Contra Costa County Retired Employees Association

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E-Mail: info@cccrea.info.

Representing the Past, Present & Future

January 2022

President's Message

By Petrenya Boykins

Wishing you best spaces in the year 2022!!

We are human. We are not perfect. We are alive. We try things. We make mistakes. We stumble. We fall. We get hurt. We rise again. We try again. We keep learning. We keep growing. And we are thankful for this priceless opportunity called life.

I hope you and your family are doing well and have enjoyed the holiday season! We don't have a magic wand, but remain hopeful to get a schedule of events planned to move forward when safe.

You were certainly missed If you didn't make the December Luncheon, what a great time! We had a wonderful turnout. Approx 100 members showed up to Zio Fraedos in Pleasant Hill to enjoy a hearty lunch. The Staff was gracious and professional. The Music by Joyce Grant Band was a spirited Holiday kick off. Monogrammed face mask , Raffled gift cards($25 valued) , TJ's café certificates and table centerpieces were all takeaways. Member pictures available on website!

Hopefully you were not deterred by the late notices sent registering for the luncheon. We apologize for the mix up. However, I was impressed by the responses left on grasshopper answering service, snail mail, text & email for reservations. Thank you and we strive to do better!

We are really in need of businesses offering sponsorships. That's really going to be helpful as we are on the list to Host the CRCEA Conference in 2024.

Los Angeles County (RELAC) hosted the last CRCEA conference Nov 7-10th in Long Beach after 2 1/2yrs. There is more information on their website. I had two notable take aways, from their many speakers.

1) if you find ways to stay connected to nature, it has healing properties and sustains our humanity. Even just looking out the window at nature can change your mood.

2) if you place your hands (one over your heart and the other over your stomach) , feel your breathing. Inhale and exhale approx 3 times to add a calming way to center yourself. Do this as often as needed !

CRCEA Spring 2022 Conference will be hosted by Orange County May 1-3, 2022 first ever Virtual.

Please find the Mary Lou Williams Scholarship application available in this newsletter. (page 7)

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BOARD OF DIRECTOR VACANCIES

As we are undergoing changes in Administrative responsibilities, it is important to have individuals with skills and talents to support the Association.

We encourage you to come and join our Board Meetings (please call ahead to assure space is available). Meetings held the 2nd Tuesday of the month. There are also opportunities to Volunteer with CCCREA not joining the board or attend meetings. Inquire within on CCCREA Grasshopper line @(855) 552-2732 or byknst@aol.com.

VOLUNTEER

Just to name a few:

- Registration during luncheons,
- Member invitations to those who maybe preparing to retire within the next 5 years,

- Solicitation of businesses offering discounts and information on improving lives of retirees,
- Setting up and managing a face book page
- Editor for newsletter & submitting articles,

2 GUEST SPEAKERS

Our next Luncheon will be held On March 10th @ Zio Fraedos in Pleasant Hill *please save the date A separate flyer sent In February as the covid restrictions advise large group gatherings?*

Elaine Welch from Mobility Matters. Mobility Matters provides mobility management services throughout the County by matching riders to transportation providers that meet their individual needs. There is a dire need for volunteers to provide single rider transportation form door through door-not curb pick up and drop off. Drivers must be 25-75. The service is offered to all Contra Costa County residents for more info www.mobilitymatters.com

Steve Petee pacific group agencies. Provides suppelmentary insurance to retiree groups and individual programs for health, dental vision, hearing, pre-paid legal and life insurance coverage. Steve will be available before and after luncheon to field all personal concerns!

In this season of joy CCCREA remembers those who may not be as fortunate. We annually recognize the following organizations spreading good cheer with a $1000 offering. If you're able a personal donation would be grateful!

MEALS ON WHEELS

Loaves & Fishes
Homeless Survival Services
Since 1983

EDITOR'S NOTES

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

CCCREA is an organization of over 1650 members concerned with oversight and protection of our retirement benefits. We continue to reach out to new retirees to keep members informed of benefits and advocate for them to all policy makers.

WHO CAN BE A MEMBER?

All retirees and beneficiaries receiving benefits through the Contra Costa County Retirement Board, including the 16 other participating agencies authorized under the California State Government Code, Section 31450 et. seq. (CERL) and Section 7522 et. seq. (PEPRA) are eligible for membership. Some of the 16 agencies include the CCC Sanitary District, the County Fire Districts, Mosquito Vector and Control District, and the Housing Authority.

ARE WE THE ONLY RETIREE ASSOCIATION IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY ?

There are three retiree organizations that are "officially" recognized by the Contra Costa County Employees Retirement Association. In addition to CCCREA, the other retiree groups are the Retiree Support Group of Contra Costa County (RSG), and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). While all three retiree groups are concerned with the preservation and enhancement of the retiree's benefits, all the groups have a slightly different focus. CCCREA is the only Contra Costa retiree association recognized by the California Retired County Employees Association and members of our association board also sit on the board of CRCEA.

What is CRCEA?

CRCEA is an association of the 20 California counties (including Contra Costa), whose retirement systems are governed by the County Employees Retirement Law (CERL) of 1937, and maintains a membership of over 180,000. Member counties benefit from a paid lobbyist in the state legislature, and a legislative analyst who is also a CRCEA board member. This connection with the state legislature allows CRCEA to take immediate action regarding any legislation which is deemed to be potentially beneficial or harmful in nature.

MEMBERSHIP

CCCREA's dues are only $3.00 per month for retirees. Associate membership is available to those employees who plan to retire in the next one to five years. The dues for this group are $1.00 per month, and $12.00 is collected annually January of each year.

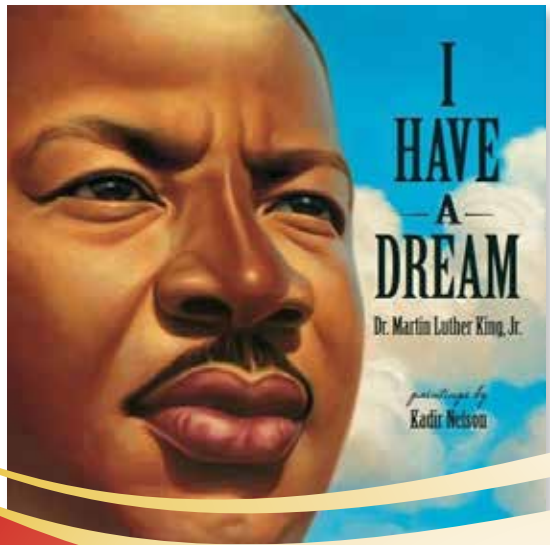
Associate Members qualify for all the benefits listed below, except the scholarship program, the supplemental insurance program (this requires payments deducted from a retirement account), and the ability to sit as a Board member or to vote. Once the member retirees, the membership fee would automatically go to $3.00 monthly (deducted from the retirement benefit check) and all benefits would apply.

Skip Murphy CRCEA President Mike Sloan CCCREA Past President

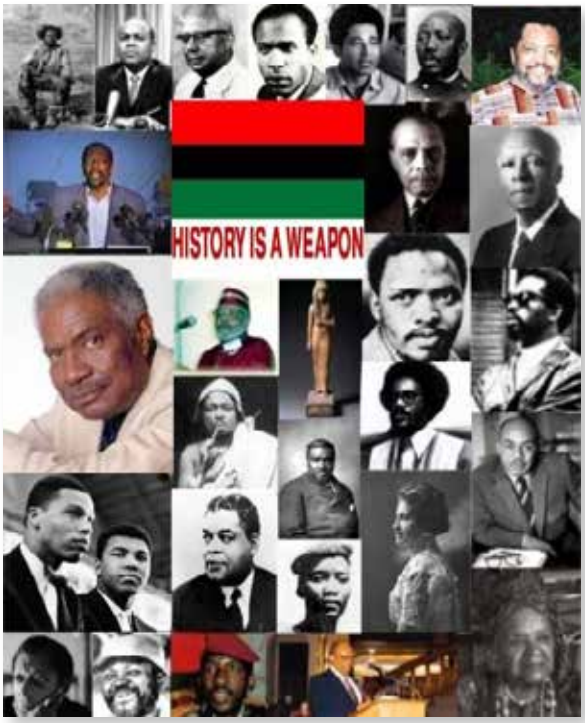
ACTIVITIES CORNER:
Other things to do rather than couch sit and channel surf!!!?

January 1st, 2022 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

January 17th, 2022, Martin Luther King Jr Day



February: Black History month



February 1st, Lunar New Year!!

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(Activities Corner Continued from Page 4)

Valentine's Day : February 14th

Presidents Day: February 15th

CCCREA quarterly luncheon: March 11th
Zio Fraedos Resturant registration 11am
611 Gregory Lane Pleasant Hill , Ca.
Guest Speaker Mobility Matters Elaine Welch

Day light savings time: March 13th

Saint Patricks Day: March 17th

2022 LUNCHEON DATES

Save the date:
March 10, 2022
for quarterly luncheon.
2 speakers scheduled:
Elaine Welch Mobility Matters
Steve Petee- Pacific Groups Agency
look for seperate registration form in february pending state of affairs?

2022REGULAR MEETING DATES

Jan 11th 10am
Feb 8th 10am
zoom available upon request

BOARD MEETING LOCATION

TJ's Restaurant -
3210 Pacheco Blvd.
Martinez, CA 94553.
Open daily
6:30am- 2pm daily.
All are welcome to attend and share your thoughts and suggestions.

CRCEA CONFERENCE DATES

The Spring 2022 CRCEA Conference is scheduled to be hosed by Orange County Retirees Association (REAOC) May 1st-3rd held by Orange County first ever virtual updates will be posted on the CRCEA website – www.crcea.org.

KELLY-MOORE® PAINTS

All members of the CCCREA will be able to access discounted paint and sundry items with the following account information.

Account # 620-CC1600

The discount is available at all Kelly Moore locations.

CCCREA'S 2021 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RESULTS

by Pam Collinshill, Secretary and Scholarship Chair

As CCCREA's next scholarship application period opens January 1, 2022, we are excited to announce an increase to our scholarship amount. At our November 2, 2021 Board meeting, the Board voted to increase our scholarship award for each recipient from $1500 to $2000 beginning 2022. Applicants interested in applying for our scholarships must submit an application by mail postmarked by March 31, 2022. For eligiblity, applications, and application instructions, please visit our website at www.cccrea.info.

CCCREA will provide four scholarship awards and our partner, 1stNorCal Credit Union will sponsor one scholarship for a total of five awards for the year. Our partner's CEO David Green, was pleased to join with us ·in increasing the scholarship amount as he noted 1stNorCal Credit Union values our relationship. Mr. Green stated-he hopes to continue our relationship for years to come.

We cannot thank 1st Nor Cal enough for this phenomenal support of our membership, and I would encourage members to send David Green (1st Nor Cal's CEO) an email thanking their Board of Directors for approving this grant. You can reach David at dgreen@1stnorcalcu.org.

We look forward to receiving our 2022 applications and we welcome early submissions. Additionally, while attending our recent Holiday Luncheon, Evie Carlock approached me to share good news about her daughter, Jennet Carter, who was the recipient of 1stNrCal Credit Union sponsored scholarship award. She stated Jennet graduated with her Bachelor's degree last year and she will be applying for another scholarship in 2022 to pursue her Master's degree. Ms. Carter also has two daughters who will be applying for scholarships to pursue undergraduate degrees.

Last but not least, Ivan Hudson sponsored by His Aunt Petrenya Boykins, a 2020 CCCREA scholarship recipient, relocated to Chicago in September 2021 to accept a contract offer with the Chicago Bulls. Ivan graduated from the University of Central Florida in 2020 with a Master's in sport marketing management and business administration.

The CCCREA Mary Lou Williams Scholarship Fund has been developed to promote and assist in the higher education of its members and their families.

AWARDS: Five scholarships of $2,000 each will be awarded annually in June of each year, and available to the applicant for the fall school semester.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: The scholarships are available to all CCCREA members in good standing, as well as their children, stepchildren, grandchildren, step grandchildren, nieces, and nephews (including grand-nieces and grand-nephews).

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(scholarship program results Continued from Page 7)

REQUIREMENTS: Applicant must be either a high school senior with a grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher, and has applied to, or been accepted by, a college, university, or trade school with a minimum two year course of study, OR a student with a GPA of 2.5 or higher who is already attending an accredited educational institution.

Completed applications must include **official transcripts****, one letter of recommendation, and a brief essay addressing the student's academic accomplishments, extra-curricular activities, and description of any community service.

FINAL SELECTION: Applications will be screened and ranked by an outside independent education professional. Based on these recommendations to the Scholarship Committee, the Board of Directors will determine the award recipients prior to the beginning of the fall semester. Scholarship winners will be invited to the fall luncheon to receive their award.

****NOTE: Official transcripts are only "official" when they are sealed by the educational entity, and have not been opened by the applicant. Transcripts may be mailed directly to CCCREA.**

The letter of recommendation must come from someone familiar with the applicant and is knowledgeable of the candidate's qualifications and future potential. The letter may not be written by a family member or the applicant's sponsor.

All applications must be postmarked prior to March 31 of the year of application, and all documentation must be either included with the application, or previously mailed directly to CCCREA.

Failure to meet any one of the above requirements will result in the application being rejected.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 2973 • Martinez, CA 94553-8868
Representing the Past, Present & Future

Mary Lou Williams Memorial Fund
Scholarship Application

PART ONE - APPLICANT INFORMATION

(Please type or print clearly)

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ *State:* _____ *Zip Code:* _____

Phone: _____ *Email Address:* _____

Graduation

Date of Birth: _____ *Date:* _____

Currently Attending: _____

PART TWO - COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

☐ *Accepted* ☐ *Applying (please attach complete list)* ☐ *Attending*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ *State:* _____ *Zip Code:* _____

Date you plan to start: _____

What degreelobjective will you be purshing : _____

Desired occupation after graduation: _____

PART THREE - CCCREA SPONSORING MEMBER INFORMATION

CCCREA Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ *State:* _____ *Zip Code:* _____

Phone: _____ *Relationship to Applicant:* _____

Applicant Name: _____

PART FOUR - APPLICANT INFORMATION SHEET

Please tell us a little about yourself. Include vocational and educational achievements and goals; student activities and organizations; athletics; community involvement; honors; awards, etc. Please feel free to attach additional pages.

"It is always possible to be thankful for what is given rather than resentful over what is withheld. One attitude or the other becomes a way of life."

'Elisabeth Elliot '

RETIREE DEATHS REPORTED BY CCCERA FOR NOVEMBER 2021

DONNA CHRISTOPHERSON, BILLIE BOZARTH, JAMES HORST, JOHN RANDLE, NANCY WEBSTER

Contra Costa County Retired Employees Association Board of Directors

Petrenya Boykins, *President*
byknst@aol.com

Jan Aaronian, *Vice-President*
janaaronian@gmail.com

Marcia Coudyser, *Treasurer*
coudyser@ares1.com

Pam Collinshill, *Recording Secretary*
email: pcollinshill94611@gmail.com

Board Members

Maria Catanese
Carl Doolittle
Vicki Doolittle
Jim Hattum
Sandy Hawkins
Milt O'Neill
Nedra Marks
Mike Sloan (Past President)

ATTENTION ALL RETIREES - ADDRESS CHANGE REMINDER

If you are moving, and have changed your address with the retirement office in Concord, that will not automatically change your address with our Association. The retirement office guards your address closely, and will not share it with us. Please send us a note as well with your new address so you don't miss any editions of the newsletter or any important notices.

Also, as a reminder, if you are the surviving spouse of a Contra Costa County retiree, you are also qualified to be a member of CCCREA. If you, or someone you know, qualifies for this status, please send us a note at:mesloan1@aol.com or www.cccrea.info, and we will reinstate your membership immediately.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
3130 Balfour Road - Suite D271 Brentwood, CA 94513
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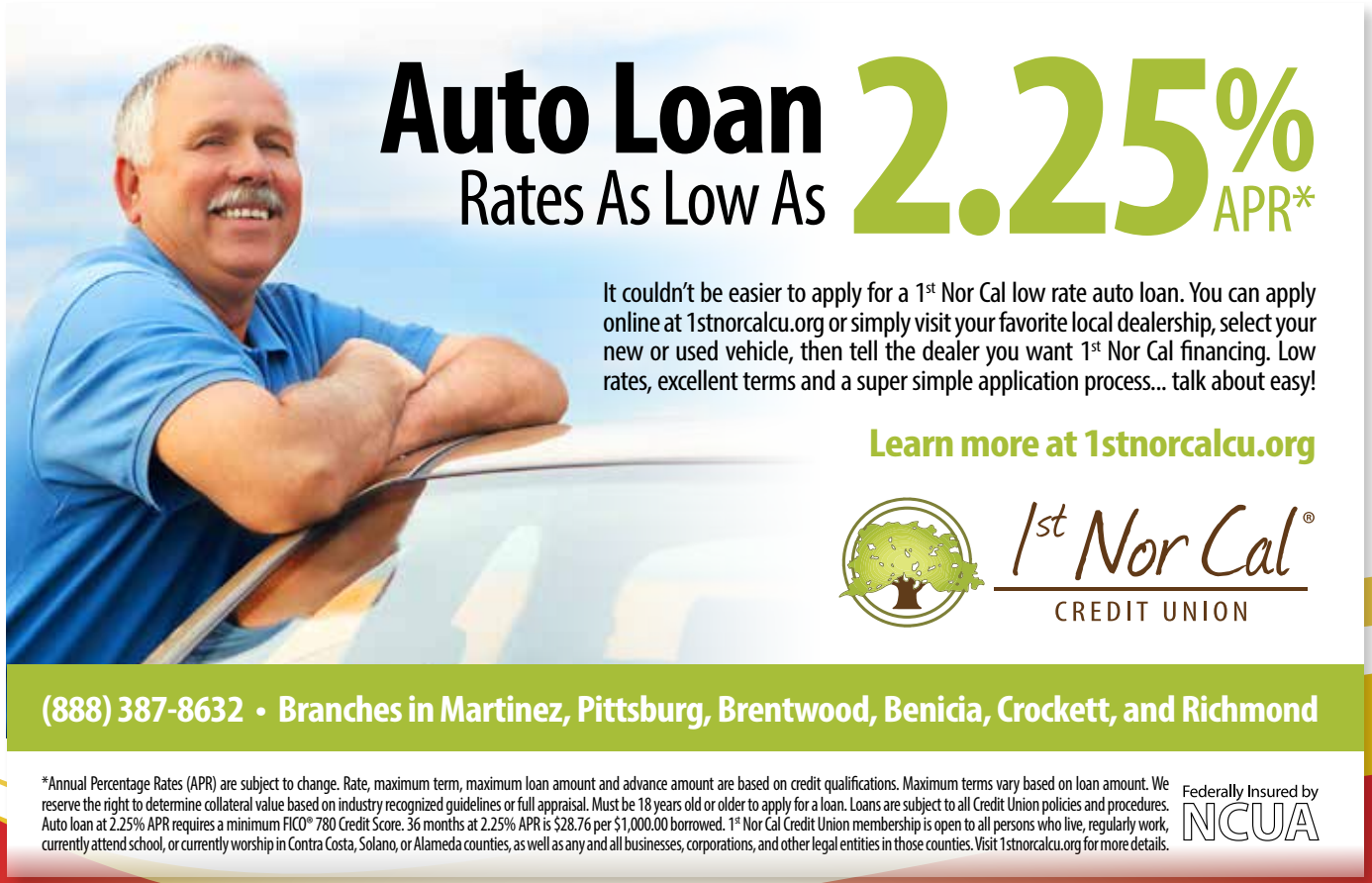
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