

SamCERA Times

Your San Mateo County Employees' Retirement Association Newsletter
September 2005



Planning to retire within a year ???

A SamCERA workshop will help

If you plan to retire within the next year, you should attend one of *SamCERA's* Retirement Workshops. During the workshop you will learn how to complete your retirement paperwork and how to make the retirement choices that will work best for you.

The workshops will be held on October 18 and November 2, 11 a.m. at the SamCERA office in Redwood Shores. Each workshop lasts approximately one hour and is provided at no charge.

Register by sending an e-mail to "SAMCERA" or a fax request to 650-591-1488. A confirmation will then be forwarded to you and your supervisor. Additional workshops will be added as needed.

Board of Retirement elects officers for '05-'06

KEN LEWIS was recently elected Chair of the Board of Retirement and will serve in that position for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Lewis is the Vice President –



Ken Lewis

Treasurer of Franklin Resources. He was appointed to the board in September 2001. His term expires June 30, 2007.

TOM BRYAN was elected Vice Chair. Bryan is a Principal Appraiser with San Mateo County and a steward with SEIU Local 715. He was elected to the board in July 1986 and has twice served as

Board Chair, during the 1989-1990 and 2002-2003 fiscal years. His term expires June 30, 2007.

The board elected **EMILY TASHMAN** to serve as Board Secretary. Tashman is a finance professional who has worked with DIVA Systems, Barclays Bank, Toronto Dominion Bank, Bank of California and SRI International. She was appointed to the board in January 2004. Her term expires June 30, 2006.

Chair Lewis appointed the following committees to serve during his term:

<u>INVESTMENT COMMITTEE</u>	<u>AUDIT COMMITTEE</u>
DONNA COLSON, CHAIR	LEE BUFFINGTON, CHAIR
TOM BRYAN	KEN LEWIS
PAUL HACKLEMAN	ALMA SALAS
EMILY TASHMAN	

The remaining members of the board are **JAMES HOOLEY** and **BETTE STUART**. **SANDIE ARNOTT** serves as alternate for County Treasurer **LEE BUFFINGTON**.

Divorce and your retirement

SamCERA will work with you in the dissolution of a marriage that spanned any portion of your employment with the county.

If you are getting a divorce, *SamCERA* must be joined as a party to the dissolution. You may call and request a copy of *SamCERA's* *Dissolution of Marriage Guidelines*. The forms in the guidelines should be used to divide your community property interest. Word processing versions of the forms can be downloaded from the *SamCERA* website at www.samcera.org. Look under "Communications" then "Forms."

If you are already divorced and the marriage spanned any portion of your employment with the county, contact *SamCERA* to help you determine whether or not your papers are in order. Be advised that no disbursements may be made from your account until your paperwork is in order. Call Susie Lamica at 650-363-4821, or slamica@samcera.org.

SamCERA investment study yields changes

'04-'05 earnings are 10.15 percent

During the '04-'05 fiscal year the Board of Retirement collaborated with its investment consultants to complete a study of *SamCERA's* manager structure. As a result, the board increased the plan's allocation to active management from 32% to 50%. This means that today half the portfolio is invested in funds that mirror certain market segments. The other half is actively managed by professionals who are attempting to out-perform their market segments.

So far, the change has been positive. For the one-year period ended June 30, 2005, the investment portfolio outperformed its benchmark and returned 10.15%.

SamCERA's Net Assets Held in Trust for Pension Benefits grew by approximately \$164 million last fiscal year. The balance as of June 30, 2005, was approximately \$1.6 billion.

To learn more about *SamCERA's* investments, visit SamCERA.org then click on about/investment. You will be able to view *SamCERA's* *Investment Plan*, a directory of investment managers, monthly portfolio return summaries, and much more.

Have you changed your address?

If you are a county employee, make certain your payroll clerk has your correct address in the county payroll system. Only your payroll clerk can update your address for you.

If you are no longer a county employee, send your correct address to *SamCERA*, 100 Marine Parkway, Suite 125, Redwood Shores, CA. 94065.

Keep your *SamCERA* beneficiary information up to date

SamCERA provides survivor benefits for named beneficiaries. If you marry, remarry, divorce, have a baby or simply change your mind about who your beneficiary should be ... **change it officially!** Call 650-599-1234 and request a CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY FORM. The form is also available on the *SamCERA* website at www.samcera.org.

SamCERA will not disclose the name of your beneficiary to anyone, including you, over the phone. However, the form that will be sent to you will indicate the name or names of your current beneficiary(s). If you are married, your spouse **must** sign the form with you. The change will go into effect as soon as it is received in the *SamCERA* office.

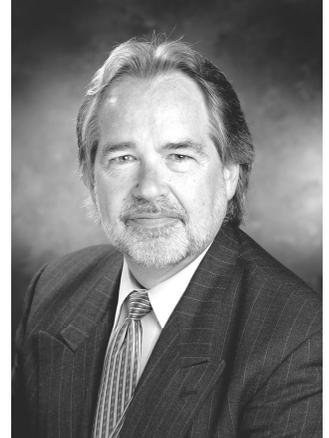
New staff member joins *SamCERA*

We are pleased to announce the arrival of ANNE PALU as the Retirement Benefits Manager. Anne comes to *SamCERA* with many years of management experience including Expense Planning and Human Resources.

Everyone on the *SamCERA* staff is dedicated to providing you with caring, fair, accurate, timely and knowledgeable service. Anne just made our ability to do that even stronger.

Paul Hackleman elected to Board of Retirement

Paul Hackleman won election to the *SamCERA* board in June. He received 80 percent of the vote in a special election to fill one of *SamCERA*'s two General Member positions. Paul is the San Mateo County Employee and Public Services Benefits Manager. He is also the Administrator for the County's Deferred Compensation 457 plans offered by



Paul Hackleman Hartford and Nationwide. In this role he is familiar with trustee roles and responsibilities. Paul is also familiar with investment benchmarks and evaluations which are key responsibilities of a *SamCERA* Board of Retirement member. He will fill the unexpired term of Michael McMahon, who died in February from complications sustained in a traffic accident.

Learn more at the Benefits Expo

The Employee Benefits Expo is set for Thursday, October 13, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 pm. in the 455 County Center lobby. The Expo is held during the county's annual Benefits Open Enrollment Period and is festive and informative with activities that provide county benefits information and promote healthy lifestyles. It's an opportunity for you to meet with representatives from health & dental insurance plans, *SamCERA* and other benefit programs and services offered to county employees, retirees and family members. Don't miss it!

San Mateo County Employees Retirement System
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