

OUR 75TH YEAR!

Retirees and Payees, Active Members

This July marks 75 years since CCCERA was established on July 1, 1945. From our first 100 members to our current membership of over 23,000, we have come a long way. CCCERA would like to thank all of our members for working hard to serve the residents of Contra Costa County, and for allowing us to be your plan stewards.

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Retirees and Payees, Active Members

The CCCERA Retirement Board recently underwent an election, which resulted in the re-election of Donald Finley and Todd Smithey. Nomination paperwork may be submitted for the election to fill the upcoming July 1, 2020 vacancy in the alternate safety member seat between June 8 through July 3, 2020. The Board of Supervisors also reappointed Candace Andersen, Jerry Holcombe, Jay Kwon and John Phillips.

Board Trustees

Candace Andersen Appointed by Board of Supervisors
Scott W. Gordon Appointed by Board of Supervisors
Jerry R. Holcombe Appointed by Board of Supervisors
Jay Kwon Appointed by Board of Supervisors
John B. Phillips Appointed by Board of Supervisors
Russell V. Watts Ex Officio by Statute
Louie Kroll Elected by Retiree Members
Mike Sloan Elected by Retiree Members
David J. MacDonald Elected by General Members
Todd Smithey Elected by General Members
Donald Finley Elected by Safety Members
William Pigeon Elected by Safety Members

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Retirees and Payees, Active Members

Due to the current shelter-in-place order, our office has been closed to the public until further notice.

CCCERA has continued to perform its essential business functions during this time. We thank our members for their patience, and encourage them to visit our website frequently for updates on CCCERA's operations at cccera.org/coronavirus.

Although CCCERA's office is closed to the public, you can still call or email us. Staff will be available by phone during the following hours (please note, these hours may change).

Limited Phone Hours

Tuesday through Thursday
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(Closed between noon and 12:30 p.m.)

If you have any questions outside of these hours, please leave us a voicemail at (925) 521-3960 or email us at info@cccera.org. Our response may be delayed, but we will get your message and get back to you as soon as possible.

UPDATED WEBSITE

Retirees and Payees, Active Members

You may have noticed our website received a refresh this June. New colors, fonts and a background image were implemented to compliment CCCERA's new logo.

END-OF-LIFE PLANNING

Retirees and Payees, Active Members

Preparing for death is important no matter what age you are. Life can change in an instant without notice, and for those of us who have experienced the passing of a loved one, this unsettling time can often leave us feeling unprepared.

Luckily, your pension is one asset that you may be able to pass on to your loved ones. To ensure they are taken care of, there are certain things you can do now to prepare. Here are a few things to keep in mind.

Potentially Provide Options For Your Survivors

Active Members

What would happen to your survivors in the event of your death prior to retirement? To prepare, consider filing the *Death During Active Membership Form* (Form 104). If eligible, this form authorizes CCCERA to file a non-service connected disability on your behalf and allows you to pre-select Optional Settlement 2 or 4 in the event of your death during active service.

Please note, there is no guarantee that a non-service connected disability will ultimately be granted by the Board of Retirement. This option results in a continuance to your named beneficiary (up to a 100% continuance of the non-service connected disability retirement benefit). In order to receive this allowance, members must have Form 104 (found at cccera.org/forms) on file with CCCERA on or before the date of death to be valid.

This election is only in effect while you are an active member. When you retire, a new retirement option form is completed (see below). At that time you may change your retirement option to provide the best benefit to you during your retirement.

Consider Your Benefit Payment Options

Active Members at Retirement

An options package is sent for your signature approximately six to 10 weeks after your last active paycheck from your employer. Your option selection must be signed, witnessed, and received by CCCERA before your first pension check can be issued. Please be advised that your option choice is irrevocable.

There are five benefit payment options:

- The Unmodified Allowance gives you the highest monthly benefit with a 60% continuing benefit after your death to a qualifying beneficiary(ies).
- Option 1 reduces your benefit but leaves a lump sum amount of the remaining refundable employee contributions, if any, for your beneficiary(ies).
- Option 2 reduces your benefit, but leaves your beneficiary up to 100% of your lifetime benefit after your death.
- Option 3 reduces your benefit and provides a 50% lifetime continuance for your surviving beneficiary.
- Option 4 reduces your benefit and provides a lifetime continuance for multiple beneficiaries.

More information about retirement benefit options is available at cccera.org.

Update Your Information (and Beneficiary)

Retirees and Payees, Active Members

For retirees and payees, this could include important documents such as current identification cards and power of attorney, as they could affect the timeliness of your benefit. Copies of these documents can be mailed to CCCERA.

Beneficiary Designation

Consider updating your beneficiary after a life change such as a marriage or divorce:

- Retirees can update their beneficiary by submitting a *Retiree Change of Beneficiary Designation* (Form 206).
- Active members should submit a *Beneficiary Designation Form* (Form 102).

Address Changes and EFT

To update your address or electronic funds transfer:

- Retirees and payees must submit the *Member Mailing Address Change Form* (Form 301) or the *Electronic Funds Transfer Form* (Form 209).
- Active members must update their address with their employer.

Important Documents

Retirees and payees should consider mailing or bringing in copies of important documents such as current identification cards and power of attorney to CCCERA, as they can affect the timeliness of your benefit.

Tax Forms

Please refer to your latest retirement benefit advice, statement or check for your tax withholding elections. Changes can be made at any time by submitting the *Withholding Certificates for Pension Payments Form* (Form 210).

Where can I find forms?

All forms are available at cccera.org/forms. Only original forms are accepted (they cannot be photocopied or submitted electronically).

How to Report a Death

Retirees and Payees, Active Members

To notify CCCERA, call our office or visit cccera.org/report-death. A retirement counselor will guide survivors through the required procedures, forms and certificates that must be submitted.

BENEFIT STATEMENTS

Active Members

CCCERA's annual benefit statement will be mailed this summer to active members. The benefit statement contains a summary of members' accounts for the previous years.

The statement is a general guideline to help members with retirement planning. After you review the document, you can submit a form enclosed with the statement, to indicate changes to your information (if needed).

CONTRIBUTION RATES

Active Members

Contribution rates for members and employers change annually on July 1. Funds to pay CCCERA benefits are derived from member and employer contributions as well as investment earnings on those contributions. Members can find their contribution rate effective July 1, 2020 by visiting cccera.org/contributioncalculator.

2019 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Retirees and Payees, Active Members

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (Annual Report), published annually, will be available this June at cccera.org. The report provides specific information on CCCERA's assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenditures. All members will receive a Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), a brief summary of the Annual Report, this July.



Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association

1200 Concord Avenue, Suite 300, Concord, CA 94520
Phone: (925)521-3960 Fax: (925)521-3969 cccera.org

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

For continuing updates on our current operations, please visit our website at cccera.org/coronavirus.

2020 CALENDAR DATES

UPCOMING CLOSURE SCHEDULE

July 3

Independence Day Observed

PRE-RETIREMENT & OVERVIEW WORKSHOPS

Sessions are available year-round to all members but the Pre-Retirement Workshop is particularly helpful for those planning to retire within five years. If you are *more* than five years away from retirement, you may find the Overview Workshop helpful. Visit cccera.org/retirement-counseling to see when the next workshops are scheduled. Reservations are required and fill up fast; please call CCCERA to sign up. In-person workshops are on hold due to the shelter-in-place, however events may be available online soon.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

June 10, 2020
July 8, 2020

June 24, 2020
July 22, 2020

2020 RETIREE PAYROLL DATES

Month	Pay Date	Month	Pay Date
January	February 3	July	August 3
February	March 2	August	September 1
March	April 1	September	October 1
April	May 1	October	November 2
May	June 1	November	December 1
June	July 1	December	January 4

NOTICE

This newsletter is intended to provide members with general information about the benefits available through CCCERA, but it does not describe every plan provision in detail. CCCERA is governed by the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL, Government Code Section 31450 et. seq.) and the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA). The laws governing public retirement systems are complex. If conflict arises between this newsletter and the law, the law shall govern.