

SPRING
2019

SAMCERA TIMES

RETIREE & BENEFICIARY NEWSLETTER

San Mateo County Employees' Retirement Association | Spring 2019



Important Information for Retirees in 2019

Changes to taxes and health plan premiums in 2019 could mean that you saw a change in your monthly pension benefit at the beginning of the year. Below are a few reminders:

- **Tax Tables & Withholding:** The Internal Revenue Service and the Franchise Tax Board revise their tax tables annually, which may change your monthly pension benefit from SamCERA. A licensed tax advisor can provide more information about these changes and your tax withholding options for 2019.
- **Health Premium:** If you pay for all or a portion of your health plan premium via your SamCERA pension benefit, changes to the health plan premium rates in 2019 may change the monthly benefit that you receive from SamCERA. For more information about the new 2019 retiree health benefit rates, contact the San Mateo County Benefits Division at (650) 363-1919.

2018 Tax Documents

2018 1099-R tax forms were mailed at the end of January. If you haven't received your form, login to your MySamCERA account to print a copy at www.mysamcera.org.

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[Upcoming Elections - SamCERA will hold an election on June 10, 2019 for three seats on the Board of Retirement:](#)

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COLA FOR 2019

Effective April 1, 2019, retirees and beneficiaries will receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in an amount based on the member’s plan.

SamCERA’s COLAs are calculated according to state law and are based on the change in the annual Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area as determined by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. The law also requires the amount to be rounded to the nearest one-half of 1%.

This year, the Bay Area CPI (as validated by SamCERA’s actuarial firm, Milliman, Inc.) showed a 3.87% increase, which was rounded to 4%. All COLAs will be paid beginning with the April 2019 benefit payments.

RETIREE OR BENEFICIARY’S PLAN TYPE	2019 COLA %	COLA BANK %
Plan 1 - General & Safety	4%	n/a
Plan 1 - Probation	3%	1%
Plan 2 - All Members	3%	n/a
Plan 3	n/a	n/a
Plan 4, 5, 6 & 7 - All Members	2%	n/a

Did you know? SamCERA offers free Financial Planning classes for members and their spouses/partners. Learn more at www.samcera.org/classes.

April Is National Social Security Month

April is National Social Security Month, a great time to learn how to:

- Set up or change direct deposit
- Get a proof of income letter
- Change your address
- Check the status of your Social Security application
- Get a Social Security 1099 form (SSA-1099)
- with a my Social Security account at SSA.gov/mysocialsecurity.

Learn more online at www.ssa.gov



Securing today and tomorrow



Have you created a MySamCERA account, yet? MySamCERA is a secure, members-only portal that provides easy, fast access to:

- 1099-R Statements
- Download & Print Forms
- Update Beneficiary Information
- View Benefit Statements
- Contact SamCERA

To access MySamCERA for the first time, you will need your SamCERA ID. If you don’t have your SamCERA ID, email samcera@samcera.org for assistance.

ELECTION NOTICE

SAN MATEO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (SamCERA)

NOTICE OF ELECTION

TO ELECT THREE MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Notice is hereby given that one GENERAL MEMBER is to be elected to fill the third position, and one RETIRED MEMBER is to be elected to fill the eighth position on SamCERA's Board of Retirement. An alternate Retired member will also be elected.

General Member Eligibility: Candidates must be active SamCERA General members. Each candidate for the General member position shall be nominated by a petition signed by not less than ten (10) active SamCERA General members.

Retired Member and Alternate Retired Member Eligibility: Candidates must be retired SamCERA members and may only nominate themselves to one position, either the Retired Member seat or the Alternate Retired Member seat.

Member Terms: The General member, the Retired member and the Retired member alternate shall serve from July 2019 – June 2022.

Required Nomination Petitions & Declarations of Candidacy: These forms will be available and can be circulated beginning Monday, April 15, 2019 through Monday, May 6, 2019. Qualified Candidates may obtain petitions in person at:

Registration & Elections Division
Office of the Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder
County of San Mateo
40 TOWER ROAD, SAN MATEO, CA 94402

Completed Nomination Petitions & Declarations of Candidacy: These completed forms must be filed in person with the Registration & Elections Division no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 6, 2019.

Please contact Candidate Filing Officer Penny Boyd at 650.312.5506, if you have any questions or wish to make an appointment to take out Candidacy Papers.

The election will be held on MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019 and will be conducted in accordance with Article 4 of the Regulations of the Board of Retirement. These regulations are available at the Elections Office or SamCERA's website at: www.samcera.org.

MARK CHURCH
Chief Elections Officer



100 Marine Parkway, Suite 125
Redwood City, CA 94065

Earth Day is April 22!

**Protect
Our Species**

Earth Day 2019



Earth Day is a great reason to sign up as a volunteer with the San Mateo County Parks Department. From trail restoration to beach clean-ups, help keep San Mateo County Parks beautiful! Learn more at parks.smcgov.org/volunteers.



Visit www.samcera.org/calendar for a full list of important dates and upcoming events.

2019 Retiree Paydays

March 29	August 30
April 30	September 30
May 31	October 31
June 28	November 29
July 31	December 31

View your payment information online by logging into your MySamCERA account at www.mysamcera.org. Need help logging in? Contact us at samcera@samcera.org.

CONTACT SAMCERA



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www.samcera.org | www.mysamcera.org
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.