



The Retirement View

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"FCERA at a Glance" by your Retirement Administrator



Setting the scene: "What's the status of our newsletter?" Becky asks Kelly during our weekly management team meeting. "It's coming together," she replies. The managers then discuss all of the wonderful possibilities: a COLA announcement (2%), a Supplemental COLA update (it will be ending in the not so distant future), a Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) insert giving you a snapshot of our financial condition, information on additional health benefit options (from the State Association of County Retirement Systems, or SACRS for short), and a meet FCERA Staff section (a great way for you to get to know us). "Donald, what are you going to write," asks Becky? "Who?" "Me?" Is my reply. "Yes you. You are in charge of the first page of every newsletter and it is your opportunity to connect with the membership and sponsors." "Oh! Really? I have the perfect idea," smiling fiendishly. No! It is not the hopefully entertaining discourse above. It is the valuable snapshot below.

ACTUARIAL INFORMATION (as of 6/30/2014)

ALL MEMBERS
Gen. 12,441; Saf. 1,680; Ben. 797; Total 14,918
ACTIVE MEMBERS
General 6,130; Safety 838; Total 6,968
RETIRED MEMBERS AND BENEFICIARIES
Gen. 5,062; Saf. 711; Beneficiaries 797; Total 6,570
VESTED TERMINATED MEMBERS
General 1,249; Safety 131; Total 1,380

ACTUARIAL ACCRUED LIABILITY (AAL)

MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS (VVA)

BUDGETARY INFORMATION (for 2014-15)

ADMINISTRATIVE	
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 2,670,400
Services & Supplies	1,975,700
TECHNOLOGY	1,778,351
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 6,424,451

TOTAL STAFF 31 full time & 3 Extra Help

\$ 4,876,754,000	Funded
\$ 4,062,755,000	83.31%

INVESTMENT INFORMATION (as of 6/30/2014)

	MARKET VALUE	PERCENT
EQUITIES	1,598,926,000	39.36%
FIXED INCOME	1,718,428,000	42.30%
REAL ESTATE	147,620,000	3.63%
PRIVATE EQUITY	138,591,000	3.41%
HEDGE FUNDS	147,051,000	3.62%
COMMODITIES	132,704,000	3.27%
PRIVATE CREDIT	80,860,000	1.99%
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	98,575,000	2.43%
TOTAL FUND (Market Value of Assets - MVA)	\$ 4,062,755,000	100%

Please send in your ideas for future newsletters. This is our opportunity to write about what is important to you.



Cost of Living (COL) Information:

The Board of Retirement (Board) of the Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association (FCERA) approved a 2.0% cost of living (COL) increase for all retirees and beneficiaries at its regular meeting on February 4, 2015.

This action was taken in accordance with provisions of Government Code §31870.1 of the retirement law that requires the Board to determine the percentage change in the COL each year. For 2014, the increase in the Average Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Western Region as calculated by our actuary, The Segal Company, was 1.86%, which is rounded to 2.0%. As a result, eligible members with retirement dates on or after April 2, 1985 will receive a 2.0% COL increase effective April 1, 2015. While those eligible members with a retirement date prior to April 2, 1985 will receive a 3.0% COL increase as a result of using the accumulated COL carry-over to increase the COL to the maximum allowed by statute. A COL is not available for service in Tiers IV or V.

COLA Bank Accumulation

Based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Western Region (Base Period: 1982-84=100)

Retirement During 12-Month Period Ended April 1	Accumulated COLA Bank April 1, 2014	Accumulated COLA Bank April 1, 2015	Retirement During 12-Month Period Ended April 1	Accumulated COLA Bank April 1, 2014	Accumulated COLA Bank April 1, 2015
1973 or earlier	62.0%	61.0%	1980	31.0%	30.0%
1974	61.5%	60.5%	1981	25.5%	24.5%
1975	58.5%	57.5%	1982	13.5%	12.5%
1976	51.5%	50.5%	1983	3.5%	2.5%
1977	44.5%	43.5%	1984	1.0%	0.0%
1978	42.0%	41.0%	1985	1.0%	0.0%
1979	37.5%	36.5%	1986 or later	0.0%	0.0%

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Health Benefit 2 – Update

The Board will be reconsidering its decision on the Health Benefit 2 (HB2) overpayment at a future meeting. The discussion is tentatively scheduled for April 15th.





IMPORTANT NOTICE: Member Contribution Rates

The Board of Supervisors approved the new retirement contribution rates for employees and employers to be effective the first pay date in July 2015. The aggregate member rates will increase from 9.44% of compensable payroll to 9.58% of compensable payroll. The change in the aggregate rate is due to a change to include an explicit load for administration expenses to the contribution rate, offset to some degree by changes in the membership demographics for the June 30, 2014 valuation. Individual member rates may vary from the aggregate due to the age based rates used for Tier I through IV. Member contribution rates are included on pages 74 through 94 of the June 30, 2014 Actuarial valuation available on FCERA's website.

Retiree....Did you know

Did you know that as a FCERA retiree you have access to voluntary benefits available through the State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS) benefits? Yes, you read that correctly. Currently SACRS offers vision coverage from VSP.

Based upon the information from the website (www.vsp.com/go/sacrs):

Member Only	\$10.51 monthly
Member + One	\$20.53 monthly
Member + Family	\$24.06 monthly

The coverage includes (when using In-Network Provider):

- Fully covered WellVision exam every calendar year for a \$20 co-pay
- Frames up to \$130, for \$20 co-pay
- Lenses (lined bifocal) up to \$106 for \$20 co-pay
Comparison based on national average

If you are interested, VSP membership services can be reached at 1-800-400-4569 or the website www.vsp.com/go/sacrs. Please be aware that FCERA will not deduct the premiums from your retirement benefit as this is not an insurance program of the County of Fresno.

Calendar



Next Regular Board Meetings:

March 18, 2015

April 1, 2015

April 15, 2015

May 6, 2015

Location:

FCERA Boardroom

1111 H Street

Fresno, California 93721

Time: 8:30 A.M.

Retiree Payroll Payment Schedule

Monday, March 30 2015

Thursday, April 30 2015

Friday, May 29 2015

Live Audio Broadcast

FCERA broadcasts all board meetings live via streaming audio. Visit www.fcera.org for more information.

Board of Retirement

- Marion Austin, Chair
- Dr. Rod Coburn, III, Vice Chair
- Laura P. Basua
- Vicki Crow
- Paul Dictos, CPA
- Robert Dowell
- Eulalio Gomez
- Steven J. Jolly





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Email: FCERAwebmail@co.fresno.ca.us

Meet Staff: Vernice Bennett



I began my employment with FCERA in October 2013, as an Account Clerk III. The staff at FCERA has been great to work with and I look forward to many more years at FCERA.

I have been in the accounting field for over 20 years. Prior to joining FCERA, I worked for 3 years for Bandy and Associates Accountancy Inc.

I enjoy spending my time away from the office with my family and friends. I like traveling, dancing, going to the movies or relaxing at home with a good book. During baseball season, I travel to San Francisco to watch the Giants and visit my youngest son and his family.

