

MCERA PENSION NOTES

BOARD ELECTIONS BEGIN

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Upcoming MCERA Brown Bag Meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2017 12:00 noon at the MCERA Office 3199 M Street, Merced *Be sure to RSVP.*

Notices for the MCERA Board member elections were distributed on October 4th by the Merced County Registrar of Voters. Ballots are to be distributed on November 1st with November 21st being the final date that ballots are to be submitted.

The upcoming elections are for three MCERA Retirement Board seats that have terms ending December 31, 2017. The seats include one of the Board's Miscellaneous members, a Retired member and a Retired Alternate member. Board terms are for three years. The Miscellaneous Board seat is to be elected by active Miscellaneous members, while the Retired and Retired Alternate seats are elected by MCERA retirees.

The MCERA Board is comprised of nine members and two alternate members. Members include the County Treasurer;

four members appointed by the Board of Supervisors; two members elected by Miscellaneous members; one member elected by Safety members; and one member elected by retired members. Safety and retired members also elect an alternate.

MCERA Board member responsibilities include determining investment strategy and managers and reviewing and ruling on disability retirement applications and special cases. The Board's management functions are governed by the applicable provisions of the California Government Code, and the by-laws and policies of MCERA. Board member requirements include attending at least two MCERA Board meetings a month in addition to a continuing education requirement.

2018 IS FAST APPROACHING

The 2018 year is just a few months away. The new year means an opportunity to do a quick assessment to ensure that MCERA has your updated information. For retirees or deferred members, if you had a change in your marital status, mailing address, or phone number, please contact the MCERA office to update your record. Active members should make mailing address and phone number changes through your department, but please do update MCERA of any marital status changes.

Having updated information is very important especially in January. For retired members, 1099Rs will be mailed out in January. For active or deferred members, annual statements showing years of service, beneficiaries, and contribution information will also be mailed out in January.

If you have a change in beneficiaries, ensure you contact MCERA to make the change. If you have any questions please feel free to call or email MCERA. We are happy to assist.

MCERA MEMBERSHIP

One question MCERA gets frequently is about how our membership is comprised. Members at MCERA are classified under four different tiers. The entry date of the member into the MCERA system determines the member tier. Eligibility for retirement differs according for each tier.

Miscellaneous members comprise 85% of both our active members and retirees. Safety members make up 15% of the MCERA population for both active and retired members.

Should you have any questions regarding tier or membership, please do not hesitate to contact MCERA.

The chart to the right reflects the makeup of our system by tier. As time goes by, the number of Tier 1 and 2 members will gradually reduce due to them retiring or leaving the system for one reason or another.

Besides tier, there are also two types of memberships within the MCERA system.

Tier	Active Members	Retirees
1	7%	82%
2	53%	18%
3	2%	0%
4	37%	0%
Total	100%	100%

INVESTMENTS

Investments as a whole are continuing to increase in value. The most recent report presented to the Retirement Board for the end of August has our overall fund total of \$766 million. Up from the fiscal year ending June 30 2017 number of \$752 million or 1.8% increase. The MCERA fund is up more than 14% over last fiscal year.

The Retirement Board is continually educating themselves on investment markets and laws that govern their responsibilities. Recently the Board held its annual Board Education Day and participated in training on a number of subjects from experts in their respective fields. Some of the items included disability statutes and case law, the Brown Act, and asset allocation implementation risk.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open Enrollment 2017 for retiree vision coverage is the month of October beginning October 2 with the last day being October 31. Open Enrollment through Risk Management for other health coverage is October 23 through November 3. Mark your calendars!

NEW WEBSITE

MCERA just launched to a newly formatted website. Sections of the site are organized accordingly for Active Members, Retired Members, a Resource Center for helpful links and forms, and MCERA Board and staff information. There is also a Frequently Asked Questions section located at the bottom of the page. MCERA's goal is to help members be as informed as possible regarding retirement. Please take time to look at the website and contact us if you have questions.

Retirement Board

Darlene Ingersoll,
Chair

Ryan Paskin,
Vice Chair

Alfonse Peterson,
Secretary

Karen Adams

Jason Goins

Ronald Kinchloe

David Ness

Jerry O'Banion

Michael Rhodes

Sam Spangler

Scott Johnston

MCERA Board Meetings

October 12
October 26
November 9
December 1
December 14

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday of every month, with some exceptions.

Meetings begin at 8:15 am