



**Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association
BOARD OF RETIREMENT**

**RETIREES COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING
NOTICE and AGENDA**

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED VIA TELECONFERENCE PER GOV'T CODE § 54953(e)

ACERA MISSION:

To provide ACERA members and employers with flexible, cost-effective, participant-oriented benefits through prudent investment management and superior member services.

**Wednesday, December 7, 2022
10:30 a.m.**

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS	COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
The public can view the Teleconference and comment via audio during the meeting. To join this Teleconference, please click on the link below. https://zoom.us/join Meeting ID: 879 6337 8479 Password: 699406 Call-in Number: 1 669 900 6833 For help joining a Zoom meeting, see: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193	LIZ KOPPENHAVER, CHAIR	ELECTED RETIRED
	HENRY LEVY, VICE CHAIR	TREASURER
	DALE AMARAL	ELECTED SAFETY
	KEITH CARSON	APPOINTED
	KELLIE SIMON	ELECTED GENERAL

This is a meeting of the Retirees Committee if a quorum of the Retirees Committee attends, and it is a meeting of the Board if a quorum of the Board attends. This is a joint meeting of the Retirees Committee and the Board if a quorum of each attends.

The order of agenda items is subject to change without notice. Board and Committee agendas and minutes, and all documents distributed to the Board or a Committee in connection with a public meeting (unless exempt from disclosure), are available online at www.acera.org.

Note regarding public comments: Public comments are limited to four (4) minutes per person in total.

Note regarding accommodations: The Board of Retirement will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with special needs of accessibility who plan to attend Board meetings. Please contact ACERA at (510) 628-3000 to arrange for accommodation.

RETIREES COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING

NOTICE and AGENDA, Page 2 of 3 – Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Call to Order: 10:30 a.m.

Roll Call

Public Input (Time Limit: 4 minutes per speaker)

Action Items: Matters for Discussion and Possible Motion by the Committee

1. Adoption of Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan Benefit for 2023

Discussion and possible motion to recommend that the Board of Retirement continue to provide Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan (MBRP) benefits to current eligible retirees at the lowest standard monthly premium rate.

- Carlos Barrios
- Segal

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Retirees Committee recommend to the Board of Retirement to continue to provide the Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan (MBRP) benefit to eligible retirees in 2023, and approve the reimbursement based on the lowest standard monthly Medicare Part B premium at the rate of \$164.90. 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.

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

Discussion and possible motion to recommend that the Board of Retirement adopt revisions to 401(h) Account Resolution 07-29, Appendix A, amended to reflect Plan Year 2023 benefit amounts.

- Carlos Barrios

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Retirees 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 2023.

RETIREES COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING

NOTICE and AGENDA, Page 3 of 3 – Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Information Items: These items are not presented for Committee action but consist of status updates and cyclical reports

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

Staff will provide a report on the \$1,000 Retired Member (lump sum) Death Benefits paid in 2022. This benefit is funded by the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve and is a vested benefit, as long as there are funds available.

- Jessica Huffman

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

Staff will provide results of the Virtual Retiree Health and Wellness Fair and Open Enrollment activity for Plan Year 2023.

- Ismael Piña

3. Miscellaneous Updates

Staff will update the Committee on any recent benefit issues affecting ACERA retirees.

- Ismael Piña

Trustee Remarks

Future Discussion Items

- Annual Supplemental Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

Establishment of Next Meeting Date

February 1, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

Adjournment



MEMORANDUM TO THE RETIREES COMMITTEE

DATE: December 7, 2022

TO: Members of the Retirees Committee

FROM: Carlos Barrios, Assistant Chief Executive Officer 

SUBJECT: **Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan Benefits for 2023**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the 2023 Medicare Part B premiums on September 27, 2022. Based on the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR) Policy, ACERA reimburses eligible retirees the lowest standard premium amount. Currently, ACERA is paying \$170.10 to eligible retirees as this was the lowest standard premium for all eligible recipients. The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B enrollees will be \$164.90 for 2023, which is a decrease of about (3.1%).

The reason for the decrease in the 2023 Part B premium provided from the CMS website states: “The 2022 premium included a contingency margin to cover projected Part B spending for a new drug, Aduhelm. Lower-than-projected spending on both Aduhelm and other Part B items and services resulted in much larger reserves in the Part B account of the Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI) Trust Fund, which can be used to limit future Part B premium increases. The decrease in the 2023 Part B premium aligns with the CMS recommendation in a May 2022 report that excess SMI reserves be passed along to people with Medicare Part B coverage.”

Attached is a letter from Richard Ward with Segal, ACERA’s Benefits Consultant, which provides additional information regarding the 2023 Medicare Parts A and B premiums and deductibles. In addition, the table on page 3 of Segal’s letter regarding the number of retirees at the CMS income levels is provided to give Trustees a sense of the impact of setting the Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan (MBRP) amount at the lowest standard premium. Note that the income is only based on ACERA benefit amounts (for 2021), but provides figures reflecting out-of-pocket numbers the higher income groups may incur for their Medicare Part B premiums.

The number of current retirees receiving the MBRP benefit as of November 2022 is 5,930. If ACERA pays the MBRP benefit of \$164.90 for all retirees currently receiving this benefit, the estimated annual cost for 2023 is \$11,734,284. The estimated annual cost based on the same number of retirees and the 2022 benefit amount of \$170.10 is \$12,104,316. The difference in the estimated annual cost is a savings of \$370,032. These amounts will change for 2023 based on the number of eligible retirees receiving this benefit each payroll.

Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan Benefits for 2023

December 7, 2022

Page 2 of 2

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Retirees Committee recommend to the Board of Retirement to continue to provide the Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan (MBRP) benefit to eligible retirees in 2023, and approve the reimbursement based on the lowest standard monthly Medicare Part B premium at the rate of \$164.90. 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.

Attachment



Richard Ward, FSA, FCA, MAAA
 West Region Market Director, Public Sector
 T 956.818.6714
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 RWard@Segalco.com

500 North Brand Boulevard
 Suite 1400
 Glendale, CA 91203-3338
 segalco.com

October 27, 2022

Carlos Barrios
 Assistant Chief Executive Officer
 ACERA
 475 14th Street, Suite 1000
 Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Medicare Part A and B Premiums and Deductibles

Dear Carlos:

Medicare Part A Premiums

Medicare Part A covers inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility, and some home health care services. About 99% of Medicare beneficiaries do not pay a Part A premium since they have at least 40 quarters of Medicare-covered employment. If retirees need to purchase Part A, they will pay up to \$506 each month in 2023 versus up to \$499 in 2022.

Medicare Part A Deductibles

**Part A Deductible and Coinsurance Amounts for Calendar Years
 2022 and 2023 Type of Cost Sharing**

Year	2022	2023
Inpatient hospital deductible	\$1,556	\$1,600
Daily coinsurance for 61 st – 90 th Day	\$389	\$400
Daily coinsurance for lifetime reserve days	\$778	\$800
Skilled Nursing Facility coinsurance (Days 21-100)	\$194.50	\$200.00

Medicare Part B Premiums

Retirees pay a premium each month for Medicare Part B medical insurance, which covers physicians' services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment, and certain other items not covered by Part A. The final rates for Medicare Part B were announced by CMS on September 27, 2022 and will take effect January 1, 2023.

CMS announced that the annual deductible for all Part B beneficiaries will be \$226.00 in 2023, a decrease of (\$7.00) from the annual deductible of \$233.00 in 2022. Premiums for Medicare

Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug plans are already finalized and unaffected by this announcement.

In years where the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is less than the dollar increase in Medicare Part B Premium there is a statutory "hold harmless" provision meant to protect retirees from the full increase of Part B premiums. Medicare Part B standard premiums are decreasing by (\$5.20) from \$170.10 in 2022 to \$164.90 in 2023, about a (3.1%) decrease. The COLA increase is 8.7% for 2023, averaging \$146 per month nationally, as reported by the Social Security National Press Office. The average monthly COLA increase is over 28 times the standard Part B premium increase for 2023.

Since 2007, beneficiaries with higher incomes have paid higher Part B monthly premiums. These income-related monthly adjustment amounts (IRMAA) affect roughly 7% of people nationally with Medicare. The 2023 Part B total premiums for high income beneficiaries are shown in the following table.

2021 File Individual Tax Return	2021 File Joint Tax Return	2021 File Married & Separate Tax Return	2023 Monthly Premium
\$97,000 or less	\$194,000 or less	\$97,000 or less	\$164.90
Above \$97,000 to \$123,000	Above \$194,000 to \$246,000	N/A	\$230.80
Above \$123,000 to \$153,000	Above \$246,000 to \$306,000	N/A	\$329.70
Above \$153,000 to \$183,000	Above \$306,000 to \$366,000	N/A	\$428.60
Above \$183,000 and less than \$500,000	Above \$366,000 and less than \$750,000	Above \$97,000 and less than \$403,000	\$527.50
\$500,000 or above	\$750,000 and above	\$403,000 and above	\$560.50

Impact on ACERA Retirees

ACERA retirees enrolled in Kaiser Senior Advantage have their entire insurance premium covered by the Monthly Medical Allowance (MMA) if they have 20 years of service. The majority of these retirees will not pay out of pocket for Medicare premiums in 2023. Most retirees have the 40 quarters required for fully subsidized Part A. If continued in 2023, ACERA's Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan reimburses Part B premiums up to the standard amount, which covers the entire Part B premium for most retirees. A smaller proportion of retirees are required to pay the IRMAA.

The following table summarizes out of pocket costs to retirees based on income, using ACERA retirement income as Individual Taxable Income.

2021 File Individual Tax Return	Retirees Over Age 65	% of Retirees	2023 Monthly Premium	Cost to Retiree*
\$97,000 or less	6,915	84%	\$164.90	\$0.00
Above \$97,000 to \$123,000	628	8%	\$230.80	\$65.90
Above \$123,000 to \$153,000	392	5%	\$329.70	\$164.80
Above \$153,000 to \$183,000	152	2%	\$428.60	\$263.70
Above \$183,000 and less than \$500,000	177	2%	\$527.50	\$362.60
\$500,000 or above	0	0%	\$560.50	\$395.60

**The cost to the retiree is the IRMAA, which is the difference between the Part B premium and ACERA's reimbursement of the standard premium amount of \$164.90 per month.*

Under the Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan, the majority of ACERA's Medicare retirees will be able to avoid paying out of pocket to cover premiums in 2023 by enrolling in Kaiser Senior Advantage if they have 20 years of service.

By comparison, ACERA's Non-Medicare retirees enrolling in Kaiser will have a single retiree premium of \$909.02 of which \$616.12 is covered by the MMA, resulting in an out-of-pocket cost of \$292.90 per month.

Please feel free to call or email us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,



Richard Ward FSA, FCA, MAAA
Senior Vice President
West Region Market Director, Public Sector

cc: Jessica Huffman, ACERA
Ismael Piña, ACERA
Eva Hardy, ACERA
Stephen Murphy, Segal
Jessica Kuhlman, Segal
Michael Szeto, Segal



MEMORANDUM TO THE RETIREES COMMITTEE

DATE: December 7, 2022

TO: Members of the Retirees Committee

FROM: Carlos Barrios, Assistant Chief Executive Officer 

SUBJECT: **Revision of Resolution No. 07-29, Appendix A**

In February 2007, the ACERA Board of Retirement (Board) passed Resolution No. 07-29 - 401(h) (Resolution). That Resolution set forth the legal requirements and procedural operations of the 401(h) accounts managed by ACERA. The Resolution consists of a detailed recitation of the requirements under the Internal Revenue Code that ACERA and its Participating Employers must satisfy to properly operate the 401(h) accounts.

Attached to Resolution No. 07-29 is Appendix A, which sets forth the cost and eligibility requirements for the Retiree Health Benefits (RHBs) paid to ACERA retirees through the 401(h) accounts. Those benefits include:

1. Monthly Medical Allowance
2. Medicare Part B Premium Reimbursement
3. Dental Care Contribution
4. Vision Care Contribution

Throughout the course of calendar year 2022, as is done each year, the Retirees Committee (Committee) and the Board have evaluated and approved changes to the Monthly Medical Allowance (MMA) and the contribution amounts associated with the RHBs for Plan Year 2023. The Board approved increasing the MMA for Group Plans and Individual Plans through the Health Exchange for early (non-Medicare) retirees living outside the HMO service area from its 2022 maximum amount of \$596.73 to \$616.12. The Board also approved increasing the MMA for Individual Plans through the Medicare Exchange from its 2022 maximum amount of \$457.13 to \$471.99. The pro-rated MMA distributions were also increased accordingly. The Board approved setting the cost of the Delta Dental Care DPO plan at \$51.24 (a 16.1% increase from the 2022 rate), and the cost of the Delta Dental DMO plan at \$22.18 (the same amount as 2022). The Board approved a \$4.63 premium (a 16.6% increase from the 2022 rate) for the Vision Service Plan. Lastly, we anticipate the Board will approve the Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan (MBRP) benefit of \$164.90 (the lowest standard monthly Medicare Part B premium rate) for 2023 (a decrease in the premium rate) at the December 15, 2022 Board meeting.

Accordingly, in order for Resolution No. 07-29 to remain current for the upcoming 2023 Plan Year, Appendix A must be amended to reflect the decision regarding the MMA, Medicare Part B premium reimbursement, and dental and vision premium amounts as adopted by the Board for

Revision of Resolution No. 07-29, Appendix A

December 7, 2022

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2023. Staff has revised Appendix A and requests that the Board adopt the suggested changes. Attached to this memorandum for your review is a revised version of Resolution 07-29, Appendix A, that reflects the changes described above to the MMA and RHB premiums for Plan Year 2023.

Annually, Staff will request that the Committee and the Board approve modification of Appendix A so that the 401(h) Resolution accurately reflects the eligibility requirements and contributions for the upcoming Plan Year.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Retirees 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 2023.

Attachment

ALAMEDA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
 RESOLUTION # 07-29
 401(h) ACCOUNT
 APPENDIX A - AMOUNT OF BENEFITS FROM 401(h) ACCOUNT
 FOR PLAN YEAR 2023

1. Monthly Medical Allowance

- Group Plans

The Monthly Medical Allowance ("MMA") is a subsidy amount covering all or a portion of the eligible retiree's health plan premiums when enrolled in an ACERA-sponsored health plan. Premium costs for an enrolled surviving spouse and dependents are not paid by ACERA and are deducted from the retiree's monthly retirement allowance. Premium costs that exceed the MMA are paid by the retiree and are deducted from the retiree's monthly retirement allowance. If premium costs for any retiree are less than the maximum MMA, no additional cash or other benefit shall be paid to the retiree.

- Individual Plans – Early (non-Medicare) Retirees Living Outside the HMO Service Area

The MMA is provided as a reimbursement for premiums, co-pays and deductibles for Individual Plans for retirees enrolled in a plan through the Health Exchange. The reimbursement amount will not exceed the total annual MMA amount.

- Individual Plans – Medicare Eligible Retirees

The MMA is provided as a reimbursement for premiums, co-pays and deductibles for Individual Plans for retirees enrolled in a Medicare plan through the Medicare Exchange. The reimbursement amount will not exceed the total annual MMA amount.

For the health Plan Year beginning February 1, 2023 for Group Plans and January 1, 2023 for Individual Plans and for all later years (unless and until amended by the Board of Retirement), the maximum MMA for Group Plans and Individual Plans provided through the Health Exchange for early (non-Medicare) retirees living outside the HMO service area is \$616.12 per month. The maximum MMA for Individual Plans for Medicare eligible retirees provided through the Medicare Exchange is \$471.99 per month. The MMA amounts that are paid to retirees based on years of service are set out below:

YEARS OF SERVICE	AMOUNT OF MONTHLY MEDICAL ALLOWANCE BENEFIT		
	<i>Group Plans</i>	<i>Individual Plans – Out-of-Service Area Early Retirees</i>	<i>Individual Plans – Medicare Eligible Retirees</i>
20 or more years or retired on service connected disability	\$616.12	\$616.12	\$471.99
15 through 19	\$462.09	\$462.09	\$353.99
10 through 14	\$308.06	\$308.06	\$236.00
Under 10	\$0	\$0	\$0

As a result of the Affordable Care Act, in 2014 ACERA's plans are required to be "retiree only plans" in order to provide reimbursement through a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). In order to comply with this federal law, retirees who return to work for an ACERA Participating Employer for any amount of time on or after January 1, 2014, will not be eligible for medical plan and prescription drug plan reimbursements through a HRA during the time period they are working. This is because retirees who return to work (including retired annuitants) are considered "active employees" as defined by the Affordable Care Act, and therefore cause ACERA's plans to not meet the "retiree only" plan qualifications for benefits.

2. Medicare Part B Premium

The Medicare Part B premium that will be reimbursed for the calendar year beginning on January 1, 2023 is \$164.90 per month. ACERA shall reimburse only the lowest standard monthly Medicare Part B premium, and will not make any reimbursement of the income-related monthly adjustment amount of the Medicare Part B premium. No premium will be reimbursed to a retiree unless he or she provides proof to ACERA of enrollment in Medicare Part B. Premiums will only be reimbursed for retirees and not for spouse, dependents or survivors.

No Medicare Part D premiums will be reimbursed to retirees enrolled in Group Plans.

3. Dental Care

The dental care contribution is payment of the eligible retiree's Delta Dental premium when enrolled in the Delta Dental plan. Premium costs for an enrolled spouse and dependents are not paid by ACERA and are deducted from the retiree's monthly retirement allowance.

For the health Plan Year beginning February 1, 2023 and for all later years (unless and until amended by the Board), the monthly Delta Dental premiums paid by ACERA are as follows: for retirees enrolled in the Delta Dental DPO Plan, \$51.24; and for retirees enrolled in the Delta Dental DMO Plan, \$22.18.

4. Vision Care

The vision care contribution is payment of the eligible retiree's Vision Service Plan (VSP) premium when enrolled in the VSP plan. Premium costs for an enrolled spouse and dependents are not paid by ACERA and are deducted from the retiree's monthly retirement allowance.

For the health Plan Year beginning February 1, 2023 and for all later years (unless and until amended by the Board), the monthly VSP premium paid by ACERA is \$4.63.

5. Spouse, Dependents and Surviving Beneficiaries

ACERA shall not provide payment for any health or medical or other retiree health benefits to any spouse, dependent, or surviving beneficiary of a retired member. However, to the extent available from the applicable health plan or carrier, ACERA will allow the retired member to purchase for his or her spouse and dependents the same coverage as the member has through ACERA by paying the full premium cost of such coverage. A surviving beneficiary may purchase coverage available from the applicable health plan or carrier by paying the full premium cost of such coverage.



MEMORANDUM TO THE RETIREES COMMITTEE

DATE: December 7, 2022

TO: Members of the Retirees Committee

FROM: Jessica Huffman, Retirement Benefits Manager 

SUBJECT: **Retired Member Lump Sum Death Benefits Paid in 2022**

In July 1992, the Board of Retirement adopted Government Code Section 31789.12 to provide a one-time Retired Member (lump sum) Death Benefit payment of \$1,000 to beneficiaries of retirees. For reciprocal members who did not render their last active service with an ACERA employer before retiring, ACERA will consider the death benefit payable by the reciprocal agency. If that agency pays less than \$1,000, ACERA will supplement that amount up to \$1,000. This is a vested benefit, per Government Code Section 31789.12, as long as there are funds available in the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR). This Code Section states:

Notwithstanding Section 31789.1, the board may increase the sum payable pursuant to Section 31789.1 to one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

Upon adoption by any county providing benefits pursuant to this section, of Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 31610) of this chapter, the board of retirement shall, instead, pay those benefits from the Supplemental Retiree Benefits Reserve established pursuant to Section 31618.

Over the twelve-month period December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2022, there were 312 retired member deaths with a total of 230 retired member lump sum death benefits paid. Out of this total, there were seven retirees with reciprocity who did not render their last active service with an ACERA employer before retiring. The total amount of retired member lump sum death benefits paid from the SRBR was \$186,038.33. The reciprocal agencies paid a total of \$25,000.00 for the seven retirees with reciprocity. The attached tables show the breakdown of the total number of death benefits paid and the amounts paid by month for this reporting period, as well as a five-year comparison of death benefits paid in previous years.

Attachment

**Total Death Benefits Paid
for Period December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2022**

MONTH	TOTAL LUMP SUM BENEFITS PAID	TOTAL LUMP SUM BENEFITS PAID WITH RECIPROCIITY	ACERA PAID DEATH BENEFIT	RECIPROCAL AGENCY PAID DEATH BENEFIT
December - 2021	17	-	\$11,333.33	\$0.00
January - 2022	20	1	\$18,250.00	\$5,500.00
February - 2022	16	-	\$11,815.01	\$4,000.00
March - 2022	16	-	\$14,916.67	\$0.00
April - 2022	18	2	\$17,000.00	\$7,500.00
May - 2022	26	2	\$21,333.33	\$4,000.00
June - 2022	20	-	\$17,416.67	\$0.00
July - 2022	20	-	\$14,167.00	\$0.00
August - 2022	23	1	\$19,916.67	\$500.00
September - 2022	17	1	\$11,916.66	\$500.00
October - 2022	20	-	\$19,000.00	\$0.00
November - 2022	17	-	\$8,972.99	\$3,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	230	7	\$186,038.33	\$25,000.00

Five-Year Comparison - Total Death Benefits Paid

YEAR	MONTH	TOTAL LUMP SUM BENEFITS PAID	TOTAL LUMP SUM BENEFITS PAID WITH RECIPROCIITY	ACERA PAID DEATH BENEFIT	RECIPROCAL AGENCY PAID DEATH BENEFIT
2018 - Dec 2017 to Nov 2018	195	9	\$185,000.00	\$37,500.00	297
2019 - Dec 2018 to Nov 2019	283	3	\$198,266.50	\$2,500.00	310
2020 - Dec 2019 to Nov 2020	213	2	\$187,311.30	\$7,000.00	347
2021 - Dec 2020 to Nov 2021	207	12	\$201,990.33	\$44,000.00	386
2022 - Dec 2021 to Nov 2022	230	7	\$186,038.33	\$25,000.00	312



MEMORANDUM TO THE RETIREES COMMITTEE

DATE: December 7, 2022

TO: Members of the Retirees Committee

FROM: Ismael Piña, Assistant Benefits Manager 

SUBJECT: **Virtual Retiree Health and Wellness Fair Results and Open Enrollment Activity**

Although restrictions have eased, the annual Retiree Health and Wellness Fair was held on October 27, 2022 again as a virtual event allowing members to go online to attend.

We are proud to announce this year had the largest number of attendees to have logged on for the virtual event. Attendees were ready to enjoy the opportunity to view live streaming presentations from Kaiser, VSP, Delta Dental and Via Benefits. The addition this year of an ACERA presentation on our DocuSign Forms presented by our own Retirement Benefits Specialist, Kevin Weller was a massive success and enjoyed by our attendees. He educated our members on how to complete and submit an enrollment form via DocuSign. Vendors also provided information in areas ranging from financial, wellness, support services and discount programs, which were available for viewing by clicking on the various links. Our webpage will continue to display the informational flyers and links to the various vendors' webpages and customer service contact information. For those who may have missed the presentations, these are available for on demand viewing by visiting the ACERA website.

Final counts show we averaged 405 viewers for the live stream presentations, a 66% increase over last year. Our webpage continues to get visits daily by members seeking information on available coverage options. The ACERA Virtual Health and Wellness Fair 2022 Survey showed 53.4% of respondents preferred the Virtual Fair, 20.9% preferred the in-person Health Fair, 25.7% would like them both.

A report on Open Enrollment forms received, and status of processing will be provided at the February Retirees Committee meeting.



MEMORANDUM TO THE RETIREES COMMITTEE

DATE: December 7, 2022

TO: Members of the Retirees Committee

FROM: Ismael Piña, Assistant Benefits Manager 

SUBJECT: **Miscellaneous Updates**

This memo is to provide the Retirees Committee information on various monthly topics, which impact both retirees and ACERA Staff. This month's report provides an update regarding: 1) Kaiser Permanente's labor agreements; and 2) transitioning ACERA's financial bank from Wells Fargo to J.P. Morgan.

Kaiser Permanente's Labor Agreements:

Kaiser Permanente reached a settlement with its Mental Health Therapists in a four-year agreement. This agreement will benefit Kaiser Permanente patients, and drive collaborative efforts aimed at improving access to mental health care, while at the same time recognizing and better supporting mental health therapists in their important work. In addition, the California Nurses Association has also entered into a settlement with Kaiser Permanente, and the impending strike has been called off ensuring patients will continue to receive the care they need.

Transitioning ACERA's Financial Bank from Wells Fargo to J.P. Morgan:

As reported at the July 6, 2022 Committee meeting, the testing phase of the project to transition ACERA's financial bank from Wells Fargo to J.P. Morgan has been going well. ACERA's IT, Fiscal Services, and Benefits Departments have been testing for the last several months to ensure this transition occurs seamlessly. ACERA worked with J.P. Morgan to produce similar check stub and EFT statements as the current format received by our members.

The November 30, 2022 payroll was ACERA's last benefit payment using Wells Fargo. Members will be paid benefits using J.P. Morgan's banking services starting with the December 30, 2022 payroll. ACERA is notifying members of the banking transition in the following ways:

- November 28 – ACERA's website home page notice; web news posting; email blast to retirees
- November 30 – Paper insert in mailed checks and direct deposit statements (example attached)
- December 28 – ACERA's website home page notice; web news posting; email blast to retirees

Miscellaneous Updates

December 7, 2022

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Email blasts, which are going out in waves to our retiree population, will advise members that there is nothing payees need to do. This transition will happen automatically.

Attachment



ACERA Will Be Changing Banking Providers

To contact ACERA,
use our email form at
www.acera.org/contact
or call 510-628-3000.

This will be your last check from Wells Fargo. Starting next month, expect your future ACERA monthly retirement allowance checks or direct deposit advice statements to come from JPMorgan Chase. This transition will happen automatically, and you do not need to take any action.

The new check statements and direct deposit advice statements will be modeled on the previous ones, so



you can expect to see the same layout you're used to. For a guide to your statement and a preview of the new statement, visit www.acera.org/statement

For more information about your retirement allowance, visit www.acera.org/allowance.