

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

300 N. LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 810, PASADENA, CA 91101

9:00 A.M., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

This meeting was conducted by the Board of Retirement both in person and by teleconference under California Government Code Sections 54953 (f).

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Shawn R. Kehoe, Chair

Alan Bernstein, Vice Chair

Jason E. Green (Arrived at 9:25 a.m.)

Keith Knox

Ronald Okum

Les Robbins

Antonio Sanchez

Herman Santos

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Vivian H. Gray, Secretary

JP Harris (Alternate Retired)

Elizabeth Greenwood

Trustee Kehoe voted in the absence of Trustees Gray or Green.

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer

Luis A. Lugo, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS (Continued)

Jude Perez, Deputy Chief Investment Officer

JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

Laura Guglielmo, Assistant Executive Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Elaine Salon, Interim Senior Staff Counsel

Dr. Glenn Ehresmann, Medical Advisor

Ted Granger, Interim Chief Financial Officer

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

Carly Ntoya, Human Resources Director

Ricki Contreras, Disability Retirement Services Manager

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Vickie Neely, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Hernan Barrientos, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Ricardo Salinas, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Vincent Lim, Disability Litigation Manager

Craig Glyde, Milliman

Brian Bozajian, Insurance Agent

Robert Klausner, Fiduciary Counsel

Jenni Krengel, Tax Counsel

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kehoe at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Knox led the Trustees and staff in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PROCEDURE FOR TELECONFERENCE MEETING ATTENDANCE UNDER AB 2449, California Government Code Section 54953 (f)

A. Just Cause

B. Action on Emergency Circumstance Requests

C. Statement of Persons Present at AB 2449 Teleconference Locations

No requests were received for (A) Just Cause or (B) Emergency Circumstances.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 6, 2023

Trustee Bernstein made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 6, 2023. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Kehoe, Knox, Okum, Robbins, Santos, Sanchez

Absent: Gray, Greenwood

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests from the public to speak.

VI. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

A. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: James Beasley,

VI. EXECUTIVE UPDATE (Continued) (Trustee Green arrived at 9:25 a.m.)

A. LACERA All Stars (Continued)

Edwin Tom, Cynthia LeShay, and Migel Armas. The Rideshare Winner was Elsy Gutierrez.

B. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Rose Fuller-Laster.

C. Service Awards

Santos H. Kreimann was recognized for his 25 years of service with Los Angeles County.

D. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Kreimann provided a brief presentation on the Chief Executive Officer's Report and answered questions from the Board.

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Bernstein, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who were found to be disabled for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

APPLICATION NO.

94E

95E

96E

97E

98E

99E

100E*

NAME

ROSA A. CASTRO

JAMES P. LONG

GEOFFREY R. GRISSE

RUBEN A. PORTILLO

DAMION T. WELLS

THOMAS H. MCNEAL

GARY L. HARMAN

*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement (Continued)
Service-Connected Disability Applications

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
101E	FRANK C. BRAVO, III
102E	JAVIER CHAVEZ
103E	ROBERTO AGOSTO
104E*	DONALD E. RUBIO
105E**	ELIEZER VERA
106E*	JOSE L. GONZALEZ
107E	ENRIQUE B. BOLANOS
108E	MICHAEL E. WELCH
109E	KURTIS H. EBBINGA
110E*	VICTOR B. PALADINO
111E**	JENNIFER L. SNEED
112E	JOSEPH HUYNH
113E*	ROBIN E. DEYOUNG
114E	ROBERT M. TEUFEL
115E***	ROBERT L. WESTPHAL, JR.
116E	BRAD L. BRECKENRIDGE
117E	ERIC A. TSCHARANYAN
118E*	GREGORY W. JACKSON
119E	THOMAS F. SMITH
120E	QUILMES RODRIGUEZ, JR.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Okum, Robbins, Santos,
Sanchez

Absent: Greenwood

*Granted SCD – Retroactive

**Granted SCD – Retroactive Employer Cannot Accommodate

***Granted SCD - Employer Cannot Accommodate

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Fire, Lifeguards

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Green, seconded by Trustee Bernstein, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who were found to be disabled for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1668B	JEFFREY W. HENSCHIED
1669B	RALPH D. TAYLOR
1670B	TIM J. CARRILLO
1671B	HEIDI A. MANZANARES
1672B	KENNETH W. GARCIA
1673B	JEFFREY L. PAYNE
1674B	LUIGI DE MARI
1675B	ERNEST D. LOPEZ
1676B	PAUL A. COOPER
1677B*	ANTONIO S. RAMIREZ
1678B	GARY P. HARRIS
1679B	JOHN D. HIRTH
1680B	JAMES F. LAMPE

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Okum, Robbins, Santos, Sanchez

Absent: Greenwood

*Granted SCD - Employer Cannot Accommodate

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Santos, seconded by Trustee Knox, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who were found to be disabled for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
2593C	JOHN A. CARILLO
2594C	TERRY L. PHIFER
2595C	JOHN O. ATKINSON, JR.
2596C	NANETTE N. SANCHEZ
2597C*	PAMELA WALKER
2598C**	GLADYS H. SANDOVAL GARCIA
2599C	AARON P. CLARK
2600C	LA'KEYTA PARKER
2601C***	MARCO A. RUIZ
2602C***	YURIDIA ALVARADO
2603C	COLLEEN A. MCDUFFIE-EDMOND
2604C	BERNARD D. MANALANG
2605C****	CATHY GIBSON-MARION
2606C*****	JULIETA A. REYNO (DEC'D)
2607C**	DIANE L. REGECH
2608C****	MARQUITA N. CRISWELL

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Okum, Robbins, Santos, Sanchez

Absent: Greenwood

*Granted SCD – Retroactive Employer Cannot Accommodate

**Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

***Granted SCD – Salary Supplement

****Granted SCD – Retroactive

*****Granted SCD – Survivor Benefit

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Nonservice-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Santos, seconded by Trustee Okum, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a nonservice-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who were found to be disabled for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

APPLICATION NO.
4422

NAME
TREACEY SADLER

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Okum, Robbins, Santos, Sanchez

Absent: Greenwood

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion by Trustee Bernstein, Trustee Okum seconded, to approve consent items A-E. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Okum, Robbins, Santos, Sanchez

Absent: Greenwood

A. **Amendments to Conflict of Interest Code**

Recommendation as submitted by Jessica C. Rivas, Staff Counsel:
That the Board ratify the amended Conflict of Interest Code.
(Memo dated September 27, 2023)

Ms. Rivas was present to answer questions from the Board.

B. **Trustee Vivian Gray - Administrative Travel**

Recommendation as submitted by Trustee Vivian Gray: That the Board authorize administrative travel for the purpose of participating in the TLF Trustee Peer Mentoring Program, NASP accepting the "Trustee

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

of the Year Award”, and the SACRS Board and Committees from October 2023 through the end of 2024.

(Memo dated September 13, 2023)

C. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request - Mark Ganjianpour, M.D.**

Recommendation as submitted by Ricki M. Contreras, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoice for Mark Ganjianpour, M.D.

(Memo dated September 22, 2023 - Attachment Confidential).

D. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request - Stuart Fischer, M.D.**

Recommendation as submitted by Ricki M. Contreras, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoice request for Stuart Fischer, M.D. c/o Los Alamitos Cardiovascular (Memo dated September 25, 2023 - Attachment Confidential).

E. **Ratification of Service Retirement and Survivor Benefit Application Approvals**

Recommendation that the Board approve the service retirements and survivor benefit applications received as September 27, 2023, along with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month’s Board meeting. (Memo dated September 27, 2023)

IX. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

There were no items excluded from Consent items.

X. NON-CONSENT ITEMS (Mr. Sanchez was not present)

A. **2024 STAR COLA Program Award**

Recommendation as submitted by Ted Granger, Interim Chief Financial Officer: That the Board 1) Decide whether or not to award a STAR COLA for Program Year 2024, and 2) If awarded, determine whether the STAR COLA benefits will be on an ad-hoc basis at a cost of \$277,000 for a one-year addition to retirement allowances, as determined by LACERA’s consulting actuary, Milliman, to restore eligible retirees to an 80% benefit level effective for calendar year

X. NON-CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

2024, or 3) If awarded, determine whether the STAR COLA benefits will be on a permanent basis at a cost of \$2,913,000 for a lifetime addition to retirement allowances, as determined by LACERA's consulting actuary, Milliman, to restore eligible retirees to an 80% benefit level effective January 1, 2024.

(Memo dated September 26, 2023)

Mr. Granger was present to answer questions from the Board.

On a motion by Trustee Santos, seconded by Trustee Bernstein, to approve option 1) to award the 2024 STAR COLA, and option 3) to award 2024 STAR COLA benefits on a permanent basis. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Okum, Robbins, Santos, Sanchez

Absent: Greenwood

B. **Information Technology Manager II, LACERA (Business Solutions): Step Placement Upon Appointment – Ganesh Gopanapalli**

Recommendation as submitted by Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer: That the Board approve the proposed Step Placement to hire for the position of Information Technology Manager II, LACERA: Ganesh Gopanapalli – LS 12 (Step 15, \$196,421.76/annual). (Memo dated September 20, 2023)

On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Santos, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Okum, Robbins, Santos, Sanchez

Absent: Greenwood

X. NON-CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

C. **Split-Dollar Whole Life Insurance Policy for Chief Executive Officer, Santos H. Kreimann**

Recommendation as submitted by Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel: That the Board approve and ratify staff's purchase of a \$300,000 split-dollar whole life insurance policy for Chief Executive Officer, Santos H. Kreimann, with \$200,000 payable to the CEO's beneficiaries and the balance of the policy benefit amount payable to LACERA for premium and cost recovery. (Memo dated September 26, 2023.)

(This item was held prior to Item X. A.)

Mr. Kreimann recused himself from the meeting. Mr. Klausner was present to answer questions from the Board.

On a motion by Trustee Santos, seconded by Trustee Kehoe, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Okum, Robbins, Santos

Absent: Greenwood

XI. REPORTS (Mr. Sanchez was not present)

A. **Report of Compensation Earnable and Pensionable Compensation Items**

Elaine K. Salon, Interim Senior Staff Counsel
(For Information Only) (Memo dated September 18, 2023)

The item was received and filed.

B. **Monthly Status Report on Legislation**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer
(For Information Only) (Memo dated September 25, 2023)

The item was received and filed.

XI. REPORTS (Continued)

C. **Application Processing Time Snapshot Reports**

Ricki M. Contreras, Division Manager

(For Information Only) (Memo dated September 26, 2023)

The item was received and filed.

D. **Monthly Trustee Travel & Education Reports – August 2023**

Ted Granger, Interim Chief Financial Officer

(Public memo dated September 20, 2023)

(Confidential memo dated September 20, 2023 - Includes Pending Travel)

The item was received and filed.

E. **September 2023 Fiduciary Counsel Contract and Billing Report**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated September 25, 2023)

(Privileged and Confidential/Attorney-Client Communication/Attorney Work Product)

The item was received and filed.

XII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

Trustee Santos requested that the Trustee Travel Policy be updated to allow for new trustee participation in educational conferences.

XIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Trustee Santos requested that the Trustee Travel Policy be agendized on the next Joint Organizational Governance Committee. Trustee Green requested that the PEPPRA Impact be agendized on the next Board of Retirement in November.

XIV. GOOD OF THE ORDER

(For Information Purposes Only)

There was nothing to report.

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5336B – CHRISTINA L. ALVAREZ*

On a motion by Trustee Okum, seconded by Trustee Knox, to deny a service-connected disability retirement since the employer can accommodate. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Okum, Robbins, Santos, Sanchez

Absent: Greenwood

5337B – NIVAL IBRAHIM*

On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Santos, to grant a service-connected disability retirement. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Okum, Robbins, Santos, Sanchez

Absent: Greenwood

B. Disability Retirement Appeals

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

PATRICIA DELGADO – In Pro Per
Eugenia W. Der for the Respondent

Trustee Bernstein made a substitute motion, Trustee Okum seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement and find the applicant not permanently incapacitated. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

*Applicant Present

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

B. Disability Retirement Appeals (Continued)

Yes: Bernstein, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Okum, Robbins, Santos, Sanchez

Absent: Greenwood

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
Significant Exposure to Litigation (Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of
Subdivision (d) of California Government Code Section 54956.9) and
Initiation of Litigation (Pursuant to Paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of
California Government Code Section 54956.9)

Number of Cases: 1
(Memo dated September 25, 2023)

There was nothing to report.

B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
Initiation of Litigation
(Pursuant to Paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of California Government
Code Section 54956.9)

Number of Cases: 1
(Memo dated September 26, 2023)

There was nothing to report.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.



VIVIAN GRAY, SECRETARY



SHAWN R. KEHOE, CHAIR

