



CalPERS' offers Long-Term Care Insurance Program to SamCERA Members

The majority of us face the financially disastrous prospect of spending some portion of our life in a nursing home-type environment. So like it or not, long-term care is an issue we should not ignore.

With more than a million participants, California's Public Employees' Retirement System decided that it should take the lead in creating insurance options that are as consumer-friendly as possible.

Consequently, CalPERS' innovative Long-Term Care Program offers the most unique health insurance available in this country.

The County's Employee Health & Fitness Program and *SamCERA* have teamed-up with CalPERS to sponsor a series of briefings on CalPERS' innovative long-term care health insurance program.

Come to any one of the following sessions to learn more about what the CalPERS' Plan has to offer:

Wednesday, April 28th

1:15 - 2:15 SCORPA Luncheon Presentation
Veterans Memorial Senior Center
1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City

3:30 - 5:00 San Mateo Health Services Building
225 West 37th Ave., Room B

Thursday, April 29th

9:30 - 11:00 County Office Building, Room 101
455 County Center, Redwood City

12:00 - 1:30 No. County Court House, Jury Room
1050 Mission Rd. So. San Francisco

Reservations are not required.

For additional information regarding CalPERS Long-Term Care, please call **1-800-266-1050**.

SamCERA's adds 3% Cost of Living Allowance to April 30th Benefit Payments

The Board of Retirement has approved a 3% Cost of Living increase for 1999.

For more information, read the COLA Notice inside this newsletter.

GOOD NEWS, IF YOU LEFT THE COUNTY AND THEN RETURNED

Did you, once upon a time, leave San Mateo County employment and withdraw your retirement contributions?

Are you working for the County now?

If you answered "yes" to **both** questions, read on.

If you (1) came to work for San Mateo County on or before July 6, 1980, (2) withdrew and then (3) returned to County employment after July 6, 1980, you were denied the right to re-deposit your contributions into Plan 1, with its 5% maximum annual cost-of-living-allowance for retirees.

If that happened to you, call *SamCERA* at 363-4581, because *SamCERA* is implementing a Court of Appeals decision in a Marin County Employees' Retirement Association case, which applies to *SamCERA* as well.

The Court of Appeals found that members have the right to re-deposit their contributions into the Plan from which those contributions were withdrawn and to re-establish membership in the original Plan. So, if you are now in Plan 2 or Plan 4, but were in Plan 1 at the time you left County service, *SamCERA* may be able to upgrade all of your service to Plan 1. Please let us know, if you think you are eligible.

IMPORTANT

COST OF LIVING NOTICE

INSIDE

***SamCERA* WELCOMES NEW
MEMBER SERVICES RETIREMENT
ANALYST**

Susie Lamica joined your *SamCERA* team in March. She may need a little time to master the intricacies of the County Employees' Retirement Law and San Mateo County's retirement benefit programs, but once she gets her feet on the ground she will be the person to contact with questions about Active Member Services such as reciprocity, purchase of extra help time and all of the other retirement questions that pop up during your career.

Susie comes to us from Franklin Templeton where she supervised the deposits of private sector defined contribution retirement plans. She also worked with Pan American Bank where she managed the retirement department. Susie is a San Mateo County native. Welcome! We're glad you are here.

***MEDICARE PART-B PREMIUM
REIMBURSEMENT GOING STRONG***

If you are paying \$45.50 per month for Medicare Part-B Premiums (they are deducted from your Social Security benefit) and no one is reimbursing you for that cost, send a copy of your Medicare Enrollment Card to us and we will send you an application for *SamCERA*'s reimbursement program.

***ATTENTION MEMBERS WITH 30
YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN
CALIFORNIA***

If (1) you worked for another public agency in California on March 7, 1973 and (2) you came to work for our County as you left the other agency, and (3) your combined service adds up to 30 years, then you no longer need to contribute to your *SamCERA* account. Please call 363-4581 for more information.

SamCERA members who came to work for the County on or before March 7, 1973 are not required to make retirement contributions once they have completed 30 years of continuous service. That privilege has now been extended to those with continuous service in more than one agency.

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