



MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2020 RETIREES COMMITTEE MEETING

THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA TELECONFERENCE WITH VIDEO

December 2, 2020

To: Members of the Retirees Committee

From: Liz Koppenhaver, Chair, Retired Trustee

Subject: Summary of the December 2, 2020 Retirees Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Liz Koppenhaver called the December 2, 2020 Committee meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

ACERA TRUSTEES, SENIOR MANAGERS AND PRESENTING STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Committee members present were Liz Koppenhaver, Jamie Godfrey, Dale Amaral, Keith Carson and George Wood. Also present were Ophelia Basgal, Tarrell Gamble, Henry Levy, and Elizabeth Rogers, and alternate members Nancy Reilly and Darryl Walker.

Staff present were David Nelsen, Chief Executive Officer; Kathy Foster, Assistant Chief Executive Officer; Margo Allen, Fiscal Services Officer; Jeff Rieger, Chief Counsel; Sandra Dueñas-Cuevas, Benefits Manager; Ismael Piña, Assistant Benefits Manager; Vijay Jagar, Chief Technology Officer; and Harsh Jadhav, Chief of Internal Audit.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Adoption of Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan Benefit for 2021

Staff and the Segal Group, ACERA's Benefits Consultant, provided information on ACERA's Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan (MBRP) benefit, including retirees' out-of-pocket costs, and the percentage of retirees affected at each of the designated income levels, based on the retirees' ACERA retirement allowances only. Staff recommends to continue the benefit for 2021 based on the reimbursement at the lowest standard premium rate of \$148.50.

It was moved by Ophelia Basgal and seconded by Jaime Godfrey that the Committee recommend to the Board of Retirement to continue to provide the Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan (MBRP) benefit to eligible retirees in 2021, and approve the reimbursement based on the lowest standard monthly Medicare Part B premium at the rate of \$148.50. The MBRP benefit is a non-vested benefit funded by contributions from ACERA Employers to the 401(h) account. After contributions are made, in accordance with the County Employees Retirement Law, ACERA treats an equal amount of Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve assets as employer contributions for pensions.

The motion carried 9 yes (*Amaral, Basgal, Carson, Gamble, Godfrey, Koppenhaver, Levy, Rogers, Wood*), 0 no, 0 abstentions.

2. Adoption of Updates to Appendix A of 401(h) Account Resolutions

Staff stated that in order for Resolution No. 07-29 to remain current for the upcoming 2021 Plan Year, Appendix A was amended to reflect the Board of Retirement's (Board) decisions regarding the Monthly Medical Allowance amounts for Group and Individual plans; and medical, dental, and vision premium amounts as adopted by the Board.

It was moved by Jaime Godfrey and seconded by Keith Carson that the Committee recommend to the Board of Retirement (Board) to adopt the revised and updated Appendix A to Resolution No. 07-29, which reflects the changes approved by the Board to the Monthly Medical Allowance amounts for Group and Individual Plans as well as the Retiree Health Benefit contribution amounts for Plan Year 2021.

The motion carried 9 yes (*Amaral, Basgal, Carson, Gamble, Godfrey, Koppenhaver, Levy, Rogers, Wood*), 0 no, 0 abstentions.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Annual Retired Member (Lump Sum) Death Benefit Report

Staff provided information on the number and amount of the Retired Member (lump sum) Death Benefit payments made to eligible beneficiaries of retirees for the 12-month period December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020, including the payments made by reciprocal agencies. This \$1,000 benefit is funded by the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve and is a vested benefit, as long as there are funds available.

2. Virtual Retiree Health and Wellness Fair Results and Open Enrollment Activity

Staff provided a report on the results of the Virtual Retiree Health and Wellness Fair, which was held through Zoom on October 30, 2020. The live presentations from Kaiser, VSP, Delta Dental and a Qi-Gong demonstration were recorded and posted to ACERA's website, as well as links to the various vendors' webpages for additional information and resources. There were 236 online visitors during this virtual event. A report on open enrollment plan changes and processing status will be provided at the February 2021 Committee meeting.

Trustee Reilly expressed her appreciation to Kathy Foster and Ish Piña for addressing a retiree's questions and difficulties with Via Benefits.

3. Miscellaneous Updates

The Segal Group (Segal) commented that there is still a lot of activity in Congress, particularly related to pharmaceutical benefits. Segal is monitoring the activity, but there is currently nothing report.

In response to Pete Albert, President of Alameda County Retired Employees (ACRE) retiree association, Segal stated that Kaiser has not directly communicated its plans related to the COVID-19 vaccine availability, priority for distributing to various groups, or the timeframe. However, Kaiser is working on this and is immersed in discussions regarding this issue. Segal believes the timeline for distributing the vaccine will be accelerated with the recent approval of a vaccine in the United Kingdom.

TRUSTEE INPUT AND DIRECTION TO STAFF

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

Pete Albert, President of Alameda County Retired Employees (ACRE) retiree association, wished everyone happy holidays.

FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Annual Supplemental Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.