

APPROVED

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

300 N. LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 810, PASADENA, CA 91101

9:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023

This meeting was conducted by the Board of Retirement both in person and by teleconference under California Government Code Section 54953(b), (e), (f).

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Shawn R. Kehoe, Chair (In-Person)

Alan Bernstein, Vice Chair (In-Person)

Vivian H. Gray, Secretary (In-Person)

JP Harris (Alternate Retired) (In-Person)

Keith Knox (In-Person)

Antonio Sanchez (In-Person)

Herman Santos (In-Person)

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Jason E. Green

Elizabeth Greenwood

Ronald Okum

Les Robbins

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS (Continued)

Luis A. Lugo, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Jonathan Grabel, Chief Investment Officer

JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

Laura Guglielmo, Assistant Executive Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Dr. Glenn Ehresmann, Medical Advisor

Ted Granger, Interim Chief Financial Officer

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

Kathy Delino, Systems Interim Chief Information Technology Officer

Louis Gittens, Benefits Interim Division Manager

Carly Ntoya, Human Resources Director

Ricki Contreras, Disability Retirement Services Manager

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Vickie Neely, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Kerri Wilson, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Hernan Barrientos, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Ricardo Salinas, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Vincent Lim, Disability Litigation Manager

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kehoe at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Harris led the Trustees and staff in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PROCEDURE FOR TELECONFERENCE MEETING ATTENDANCE UNDER AB 2449, California Government Code Section 54953(f)

A. Just Cause

B. Action on Emergency Circumstance Requests

C. Statement of Persons Present at AB 2449 Teleconference Locations

(Memo dated February 23, 2023)

There were no requests received.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 1, 2023

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Knox seconded, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 1, 2023. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

A written comment was received from LACERA Member, Ingrid Day was received regarding information on her retirement amount. Lastly, a written comment was received from Daniel Jordan regarding LACERA's efforts regarding the million-dollar lifetime cap for certain retiree health insurance.

VI. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

A. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: Raymond Stone, Judith Cajulis, Kathy Delino, and Abraham Reyes. The Web Watcher was Claro Lanting.

B. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Norma Duran.

C. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Kreimann provided a brief presentation on the Chief Executive Officer's Report and answered questions from the Board.

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Harris, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who were found to be disabled for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

APPLICATION NO.

NAME

909D

DIANA V. GEALTA

910D

SALVADOR V. DIAZ

911D

JULIEN L. OLIVIER

912D

EDDIE OCHOA

913D

KARI L. FARRELL

914D

ERICKA M. TAGALOA

915D

CHRISTINE C. GRACIA

916D

MICHAEL A. STRICKLAND

917D

DION D. BALLENTINE

918D

DAVID M. KRAMER

919D

GIA N. NEIL

920D

DEVON M. AKITA

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement (Continued)
Service-Connected Disability Applications

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
921D	ROSA I. ESTEP
922D	CYRIL A. SABBAGH
923D	JOHN M. MCBRIDE
924D	JOHN H. BURTON
925D	JOSEPH E. PRIEBE
926D	REECE W. SOUZA
927D	MICHAEL T. FINN
928D	CHRISTOPHER C. CALE
929D	JENNIFER L. CASAS
930D	CHRISTOPHER M. ARMISTEAD
931D	BRIAN D. HUNT
932D	REGINA L. CRENSHAW
933D	MARK R. SEIBEL (DEC'D)
934D	HEATHER A. HOLM (ZIMMERMAN)
935D	OTHA G. MCKINNEY, JR.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

Safety Fire, Lifeguards
Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Harris, seconded by Trustee Bernstein, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who were found to be disabled for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1576B	JOSEPH M. BENTON

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Fire, Lifeguards (Continued)

Service-Connected Disability Applications

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1577B	BRIAN T. KEENEY
1578B	GREGORY D. RACHAL
1579B	MANUEL L. URQUIZA
1580B	NICHOLAS J. YSLAS
1581B	RICHARD S. DUPLESSE
1582B	DANIEL E. RODRIGUEZ
1583B	GLEN F. EWART
1584B	STEPHEN D. YODER
1585B	RICHARD CANALES II
1586B	BRETT D. STEWART
1587B	ISAIAH J. LONGORIA
1588B	DAVID L. WALLANDER

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

General Members

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Harris, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who were found to be disabled for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
2499C	CEDRIC G. WHITE
2500C	LANCE A. CHARLES, JR.
2501C*	MARIO CHAPA
2502C	CORNELL FIELDS, JR.

*Granted SCD – Salary Supplement

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members (Continued)

Service-Connected Disability Applications

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
2503C*	TESSIE L. CHUA
2504C**	ROBERT W. LASELL
2505C***	ALBERT P. ESTRELLA
2506C****	COURTNEY G. GONZALES
2507C**	CHARLES E. GASTON
2508C**	PAULINE E. STARKS

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

General Members

Nonservice-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Santos, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a nonservice-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who were found to be disabled for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
4419***	PEI Y. PEREZ

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

*Granted SCD – Retroactive Employer Cannot Accommodate

**Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

***Granted SCD – Salary Supplement

****Granted SCD – Retroactive

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS

Trustee Gray made a motion, Trustee Harris seconded, to approve consent items VIII. B through VIII. E, except Item VIII.A. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

A. **Approval of the Use of Teleconference Meeting Under California Government Code Section 54953(e)**

Recommendation as submitted by Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel: That, provided the State of Emergency is still in effect on March 1, 2023 for the Board of Retirement and March 8, 2023 for the Board of Investments, under AB 361 and Government Code Section 54953(e)(3) of the Brown Act, the Board of Retirement and Board of Investments separately consider whether to find that the Governor's COVID-19 State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of each Board and its Committees to meet safely in person and that other public agencies still recommend social distancing such that each Board and its Committees shall hold teleconference meetings for the next 30 days as part of hybrid meetings also in person, so long as the State of Emergency remains in effect, and direct staff to comply with the agenda and public comment requirements of Section 54953(e)(3). Action taken by each Board will only apply to that Board and its Committees. (Memo dated February 23, 2023)

B. **Ratification of Reciprocal Disability Retirements**

Recommendation as submitted by Louis Gittens, Interim Benefits Division Manager: That the Board approve the reciprocal disability retirement for the following named deferred members who were found to be disabled by the current reciprocal agency for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.
(Memo dated February 7, 2023)

C. **Ratification of Service Retirement and Survivor Benefit Application Approvals**

Recommendation that the Board approve the service retirements and survivor benefit applications received as of February 21, 2023, along

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month's Board meeting. (Memo dated February 21, 2023)

- D. **Appeal for the Board of Retirement's Meeting of March 1, 2023**
Recommendation as submitted by Ricki M. Contreras, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board grant the appeals and requests for administrative hearing received from the following applicants and direct the Disability Retirement Services Manager to refer these cases to a referee: Jeff Victoroff and Seda K. Tum.
(Memo dated February 17, 2023)
- E. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request – Joseph L. Stine**
Recommendation as submitted by Ricki M. Contreras, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoice for Joseph L. Stine.
(Memo dated February 17, 2023 – Attachment Confidential)

IX. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

Item VIII. A. was pulled from the agenda. No action was taken.

X. NON-CONSENT ITEMS

- A. **2023-2024 Plan Year Health Insurance Rate Renewals and Benefit Changes for LACERA's Retiree Healthcare Benefits Program**
Recommendation as submitted by Cassandra Smith, Director, Retiree Healthcare Division: That the Board approve the following:
1) Approve the fiscal year 2023-2024 rate renewal proposal and mandatory contractual changes, listed by carrier; and 2) Approve LACERA's administrative fee of \$8 per member, per plan, per month.
(Memo dated February 21, 2023)

Trustee Bernstein made a motion, Trustee Knox seconded, to approve staff recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

X. NON-CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

No: None

B. **Update LACERA's Ordinance of Positions – Retirement Benefits Specialist I, Retirement Benefits Specialist II, Senior Disability Retirement Specialist**

Recommendation as submitted by Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer: That the Board 1) Approve an increase in the number of Retirement Benefit Specialist I (Item #1309) positions in the County of Los Angeles Salary Ordinance, Section 6.127.010 (Ordinance), by 17 positions, including submission to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to provide operational flexibility to train staff; 2) Approve an increase in the number of Retirement Benefit Specialist II (Item #1310) positions in the County of Los Angeles Salary Ordinance, Section 6.127.010 (Ordinance), by 21 positions, including submission to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to provide operational flexibility to train staff; 3) Approve an increase in the number of Senior Disability Retirement Specialist II (Item #1632) positions in the County of Los Angeles Salary Ordinance, Section 6.127.010 (Ordinance), by 3 positions, including submission to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to provide operational flexibility to train staff.

(Memo dated February 23, 2023)

Trustee Bernstein made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to approve staff recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

C. **Board Officers – Seniority List**

Recommendation as submitted by Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer: That the Board consider whether 1) To restore the seniority of Les Robbins on the seniority list for Chair and Shawn R. Kehoe on the seniority list for Secretary; and/or 2) Provide direction to

X. NON-CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

staff to revise the Board Officer Rotation Policy to allow for exemptions for seniority to be reset to zero. (Memo dated February 23, 2023)

Trustee Bernstein made a motion, Trustee Knox seconded, to approve staff recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

D. **Chief Executive Officer Compensation and Benefits – Transportation Allowance**

Recommendation as submitted by Carly Ntoya, Ph.D., Director, Human Resources: That the Board approve a \$600 per month Transportation Allowance for Chief Executive Officer, Santos H. Kreimann, effective July 1, 2021. (Memo dated February 15, 2023)

Mr. Kreimann left the board room for the discussion and action on this item. Before action was taken, the proposed increase in the Chief Executive Officer's benefits was discussed as required by Government Code Section 54953(c)(3) of the Brown Act. Trustee Bernstein made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to approve staff recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

XI. REPORTS

A. **Disability Retirement Application Amendment – Earlier Effective Date**

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel
(For Information Only) (Memo dated February 14, 2023)

Mr. Boyd was present to address questions from the Board. This item was received and filed.

XI. REPORTS (Continued)

B. **Application Processing Time Snapshot Reports**

Ricki M. Contreras, Division Manager

(For Information Only) (Memo dated February 17, 2023)

This item was received and filed.

C. **Monthly and Quarterly Trustee Travel & Education Reports**

Ted Granger, Interim Chief Financial Officer

(For Information Only) (Memos dated February 21, 2023)

Monthly Trustee Travel & Education Report – January 2023

Comprehensive Monthly Trustee Travel & Education Report – January 2023 (Confidential memo dated February 21, 2023– Includes Pending Travel)

FY 2022-2023 2nd Quarter Staff Travel Report

FY 2022-2023 2nd Quarter Trustee Travel & Education Expenditure Reports

This item was received and filed.

D. **Semi-Annual Interest Crediting for Reserves as of December 31, 2022 (Unaudited)**

Ted Granger, Interim Chief Financial Officer

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 25, 2023)

This item was received and filed.

E. **February 2023 Fiduciary Counsel Contract and Billing Report**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated February 21, 2023)

(Privileged and Confidential/Attorney-Client Communication/Attorney Work Product)

This item was received and filed.

XII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

No items to report.

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Trustee Kehoe requested a presentation on the ordinance for budgeted positions.

XIV. GOOD OF THE ORDER
(For Information Purposes Only)

Trustees thanked staff for their work on the BOR Offsite. Trustee Gray recognized the Communications team for their work on the Postscript as well as the monthly Member Spotlight.

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5298B – ITALIA M. CUTRI

Trustee Gray made a motion, Trustee Harris seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement since the employer can accommodate. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

5299B – TIENNY P. LIEU

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Gray seconded, to grant a nonservice-connected retroactive disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Sections 31720 and 31724. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

14 . 14 SABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED

5300B – ELSA Y. COBIAN LABRADA

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Gray seconded, to grant a nonservice-connected disability retirement with a two-year review pursuant to Government Code Section 31720 since the employer cannot accommodate. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

5301B – CYNTHIA G. MEDINA

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Knox seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement without prejudice. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

5176B – MALEINE M. TEA

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Knox seconded, to grant a nonservice-connected retroactive disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Sections 31720 and 31724 since the employer cannot accommodate. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

B. Disability Retirement Appeals

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

TINA M. HAWKINS – In Pro Per
Allison E. Barrett for the Respondent

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Gray seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

DIANE SANTIAGO (Dec'd) – Danny T. Polhamus for Applicant
Eugenia W. Der for the Respondent

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Bernstein seconded, to grant a nonservice-connected disability retirement continuation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Bernstein, Knox, Gray, Harris, Kehoe, Sanchez, Santos

No: None

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Signature on File

VIVIAN GRAY, SECRETARY

Signature on File

SHAWN R. KEHOE, CHAIR