



AMCRE

ASSOCIATION OF MENDOCINO COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES

Post Office Box 903 • Ukiah, CA 95482

FRIENDSHIP • UNITY • STRENGTH • GROWTH

AMCRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

07/21/2021

Hello Mendocino County Retired Employees,

Well, here we are in the middle of our summer in Mendocino County with some exceptionally hot days for June and looking at drought issues already. We, as a community, are just coming out of a year-plus long pandemic with various requirements for businesses and events regarding masks or not, and always being conscious of sanitation everywhere we go, and not to mention as wildfire season lingers! With this on the fore-front of our minds, I do hope you have been able to see friends and family a bit more often with precautions as it is important for all of us to continue to get that human connection.

Myself, I have enjoyed some trips to San Francisco to see the Giants play and visit Pier 39 after so many years. San Francisco is one of my favorite cities to visit as it is so beautiful and provides many things to do when you need a relief from our summer heat. I am not working this summer at the County so I am able to enjoy more time with my grandchildren. Watching the world through their eyes is the greatest joy ever.

While AMCRE has decided not to hold a Summer BBQ this August, due to the Pandemic, we are beginning plans for our Annual Holiday dinner at the Broiler Steak House this year. This will be a much-anticipated event for us to come together and finally see some of our colleagues from the County. We hope you mark your calendars for Monday, December 12. Please watch for details in the upcoming newsletter "The Connection".

I hope you all had a chance to see our new website at www.amcre.org. We are working on providing membership information there for all to use. Please check it out when you have time!

The Board of Directors will be discussing in our next meeting in July ideas around membership recruitment as we are closing in on needing to fill some upcoming vacancies. Remember if you are interested in joining a group where you really don't have a lot to do, join AMCRE! We welcome all interested retirees. Just email us at amcremendocino@gmail.com or call Cyndi Montesonti at 707-489-7752.

I hope you enjoy our beautiful summer in Mendocino County!

Cheers,

Leatha Andersen
Interim President

WELCOME NEW AMCRE MEMBERS

AS OF JULY 2021

1003 Members Strong!

| RETIREE NAME | RETIREMENT DATE | DEPT | YRS OF SERVICE |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Maria Falkenberg | 3/21/2021 | HHSA | 25 |
| Richard Harden | 3/21/2021 | HHSA | 17.5 |
| Elizabeth Harmon | 3/21/2021 | Info Services | 26 |
| John Tindall | 3/21/2021 | Transportation | 14 |
| Jacquelyn Rainwater-Brewster | 3/21/2021 | Sheriff's Office | 28.5 |
| Kenneth Spain | 4/16/2021 | Executive Office | 2 |
| Jaynie Wagner | 4/18/2021 | Sheriff's Office | 14 |
| Sharon Convery | 5/2/2021 | Public Health | 13 |
| Thomas Mohr | 5/30/2021 | Transportation | 13 |
| Carol Park | 5/16/2021 | Court | 18 |
| James Xerogeanes | 5/31/2021 | Agriculture | 12 |
| Timothy Bradford | 5/30/2021 | HHSA | 7 |
| Phil Saye | 5/2/2021 | Sheriff's Office | 18 |

New Associates

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Katharine Rohrs | 6/1/2021 |
|-----------------|----------|

IN MEMORIAM

AMCRE EXTENDS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF RETIREES LISTED BELOW

| RETIREE NAME | DEPARTMENT | DATE |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|
| Joyce Sarber | Agriculture | 3/14/2021 |
| Garry Flint | Mental Health | 4/8/2021 |
| Dennis Rohrs | Transportation | 5/15/2021 |

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Consists of

Shirley Christensen~Sheriff's Office.

If you know of any of our members who could use a get-well or sympathy card, please contact Shirley, 707-485-7083, with any details along with correct names and addresses, if you have it.



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EMPLOYEES

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FRIENDSHIP • UNITY • STRENGTH • GROWTH

Board of Directors

INTERIM PRESIDENT

Leatha Andersen

INTERIM VICE-PRESIDENT

Vacant

SECRETARY

Cyndi Montesonti

TREASURER

Raylene Lucchesi

C.R.C.E.A. DELEGATE

Jim Andersen

DIRECTORS

3-year

Tom Desroches

Dorinda Kay Miller

2-year

Marilyn Heath

Vacant

1-year

Shirley Christensen

Tom Ingram

NON-ELECTED

POSITIONS

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Cyndi Montesonti

Marilyn Heath

Tom Ingram

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dorinda Kay Miller

THE CONNECTION:

CO-EDITORS

Cyndi Montesonti

Dorinda Kay Miller

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Shirley Christensen

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

Date: April 12, 2021

Slam Dunk Pizza Ukiah, CA

1. CALL TO ORDER –

INTRODUCTIONS: Interim President Leatha Andersen called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Leatha Andersen, Cyndi Montesonti, Tommy Deroches, Tommy Ingram, Raylene Lucchesi, Dorinda Miller Jim Andersen. Marilyn Heath.

ABSENT: Shirley Christensen

2. APPROVAL OF

MINUTES: Raylene Lucchessi moves we approve the January 25, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. Tommy Deroches seconded.

PASSED.

3. REPORTS

– **Treasurer Report:** Raylene Lucchessi reported for February 2020 that there is \$6,586.76 with \$293 allocated for Scholarships, \$7,496.27 for March 2020 with \$293 remaining in Scholarships Fund. Cyndi Montesonti moved we accept the Treasurer's Report. Dorinda Miller seconded.

PASSED. Raylene went on to discuss the on line

– **Scholarship Report:** Cyndi Montesonti reported that for the 2021-2022 school year, five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded (\$500 per semester) with grades and proof of enrollment full-time in a college, university or trade school. Cyndi Montesonti reported that the next newsletter will have all the information regarding applying for Scholarships for the 2021-2022 year.

– **CRCEA Report:** James Andersen reported that their last meeting was on Zoom. Jim discussed status of historical benefit review project for retirees. He said the Retirement Office is 1/3 through it. One employee left. Moving forward with it. Retirees reductions appeal Retirement Administrator first then their 2nd appeal to the entire Board of Retirement. Jim reported his CRCEA Conference is in Long Beach Nov. 7-11, 2021.

4. OLD BUSINESS: Dorinda received everything for the newsletter. It will go out late this week or early next week. Discussion on how to recruit new retirees to possibly get involved with our organization. Leatha talked about a possible letter to them to join as future officers or Board members.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

– **Website:** Discussion of website www.amcre.org which is now up and running and looks great. Leatha discussed invoice in detail and the new website completed by Bohdan from Respectech. Website will have everything in it including Bylaws and Scholarship information, along with Breaking News and other items of interest. Respectech created a form for publishing any new items to be put on our website. Dorinda will be in charge of submitting the form with the items to them. **BUDGET:** \$500 to create site, monthly fee plus \$99.00/hour. He also signed us up for a five-year Godaddy.com account where info site is stored. Raylene Lucchessi moved we approve the RTI Invoice for \$822.04 for the creation of the website. Cyndi Montesonti seconded. **PASSED.**

– **Laptop Approval:** Dorinda Miller needs a laptop strictly for AMCRE things since she will be monitoring the website and emails. She does not want to co-mingle any personal things of hers with AMCRE. Tommy Ingram moves we approve a new laptop for Dorinda Miller for strictly AMCRE use not to exceed \$750. Tommy Desroches seconded. **PASSED.** Discussion: Raylene wanted everyone to know that after the purchase of the laptop, there will be a \$5,000 balance in our Treasury.

– **General Meetings:** All General Meetings have been canceled until further notice. There will be no summer picnic BBQ. Cyndi has to call back tonight to talk to the owner of the Broiler to see if they will be doing any banquets for Christmas.

banking. She likes the paperwork, and hand writes everything into hard copies and gives Cyndi the balance sheets. She wants to continue doing AMCRE books this way.

– **Membership Report:** Dorinda Miller reported that there are 996 members as of March 2021. In February 2021, there were 993 members. Thank you Dorinda for updating the Board Rosters for us. Delete your old list and file save as the new one.

She will try and report in the newsletter the outcome. Cyndi Montesonti moved that the summer BBQ General meeting and possibly the December holiday party will be canceled due to the pandemic. Tommy Desroches seconded. **PASSED.** Raylene discussed how we used to pass around the Scholarship container and we would get quite a bit of money to put in the Scholarship Fund. It was stopped prior to the pandemic. We will discuss at the next Board meeting if we should start that up again and try to increase Scholarship Fund.

– **Speakers:** no speakers for the rest of 2021. Cyndi Montesonti will try and reach Tom Allman to see if he is interested in emceeding our holiday party, if we have one.

– **Vice President position:** Jim Andersen moves to not fill Vice-President position this year and look for a new one for 2022. Marilyn Heath seconded. **PASSED.** Janet Clark was going to do it, but things came up and she is unable to take this position.

– **Bylaws:** Leatha Andersen and Dorinda Miller and Tommy Ingram made suggestions for changes to the Bylaws. They were brought to the Board meeting for discussion. Leatha prepared it with track changes and clean copy. It was discussed in detail. Jim Andersen suggested under Article VI, the Committee delete Legislative from Item 6.

– **Discussion** on grandfathering the \$.66 per person for spouses of deceased retirees. Everyone else pays \$1.00 per person to be a member including all new members. Tommy Ingram moves that we charge \$1.00 fee for membership for future Associate members and grandfathering \$.66 with current Associate members. Jim Andersen seconded. **PASSED.** Leatha will notify the Retirement Office.

Dorinda will send Bylaws to Respectech to put in Website along with the newsletter. Dorinda Miller moves we accept the Bylaws with the new changes. Tommy Ingram seconded. **PASSED.**

– **Pandemic:** It is important no matter what meetings we have that we follow the Public Health Protocols for the Orange Tier for the Pandemic. We wear masks, stand or sit 6 feet apart and wash and disinfect hands.

– **Future Meetings:** Board Meeting: 7/12/2021 at noon at Slam Dunk Pizza; August General Members meeting canceled; October 11, 2021 is Special Meeting regarding elections. It sometimes is in-person and sometimes via telephone calls to confirm a Slate of Officers. November 8, 2021 will be our Board Meeting at Slam Dunk Pizza. December 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. will be our Holiday Party if the Broiler Steak House is doing it. Otherwise we will notify everyone in the newsletter if it has been canceled or not.

– **COLA:** Jim Andersen said we will have a 1.5% COLA in our May 1, 2021 paycheck for retirees.

– **CRCEA:** Interim President Leatha Andersen said the on line roster of CRCEA needs to be updated with our logo and all the officers. Secretary Cyndi Montesonti will fix it and return it to Leatha to send off. Interim President Andersen also talked

about CRCEA wanting donors and will be on their website for November conference. No further information.

6. ADJOURNED at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndi Montesonti
Secretary

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION

If anyone would like to share a travel adventure or any other newsworthy information, please email your article and pictures to Dorinda Miller or Cyndi Montesonti. Our emails are in this newsletter. We are always looking for contributors.

AMCRE's FIRST EVENT COMING IN DECEMBER 2021.

We have not had a General Meeting since 2019, therefore: It is time to mark your calendars for our Holiday Dinner at the Broiler Steak House for Monday, December 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Our former sheriff, Tom Allman will be our emcee. New officers will be voted in and sworn in by the former Sheriff. If masks are still required, please bring one. Usually restaurants currently require you to wear the mask until your food or drink arrives. This could change by December. [Information will be updated in the next issue of *The Connection*.](#)

Greetings Fellow AMCRE Members, TO CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER

Leatha Andersen, Interim President

Email: leatha261@comcast.net

707-489-2686 or

Cyndi Montesonti, Secretary

Co-Editor/AMCRE & Scholarship Committee

Email: tomcyndichili@comcast.net

707-489-7752 or

Raylene Lucchesi, Treasurer

Email: raylenelucchesi@att.net

707-468-0751 or

Dorinda Kay Miller, Board Member

Co-Editor/AMCRE & Membership Committee

Email: dmiller0404@gmail.com

707-489-8564 or

Write to:

AMCRE P.O. Box 903 Ukiah, CA 95482

Email to:

amcremendocino@gmail.com

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

July 12, 2021

SLAM DUNK PIZZA UKIAH, CA

1. CALL TO ORDER – INTRODUCTIONS: Meeting called to order at 12:09 p.m. Roll call taken: PRESENT: Leatha Andersen, Cyndi Montesonti, Jim Andersen, Dorinda Kay Miller, Marilyn Heath, Tommy Deroches, and Tommy Ingram. ABSENT: Raylene Lucchesi and Shirley Christensen.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Secretary Cyndi Montesonti reported that in the minutes of 4/12/2021, it was noted in the Treasurer's Report for several months that the year was 2020 when in fact it was 2021. Jim Andersen moves we amend to correct the April 12, 2021 minutes to reflect the appropriate years as 2021 instead of 2020 under the Treasurer's Report. Tommy Deroches Seconded. **PASSED.** Discussion of posting draft MINUTES from the Board meeting within 30 days after our meeting. Dorinda Kay Miller moves we post the minutes to the website as DRAFT within 30 days after the meeting. Tommy Ingram Seconded. **PASSED.**

3. REPORTS:

– **TREASURER REPORT:** Raylene Lucchesi – Cyndi Montesonti reported for Treasurer Raylene Lucchesi. Raylene submitted ledgers for March, April, May and June 2021. The balance in the June 2021 General Fund is \$7,181.20 with \$293.00 remaining in the Scholarship Fund. Raylene will soon move \$2000 over into the Scholarships as our winners turn in proof of college enrollment and class schedules. Discussion of a budget. Cyndi said Raylene's ledgers are to the penny. She is unable to present July 2021 balances until she receives the Savings Bank statement.

– **MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Dorinda Kay Miller—Number of Members 1,003. First time over 1000 AMCRE members. Wonderful. Dorinda discussed a mistake with Nora regarding one person paying twice because they were counted twice by Retirement. It was fixed. Dorinda also mentioned she was thrilled to have the new AMCRE computer updated with new software and fast memory. Respectech gave us a good deal for the purchase completely new and upgraded for \$749. They also donated some of their time in updating this computer. Leatha and Dorinda both discussed how Bohdan from Respectech would train someone to keep up the website and add to it if we wanted that. His charge is about \$99.00/hour. We want to keep those bills reasonable. While discussing the new letterhead, Dorinda will remove the “~” after the word Co-Editors under *The Connection*. New letterhead will be discussed under New Business. Dorinda will also add the Scholarship Committee members to the side bar. Cyndi Montesonti – Scholarship Chair, Tommy Ingram and Marilyn Heath serve on the Committee.

– **SCHOLARSHIP REPORT:** Cyndi Montesonti—Chair Cyndi Montesonti reported there were 9 excellent applicants. Tommy Ingram, Marilyn Heath and Cyndi Montesonti sat on the Committee. The winning applicants were notified by telephone and a confirming letter was sent to them instructing

them on what is needed to pay them their first \$500. The other applicants were called and messages left if they did not pick up or return the call. The Scholarship winners are:

Pierce Douglas Naughton, returning Scholarship winner, attending University of Cincinnati Blue Ash majoring in Business and Economics. He will be a sophomore in college in the fall. His late grandfather was Douglas Sawyer who retired from the Assessor's Office.

Paige Dalby graduated from Ukiah High School and was accepted at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. She will be majoring in Animal Science. Her great grandmother is Marilyn Heath who retired from the Department of Social Services.

Alana Gibson graduated from high school in Texas. She will be attending the University of North Texas and plans on majoring in Human Development and Family Science. She plans to become an Occupational Therapist. Her late grandfather was Michael Neal who retired from the Probation Department.

Angelina Branson graduated from Liberty High School in Oregon. She plans to attend Portland Community College and then transfer to a university majoring in biological sciences. Her grandfather is Ronald C. Parker, who retired from the Sheriff's Office.

– **CRCEA REPORT/RETIREMENT MEETING REPORT:** Jim Andersen reported there was not a lot happening due to Covid. He said there is not a lot going on either. Legal issues they are tracking do not affect retirees. The next conference is in Long Beach. He said Orange County will host Spring 2022 and they are reporting out that it will be a virtual conference. He mentioned other counties are shrinking down due to the lack of people volunteering in positions or on the Board. He mentioned larger counties have paid staff. Jim also reported on the Overpayment/Underpayment issue: Retirement completed about 50% of case reviews. They had hoped this would be completed by August 2021. However, the Retirement Office lost extra help staff and the process may not be finished until 2022. Jim explained the appeal process. He also talked with Virginia Adams from CRCEA about our information on their website and she will update it. He said she has been trying to step down for over a year. Nobody will replace her. Jim said he will not run for this position at the end of the year. He discussed duties of the CRCEA Representative. He also said he would not mind stopping by now and then and giving us a report as to what is going on with Retirement.

4. OLD BUSINESS: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding:

– **Speakers and Dates through 2021:** Janet Clark is not interested in doing the Vice-President position for 2022, but would be happy to do the Sunshine Committee, as Shirley Christensen will be stepping down. Tommy Ingram said he would be interested in the Vice-President position and will be in charge of finding speakers for 2022.

– **Newsletter Preparation** – Co-Editor Cyndi Montesonti explained she puts the newsletter together and gets articles in there. Co-Editor Dorinda Miller talked about getting it put together in a special way, submitting to Creative Workshop and then Express It gets it. Discussion of costs. Dorinda received a thank you note that the Board wanted placed in the newsletter and an article from Kendall Smith and Steve Proctor on the Underpayment/Overpayment Issue. We are adding a column in the newsletter called “Letters to the Editors.” That is where submitted articles, letters or notes from retirees will be placed.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

– **Letterhead:** Also discussion of new letterhead. President Leatha Andersen brought one sample. Most of the Board members liked color and some liked black and white style. Secretary Cyndi Montesonti suggested we table this discussion to our Monday, October 11, 2021 special Board meeting. Leatha will bring a variety of samples to look at.

– **October Special Meeting:** In person or telephone call. Secretary Cyndi Montesonti reminded everyone that the last few years nobody had an interest to run for an office or join the Board but the current Board members. The Board members, therefore, had phone calls for the special meeting. This year we will meet in person because we have other information to add on the October agenda we need to talk about. The Board agreed.

– **Board of Directors Membership Terms of Office and Recruitment** – Dorinda Miller/Leatha Andersen – Both Marilyn Heath and Jim Andersen will not be returning to the Board of Directors. Cyndi Montesonti said Shirley Christensen did not want to return as well. Marilyn Heath would like to remain on the Scholarship Committee. We will have two vacancies in the 1-year Board of Director position, and in the 2-year Board position, we will have 1 vacancy. We also need to find someone to serve as our CRCEA Representative. Leatha Andersen will stay on one more year as President. The rest of the Board will remain. Secretary Cyndi Montesonti volunteered to make calls to retirees recruiting them to our Board of Directors. If anyone is interested, they should contact Cyndi Montesonti.

– **Board Member Photos**—President Leatha Andersen asked the Board to have their picture taken by Dorinda before they leave for the website.

– **Covid Update for AMCRE**—Leatha Andersen: Leatha reported that we need to encourage everyone that attends the holiday party to be vaccinated. Cyndi will contact the Broiler and find out their Covid protocols. If people are not vaccinated, it might be difficult to attend the holiday party because we would be unable to separate everyone.

– **Development of Group Email for AMCRE** – Leatha Andersen / Dorinda Kay Miller: Discussion of costs of preparing the newsletter and having it mailed out. Membership Chair Dorinda Kay Miller feels we could start phasing out paper copies and going to a group email to receive the newsletter and anything else important. Secretary Cyndi Montesonti suggested we give the Retirees an opportunity to tell us how they would like to receive the newsletter. Some people have computers, but never really touch them. Dorinda will prepare something for this newsletter. She will have the members email to the amcremendocino@gmail.com if they want *The Connection* emailed. By emailing to our AMCRE email, Dorinda will be able to read the email clearly. She will then prepare a list ready for the first newsletter in 2022 to all those who want it by email. This way it will save money on printing newsletters.

– **Budget Review/Holiday Party:** Secretary Cyndi Montesonti reported that we will have our first event since Covid at the Broiler Steak House on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. According to Cyndi Montesonti, the Broiler will charge us a flat \$40.00 per person including tax and gratuity. At the October Special Board meeting, the Board will discuss finances on how much we will contribute for each retiree attending. Cyndi reported that we contributed \$15.00 per person the last time we had this event. She said, however, our General Fund may only have about \$3,000 in around that time. Cyndi said the Broiler will allow us 4 different dinner choices with 30-40 people, 3 choices if we go up in people. The amount of dinner entrée choices go down as our numbers go up. We can have the bartender if we have between 75-80 people. Sheriff Tom Allman has agreed to be our Emcee and will swear in the new officers. Cyndi will contact Jim Tusso to see if he wants to come as Santa Claus.

6. ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned 1:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndi Montesonti
Secretary

AMCRE WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING:

AMCRE.ORG

AMCRE EMAIL ADDRESS:

amcremendocino@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

If you are a member of AMCRE, and have children or grandchildren



going to college or trade school, they had the opportunity to submit an application for one of the four \$1000 scholarships we are giving out for the 2021/2022 school year. They can receive \$500 each semester with proof of full-time enrollment into a college, or trade school and applying per the directions in the application on our revised website. A student who is returning to college or trade school for additional years and for graduating seniors who are going to enter college or trade school could also apply. See the **Scholarship** tab on our website AMCRE.ORG and click the Scholarship Tab. It will always have the information and the application. We received 9 applications and it was so difficult to decide.

Due to Covid-19 and kids not exactly in school or on the campus, we extended the due date from May 31, 2021 to June 10, 2021 to give everyone time to complete the application, get reference letters and grades and submit it to our Scholarship Committee. The Committee had a difficult time deciding. We wish we could honor all applicants with a scholarship.

However, we would like to announce the winners:

Pierce Douglas Naughton, returning Scholarship winner, attending University of Cincinnati Blue Ash majoring in Business and Economics. He will be a sophomore in college in the fall. His late grandfather was Douglas Sawyer who retired from the Assessor's Office.

Paige Dalby graduated from Ukiah High School and was accepted at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. She will be majoring in Animal Science. Her great grandmother is Marilyn Heath who retired from the Department of Social Services.

Alana Gibson graduated from high school in Texas. She will be attending the University of North Texas and plans on majoring in Human Development and Family Science. She plans to become an Occupational Therapist. Her grandfather was Michael Neal who retired from the Probation Department.

Angelina Branson graduated from Liberty High School in Oregon. She plans to attend Portland Community College and then transfer to a university majoring in biological sciences. Her grandfather is Ronald C. Parker who retired from the Sheriff's Office.

Congratulations to all the winners!

For further information, please contact Cyndi Montesonti, Scholarship Co-Chair @ (707) 489-7752 email: tomcyndichili@comcast.net

MCERA/CRCEA

At the June 16th meeting of the Board of Retirement, staff reported out that 229 of the 545 proposed corrections under the Historical Benefits Review Project (HBRP) had been completed. However, the rate of the correction process has slowed due to the loss of an extra-help employee. The estimated completion date of the project is now early 2022. MCERA has created a page on its website containing frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the project. Specific questions about any retiree's correction calculation should still be directed to MCERA staff, as each calculation is unique.

Two appeals were heard by the Board on June 16th, and both were denied. MCERA staff and the Board of Retirement have a fiduciary responsibility to administer benefits in compliance with the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL) and IRS regulations; both of which protect the legal standing of the retirement plan and its ability to continue to provide benefits to all members into the future. This does not mean that the staff and the Board are unaware of the hardship the corrections are creating for many retirees. There is a great heaviness of heart among all. One Board member soberly summed up the correction and appeal process, noting that the hardships on retirees are deeply felt and understood.

As of the end of May, the annual return on investments was just over 30%, with plan assets at about \$690 million.

The Fall 2021 CRCEA conference in Los Angeles is scheduled to be an "in person" conference. Given a re-introduction of certain masking restrictions in Los Angeles, we will monitor any restrictions on large gatherings. There were no significant legislative items.

Submitted by: Jim Andersen

GOODBYE COVID.... HELLO LIFE

In the year 2020 and half of 2021, it was difficult for all of us to find something to do, somewhere to eat and places to travel. I hope everyone found a vaccination place. If not, contact Mendocino County Public Health Covid Division to see where you can get a vaccination. Pharmacies are now giving them too. Stay healthy, stay masked and get vaccinated.

EMAILING THE CONNECTION, we are going to try once again to email *The Connection* to members who would rather have it electronically sent to them. If you are among them, please email amcremendocino@gmail.com and request *The Connection* to be emailed. If we do not receive an email from you, then *The Connection* will be mailed.

Thank you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS



REST IN PEACE

Joe Louis Wildman was a key figure in the serious business of Mendocino politics and unions for more than 25 years, but friends remember an unforgettable sense of humor, so much so he said he would have been a stand up comedian if he had only had the time.

Wildman made people laugh and made union opponents wince over his decades as a labor organizer and political activist. He died April 4, 2021, at age 65, having suffered declining health recently.

Submitted by: Cyndi Montesonti

MCERA'S Historical Benefit Review Project Faces Challenges and Pending Appeals

MCERA'S letter dated 11/4/20, stated historical pension benefit errors will necessitate pension recalculations for over 500 retirees. These recalculations were to have been completed by August 2021. Without specifics, MCERA has indicated for several months that they will not meet their stated timeline. Recently they stated the recalculations will likely not be completed in 2021. Retirees are forced to agonize over potential benefit reductions, often substantial ones, that will occur in the future.

These are a few specifics retirees may wish to be aware of:

- You have 60 days to file an objection to the Error Correction Notice (ECN). This is a mandatory step in the appeals process.
- It is important to follow reports on the recalculations, including the appeals underway. Please view the meetings and comment if you feel you have a point of view to be shared. Information on options for meeting viewing and participation are available on the MCERA website. Agendas are available online by the Monday preceding the meetings. Select the Re-

tirement Association from the county website @ mendocinocounty.org

MCERA Board meeting dates for 2021:

Meetings begin at 8:30 AM.

| | | |
|------------|------------|--------------|
| July 21 | August 18 | September 15 |
| October 20 | November 3 | December 15 |

A group of MCERA retirees has sought legal advice and options for legal representation are underway. Next to receive ECNs are those retirees who purchased service credit or those who made partial redeposits of withdrawn contributions. If you have questions about your recalculation or questions about potential legal representation, either prior to or after receiving an Error Correction Notice, please feel free to contact Steve or Kendall at numbers listed below.

If you are not impacted by the recalculation process you can assist fellow retirees that are. Please reach out to family, friends, and previous colleagues through social media, email, or any familiar means of communication. Please let them know we continue to study and monitor the benefit change issue and we may be helpful to them in determining options, including an appeal to their recalculation. Many recalculations are legally required. Not all changes have valid reasons for an appeal. However, retirees who purchased service credit, at MCERA's suggestion, have significant recourse if that purchase is subsequently undone. Please assist us in contacting as many retirees as possible so they may have the support they deserve to evaluate their specific case.

We thank you as fellow AMCRE members and fellow MCERA retirees, for assisting those, who through no fault of their own, are facing a reduction of benefits and a failure in accountability and pension management execution from the entity entrusted with fiduciary management of their contributions.

Steve Prochter 485.0715 Kendall Smith 964.8835

Submitted by: Kendall Smith

Thank you for awarding Angie Branson a scholarship

Thank you. We are so proud of Angie. Boy, buttons are popping! Class valedictorian, with all A and advanced courses. She will start at the local JC and then on to a four- year when she decides her major.

The Parkers

Submitted by: Proud Grandparents

✓ **MOVING, or any notification changes?** Notify the Membership Committee – Dorinda Miller (dmiller0404@gmail.com), 491 Chablis Dr, Ukiah, CA 95482, so AMCRE's records stay correct. Be sure you ALSO connect with the Mendocino County Retirement Association 625-B Kings Court, Ukiah, with any address change, telephone and email change (if applicable) as well.

✓ Questions? Please call any Board member.

ASSOCIATION OF MENDOCINO COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES

Post Office Box 903
Ukiah, CA 95482

Amcremendocino@gmail.com

PRESORT STD

U.S. Postage

PAID

Ukiah, CA

Express-It

MOVING, or any
notification
changes?
NOTIFY AMCRE



FRIENDSHIP • UNITY • STRENGTH • GROWTH

THE CONNECTION

***General Membership Meeting CANCELLED
For August 2021.***

Hopefully we will see you at the Holiday Party ~ December 2021.

STAY WELL!

July August September 2021

Co-Editors: Cyndi Montesonti & Dorinda Kay Miller