



Contra Costa County Retired Employees Association

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E-Mail: info@cccra.info

Representing the Past, Present & Future

March 2020

President's Message

Thanks to all who came out and attended the Holiday Luncheon. Hopefully your holiday got off to a great start with the musical selections, (as well as 4 CD's raffled) from the Joyce Grant Band. I received several phone calls and emails regarding the wonderful time people had.

I would like to acknowledge a stellar job by our Committee and Members alike!! A special heartfelt thanks to Elaine Swinton for her donation of beautiful handmade jewelry to add as raffle prizes!!

I would be remiss if I didn't take this time to thank the Board of Directors who stepped up and delivered a "Team Work makes the Dream Work" performance for this event's success! I can't say enough about the Board Members who give of themselves monthly, and act in roles that represent this membership. From those who sit at the registration table to assure members are greeted and entered into our drawing, while confirming their luncheon selections. To those who shop for deals to decorate the tables with centerpieces, and others who shop for raffle prizes and See's Candy certificates to make sure you get the best discounted prices available. There are many hours spent communicating with the restaurant to determine menus, set up the entertainment and speakers and all that goes into making the luncheons successful.

Contra Costa County Retired Employees Association is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation that is comprised completely of volunteers. We have no paid staff. CCCREA was established in 1972 by a group of county retirees who felt there was a need to keep abreast of local and state issues, which could affect their future retirement benefits and health care. Please visit our website to keep up with the 'Past, Present and Future' happenings with this Association. We welcome comments and suggestions for quarterly speakers and other ways we can improve.

Recently we were described (during an orientation presentation from another retirement organization) as being a social group. I don't want to think that is all we have to offer, however, if there are ways we can consider having our members participate in outings or activities that render them connected, that's not a bad description.

I often read articles regarding isolation or loneliness. If there is any excuse you're using to not get out and enjoy yourself, you need to know that there is a group of folks going and doing and you will know someone when you join the fun. Please continue to view the Activities Corner to find things we are on the move doing. Plans underway for a group Amtrak Train ride to Old Sacramento, Day at the Races and again the quarterly lunches guarantee a great meal and informative speakers. We invite you out to see and taste for yourself. When people connect, they affect each other's lives. See ya in March!!

NEW CALIFORNIA LAWS FOR 2020

by Mike Sloan

During my annual research of new laws that were passed by the California State Legislature, which went into effect on January 1, 2020 (unless noted), I found that the state law makers have lived up to their past proliferation. As in the past, there were over 1,000 new laws passed in 2019.

This year's laws range from necessary to bizarre, and I will try to highlight as many as space allows. I have included the legislative bill's number in case you would like to read more about a particular law.

I will begin by trying to answer a question many people are asking: Do I need a California Real ID in 2020? The answer is - maybe.

Starting on October 1, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will require certain types of identification to travel aboard an aircraft within the United States. If you do not have a valid passport, a military ID, or a Global Entry Card, you will need to get a REAL ID from the California DMV to be able to board an airplane after October.

What is the difference between a regular driver's license and a REAL ID? Since California DMV will now issue an ID card or driver's license to undocumented immigrants, those forms of identification are not valid for flying within the U.S.

The REAL ID requires multiple forms of identification to qualify and include proof of identity (valid passport or birth certificate), proof of social security number (SS card or employment record with SS number displayed), and two proofs of California residency (utility bill, bank statement, or similar document showing your current address).

To determine if you currently have a REAL ID, the license or ID

card must have an image of a white star on a golden bear in the upper right hand corner. Other states will have different images, but they all must show the white star. If your CDL or ID card does not have this symbol, there will be a notation in this spot which says "Federal Limits Apply" or "Not For Federal Purposes".

TRAFFIC LAWS:

(AB 317) Makes it unlawful for any person to sell, or offer for sale, an appointment with the DMV.

(SB 485) Eliminates the court's authority to suspend or revoke a person's driver's license who has been convicted of a non-driving offense, i.e., prostitution, vandalism, petty theft, etc.

(AB 1810) You are no longer required to have a motorcycle endorsement to operate an electric scooter.

(AB 47) A point will now be added to your driving history for a distracted driving violation beginning in July 2021. Three points could result in a suspension of your license for six months and higher insurance costs. The points will stay on your driving record for three years.

Now for a couple of the most unusual, and even bizarre, laws passed last year –

(SB 395) Allows a person to obtain a special permit to collect and eat road kill (It's true – look it up). It even had the support of PETA.

(SB188) This law bans discrimination in the workplace based on a person's hair style.

(AB46) This legislation will replace certain derogatory words that include, but are not limited to, "mental illness" and "mental defective". More culturally sensitive words such as "mental health disorder" will now be used.

(SB72) This law will allow voters to register to vote on Election Day in March and November. You can now register to vote and cast your ballot on the same day and at the same location.



(NEW CALIFORNIA LAWS FOR 2020 Continued from Page 2)

(AB1707) Smart phones with cameras can now be taken into and used in the polling place and voting booth. However, a person may not record or photograph a voter entering or exiting a polling place with the intent of dissuading another person from voting.

(SB310) Now convicted felons who have completed their parole or probation are allowed to serve on juries. The law does exempt registered sex offenders.

(AB32) By 2028, all private prisons must be phased out in California. The private prison industry has already filed a lawsuit to overturn this legislation.

(SB313) All animals are banned from performing in circuses, except dogs, cats and horses. Rodeos are exempt from this law. This law also bans ICE detention centers which means the law will most likely be challenged by the federal government.

(SB419) This law now prohibits schools from suspending students in grades 4-8 for disruptive behavior or defying teachers and administrators.

(AB51) This law will prevent anyone from requiring employees or applicants to sign a mandatory arbitration agreement as a condition of employment. It also prevents a company from offering an opt-out option. This law will likely be overturned since it is in conflict with the Federal Arbitration Act, and the states of Kentucky and West Virginia have already had similar laws overturned in Federal court.

(AB5) Employers will be limited in their ability to classify certain "gig" workers as independent contractors. The gig economy is a description of those working with short term contracts or people who do freelance work. This law would most greatly affect people driving for Uber and Lyft. It was sought by the drivers, but is opposed by the companies who have already filed legal action to overturn the law.

(AB276) This bill will restrict the number of vaccine exemptions a doctor can issue. The issuance of five or more exemptions will result in a state review, and possible sanctions. The law

will prevent doctors from selling vaccine exemptions.

(SB30) This bill would remove the requirement that persons be of the same sex, or of the opposite sex and over 62 years of age, in order to enter into a domestic partnership. Now anyone can file to be domestic partners.

(AB1482) The legislation will limit the amount that rents can increase annually (rent control) to 5%, plus the cost of living.

(SB8) This law will ban smoking in all state parks and at all state beaches.

(SB61) As of January 1st, Californians will have to wait 30 days between purchases of semi-automatic rifles.

(AB375), The California Consumer Privacy Act – This law is said to be the toughest data privacy Act in the U.S. It is also why you are seeing a plethora of announcements about new terms of service and updated privacy policies showing up in your email. It is hoped that this Act will become the standard for the entire country.

While many seem to think this bill protects their information from being sold to advertisers, it does not. This bill only covers information which might be lost due to a data breach. The catch is that it is illegal now for companies sell your data if you tell them not to, but if they do anyway, you can't sue them.

Although many large companies, including Microsoft and Twitter, seem to be going along and complying with the law, many others like Goggle and Facebook have said they will not comply with the law. Both continue to play the waiting game, and seem to be betting the state is not prepared to do any type of investigation into complaints about their privacy actions. In 2018 Facebook made \$55 million providing advertisers access to their user's information, and government fines are unlikely to even come close to that figure.

Because other states are beginning to follow California's lead and are forming their own privacy laws, there is speculation that there will be a lot of pressure on Congress to pass federal legislation regarding individual privacy.

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 EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION UPDATE

by Louie Kroll, Retiree Representative

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and were able to spend quality time with your loved ones, friends and colleagues.

This is the time of year when we get anxious to find out what the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) will be. The Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 2019 was published on January 14, 2020. As you might know our COLA is based on the CPI for the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward Area. The increase in the CPI from January 2019 to December 2019 was 2.5%, which was confirmed by our actuary, Segal Actuarial Services.

On January 22, 2020, the Retirement Board voted to approve the COLA increase effective April 1, 2020. This means you will see the COLA increase on your May 1, 2020 retirement check.

If you were retired on or before 03/31/2019, and in Tier 1, Tier 3 (Service Retirement), Tier 4 (3% COLA), Safety Tier A and Safety Tier D you will receive your maximum 3% COLA because a 1/2% will be carried over from your COLA bank. If you were retired on or before March 31, 2019, and you are in Tier 2, Tier 3 (Disability Only), and Tier 5 (3%/4% COLA and Disability Retirement Only) your COLA will be 3%, due to your COLA bank only having 1/2% to carry over. If you were retired on or before March 31, 2019 and you are in Tier 4 (2% COLA), Tier 5 (2% COLA), Safety Tier C and Safety Tier E you will receive your maximum 2% COLA, with 1/2% carried over to your COLA bank.

Here is an example on how the COLA bank works. If your retirement group has been granted a maximum COLA of 3%, and the CPI for the year is 4%, 1% will go to your COLA bank. If the next year the CPI only reaches 2% and your maximum COLA is 3%, you will still get your maximum 3% COLA because 1% that you have in your COLA bank from the previous year will be carried over. If you do not have anything in your COLA bank, and the CPI is 2% you only receive 2% because there is nothing in your COLA bank to carry over. Any COLA must first be approved by Retirement Board before it can be applied.

I hope the above information helps you understand how the COLA is calculated and how it is applied.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at (925) 383-1272, or you can text me at that number.

Louie Kroll, CCCERA Retiree Representative
Contra Costa County Retirement Board

2019 – 2020 LUNCHEON DATES

December 12
March 12
June 11
September 10

Remember, if you are a new member your first lunch is free. Just be sure to call in your reservation and let us know you're a new member. The telephone number is: (855-522-2732)

Please feel free to invite friends who have recently retired to our luncheon!

CRCEA CONFERENCE DATES

The Spring Conference will be hosted by Tulare County, and will be held at the Visalia Marriott Hotel (April 6 -8). Additional information about this conference is posted on the CRCEA website – www.crcea.org.

2019 – 2020 REGULAR MEETING DATES

October 8th
November 12th
January 14th
February 11th
April 14th
May 12th
July 14th
August – No Meeting,
October 13th
November 10th

MEETING LOCATION:

TJ's Restaurant -
3210 Pacheco Blvd.
(The old Pegg's Restaurant across from the Shell Refinery entrance) Martinez, CA 94553. 10:00 A.M. All are welcome to attend and share your thoughts and suggestions. Call to let us know you are coming. (855-522-2732)

KELLY-MOORE® PAINTS

All members of the CCCRCEA 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.



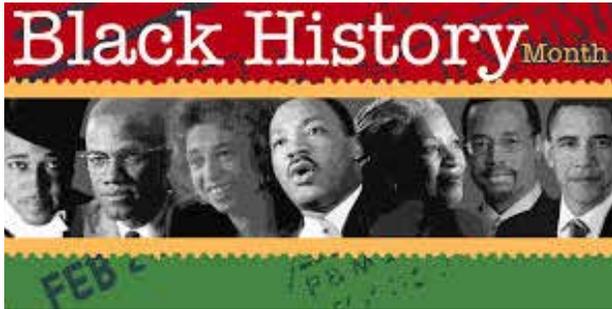
kellymoore.com



ACTIVITIES CORNER:

February:

Black History Month to observe those contributions made by African Americans.



March: — 8th - Day light savings time



12th — Contra Costa County Retired Employees Quarterly Luncheon 11-2pm, Zio Freado's Italian Restaurant 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, Ca.
Special Guest: Jill Henderson Contra Costa DA Office Supervision Attorney for the Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse Unit.



17th- Saint Patrick's Day.

April:

6-8th — CRCEA Spring Conference in Visalia, Ca. The conference will be hosted by the Tulare County Retired Employees Association (TCREA).

16th Amtrak train ride to Old Sacramento. Join members for a rain ride on the Capitol Corridor.



Departing from Martinez Station located @ 601 Marina Vista Ave Martinez, Ca. 8:25 a.m. - Arriving at the Valley Station 401 "I" Street Sacramento @ 9:46 a.m. (There are additional options to board the train also available in Oakland, Suisun and Vacaville). Train departs 3:30 p.m., arriving back in Martinez at 4:37pm. \$35 for group rate (**Lunch is not included in this price**). For more information contact Petrenya at (707) 480-3361.

May:

22nd — Day at the Races - Golden Gate Fields in Albany. \$41 to include Buffett, Valet parking, and racing program (Handicap seating is available).



Food For Thought: Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself with anyone else!
The law of happiness

"Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some people move our souls to dance. They awaken us to new understandings with the passing whisper of their wisdom. Some people make the sky more beautiful to gaze upon. They stay in our lives for a while, leave footprints in our heart, and we are never the same."

'Chicken Soup for the Soul'



RETIREE DEATHS REPORTED FROM AUGUST 14 TO NOVEMBER 6

LEROY DE LIMA	10/04/2019
MARIA LOVALVO	10/22/2019
FREDRICK MARIA	12/26/2019
FRANKLIN REYNOLDS	12/02/2019
RICH VERLAND	12/01/2019
MARY ROBERSON	11/16/2019
MAE ROGEAU	11/23/2019
BETTY SUHR	11/15/2019
RODULPH WEBBE	07/22/2019
DONALD WILLIAMS	12/07/2019



Contra Costa County Retired Employees Association Board of Directors

Board Members

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
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byknst@aol.com |
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| Carl Doolittle | Jan Aaronian, <i>Vice-President</i>
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| Jim Hattum | |
| Sandy Hawkins | Nedra Marks, <i>Recording Secretary</i>
email: nmarks4000@yahoonet |
| Milt O'Neill | |
| Mike Sloan (Past President) | |

2020 CCCREA SCHOLARSHIP RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

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

AWARDS: At least four scholarships of \$1,500 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).

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. Applications must be post marked no later than March 31 of the year of application.

For a transcript of grades to be considered official, it must be mailed directly from the institution and sealed upon delivery with the application.

FINAL SELECTION: Applications will be screened and ranked by an outside independent rater. 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 and their sponsors will be invited to the fall luncheon to receive their award.

Please note that if any of the above requirements are not met, or included with the application, the application will be deemed incomplete and not considered for an award.



DECEMBER 2019 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON:







*Contra Costa County Retired
Employees Association*



Day at the Races

Saturday May 23, 2020

Golden Gate Fields, Albany California

**Price \$41 Includes Entry to Turf Club, Buffet, Race Program
and Valet Parking**

Gate Opens at 11:00 a.m., buffet begins 11:30 a.m., post 12:00 p.m.

Checks must be received no later than May 10th

Make Checks Payable to: CCCREA

Mail to: P.O. Box 2973 Martinez, CA 94553-8868

I will attend the "Day at the Races" on Saturday May 23, 2020. Tickets will be available at "Will Call" on the day of the event.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Name of Guests _____

\$41 x _____ Total _____



**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**
3130 Balfour Road - Suite D271 Brentwood, CA 94513
Representing the Past, Present & Future

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**See's
CANDIES**

**SEE'S CANDY – CCCREA IS STILL THE MOST AFFORDABLE PLACE TO BUY
SEE'S CANDY CERTIFICATES.**

See's Candy Certificates are always welcomed gifts, and they are great to have available for that birthday, graduation or special event throughout the year. The certificates are also perfect thank you gifts for the gardener, housekeeper, hair stylist and doctor's office staff.

As a special benefit for our members, and to help you maintain a budget at throughout the year, the CCCREA Board of Directors has voted once again to maintain the current price at \$16.00 each. This price is a discount of almost 30% less than the See's Candy retail price of \$22.50 per pound.

The certificates are always available at the quarterly luncheons, but they can also be purchased through the mail. There is a fee for postage of \$1.50 for one to five certificates, and \$3.00 postage for any amount over five. Send your request to CCCREA-SEE'S - 2131 Via Media Benicia, CA 94510.

Please remember that these certificates are actually being sold at a loss, so we cannot mail them out unless you include the postage fee.