

Dear Alameda County Retirees:

This letter is an invitation to join our organization—the Retired Employees of Alameda County (REAC)—which is the largest independent group of Alameda County retired employees. REAC is organized for the exclusive purpose of serving retired employees and beneficiaries. It is your eyes and ears and your advocate for retiree concerns at the County, State, and Federal levels. We need a strong organization, and your support, if we are to continue to have a powerful and effective voice.

What we do:

1. Publish and send to each member every month the *REAC News*, a publication that advises our members of retiree related activities, information and benefits. Also included every month, are the names of the most recent Alameda County retirees and the names of recently deceased retirees and beneficiaries. (To read a recent issue of the *REAC News*, see our website at <http://reacsite.org>.)
2. Protect the Supplemental Retiree Benefits Reserve (SRBR) against attempts to divert the fund from its lawful purpose of providing Cost of Living increases, Medical, Dental, and Vision plans, and other benefits to retirees and beneficiaries.
3. Attend and participate in ACERA Committee and Board of Trustee meetings and meetings of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on issues that affect retirees and the benefits on which we all depend.
4. Assist retirees and beneficiaries with any problems they might have with ACERA, including difficulties obtaining medical benefits and reimbursements.
5. Maintain active Membership in the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA), an organization that works for retirees statewide and in Sacramento.
6. Maintain active Membership in the State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS), an organization that provides relevant, actionable information on fiduciary responsibility, investment management strategies, as well as legislation that potentially impacts our retirement benefits.
7. Sponsors two luncheons each year which are great opportunities to get together with friends and former co-workers. (Sadly, COVID-19 has prevented us from hosting luncheons in 2020 and 2021)
8. Provide a direct voice in health care benefits at the annual session with the providers and the ACERA staff.

We are very fortunate to have a healthy Defined Benefit Retirement Plan, including the SRBR Fund. However, public pension plans continue to face heavy criticism. Governmental budgetary pressures and the private sector's shift to defined contribution i.e., 401(k) style retirement plans, frequently tempt policy makers to reconsider support for public pensions. Maintaining a properly funded retirement system and other important benefits such as our tax exempt Monthly Medical Allowance (MMA) is not easy. It requires constant effort by ACERA Staff and Trustees, the REAC Board, and consistent vigilance and participation by retirees and beneficiaries.

What is your part in all of this? It is simply to join REAC. Membership is \$2.00 per month by payroll deduction. There is also plenty of opportunity for participation. **To sign up, check the box for REAC membership in Section 9 of your ACERA Retirement Application. (For help, call ACERA at 510-628-3000 or toll free at 1-800-838-1932.) Each member improves our strength and effectiveness. Membership pays.**

Sincerely,

Alicia Baptista
President
Retired Employees of Alameda County