofcare.org), click on Seniors and People with Disabilities, then click on California, and finally San Diego in order to see all the resources available.

**IN MEMORIAM**

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Amin D. Abbasi        | Health & Human Services |
| Marvin Akers          | Sheriff                 |
| Lalia Benson          | Probation               |
| Gustav Berry          | Public Works            |
| Helen S. Bickel       | Surviving Spouse        |
| Nancy L. Connor       | Health & Human Services |
| Nanci A. Enell        | Surviving Spouse        |
| Jeanne H. Flint       | Health & Human Services |
| Mary Ann Gillen       | Surviving Spouse        |
| Dorothy J. Gritton    | Health & Human Services |
| Elzie J. Grove        | Public Works            |
| Bettie Gullett        | Municipal Court         |
| Dorothy L. Healy      | Health & Human Services |
| Janet A. Hess         | Superior Court          |
| Phyllis J. Hill       | Superior Court          |
| Lavoyne M. Jackson*   | SD County Retirement    |
| Lee D. Jamme          | Health & Human Services |
| Anthony Kane          | General Services        |
| Adriana Lawrence      | Health & Human Services |
| Christopher J. Lawson | Health & Human Services |
| Dolores Lynch         | Health & Human Services |
| Aileen M. MacDonald   | Surviving Spouse        |
| Thomas E. Maze        | Public Works            |
| Frances A. McDonald   | Health & Human Services |
| William Montepagano   | Health & Human Services |
| Gerald E. Moraes      | Health & Human Services |
| Jean E. Outler        | Assessor                |
| Vernon K. Phillips    | Probation               |
| David Price           | Probation               |
| Virginia Rubbo        | Health & Human Services |
| William C. Sharp      | Sheriff                 |
| Ruth E. Singer        | Health & Human Services |
| Claude D. Starnes     | Sheriff                 |
| Patricia A. Thomas    | Health & Human Services |
| Edgar C. Trotter      | Superior Court          |
| Patricia D. Wolf      | Surviving Spouse        |

\*Active

**Gone from our sight, but never our memories.  
 Gone from our touch, but never our hearts.**

The surviving spouse of a member is eligible for RESDC membership. For enrollment assistance, call (866) 688-9229.



Protect your valuables and keep them safe. Important papers, such as birth certificates, insurance papers and loan documents, as well as special family heirlooms can be hard to replace, or even irreplaceable. To have peace of mind, keep them secure in a Safe Deposit Box at San Diego County Credit Union. Safe Deposit Boxes are available to rent at 19 SDCCU branch locations and come in varied sizes. To see a list of the branches that have Safe Deposit Boxes, visit [sdccu.com](http://sdccu.com) or call toll-free 1 (877) 732-2848.



## SCHOLARSHIPS 2011

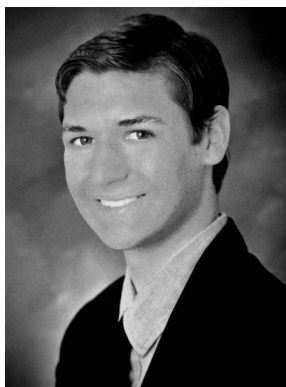
By La Rue Pierce,  
Scholarship Committee Chairman

Thirty one applications were submitted for the five \$2,000 RESDC Scholarships which will be awarded to immediate family members of our members who are graduating in the class of 2011. The Scholarship Committee, Dick Shick, Bob Summers, and Joan Liddell, substituting for Pete Cuthbert, who was traveling in Turkey, evaluated the applications and determined the five successful candidates. Thanks to this committee for their excellent work. Joan Liddell also made an analysis of this group of applicants and here are some of the interesting statistics:

*Of the 31 applicants, 19 were female and 12 were male. The highest GPA submitted was 4.8. The largest senior class size was 866. The lowest senior class size was 104. Career goals: Health care field (7), Business (3), Helping Others (3), and Engineering (2). Character: three male applicants listed Eagle Scout status under the Boy Scout Program.*

County retirees certainly have good reason to be proud of their children and grandchildren. They are an awesome group. Following, in alphabetical order, are the five successful candidates:

### LUKE AUGUSTYN



Luke is graduating from Charter Oak High School, Covina, CA with a 4.0 GPA and ranks third in a class of 440. He is sponsored by his grandfather, Joseph Bukovchik. Luke is a huge fan of cooking and compares his life to a recipe where many different ingredients have a distinct effect on the final product.

The sweet flavor in his life is the love and encouragement of his parents who have told him to strive high and try many different things. As a result, he has tutored friends in Algebra and Chemistry, leads three clubs on campus, sits on the Charter Oak Unified School District Board as Student School Board Representative, and works with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Student Committee on campus, volunteers with the Azusa Retirement Center and acts as camp counselor at Youth Bible Camps.

As the tartness flavor in his life he lists his father's business failure and the brain cancer of his cousin. For that reason he has chosen to become a medical doctor and will study to find a cure for cancer. In his life he hopes to perfect his recipe to reflect a balance of flavors to contribute to his growth and overall success.

### IMANI HOWARD



Imani is graduating from San Diego High School, School of International Studies with a 4.0 GPA and a rank of 10 in a class of 118. She is sponsored by her Grandfather, Robert Law. She has also been chosen to be awarded the George Liddell Memorial Scholarship. Imani has been accepted at Stanford University. She especially appreciates the financial aid this scholarship will give her in attending this prestigious school. Her goal is to become a Pediatric Oncologist.

She has volunteered at many summer camps for children and adults with physical and mental disabilities. She has participated in the Science Scholars, International Studies Club, and also the Teen Life Choices Club. She also tutors Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Imani has many awards in her chosen field.

### BRENDAN JACKSON



Brendan is graduating from Orange Glen High School, Escondido, CA with a 4.32 GPA and ranks second in a class of 466. He is sponsored by his Grandmother, Mary McLellan.

In his freshman year at high school, Brendan took a series of testosterone shots to mature his still pre-adolescent body. He made so much progress on this plan that he was cleared to begin a daily regimen of Human Growth Hormone treatment plan. However, his parent's insurance did not cover the \$30,000 cost so he decided to inject himself with shots to focus on education and extra-curricular involvement.

Through this plan he has developed a broad understanding of American Politics. He has served in The American Legion Boy's State Program and volunteered in the 2010 Congressional Campaign. He has come to understand the government and the importance of its services worldwide.

Throughout his high school years, he has prepared breakfast for the homeless and needy at 5:30 each morning. He also is President of the Student Senate and holds office in many other school clubs.

He feels that these "injections" have laid the groundwork for a successful future. Brendan does not state his career goal, but one of his references wrote, "I expect him to be President of the United States and I hope in my lifetime."

## JILLIAN JOHNSON



Jillian is graduating from Atascadero High School, with a 4.33 GPA and ranks first in a class of 303. She is sponsored by her grandmother, Estelle Charbonneau Hawkins. Jillian was pulled from her second grade class twice a week for reading intervention and decoding skills. Unknown to her she had auditory disabilities that interfered with her reading ability. Her parents did not tell her fearing it might make her feel deficient as a

student or perhaps use it as an excuse. Her parents supported her by sending her to a learning center where she worked tirelessly until the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Throughout her schooling, she received the same grades on tests as other high achievers but with three times the effort. When she was in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, she learned of her disabilities and then understood why she had to work so much harder than others. She pushed herself by taking Honors and AP classes. She never gave up.

Jillian's goal is to attend UCLA's nursing program and earn a BS in Nursing, possibly Pediatric Nursing. Also she would like to attend graduate school to become a Nurse Practitioner.

## KRISTI PETITT



Kristi is graduating from Vista High School with a 4.8 GPA and ranks third in a class of 638. She is sponsored by her Grandmother, Martha Dix-Webber.

"Be the change you wish to see in the world" is the slogan of Vista High's Character Leaders Club. This is an attempt to promote positive character and volunteerism on their campus. Their efforts have

spread to the community through service projects. This has also provided Kristi the opportunity to help third world countries clean the environment and just ease the lives of those around her. The multi-cultural rally she organized on campus gave the student body new horizons on different ethnicities. The book drive for Uganda sparked an eternal commitment to help others. She has over 600 hours of community service. She plans to give back to the world for as long as she lives. Her goal is to become a leader, not only by a position she might hold, but as a person also, so she wants to make sure her path remains straight. Her career path is debatable, but geared in the direction of broadcast journalism, history or law. She has a passion for life, but as long as she has the love and support of her family, a selfless demeanor, and air in her lungs, she feels she has all the essentials life can offer; the rest is "extra."



RESDC President, Susan Mallett, welcomed District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis to the CRCEA Conference as the keynote speaker. Photo by Mila Thurber, RESDC Member.

## CRCEA CONFERENCE APRIL 18-20, 2011

*By Susan Mallett, President*

The CRCEA Spring Conference, sponsored by RESDC, was attended by 129 retirees from throughout the state, representing all 20 of the 37 Act retirement systems. Attendees enjoyed the local hospitality of the Kona Kai Resort and rated all conference presentations highly. The conference was kicked off in grand style by San Diego County officials, CAO Walt Ekard and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis.

Special thanks to Steve Pettee of Pacific Group Agencies, Inc. who put on hospitality receptions, with plenty of drinks and delicious snacks, on Monday and Tuesday evening. Our conference was a success in large part due to the hard work of many local volunteers and the generous contributions of the following sponsors:

- EFI Actuaries
- Kaiser Permanente
- Pacific Group Agencies, Inc.
- Roy M. Doppelt & Associates
- San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau
- San Diego County Credit Union
- San Diego County Department of Agriculture
- San Diego County Employees Retirement Association (SDCERA)
- SCAN Health Plan
- Superior Direct (our printing & mailing service)



CRCEA President, Skip Murphy, stands with the Sherriff's Department Color Guard at the CRCEA Spring Conference in April. Photo by Mila Thurber, RESDC Member.



**Office Hours:** 9 am to 2 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday  
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The information printed in the NETWORK is believed to be from reliable sources. However, no responsibility is assumed by the NETWORK for inaccuracies contained herein. Circulation: 7100

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
 FLAG DAY LUNCHEON**



- THEME:** PATRIOTIC MUSIC FROM MEN'S CHORUS 1812, ELKS LODGE, EL CAJON
- WHEN:** THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2011, 11:00 A.M.
- WHERE:** RONALD REAGAN COMMUNITY CENTER  
 95 East Douglas Avenue, El Cajon 92020
- WHAT:** LUNCH-\$8.50 per person

**Menu:** Teriyaki Chicken, pork loin, salads, fruits, vegetables, dessert, coffee or tea. To join us for lunch, please complete the form below, include the name of person(s) attending, and send a check for **\$8.50** per person, payable to RESDC at 7860 Mission Center Court, Suite 209, San Diego, CA 92108-1329. **Deadline is June 3.** Hall limit is 200, so get your reservations in as soon as possible. Badge and raffle ticket packets should be picked up at the registration table at the luncheon. They will not be mailed.

**FLAG DAY LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM**

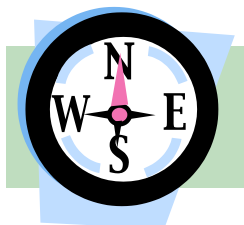
Name of Person \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_ # of Reservations at \$8.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Department and Year Retired \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS TO RONALD REAGAN COMMUNITY CENTER  
 195 EAST DOUGLAS AVE  
 EL CAJON, CA 92020**



The Ronald Reagan Community Center is located one block south of E. Main Street, El Cajon, directly off Magnolia Ave. Take I-8 to Magnolia Off-Ramp, go south to E. Douglas and turn left. Parking is available in the front and back of the center.