

SAN JOSE Retired Employees Association

A non-profit association devoted to the welfare of all retired City of San Jose Employees and dedicated to the protection and integrity of the Retirement System

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December 2010



From Your President

Looking Ahead/Moving Forward

Edited by Bob Leininger, SJREA President

LOOKING AHEAD/MOVING FORWARD

With the end of the year upon us, whether one calls this season Christmas, Hanukkah, Bodhi, Kwanzaa, Ramadan or just plain old, "The Holidays," it is the time to reflect on what we have and to express our appreciation to those who matter the most in our lives. For us City Retirees, we do have a lot to be grateful for, in terms of our pensions and benefits, and for the efforts of many people in City Hall who are looking out for our interests are deeply appreciated. But ongoing vigilance is not a bad thing to take with us into the New Year, lest we be surprised with an unintended, but nonetheless real, lump of coal in our stocking. All of this makes me think about my ideal stocking stuffers (or perhaps my wish list for 2011), so here's a few "stuffers" with a brief update on where things stand with the City.

1. A healthy Federated investment portfolio:

No lump of coal here! After suffering an almost 24% drop in market value in 2008, the Federated portfolio has enjoyed returns of about 17.5% in 2009 and around 8.12% YTD through October 2010 (about 9.75% annualized), and the portfolio's market value is almost all the way back from the 2008 banking crisis!

2. A Lowest Cost Plan standard and process

where we can get what the majority of employees accept as the LCP. The Federated Retirement

Board has recently voted to accept the \$25 co-pay plan as the LCP, but they also voted to recommend that the City Council refer this issue to the employee groups, Retiree Associations, and the Administration for discussion on ways to address this discrepancy.

3. An SRBR Distribution: Not yet a troublesome lump of coal. After voting to suspend the \$1.6 million 2010 distribution until June 30, 2011, the City Council later referred this matter to the FCERS Board, which on November 16th voted to recommend to the City Council that the distribution for the lowest 25% of the Federated pensions be made now, and that the Unions, Retirees and Administration work together on the distribution formulas to better address those retirees most in need. Many City Council Members have expressed support for an SRBR program that moves further in this direction. There are still lots of work to do and we will stay on top of this with our own proactive proposals.

4. A lump of coal: While not one of my initial wishes, I just checked on the sky-high price of coal and it occurs to me that maybe one can be naughty and make money at the same time! There's a win-win!

5. A few good men and women, as in candidates for this Association's Board and also for the 4 new public-at-large members for the Federated Retirement Board. If you are interested in this Association

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT CONT.

Board, our elections will be this January 6th at the regular monthly meeting. You can call Vice President John Pletsch or myself if you would like more information.

As concerns the FCERS Board, the public-at-large appointees must have extensive experience and live within a certain radius of City Hall. Voting on issues directly related to our pension and health benefits and overseeing the investment portfolio and asset allocation decisions make these positions obviously very important to all of us. As you are reading this column, the City Council will have, most likely, conducted interviews with some of the 33 applicants for 3 of the positions. This Board will be there for those interviews and will respond during the public comment period, as necessary. The 4th public position will be interviewed by the City Council after receiving a recommendation from the FCERS Board and that will probably happen shortly after the first of the year.

The application process is an ongoing one, and nothing prevents us from identifying additional candidates and encouraging their application to the City. One restriction is they cannot be retirees of the City (we retain our retiree representative under the new Board composition, aka Ed Overton). I will be happy to talk about this with anyone who you think might be interested.

6. Efforts of the Association Board: The 16 dedicated Directors and Officers who put together the newsletters and website, organize the monthly meetings, serve on the FCERS Board, put on special events (like the wonderful Holiday Party about 200 of us enjoyed this past December 2), and participate in the many meetings at City Hall involving our benefits, are all on my wish list, and I look forward to continuing to serve with all of them.

On a final note, and on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, we wish you and your friends and families the happiest of Holidays and the very best for the New Year!



From the Board of Directors



How Well Do You Know Santa Claus?

Who is the American Santa Claus based upon?

- Sister Kalas
- Sinter Claas
- Saint Claude
- Saint Francis

According to Dutch legend, Sinter Klaas – also known as Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children and sailors – brought gifts at Christmas time, either through an open window or down a chimney. This legend is the basis of the Santa Claus we know today.

The modern image of Santa, a fat man with a white beard wearing a red suit, was invented by Coca-Cola:

- True
- False

While Coca-Cola did use the modern image of Santa Claus in their 1931 ad, the Santa image we know today was inspired by author Washington Irving's description in his 1809 satire "The History of New York," illustrator Thomas Nest's 1862 depiction of the jolly elf, and Clement Clark Moore's 1822 poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas" (commonly called "Twas the Night Before Christmas").

French children are visited not by Santa Claus, but by:

- Christ Kind
- Pere Noel
- Father Christmas
- Le Mer Jesue

On Christmas Eve, French children leave their shoes by the fire place to be filled with gifts from Pere Noel. In the morning, they also find that sweets, fruit, nuts, and small toys have been hung on the tree.

Rudolph and the other eight tiny reindeer were all introduced in Clement Clarke Moore's poem titled "A Visit from St. Nicholas":

- True
- False

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer was the creation of Robert L. May, a copy writer at the Montgomery Ward department store, who created a Christmas-themed story-poem about the red-nosed hero to help bring holiday traffic into his store.

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS2010 OFFICERS

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Anita Phagan	(408) 259-6557
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From the Department of Retirement Service

1737 N. First Street, Ste. 580, San Jose, CA 95112
Phone: (408) 794-1000 or toll free (800) 732-6477
Email: retirement.dept@sanjoseca.gov

**Retirement Services will be closed from
December 23rd through January
2nd. Normal business hours will
resume on Monday, January 3, 2011.**

RETIREMENTS

Katrina D. Allen, Director, Public Works Department,
1/22/2011

William H. Alvarenga, Custodian, General Services
Department, 12/25/2010

Elviro A. Cudal, Custodian, Police Department,
12/25/2010

Zita Daulton, Senior Office Specialist, Police Department,
1/22/2011

Diana Flauding, Associate Architect, Public Works
Department, 11/27/2010

Kelly J. Locke, Senior Electronics Systems Technician,
Airport Department, 12/1/2010

Valerie Malvini, Office Specialist II, Police Department,
1/22/2011

Laurence R. Manley, EMA II Mechanic, General
Services, 1/8/2011

Roberto L. Molina, Senior Geographic Systems
Specialist, Public Works Department, 12/11/2010

Ernest J. Najjar, Maintenance Worker II, Department of
Transportation, 12/11/2010

Michael G. Noble, Senior Painter, Environmental
Services Department, 1/8/2011

Irma B. Pagan, Principal Office Specialist, Police
Department, 1/8/2011

Flora Lee Price, City Clerk, City Clerk's Office,
12/25/2010

Edward T. Tolentino, Deputy Director, Planning,
Building and Code Enforcement, 2/19/2011

DEFERRED VESTED

Taniuska C. Davila, Custodian, Convention, Arts &
Entertainment Department, 11/4/2010

Paul Krutko, Chief Development Officer, City
Manager's Office, 1/20/2011

Michael S. McInerney, Senior Executive Analyst, City
Manager's Office, 1/22/2011

Nancy Mendizabal, Senior Construction Inspector,
Department of Transportation, 12/25/2010

Randell D. Valente, Senior Maintenance Worker,
Department of Transportation, 4/29/2011

CONDOLENCES

Theodore N. Alders, Police Property Clerk I, retired
9/19/1987, died 11/19/2010

Tidbits Round the Tables at the Holiday Lunch

It was great to see **Thayne Waldron** (Finance Department, Budget Office) after a few years of being too busy to get to the luncheon. He and his wife Mary Jane had lived in Brookings, Oregon on the seacoast for many years, but recently came back to California to be closer to children and grandchildren. Now settled in Folsom, he recounted some great fishing stories during trips to Alaska, including his catching a 70 lb. halibut out of Homer. Nowadays, he keeps in shape by jogging the 1.5 miles to the fitness center, and then after a stretching routine, he sometimes jogs back home!

Also in the crowd, but missing his buddy **Russ Wylde**, who was ill and couldn't make the lunch, was **Jim Matteucci** (Building Department). He lives in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in a log cabin that he spent seven years constructing. He really appreciates life outside the busy environment of San Jose.

New retirees who attended the luncheon for the first time included **John Leone, Ron Ippolito, Glenn Frizzell, and Carol Easter**. Carol was seated with **Kay Rooney** and **Dorothy Hinze**. **John Laws** entertained the "Info Technology" table, which also included **Ed Grundman** and his wife and **Curt Miller**, with several jokes. Ask John about pancakes next time you see him!

Vicki Mata and **Rite Torres** were spotted in the crowd as well as **Norvelle Benevento** and one of her many bosses, former City Manager, **Jerry Newfarmer**. Also attending were **Dave** and **Sally Boggini**, who enjoy life in Aptos and spending time with grandchildren around the country. **Rose Crimi** spoke with **Anita Phagan** about her recent visit with **Joe Oehlert** and his wife in Stockton and shared photos. **Rhonda Snyder** finally retired from the Retirement Services Department and now has even more time to spend with her grandchildren.

No luncheon is complete without the Personnel contingent, including **Amy Moody** and **Deborah Powell**, up from southern California – Deborah's two growing grandsons keep her busy. That seemed to be the conversation connection for many retirees, who have moved into the golden years with new interests centered around family and travel. Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal, the excellent music entertainment, and all are looking forward to a spring or summer picnic as a change to our twice-annual gatherings.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the food drive for the Second Harvest Food Bank. We filled 1 1/2 barrels of food which weighed approximately 150 pounds. It was a great success for the Holiday Luncheon. We hope to continue this tradition of "giving" in the years to come.

Holiday Luncheon Photos



To view more photos go to sjrea.org and click on "New" Current Topics.



Dr. Das Says...

Stay Healthy This Holiday Season

Is there; (a) travel, (b) food, or (c) festivities planned for you and your family this holiday season? Whether it is a little bit of each or a whole lot of one, it's important to remain healthy throughout it all. Here are some tips to keep your wellbeing in tip-top shape and ready to tackle those New Year's resolutions that are just around the corner.

Travel: Physical strain or injuries from lifting heavy luggage can ruin anybody's holiday fun. Be careful when moving large or over-packed bags or suitcases. Remember to lift using your legs and consider the phrase, "Let someone else do the heavy lifting" whenever appropriate. Better yet, try your hand at packing extra light this year, your back, shoulders, hip and neck will thank you for it. When traveling by plane, smaller and more thoughtfully packed carry-on bags may be better for your pocketbook too, as many airlines are now charging a fee for items going into the aircraft cargo bay.

Food: The holidays wouldn't be the same without it; there are comfort foods, traditional foods or special foods, each with their sensory or memory delights. Don't deny yourself any of these food experiences if that's what you want; just keep the idea of portion control right there in the driver's seat. A few bites of something decadent can serve the same psychological purpose as a whole plateful. Plus, serving yourself smaller portions will leave you with room to try something else, something healthier maybe?

Festivities: Decorating the house, cooking for guests, shopping and spending time with family and friends always sounds like a great way to spend holiday time. Or does it? For many people, the hustle and bustle associated with the holidays can be an important part of their enjoyment of the season, but this time of year can also be overwhelming to others. Be aware of over-commitments of your personal time and resist the urge to give in to any unnecessary spending for gift giving. Small amounts of time and even smaller, less expensive gifts can go a long way toward future personal and financial wellness.

Retiree Wellness Opportunities for 2011

A Day of Wellness: Thursday, March 24th

Mark your calendars! City Hall will host the 3rd Employee Wellness Conference on Thursday, March 24th. The day will kick-off with a key note presentation in Council Chambers at 9 AM followed by various wellness activities and seminars. Free wellness screenings will be available. Registration in advance is encouraged. Look for details and the complete seminar schedule to be posted in January.

Wellness Wednesdays

Wellness Wednesday seminars begin in 2011 with various wellness topics held at multiple City locations. Look for the schedule to be posted mid-December. Typically 1-hour sessions that include information about ways to increase or maintain mental and/or physical health, exercise, nutrition, balance home/work life and more. Classes also will be scheduled during the noon lunch-time hour and retirees are welcome to join active employees. Drop-in only – no appointment or registration needed.

Email: WellnessIn-Box@sanjoseca.gov

Internet page: www.sanjoseca.gov/wellness

CSJ Wellness Coordinator: Debbi Bohnet-Nuttall (408) 975-1431

Mail Call...from Larry Boales

Searching for Unclaimed Property – is one of my hobbies. I check unclaimed property databases for the names of friends, relatives and neighbors. While I usually find nothing (most people are careful with their money), I've also found as little as 18 cents for a sister-in-law and over \$30,000 for a neighbor. Right now I'm waiting for checks totaling over \$1,000 for myself from California and Oregon.

If you have access to the internet, checking these databases is fairly simple. California's database can be found at <http://scoweb.sco.ca.gov/UCP/Default.aspx>

Simply enter the first name, last name and an optional city. You can leave the city blank to cover any of the California cities you may have lived in. It's also a good idea to try any variations or changes in your name you may have used, even as a child. If California is holding property under that name you'll get a list of names, addresses and cities of the property held for people with that name. Click on "ID number" for the ones that might be yours. Next you'll see a description of the property and basic instructions for filing a claim. You can print out a claim form and that screen will give a link to more detailed instructions.

Documentation requirements will vary. It can be as simple as a photocopy of your driver's license and proof of your Social Security Number. Some claims get more complicated, such as a claim for Met Life shares listed held for a deceased grandmother. That one required copies of her death certificate, a copy of her will, a copy of my father's death certificate, proof of her address (as shown on the database listing) and notarization of my signature (some credit unions and other businesses will notarize for customers for no or a reduced cost). Sometimes you may be asked to contact and get more information from the company that turned over the property. California's detailed instructions will tell you what documentation you need.

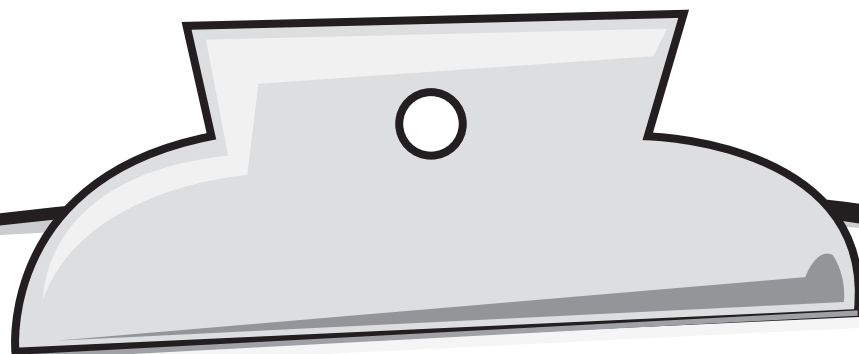
California can take as long as six months to send a check, but states such as Oregon can send theirs in about a month.

Next, check other states where you may have lived or done business. There's a great website with links to all 50 states at: <http://www.unclaimed.org/>

Don't be disappointed if you don't find anything at first. Try again the next year. The time requirements for businesses to turn over property to the state vary with the type of property and the state, so you may have better luck next time. For example, I had checked the Oregon database every couple years and found nothing. However, last year Met Life turned over property from an insurance policy taken out when I was a year old and under a name I haven't used in over 50 years. When I checked this year, I discovered they had \$871 for me.

Another resource I've just started using is the US Treasury Department's database of saving bonds which haven't been cashed. If you ever signed up for payroll savings bonds it's possible one may have been lost (there's also a link to check on bonds which are no longer earning interest). You'll need the social security number of the person for whom you are checking. You can find this database at:
http://www.treasurydirect.gov/indiv/tools/tools_treasuryhunt.htm

Good luck!



Visit our website...

www.sjrea.org

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Reminder when you move...
Notify us of your new address/phone number/email address
Send a note to
SJREA P.O. Box 26515
San Jose, CA 95159-6515

SAVE THE DATES

January 6th General Meeting - Election of officers
Health Practitioner: Subject: "Stress"

February 3rd General Meeting - Retirement Services
Subject: Investments

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NEXT MEETING:	January 6, 2011
TIME:	Board of Directors – 9-10:30 AM Membership Meeting – 10:30 - 12:00 Noon
PLACE:	Leininger Center 1300 Senter Road
SPEAKER:	Dr. Victoria Hill Health Practitioner
PROGRAM:	Stress - What To Do About It