

The SamCERA Times

SAN MATEO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

RETIREES AND
BENEFICIARIES
EDITION

SPRING 2016

Your 2016 COLA: 2% or 2.5%, Depending on Plan

Because of an inflation rise in 2015, most SamCERA retirees and beneficiaries will receive a cost of living adjustment (COLA) of either 2.0% or 2.5% this year.

The COLA applies to eligible retirees and beneficiaries retired on or before April 1, 2016, and the amount of the COLA will depend on the retirement plan. The COLA for Plan 1 and Plan 2 is 2.5%, while the COLA for Plans 4, 5, 6 and 7 is 2.0%. Plan 3 does not provide a COLA.

All COLAs will be paid beginning with the April 2016 benefit payments.

How COLA is Calculated

SamCERA's COLAs are calculated according to California law, which requires them to be based on the change in the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) 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 one percent. This year, since the index increased 2.61%, the nearest one-half of one percent is 2.5%. The maximum allowable COLA for Plans 4, 5, 6 and 7 is always

2.0%. These COLA amounts are validated by SamCERA's actuarial firm, Milliman, Inc.

Remember, annual COLAs can increase or decrease depending on whether the Bay Area experiences inflation or deflation, but your pension will never go below the basic benefit allowance you received when you retired.

At-a-Glance

2016 SamCERA COLAs

Retirement Plan	COLA
Plan 1	2.5%
Plan 2	2.5%
Plan 3	NA
Plan 4	2%
Plan 5	2%
Plan 6	2%
Plan 7	2%

2016 COLA amounts apply to members and beneficiaries retired on or before April 1, 2016.

Notice of Election: Retiree Member Board Seats

SamCERA will hold elections this spring for the two retiree seats on the Board of Retirement. Both retiree seats—the eighth position and the eighth position alternate—will be open for election.

Candidates must be a retired SamCERA member and must file a Declaration of Candidacy. The retired member and the retired member alternate will serve from July 2016 through June 2019.

Required Declarations of Candidacy: These forms will be available and can be circulated beginning Monday, April 18, 2016, through Monday, May 2, 2016. Qualified candidates

must obtain Declarations of Candidacy in person at the County Elections Office, 40 Tower Rd., in San Mateo.

Completed Declarations of Candidacy: These completed forms must be filed in person with the County Elections Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 2, 2016. Please call the Elections Office at (650) 312-5222, if you have any questions or wish to make an appointment to take out candidacy papers.

Elections: The election will be conducted by mail. Ballots will be mailed at the end of May, and will be due by Monday, June 13, 2016. The elections are conducted in accordance with SamCERA's Board regulations. These regulations are available at the Elections Office, or on SamCERA's website at: www.samcera.org.

Thanks for 100 Years of Service

The Mosquito District Celebrates a Century



Earlier this year, the San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District (SMCMVCD) celebrated its 100th year of service to the citizens of San Mateo County.

For a full century, the district has worked to protect the county from disease by controlling the mosquito population. You may have even seen them at work in the county's marshes and waterways in one of their flat-bottom airboats or amphibious vehicles.

(SMCMVCD is one of SamCERA's three participating employers—along with the County of San Mateo and the Superior Court of the County of San Mateo—so many district employees are also SamCERA members.)

The mosquito control program in San Mateo County is one of the oldest in the United States.

Planning for the program was initiated in 1904, when the Burlingame Improvement Club asked scientists from the University of California to assist them in developing a plan to fight the city's mosquito infestations.

Services began in 1916 with the formation of the Three Cities Mosquito Abatement District, which encompassed San Mateo, Burlingame, and Hillsborough. In the 1950s, that district merged with the Pulgas Mosquito Abatement District to form the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District. In 2003, a voter-approved ballot measure created an agency which now provides mosquito abatement services in all cities and unincorporated areas of San Mateo County. Five years later, the District Board of Trustees approved a name change to San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District.

SamCERA offers its best wishes to the staff and Trustees of the district for their continued success and prosperity, and we thank them for their century of hard work.

You Can Take a SamCERA Class at Home!

We're offering one of our most popular classes for retirees as a live, online event!



Learn more about Successful Retirement Living with our evening seminar on May 24.

This class will touch on a range of topics critical to a comfortable retirement, including budgeting, healthcare, long-term care and well-being.

SamCERA contracts with an outside vendor for this free class. Instructors are certified financial professionals who provide "conflict free"

guidance—which means you won't get a sales pitch for any financial services.

How to Register

You can register for classes by calling our front desk, at (650) 599-1234, or sending us an email at samcera@samcera.org.

Once your registered, we'll send you an email a day or two prior to the session with more information, including login instructions and a PDF of the workbook.

Class Information

Successful Retirement Living (Retirement Planning for Those Nearing or in Retirement)

Online Webinar

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm (2 hours)

Location: Online

Interested in more free classes?

SamCERA offers a number of free classes on money management and financial planning throughout the year. Just go to www.samcera.org/classes for more information, including class listings.

SamCERA Awarded for Excellence in Financial Reporting

For the nineteenth consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded SamCERA its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This award was in recognition of SamCERA's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

The GFOA established the certificate program in 1945 to encourage state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles. In doing so, the GFOA has established a high

standard for financial reporting where government agencies must open their books in the spirit of transparency and full disclosure.



SamCERA takes this duty seriously, and we are committed to meeting the standards set by the GFOA. As a result, we're confident that we're providing our members, the public, and other stakeholders with a clear picture of our finances.

Through prudent management of the retirement fund, we believe we've earned the trust of our members and the public. And through transparency and full disclosure, we believe that you will come to the same conclusion on your own.



100 Marine Parkway, Suite 125
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Do we have your contact information?

If you've moved, changed your phone number, or just need to double-check, you should make sure that SamCERA has your correct email and phone number.

To update your information, call SamCERA at (650) 599-1234, or toll-free at (800) 339-0761. You can also send us an email at samcera@samcera.org.

2016 Retiree Paydays

Dates for the remaining retiree paydays



March 31
April 29
May 31
June 30
July 29

August 31
September 30
October 31
November 30
December 30



Contact SamCERA

100 Marine Parkway, Suite 125 | Redwood City, CA 94065
(650) 599-1234 | (800) 339-0761 | samcera@samcera.org

SamCERA's normal office hours are Monday through Thursday, 7 am until 6 pm.