



# THE NETWORK

Newsletter of The Retired Employees of San Diego County

July 2018

Honoring Yesterday—Protecting Tomorrow

Vol. 49, No. 7

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John McTighe



This is a patriotic time of year, with Flag Day on June 14<sup>th</sup> followed by our country's celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4<sup>th</sup>. At times like this, I reflect on the history of our country and on the sacrifices so many have made so we can continue to enjoy the freedoms we sometimes take for granted.

Every week, I volunteer to teach English as a second language (ESL) classes to refugees from Syria and Iraq. I was recently explaining to them the significance of Independence Day and the fact that our founders, having come to America to escape the tyranny of an unjust government, declared our country to be free so that all its people could enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. My students sat listening in amazement because they too, have had to seek the same freedoms from unjust rulers and regimes. Despite what the popular media would have you think, the refugees I know are truly grateful for the opportunity to pursue their lives in our free society.

Last month, I wrote about the County's latest report on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) which projects that by the year 2030, 115,000 San Diegans age 55 and older will be living with ADRD, which is an increase of 36% from 2015. This month, I will share some of the details found in the 48-page report. For

clarification, Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, accounting for 60-80% of cases, yet all dementias are characterized by a decline in thinking skills, memory loss, and reduced ability to perform everyday activities.

Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S., and the third leading cause of death in California and San Diego County. While there is currently no known cure for Alzheimer's disease, there are many efforts throughout the country studying the disease with an intent to both find ways to prevent or delay its onset, and to deal with its consequences. Some of the most intense research efforts are centered right here in San Diego County. A recent TV commercial touts that the first person to be cured of Alzheimer's Disease is living today. I pray this is not just hyperbole or false hope, but in fact happens during my lifetime.

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### SPECIAL EVENT

#### TOUR AND PRESENTATION BY SAN DIEGO OASIS



**Date:** Tuesday, July 24, 2018

**Time:** 1:30 pm

**Location:** 5500 Grossmont Center Drive, Suite #269, La Mesa, CA 91942 (Grossmont Mall)

RESDC invites our members and other interested parties to a tour and overview of the programs and classes offered by **San Diego Oasis**. Oasis is dedicated to promoting healthy aging through lifelong learning, healthy lifestyles, and volunteer opportunities. If you haven't had a chance to visit the Grossmont Center Oasis location in La Mesa, please join us to learn more about the wonderful programs offered county-wide by Oasis. We hope to see you there! To learn more, visit [www.SanDiegoOasis.org](http://www.SanDiegoOasis.org).

RSVPs requested but not required: online at [www.resdc.net/events](http://www.resdc.net/events) or by phone at (619) 688-9229. □

## July Calendar of Events

- 4—(Weds.) Fourth of July Holiday**  
RESDC and SDCERA Offices Closed
- 12—(Thurs.) RESDC Board of Directors Meeting**  
8825 Aero Drive, Suite 205, 9:30 a.m.
- 19—(Thurs.) SDCERA Board of Retirement Meeting**  
2275 Rio Bonito Way, Suite 200, 9:00 a.m.
- 24—(Tues.) San Diego Oasis Tour & Presentation**  
San Diego Oasis, Grossmont Center  
5500 Grossmont Center Drive, Suite 269  
La Mesa, CA 91942, 1:30 p.m.
- 24—(Tues.) RESDC Roundup #2**  
BJ's Brewhouse Grossmont Center  
5500 Grossmont Center Drive,  
La Mesa, CA 91942, 3:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUES SAN DIEGO COUNTY RETIREMENT

By Stan Coombs, Director



Last April 17<sup>th</sup>, a San Diego County staffer filed suit on behalf of our County Board of Supervisors, against the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association (SDCERA), our very own retirement system. By April 20<sup>th</sup>, the suit was described in a *San Diego Union Tribune* article, "County Sues Pension Board for

Refusing to Implement Reduced Benefits for New Employees."

There had been rumors about labor negotiations affecting retirement. The Board of Supervisors approved a reduced Tier D benefit formula for new hires in January, and the Board of Retirement, which runs SDCERA, had held closed sessions on matters hinting at an interagency dispute. But, there was no warning the two might collide in court.

Turns out the two boards disagree about how the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2012 (PEPRA) applies, and the Board of Supervisors sued when they couldn't get their way . . . or is this a friendly suit?

PEPRA was passed by the California Legislature in late 2012, amidst a flurry of legislative and ballot proposals to "reform" California public retirement. "Reform," in this instance, meant, "reducing costs by reducing retirement benefits." So, PEPRA tightened retirement rules for the State and most California local governments, particularly limiting pension formulas for non-safety employees hired after January 1, 2013, to 2.3% of final compensation per year of service at age 65, or about 69%, after 30 years of service.

New rules for safety employees (mostly law enforcement and fire) were more complicated, allowing three options, 1.836%, 2.357% and 2.5%, at 55 years of age,

producing pensions roughly estimated at 55.1%, 71% and 75% of final compensation, with 30 years service. The applicable option depended on the new formula's numerical relationship to the formula in place beforehand.

For context, the County's current, non-safety Tier C provides 2.3% per year of service at age 65, with 30 years service, or about 69% of final compensation, and the reduced Tier D proposal provides 1.62% per year of service at age 65, with 30 years, or about 49% of final compensation. Tier D doesn't apply to safety members.

The story of the County retirement tier structure is complicated. Other than the general member/safety member split, the system had only one tier until 1978, when Proposition 13's frugality brought a reduced Tier II benefit formula for new hires, with about 1.92% per year of service, extrapolating from other reported figures. Earlier hires on board were designated Tier I's, and kept their previous 2.34% per year benefit.

Then, the County's 2002 response to a court ruling on a Ventura County Deputy Sheriff's Association suit against Ventura County, brought an increased, Tier A, providing about a 3% at 30 years formula.

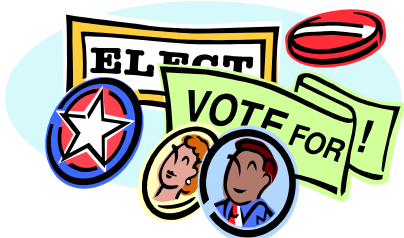
In 2009, pressures from the financial crash, non-stop media play-back about public retirement scandals, and new accounting requirements, resulted in reductions in Tier A benefits for newly hired, general members, to lesser, Tier B benefits, and still lesser Tier C benefits. Still extrapolating from other figures, affected sixty-year-old, Tier B general members were provided approximately 2.34% at 30 years, or about 70% of final compensation, and Tier C's were provided the previously described 2.3% at age 65. Now we have the described Tier D proposal, with 1.62% per year of service.

Back to the County of San Diego v. SDCERA lawsuit: PEPRA states, "If the employer adopts a new defined benefit formula on or after January 1, 2013, that formula must conform to the requirements of this article or must be determined and certified by the retirement system's chief actuary and the retirement board to have no greater risk and no greater cost to the employer than the defined benefit formula required by the article and must be approved by the legislature."

Those last seven words bring us this lawsuit. The Board of Supervisors asked SDCERA to implement the new Tier D, but hadn't obtained subsequent legislative approval. The Board of Retirement says approval is required. The Board of Supervisors argues that the passage of PEPRA satisfies that requirement, while the Board of Retirement says "PEPRA's plain language requires . . . legislative approval." Otherwise, some say courts could declare Tier D to be improperly established in any future litigation, require Tier C benefit levels reinstated for employees hired with the lesser Tier D formula, and Tier C level county contributions reimbursed for affected employees' time in service at considerable public cost.

The San Diego City system faces a similar possibility in their suit over the City Proposition B.

**(Continued on Page 8)**



## RESDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018 ELECTIONS

By Carlos Gonzalez, Elections Committee Chair



The terms of three Officers (First Vice President; Treasurer; and Secretary), as well as four Directors, will expire December 31, 2018. The new term begins January 1, 2019 and runs for two years.

Events that impact county retirees require active participation by retirees. Every year, volunteers from within our membership contribute their time and talent for the benefit of more than 6,700 member retirees and surviving spouses, and work to advocate on behalf of all County retirees. Every year new volunteers are sought out to help sustain our organization's mission. Our volunteers are expected to attend monthly Board meetings, as well as six general membership meetings through the year.

Please submit all candidate statements (limited to 200 words) with a summary of your background and work experience to: **RESDC, 8825 Aero Drive, Suite #205, San Diego, CA 92123**, or you can email [resdc@resdc.net](mailto:resdc@resdc.net), by **August 1, 2018**.

Make sure to state your candidacy for one of the following: Director (4 openings); First Vice-President; Treasurer; or Secretary. Only current and past board members of RESDC are eligible for the First Vice-President, Treasurer, or Secretary positions.

All applicants have the option to be considered for an immediate appointment to a Board vacancy, caused by a midterm-resignation. We would forego the election process for this vacancy. The term in question runs through December 31, 2019.

Please direct your questions to our staff, via telephone (866) 688-9229, or email [resdc@resdc.net](mailto:resdc@resdc.net). □

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

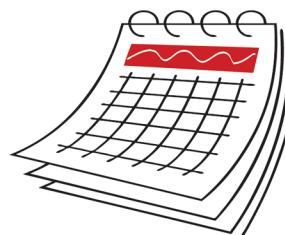
*As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.*

▪ *John F. Kennedy*

## PENSION FACTS AT A GLANCE

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**Member Service Retirements Processed in March by SDCERA (66 in February, 84 in January)**



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 9:30 AM**  
**ST PAUL'S SENIOR SERVICES**  
**St. Paul's Plaza**  
**1420 E. Palomar St., Chula Vista, 91913**

Come learn more about our host, **St. Paul's Senior Services**. St. Paul's has been caring for San Diego seniors since 1960. With the changing needs of today's older adults, St. Paul's services have expanded to bring innovative choices to those seeking resources for active retirement living, personal care, memory support, and medical oversight. In addition, hear about exciting activity and volunteer opportunities within our communities, programs and services.

Our second presenter, **Joaquin Anguera** will be expanding on the topic, "Celebrating Aging". Joaquin worked at Aging and Independence Services for 30 years and then went on to teach Gerontology at SDSU for 15 years. He is now a Governor-appointed member of the California Commission on Aging.

Healthy aging and longevity are major accomplishments of our 21st century. Our average life expectancy at birth is now 80 years; in 1900 it was only 47. On the other hand, many are questioning whether these additional years are as fulfilling and satisfying as they can be. National aging organizations are talking about the need to "reframe aging" so that everyone in our society –young and old alike- realize the potential of this stage of life.

Watch for directions and parking information in the August **NETWORK**. □



## RESDC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS CLASS OF 2018

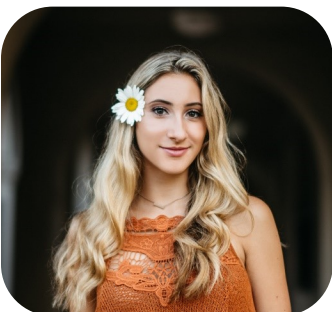
*By Carlos Gonzalez, Scholarship Committee Chair*

This year's RESDC scholarship recipients will soon be off to their college lives. Together with their parents, grandparents, and sponsors, we pause briefly on their exciting journey to recognize their accomplishments. Excerpts of their personal statements are presented here in alphabetical order.



**Riley Ellis** is sponsored by his great-grandmother, **Pamela Mills**. Riley graduated from Valhalla High School in El Cajon, CA, with a 4.538 GPA; ranked #15 in a class of 536. In his applicant statement, Riley quotes Emerson, "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some

difference that you have lived and lived well." Reflecting on this quote, Riley says, "There are so many things that make me happy, but I definitely feel best when I am being useful, when I am letting people know I see them, when I am making a difference to help others to live life to their fullest. I truly consider myself a scholar for service." In high school, Riley ran cross country and track; joined Link Crew; wrote for the school newspaper and started a debate club. He also dedicated time to "Key Club," eventually becoming Vice President. From campus clean-ups to shoe drives, working at school carnivals, to creating floats for the Rose Parade, while in the Key Club Riley found inspiration and community with like-minded students. Riley is planning to attend Reed College, to study psychology and/or literature.



**Sarina Jassy** is sponsored by her mother, **Sharon Jassy**. Sarina graduated from Francis Parker School, in San Diego, CA, with a 4.52 GPA, in a class of 125 (no ranking published). Sarina has been dancing since she was three years old. Presently she trains, performs, and teaches

approximately 25 hours a week. She won over 120 awards, scholarships, and titles for solo and team danc-

es. She also won a prestigious award to the Joffrey Ballet School (two-week summer program) where she trained with other pre-professional dancers in San Francisco, CA. During her senior year, she was the Captain of the Varsity High School Dance Team, responsible for all the team's logistics. More importantly, her goals for the team were to increase school spirit, facilitate camaraderie, promote cohesiveness, and provide a supportive and welcoming environment in which all dancers could learn and grow. Beyond her many accomplishments as the dance team Captain, Sarina was on the Math Team for four years. They won 75% of their competitions. This year she was the Math Team's Vice President. Outside of the classroom Sarina is passionate for science and for helping people. Quoting one her counselors, "Sarina has always been intrigued by the medical field, attending camps to enrich herself further in the field. Over the past three years, she secured a dermatology internship and has initiated a community service project in her local neighborhood. She received a grant from a sunscreen company based in Australia and used the money to conduct in-class seminars at her former elementary school to students regarding proper sun protection." Sarina says, "If one child uses sunscreen because of my presentations, then I am ecstatic to be making a difference. My goal is to reach as many students as possible." Sarina has done extensive volunteer work; raising money and awareness for Multiple Sclerosis, Juvenile Diabetes, The ASPCA, Rady Children's Hospital, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Scripps Ranch Civic Association. She has stocked, prepared, and packaged food for military families and homeless people. She has also cleaned up the beaches and worked with the Hands-Up Food Pantry.

In addition to RESDC's \$2,000 scholarship award, Sarina has been selected to receive the \$750 **LaRue Pierce Community Service Award**. This award was established in 2014, honoring the memory of LaRue Pierce, RESDC Director and Scholarship Committee Chair during the first 18 years of the RESDC Scholarship Program, and her spirit of community service.



**Madeline McKinney** is sponsored by her grandmother, **Sharon McKinney**. Madeline graduated from Skyview High School, in Vancouver, WA, with a 4.0 GPA; ranked #1 in a class of 460. In her applicant statement Madeline declared her love for pets, and a passion for an active life, ranging from swimming and competitive golfing, to a second

degree belt in Tae Kwon Do, and snow skiing. Quoting from her statement, "The struggles of these recent years have showed me that I am a fierce friend and a strong academic with a passion for learning." In high school, Madeline was committed to service groups which promoted personal growth for her and her peers through academics and sports. She was Captain of various sports teams and The Science, Math, Technology Magnet Program, which required 30 hours of volunteer work before graduation. One of the school counselors

described Madeline as, "A leader, hard worker and focused student, and that not only does she work really hard in classes, but that she really helps raise the discourse in the classroom." Madeline is planning to pursue a degree in Biomedical Engineering or Biochemistry.



**Dayna Pham** is sponsored by her father, **Henry Pham**. Dayna graduated from Otay Ranch High School, in Chula Vista, CA, with a 4.49 GPA; ranked #10 in a class of 651. In her applicant statement, Dayna says, "They say that nothing good comes from war, but the adversity of the Vietnam War, elicited an action of progress that would have lain dormant had the war not happened: my parents and grandparents immi-

grating to America. Their journey to a new world forced them to face much hardship. While keeping up with the demands of American life, they have not lost sight of their native culture. Vietnamese was my first language and my grandfather taught me the value of my culture at a young age, giving me lessons on how to read and write in my native tongue, and doing language exercises with me. Language was a way for us to connect and bond, breaking the generation gap of 75 years." Her grandfather inspired Dayna to transfer from her underperforming high school to a proficient high school, under the No Child Left Behind Act, thus giving up her "status" as a potential Valedictorian for college readiness. In the end she learned that school is not only about achievement, it is about personal development. This realization made her grandfather very proud. Dayna's grandfather suffered from macular degeneration, which led to the loss of his right eye. She was very active in his care, which has inspired her to attend medical school, then enter an ophthalmology residency to learn how to do specialized work, in order to become an Ophthalmologist. Dayna's AP English Lit & Comp teacher says, "As an educator for the past 34 years, I have had the privilege and joy of working with some unbelievably talented young people, yet Dayna's off the charts accomplishments, academically and personally, have been achieved by very few."






**Austin Tarke** is sponsored by his father, Henry Tarke. Austin graduated from Patrick Henry High School, in San Diego, CA, with a 3.97 GPA; ranked #156 in a class of 519. In his applicant statement, Austin wrote about his experiences at the Sun Valley Writers' Conference in Ketchum, ID (considered one of the finest literary events in the country).

For the past six years he worked at the conference (a week-long event) and had the opportunity to listen to some of the guest writers. Austin says, "In 2014, New York Congressman John Lewis spoke about his march with Martin Luther

King Jr. Mr. Lewis told a fascinating story of his experiences with MLK, and the events that occurred while marching from Selma to Montgomery and fighting for human rights. He made me realize that there were so many people participating in these marches and every single one of them had an important impact on the world, it wasn't just the big names that made a difference." Austin continues, "Some authors such as David Brooks, *NY Times* Writer give more inspirational talks. David Brooks compared everyone's life to three mountains. Each person has to climb mountains such as love life, keeping a stable job, and maintaining happiness in retirement. These are the three mountains that maintain your life. He mentioned many of us will fall from these mountains into the valleys, but emphasized that the key is to get back up and continue on with the next mountain always in sight." Austin has applied to several universities with strong emphasis in communications, media and/or journalism. One of his references describes Austin as, "Quick to smile, quick to help, quick to be involved, quick to lead."

Our deepest appreciation and credit for the Scholarship Program's success goes to the Scholarship Committee, whose independent and confidential effort ensures the quality of unbiased results. We are most proud and grateful to have them as part of the RESDC team. □



 **RESDC**   
**ROUNDUP #2**  
**July 24, 3:00 pm**  
**BJ's Brewhouse and Restaurant**

The first Roundup was a tremendous success! We hope you'll join us for our second get together.

The Roundup provides an opportunity to catch up over libations and appetizers with RESDC leadership and fellow members. No reservation required (no host bar). Come meet with old friends and make some new ones!

**Date:** Tuesday, July 24, 2018

**Time:** 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

**Location:** BJ's Brewhouse and Restaurant, 5500 Grossmont Center Drive, La Mesa, 91942.

(BJ's is directly across from Target, next to Casa De Pico.)

The RESDC Roundup immediately follows the General Membership Meeting at San Diego Oasis in Grossmont Center. □

## PENSION FACTS

### Criticism Regularly Aimed At Traditional Pensions Is Unfair. Defined Benefit Plans Produce Positive Economic Ripple Effects.



How can that be? All we see is the constant drumbeat from critics claiming that the cost of public pensions is rising and will chew up government revenues needed for basic services. Those peddling that superficial narrative want to portray retirement plan financing as a narrow zero-sum game, thus inferring that budget dol-

lars earmarked for future retirees are preventing local governments from adequately funding public services.

Defined benefit naysayers are either ignorant or choose to stay strategically silent about the broad economic benefits surrounding defined benefit pensions in both the public and private sectors. There are numerous benefits associated with consumer spending by retirees; the impact of huge investments that retirement systems make in various sectors of the economy; and the local, state and federal tax revenues that accrue to government coffers as a result of retirees receiving and spending their pension checks across the nation.

In 2014, defined benefit retirement plans paid \$519.7 billion to 24.3 million retired Americans, according to research published in 2016 by the National Institute for Retirement Security (NIRS). These monies went to 9.6 million state or local retirees or their beneficiaries; 2.6 million recipients at the federal level; and 12.1 million in the private sector. Data for the research came from the U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Bureau of Labor Standards.

The simplest example of an economic ripple effect for these retiree consumers is when they buy goods and services in their local communities, their expenditure becomes another person's or business's income. On the tax impact level, the report estimated that \$189.7 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue would result from income taxes paid on the initial benefit checks and revenue associated with the subsequent consumer spending (sales tax on retail purchases, for example).

A salient point often overlooked by defined benefit public pension detractors is that taxpayers only contribute about 20% of the cost of employee retirement benefits because pension plans are pre-funded over many years, with investment earnings and contributions from the workers themselves covering the lion's share of benefit distributions. These are the three components of public pension fund receipts: employer contributions, employee payroll deductions, and earnings on fund investments. Nationally, between 1993 and 2014, 24.1% came from employers; 11.5% from workers; and 64.4% from investments. During the same 20-year period in California, 22.23% of public pension fund receipts were from government employers, 12.24% from public employees, and 65.5% from earnings on investments.

The brief comments here are based upon three re-

search papers that describe the significant economic influence of defined benefit pensions in much greater detail with thoughtful analysis. Links to the three documents are included at the end of this column.

I believe the research supports two reasonable contentions: (1) the overall positive economic impacts of defined benefit public retirement plans exceed the amount of taxpayer funding contributed toward these employees' pension benefits in government budgets; and (2) the argument that taxpayers cannot afford defined benefit public pensions is not credible. Traditional public pensions are a sound investment and reasonable contract for everyone involved. Seriously eroding or eliminating these retirement benefits would be short-sighted on the part of elected leaders and lead to long term negative economic consequences.

Research from by *The National Institute for Retirement Security (NIRS)*:

"Pensionomics 2016: Measuring the Economic Impact of DB Pension Expenditures" September 2016

[https://www.nirsonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/pensionomics2016\\_final.pdf](https://www.nirsonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/pensionomics2016_final.pdf)

Research from *The National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS)*:

"Unintended Consequences: How Scaling Back Public Pensions Puts Government Revenues at Risk" May, 2018

[http://www.ncpers.org/files/NCPERS%20Unintended%20Consequences%20Report\\_FINAL%20EDIT.pdf](http://www.ncpers.org/files/NCPERS%20Unintended%20Consequences%20Report_FINAL%20EDIT.pdf)

"Public Pensions Are a Good Deal for Taxpayers", August, 2017

[http://www.ncpers.org/files/NCPERS%20Research%20Series\\_2017%20Public%20Pensions%20Are%20A%20Good%20Deal%20for%20Taxpayers\\_Web.pdf](http://www.ncpers.org/files/NCPERS%20Research%20Series_2017%20Public%20Pensions%20Are%20A%20Good%20Deal%20for%20Taxpayers_Web.pdf) □



Happy 4th of July from your friends at SDCCU!

Are you taking advantage of SDCCU's FREE Checking with eStatements? Access over 30,000 surcharge-FREE CO-OP ATMs nationwide. Visit [sdccu.com/partner](http://sdccu.com/partner) to see how you can get up to \$100 for a limited time! Open an account in minutes and free yourself of monthly activity fees. When you direct deposit your pension check into your SDCCU@ checking account, you may enjoy it earlier than your regularly scheduled payday. Sign up for direct deposit at [sdccu.com/directdeposit](http://sdccu.com/directdeposit) today to start enjoying your pension early! *Restrictions apply. Actual deposit date not guaranteed. Federally insured by NCUA.* □



## President's Message (Continued from page 1)

The County's latest report compares the prevalence of ADRD among the six Health and Human Services Agency regions and concludes that in 2015:

- **East Region** had the greatest number (21,901) and proportion (16.7%) of residents age 55 years and older living with ADRD.
- Similarly, **East Region** had the highest rate (5,832.1 per 100,000 residents) of residents discharged from the ED or hospital with any mention of ADRD.
- **North Coastal Region** had the smallest population age 55 years and older living with ADRD (10,626).
- **North Central Region** had the lowest proportion (6.8%) of its 55 years and older population living with ADRD.
- **North Inland Region** had the lowest rate (3,727 per 100,000 residents) of residents discharged from the ED or hospital with any mention of ADRD.

In 2015, over 214,300 caregivers provided unpaid care for the 84,405 people living with ADRD in San Diego County. The County estimates that these caregivers provided over 244 million hours of unpaid care, valued at just over three billion dollars.

The report states "The work required of caregivers, including the physical tasks, organization, and required planning can lead to increased emotional stress, depression, financial hardships, and poor health." In response to increase burden placed on caregivers, not only for people who are victims of ADRD, but other diseases and disabilities, the *San Diego Union-Tribune* recently ran a special guide "**Caregiving Made Easier**" in the Sunday, June 3, 2018 edition of the newspaper, and sponsored a CaregiverSD Community Expo on June 9, 2018 at Liberty Station.

If you, a loved one and/or friend are affected by Alzheimer's Disease or related dementia, please remember that you are not alone and there are resources available to help you through your journey. I've listed some of them here for your reference:

- ◆ Alzheimer's Association [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)
- ◆ Alzheimer's San Diego [www.alzsd.org](http://www.alzsd.org)
- ◆ Southern Caregiver Resource Center [www.caregivercenter.org](http://www.caregivercenter.org)
- ◆ CaregiverSD (a project of the *San Diego Union Tribune*) [www.caregiversd.com](http://www.caregiversd.com)
- ◆ County of San Diego Aging and Independence Services [www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ais/caregiver\\_support.html](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ais/caregiver_support.html)
- ◆ AARP [www.aarp.org/caregiving](http://www.aarp.org/caregiving)

On a final, and unrelated note, I look forward to seeing many you at the RESDC Day at the Padres game against the San Francisco Giants on Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. As of when I wrote this column there were still a few tickets left, so contact the RESDC office if you haven't bought one yet and are interested in joining us for a fun afternoon of sunshine, food, and baseball in our own little terrace section of Petco Park. (See Page 10.) □



**Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!  
The RESDC and SDCERA offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 4th!**



### BOARD MEMBER PROFILE LEILA ATTAR

A member of the RESDC Board of Directors since February of this year, Leila retired in September 2016, after 32 years of service with the County. Born and raised in New York, Leila moved to California in 1979, where she received her Master of Public Health from San Diego State University. Leila's career at the County of San Diego began in 1984, at what was then the Health Services Department, now the Health and Human Services Agency. From 1989 to 2000, she was an Analyst with the Alcohol and Drug Services division, where she worked with the community based organizations that provide the wide array of prevention, treatment and recovery services to the residents of San Diego County. She then worked as an Analyst at the County's Probation Department starting in the year 2000, providing administrative support to the special programs for youth, adults, and families involved or at risk of being involved in the justice system.

A member of the CRASH, Inc. Board of Directors since 2001, Leila's familiarity with the operations and requirements of the County has assisted CRASH in understanding its expectations. When a potential residential facility became available, she worked on evaluating its appropriateness and feasibility for an agency program. CRASH, Inc. is a non-profit agency providing substance abuse services in San Diego.

Leila lives in San Diego with her husband, Jim. She enjoys traveling, keeping up with current events, getting together with friends, and supporting environmental and animal causes. Her goal is to work on keeping this planet livable for the generations to come. □



### THEO AND EVELYN YAKEL 2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

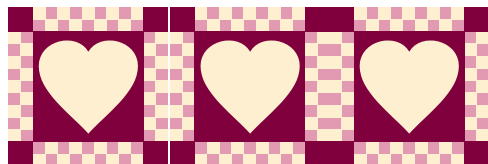
Congratulations to the seven recipients of the Theo and Evelyn Yakel Scholarships for 2018! Each student received a \$1,500 award. The seven students are in alphabetical order:

- Sophie Burns**, sponsored by **Bernard Siekert**.
- Maria Cook**, sponsored by **Nancy Watson Evans**.
- Riley Ellis**, sponsored by **Pamela Mills**.
- Keoni Fernandez**, sponsored by **Francisco Fernandez**.
- Micah Fong**, sponsored by **Charles Pennell**.
- Megan Griswold**, sponsored by **John Oldenkamp**.
- Alexandria Middleton**, sponsored by **Florence Helms**.

In 2001, RESDC member **Theo Yakel and his wife, Evelyn**, placed a \$250,000 endowment with the San Diego Foundation for the purpose of awarding scholarships to children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of members of The Retired Employees of San Diego County. The interest from the endowment is used to fund the annual scholarships. Many thanks to Theo and Evelyn for their generous endowment to provide financial assistance to young people seeking higher education at a college or university.

The Yakel Scholarships are in addition to and complementary to the scholarships that RESDC awards. This is another opportunity for the families of RESDC members.

Congratulations and good luck to all of the 2018 Scholarship Recipients. □



### BITS AND PIECES

**Editor’s Note:** We would like to continue printing some Bits and Pieces items in this newsletter about our members.

If you have taken an interesting trip or have had an intriguing event happen recently, please let us know so that we can share your story with our members. If you have reached an exciting birthday, or wedding anniversary, please call Karen Hazel at (866) 688-9229 or write RESDC, 8825 Aero Dr., Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92123.

You may also send your information to us by e-mail at [resdc@resdc.net](mailto:resdc@resdc.net). □

### RECENT EVENTS

- ❖ **New Study: How Scaling back Public Pensions Puts Government Revenues at Risk—National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS).** Public pension funds contributed a net \$137.3 billion to state and local government coffers during 2016, underscoring their power to strengthen the U.S. economy, according to a new analysis by the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS). The analysis’s author states “Our findings are a powerful rebuke to the popular argument that taxpayers cannot afford public pensions.” The NCPERS study is the first comprehensive exploration of how state economics and tax revenues are affected when pension funds invest their assets, and how taxpayer contributions compare to revenues. To access the study, visit: [www.ncpers.org/ResearchPubs](http://www.ncpers.org/ResearchPubs).
- ❖ **2018 Aging Summit:** The theme of the June 28th Aging Summit was “Age Well in Action.” Hosted by the County of San Diego’s Aging and Independence Service, this year’s summit focused on the community Age Well San Diego initiative. Topics included: dementia, health and community support, housing, social participation, and transportation. The keynote speaker was Joan Lunden, the award-winning journalist and host of Good Morning America for nearly two decades. She did an outstanding job of highlighting her life and work including being a mother of seven, juggling being a working mom while caring for an aging parent, and the experience of her role as the spokesperson for the nation’s leading senior referral service, A Place for Mom, a company helping caregivers and families fine the right care and resources for their loved ones. □

### San Diego County Sues San Diego County Retirement (Continued from page 2)

But, another complication: The County and employee unions have agreed on a five-year package of benefits, including the Tier D formula.

A March 2017 flyer describes a 2016 tentative agreement with the County, wherein represented employees receive 3% or 2% wage increases in fiscal years 2017-18 through 2021-22, totaling 13%, would individually receive annual combinations of lump sum payments of \$750 or \$1,500, totaling \$6,000, and 7% increases in county contributions to flexible benefit plans, totaling 35%, also during those years.

The union agrees to the reduced 1.62% at 65, Tier D benefit formula for new employees. As of this writing, this agreement seems in limbo. □



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**RESDC Office Email Address:**

[resdc@resdc.net](mailto:resdc@resdc.net)



**JOIN THE RESDC EMAIL LIST!**

We encourage you to join the thousands of other RESDC members who are on our email list. By joining, you'll receive occasional updates, news, and *The NETWORK*, all delivered directly to your inbox. We have an online member self-service area on our website and you need to have an email on file with us in order to participate. Using the member self-service area, you can RSVP for our events and pay with a credit card.

To join the email list, send us your full name and email address by contacting us at [resdc@resdc.net](mailto:resdc@resdc.net) or by calling 619-688-9229. Please also let us know if you'd like go green by receiving *The NETWORK* by email only. We'll continue sending you *The NETWORK* via postal mail unless you specify otherwise.

□



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Charles D. Brown            | Superior Court                   |
| Kimberly Brown              | Health & Human Services          |
| Millie Busse                | SDCERA                           |
| Phyllis A. Carlson          | Health & Human Services          |
| Darlene M. Cervantes        | General Services                 |
| Cynthia S. Charlebois*      | District Attorney                |
| Shirley Y. Chin             | Agriculture, Weights, & Measures |
| John S. Davies              | Probation                        |
| Charlene Demus              | Health & Human Services          |
| Arlene O De Ocampo          | Environmental Health             |
| Virginia L. Fox             | Air Pollution Control            |
| Emily J. Gillespie          |                                  |
| Mercedes Gonzales-San Pedro | Health & Human Services          |
| Roxanne Grooms*             |                                  |
| Mary Huhn                   | Health & Human Services          |
| Anne E. Johnson             |                                  |
| Craig T. Johnson            | Sheriff                          |
| Kyersten F. King            | Child Support                    |
| Renee Maratos-Henderson*    | Health & Human Services          |
| Violeta Martel              | Health & Human Services          |
| William D. Mathews          | Public Defender                  |
| Lisa A. Miller              | Sheriff                          |
| Daniel E. Monge             | Sheriff                          |
| Adrienne S. Moss            | Agriculture, Weights & Measures  |
| Frank Ohlendorf             | General Services                 |
| Pamela O'Neil               | Board of Supervisors             |
| Yolanda M. Perez            |                                  |
| Timothy C. Petrachek        | Sheriff                          |
| Diane Rexin                 |                                  |
| Maria Josefina Rodgers      | Environmental Health             |
| Janet M. Rose               | Probation                        |
| Elizabeth Santillan         | Probation                        |
| Diane E. Snyder             |                                  |
| Sheila Solomon              | Health & Human Services          |
| Renee J. Steele             |                                  |
| Barbara L. Stokes           | Sheriff                          |
| Amparo C. Suter             | Public Works                     |
| Ann Yamamoto                | Health & Human Services          |

**\*Associate Member**

The surviving spouse of a member is eligible for RESDC membership. For enrollment assistance, call (619) 688-9229. □





**Office Hours:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday  
**Telephone:** (866) 688-9229 Toll Free  
**Fax:** (619) 688-0766  
**Email:** resdc@resdc.net  
**Website:** www.resdc.net  
**The NETWORK** is the official monthly newsletter of the Retired Employees of San Diego County, Inc. (RESDC), a private non-profit organization.

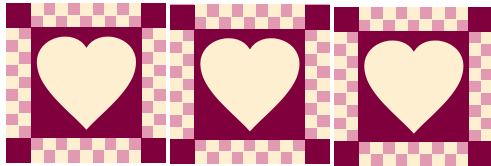
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**Business and Inquiries:** Business matters and address changes may be recorded on the office voice mail at any time, call (866) 688-9229. Please spell your last name so the correct member record can be located.

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.



**BITS AND PIECES**

**Marietta Jones** celebrated her 90th birthday last September! Her family held a party at the San Diego Yacht Club for her. Marietta retired from County Mental Health in 1990.

**Vivian Mayes** celebrated her 80th birthday in March! She had a birthday party at American Legion in La Mesa. She had 160+ guests in attendance including family

from all over the country and some from Ecuador also. Vivian retired from County Mental Health Senior Outreach in 1992. She is a member of the San Diego Chorus of Sweet Adeline's.

**Judy Gutman** retired from Health and Human Services after 20 years. She is helping her parents celebrate their 51st anniversary this year in Arizona.

**Rita (Mareta) Martin** was recently honored as the Pioneer of the Year in Valley Center during their Western Days Parade. Rita is active with Valley Center Senior Volunteers. At the age of 91, Rita is an active volunteer with The Humane Society, Valley Center, and as a Reserve Sheriff Deputy. Rita retired from Probation in 1990. □



**RESDC DAY AT THE PADRES, TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2018, 1:10 PM**  
**TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE!**  
**SAN DIEGO PADRES VS. SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS**

Ticket price is **\$48.00** per person. Tickets include a pre-game buffet with standard ballpark fare, served one hour before first pitch until one hour after first pitch, and soft drinks served from one hour before first pitch through the seventh inning. Registration forms and payment must be received in the RESDC office by **Thursday, July 26. Tickets will be mailed approximately two weeks prior to the event date.**

**Register by Mail:** Fill out the registration form below, make a check payable to RESDC for \$48 per person and mail both to RESDC, 8825 Aero Dr., Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92123.

**Register Online:** Go to [www.resdc.net/events](http://www.resdc.net/events), click on the green "Register" button, and follow the steps. You will need to use the email associated with your member account. Click "Add guest" to add additional registrants for \$48 each. To pay for yourself and guests, click "Pay Online" and pay with credit card.

**Register by Phone:** Call the RESDC Office at (619) 688-9229 during our hours of 9 am – 2 pm Mon-Fri. □

RESDC "Day at the Padres Game" Registration Form July 31, 2018, 1:10 pm

Name of Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

# of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$48.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Total Enclosed)