

**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 6, 2024\*

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

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Shawn R. Kehoe, Chair (Alternate Safety)

Les Robbins, Vice Chair

Ronald Okum, Secretary

Nancy Durazo (Teleconference Due to Just Cause under Government Code Section 54953 (f))

Vivian H. Gray

Jason E. Green (Joined the meeting at 9:21 a.m.)

JP Harris (Alternate Retired)

Wayne Moore

Keith Knox

David Ryu

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Antonio Sanchez

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer

Luis A. Lugo, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS (Continued)

JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

Laura Guglielmo, Assistant Executive Officer

Jonathan Grabel, Chief Investment Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Cassandra Smith, Retiree Healthcare Director

Dr. Glenn Ehresmann, Medical Advisor

Vincent Lim, Disability Litigation Manager

Eugenia Der, Senior Staff Counsel

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

Carly Ntoya, Human Resources Director

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Manager

Vickie Neely, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Kerri Wilson, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Hernan Barrientos, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Ricardo Salinas, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

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

Trustee Moore 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

A physical quorum was present at the noticed meeting location. There was one request from Trustee Durazo to participate by teleconference for Just Cause (A) contagious illness. Trustee Durazo confirmed that there were no individuals 18 years or older present at the teleconference location. No requests were received for Emergency Circumstances (B).

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 7, 2024

Trustee Knox made a motion, Trustee Harris seconded, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 7, 2024. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Sanchez

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests from the public to speak.

V. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

- A. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: Artesa Harris, Jay Fullwood, Deanna Hernandez, and Bertha Bargas. The Web Watcher was Sandy Pang and there were no winners for Rideshare.

V. EXECUTIVE UPDATE (Continued)

B. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Jenice Hines.

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.

VI. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Okum, 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

307E

LEWIS, ROBERT J.

308E

GAMBOA, ALEX E.

309E\*

WELLS, EDWARD C.

310E

LAM, KIM S.

311E\*

DESCHINO, KRISTEN K.

312E

KASHANI, PAUL H.

313E

BICKEL, JAMES W.

314E

KLUTH, DAVID A.

315E

QUINTANAR, AMANDA M.

316E

BUDD, TRICIA D.

317E

DELLING, JONATHAN M.

318E

SANCHEZ, PATRICIA

319E

GONZALEZ, AUSTREBERTO A.

320E\*

SUN, RICHARD A.

321E

GARRIDO, JOSEPH R.

322E\*

PANIS, PAULINE P.

323E\*

DEVINE-KNIERIEM, LAURIE A.

324E

ALCALA, ALFREDO

\*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

V. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR  
(Continued)

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Sanchez

Safety Fire, Lifeguards  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Okum, 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>
1797B	SKOGEN, JEFFREY A.
1798B	MESSICK, STEVE
1799B	REICHMAN, GARY R.
1800B	SOLIS, SERGIO O.
1801B	SZCZYPIORSKI, HENRY J., JR.
1802B	GILMER, KENT E.
1803B	THORNTON, DEAN C.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Sanchez

General Members  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Knox, 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>
2710C*	MOORE, KENNETH J.

\*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

V. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR  
(Continued)

General Members (Continued)  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
2711C	PORTER, TASHA R.
2712C	BUCKNER, JEROME L.
2713C*	TROTTER, DELANA
2714C*	REED, WILLIAM C.
2715C**	TRIBBLE, ALICIA
2716C*	RUCKER, MARGARET
2717C	SMITH, PRESTON M.
2718C	MC WHORTER, SONJI D.
2719C	WATKINS, DALLAS W., JR.
2720C*	SIMS, DEBORAH L.
2721C	ALEXANDER, YVETTE D.
2722C***	LORTHRIDGE, KAROL L.
2723C****	WALKER, PHOEBE L.
2724C***	DE LA TORRE, JUAN M.
2725C***	FINCH, SONYA D.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Sanchez

\*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

\*\*Granted SCD – Retroactive Employer Cannot Accommodate

\*\*\*Granted SCD – Salary Supplement

\*\*\*\*Granted SCD – Retroactive

## VI. CONSENT ITEMS

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to approve consent items A-E.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu,

Absent: Sanchez

**A. 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 27, 2024, along with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month's Board meeting. (Memo dated February 27, 2024)

**B. 2024-2025 Plan Year Health Insurance Rate Renewals and Benefit Changes for LACERA's Retiree Healthcare Benefits Program**

Recommendation as submitted by Les Robbins, Chair, Insurance, Benefits, and Legislative Committee: That the Board 1) Approve the fiscal year 2024-2025 rate renewal proposal and mandatory contractual changes, listed by carrier; 2) Maintain LACERA's administrative fee at \$8 per member, per plan, per month; and 3) Allow a one-time temporary waiver of the 6-month waiting period for members currently enrolled in the Anthem Blue Cross Prudent Buyer medical plan. (Memo dated February 20, 2024)

**C. Two-Year Extension Request for Retiree Healthcare Benefits Consulting Services Contract for the Period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026**

Recommendation as submitted by Les Robbins, Chair, Insurance, Benefits, and Legislative Committee: That the Board approve the extension of the Retiree Healthcare Benefits Consulting contract with Segal Consulting for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026. (Memo dated February 22, 2024)

VI. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

- D. **Appeal(s) for the Board of Retirement's Meeting of March 6, 2024**  
Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board grant the appeal(s) and request(s) for administrative hearing received from the following member(s) and direct the Disability Retirement Services Manager to refer each case to a referee: Norma A. Puentes and Erica Rodriguez. (Memo dated February 21, 2024)
- E. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request – Behrooz Broukhim, M.D.**  
Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoice for Behrooz Broukhim, M.D. (Memo dated February 26, 2024) (Confidential Attachment)

XI. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

There were no items excluded from Consent items.

X. NON-CONSENT ITEMS

- A. **Application of Anthony J. Wilburn for Reinstatement to Active Membership**  
Recommendation as submitted by Louis Gittens, Benefits Division Manager: That the Board 1) Determine, based upon the medical evaluation conducted November 1, 2023, that Anthony J. Wilburn is not incapacitated for the duties assigned to him in the position of Deputy Alternate Public Defender I; and 2) Grant the application of Anthony J. Wilburn for reinstatement to active membership. (Memo dated February 16, 2024)

Trustee Gray made a motion, Trustee Knox seconded, to approve staff's recommendation.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu,

Absent: Sanchez

## XI. REPORTS

A. **Board of Retirement's Role Administering Disability Retirement Applications & Legal Standards for Permanent Incapacity and Service Connection**

Frank Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

(Presentation) (Trustee Green joined the meeting at 9:21 a.m.)

Mr. Boyd provided an educational presentation and answered questions from the Board. The item was received and filed.

B. **Salary Adjustments for Legal Office Staff Members**

Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer

(For Information Only) (Memo dated February 21, 2024)

This item was received and filed.

C. **Report on Compensation Earnable and Pensionable Compensation**

Jean Kim, Senior Staff Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 24, 2024)

This item was received and filed.

D. **Semi-Annual Interest Crediting for Reserves as of December 31, 2023 (UNAUDITED)**

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 24, 2024)

This item was received and filed.

E. **Application Processing Time Snapshot Reports**

Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services

(For Information Only) (Memo dated February 27, 2024)

This item was received and filed.

F. **Monthly Trustee Travel & Education Reports – January 2024, FY 22-23 2nd Quarter Trustee Travel & Education Expenditure Reports, FY 23-24 2nd Quarter Staff Travel Report**

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

XI. REPORTS (Continued)

(Public memo dated February 21, 2024) (Confidential memo dated February 21, 2024 - Includes Pending Travel)

This item was received and filed.

G. **Monthly Status Report on Legislation**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer  
(For Information Only) (Memo dated February 27, 2024)

This item was received and filed.

H. **February 2024 Fiduciary Counsel Contract and Billing Report**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel  
(For Information Only) (Memo dated February 26, 2024)  
(Privileged and Confidential/Attorney-Client Communication/Attorney Work Product)

This item was received and filed.

XII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

There were no items to report.

XIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items to report.

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

Staff and Trustees thanked Trustee Knox for his service on the Board and congratulated him on his retirement.

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5410B – CARRIE A. ALMANZA\*

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement without prejudice and find the applicant not permanently incapacitated.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Gray

Absent: Sanchez

5411B – THERESA A. SCHELL

Trustee Gray made a motion, Trustee Green seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement without prejudice and find the applicant ineligible for a nonservice-connected disability retirement.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Gray

Absent: Sanchez

5412B – DENICE M. KUKICH\*

Trustee Knox made a motion, Trustee Okum seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement since the employer can accommodate.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Green, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Gray

Absent: Sanchez

\*Attorney and/or Applicant Present

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability (Continued)

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5268B – HAILEY R. RYAN\*

Trustee Green made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Gray

Absent: Sanchez

5318B – WILLETTE MITCHELL\*

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Gray

Absent: Sanchez

5334B – MARK A. VOGEL\*

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement with the option of an earlier effective date pursuant to Government Code Sections 31720, 31724, and 31720.6.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Gray

Absent: Sanchez

\*Applicant and/or attorney present

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability (Continued)

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5402B – LAURA WOOD\*

Trustee Moore made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to refer back to staff for further information.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Gray, Green, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Gray

No: Durazo

Absent: Sanchez

962D – RICHARD A. COBBS, JR.

Pulled by staff for further development.

B. Disability Retirement Appeals

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

CHERIE L. MILLER\* – Thomas J. Wicke for the Applicant  
Eugenia W. Der for the Respondent

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Green, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Sanchez

\*Applicant and/or attorney present

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

B. Disability Retirement Appeals (Continued)

SCOTT R. FRIEDMAN – In Pro Per

Eugenia W. Der for the Respondent

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Knox seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement and find the applicant not permanently incapacitated.

Trustee Green made a substitute motion, Trustee Okum seconded, to refer back to staff for further information.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Green, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu,  
Gray

Absent: Sanchez

C. Staff Recommendations

1. **Deanna L. Santino Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board adopt the Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law granting Deanna L. Santino a service-connected disability retirement with the option of an earlier effective date pursuant to Government Code Sections 31720 and 31724.

(Memo dated February 21, 2024)

Trustee Robbins made a motion, Trustee Knox seconded, to approve staff's recommendation.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Green, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

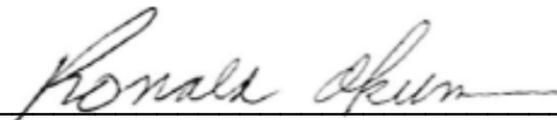
Absent: Sanchez

March 6, 2024

Page 15

XVI. DJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at Noon.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ronald Okum", written over a horizontal line.

RONALD OKUM, SECRETARY



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shawn R. Kehoe", written over a horizontal line.

SHAWN R. KEHOE, CHAIR

