

RETIREE NEWSLETTER

2022 RETIREE MATTERS

News for City of San Antonio Retirees
Issue 52 - March



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We are happy to now offer text messaging for retirees. Sign up and receive messages from Human Resources regarding annual enrollment, benefits notices, Brown Bag events, and more!

To sign up, simply text **COSARetiree** to the number **877-872-4241**. Message rates will apply.

This is just another way for the City to remain in contact with you, so sign up today! If you need assistance, please contact HR Customer Service at 210-207-8705 or via email at AskHR@sanantonio.gov.

MESSAGE FROM THE HR DIRECTOR

Dear City of San Antonio Retirees,

Let me be the first to wish you a Happy Spring!

It doesn't seem that it's already been a year since Lori Steward retired and I was given the opportunity to lead our HR department. I have learned so much from our HR team and from many of you during this last year. I sincerely appreciate the relationship we have with our retiree community, in particular our RECOSA members and board. We are appreciative of your advocacy on behalf of our City retirees.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, because TMRS retirees are now able to return to work at the city from which they retired after a one-year break in service while continuing to earn their retirement benefit, now would be a great time to return to the City. If you're interested—we'd love to have you back! You can view our open positions anytime on our

website at www.sanantonio.gov/careers. And if you're enjoying retirement just a little too much to even think about coming back to work, please help us spread the word to your friends and family about the great career opportunities we have to offer.

Until next time, I hope you enjoy the beautiful springtime weather and stay safe and healthy.

Be sure to let us know if there are any topics you would like to see in this newsletter. If you have any ideas for a future issue or for an upcoming Brown Bag session, please email us at cosaretiree@sanantonio.gov.

Renee Frieda, HR Director



Please save the date and make plans to attend the Retiree Brown Bag session on **Friday, March 25 at 11:30 a.m.** While this event will once again be held online to ensure everyone's safety, it is still a great opportunity to connect with fellow retirees. Our featured speaker will be **Michael A. Amezcuita, Chief Appraiser of the Bexar Appraisal District**. Since May 15 is the last day to file an appraisal appeal this year in Bexar County, the timing is great for this presentation!

Amezquita was born and raised in Austin, Texas. Since June 16, 2003, he has served as Chief Appraiser of the Bexar Appraisal District. Prior to that, he served as Chief Appraiser of the Cameron Appraisal District from February 1995 through June 2003. He also served as a member of the Board of Tax Professional Examiners from 1999 – 2006; President of the Texas Association of Appraisal Districts in 2005; and continues to be an active member in the organization serving on several committees, including statewide legislative committees.

Here are a few steps to help you to successfully attend the online Brown Bag session:

- On the day of the Brown Bag, March 25, you can scan this QR code to the right to join from your phone or type the following link into your computer or tablet browser: shorturl.at/mpK37. Note, if joining from your phone or tablet, you may need to download the Webex app.
- Be sure to log in 15 to 30 minutes early in case you run into any problems.
- If you prefer to call in for the event, just dial 1-415-655-0001 and when prompted, enter access code: 24680293148.



MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Dear City of San Antonio Retirees,

It's good to connect with you again through this newsletter. My hope is that you've remained safe and healthy. At the time of this newsletter, our community's COVID risk level is mild and improving, which is good news, but I urge you to continue wearing your masks when out in public and get vaccinated, if you haven't already. We want to do all we can to ensure we continue heading in the right direction and sometime soon find ourselves at the end of this pandemic.

Erik Walsh

Believe it or not, we will soon begin the FY 2023 budget process and certainly look forward to your input when it comes to retiree benefits. Keep an eye out in the coming months for how you can provide your feedback. Additionally, we value your knowledge and experience as former City employees, so if you're looking for a way to become involved, I encourage you to consider serving as a City volunteer or as a member of one of our boards or commissions. Volunteer opportunities can be found online at www.sanantonio.gov/comm/Volunteer or by calling 311. Information about our boards and commissions can also be found online at www.sanantonio.gov/Clerk/Legislative/BoardsCommissions or by calling the Office of the City Clerk at 210-207-7253. I hope some of you will consider these opportunities.

I hope to see you all soon. Please stay safe.

Erik Walsh, City Manager

WORDS ON RECOSA—A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

It's great to welcome you to a new year with renewed commitments to stay healthy, connected, and informed. We hope everyone is safe and well despite this winter's highs and lows in temperatures and COVID surges. Until we think it's safe to meet in person, we'll continue our activities online, "virtually," and by phone. On that point, last fall our membership amended the RECOSA rules or bylaws, taking the initiative to make many of our processes more flexible and accommodating. These changes to our bylaws enabled us to hold the annual election of board members online. On November 12, 2021, we held a combined fall Brown Bag/Annual Membership meeting facilitated by the City's Human Resources Department, voted for the 2022 RECOSA board, awarded 27 donated "door prizes" to our WebEx participating members, and enjoyed remarks from City Manager Erik Walsh, all from the comfort of our homes! We appreciate the HR staff's help on this and their support and encouragement of our activities.

For the November 2021 board election, the nominating committee (Rolando Bono-Chair, Eddie Garcia, and Julia Castellano-Hoyt) submitted a slate of nine candidates for our consideration and by an online vote, we elected the following 2021 board members to another term: Rebecca Waldman, Liz Garcia, Rose M. Rangel, Martha G. Sepeda, Stephen Haney, Frank Villani, and Michael Trainer, and we also elected new board members Dennis Campa and Beth Costello. Sadly, about a week later, Rose Rangel, a key member of RECOSA, dedicated volunteer, and leader in our city, and on various organizations passed away. Soon thereafter, another board member who we will miss, Frank Villani, resigned due to other time commitments. In light of these vacancies, at the January board meeting, the Board voted to appoint David Lopez to the Rangel vacancy and Diana Alcocer to replace Villani. We thank everyone for their commitment to serve and thank those who have served in the past.

We now have a full board, and our newly elected officers are Rebecca Waldman-Chair, Martha Sepeda—Vice Chair, Liz Garcia—Treasurer, Stephen Haney—Corresponding Secretary, and David Lopez—Recording Secretary. We've met several times since January, delegated tasks, and brainstormed ideas to improve our membership's involvement. Just like we modernized cumbersome rules and confronted our isolation by turning to technology, using our phones, computers, and devices to connect, we hope to try new ways to attract more members, help them engage in understanding retiree health insurance, and have all of us stay vigilant about our health benefits and related developments. Please consider becoming a RECOSA member by registering at recosa.org, and spread the word to friends who are retired COSA employees!

Best regards,

Rebecca Waldman, RECOSA Chair

Join/Contact RECOSA:
Website: www.recosa.org
Email: info.recosa@gmail.com.
Mail: RECOSA, P.O. Box 12973,
 San Antonio, Texas, 78212-0973
Phone: 210-504-9567 (please
 leave a message and you will
 receive a call back)

HEALTH & SAFETY

Eye health is a key part of your overall well-being, and getting your annual eye exam is important. **As of January 1, VSP is the City's new vision insurance provider for City of San Antonio retirees, not Davis Vision.**

If you did not enroll in vision insurance for 2022, you still have an opportunity to do so. Simply contact **VSP at 1-800-400-4569** or visit cosaretirees.vspforme.com. You can also contact this number or visit this website if you need help finding an in-network vision care provider near you. Retail locations like Visionworks, Walmart, Sam's Club, and Costco are VSP in-network providers.

Remember, if you are enrolled in the City's vision insurance for 2022, you don't need an ID or member vision card to use their insurance. Simply call a VSP in-network provider to schedule an appointment, and tell them you're a VSP member. If you wish to have an ID card, you can log onto cosaretirees.vspforme.com and create an account to print one. While you're there, you can search provider locations and learn more about your VSP benefits.

Contacts

**City of San Antonio
Human Resources
Customer Service**
210-207-8705 (P)
210-207-1455 (F)

[sanantonio.gov/
employeeinformation/
retirees](https://sanantonio.gov/employeeinformation/retirees)

cosaretiree@sanantonio.gov
AskHR@sanantonio.gov

Vision Service Plan (VSP)
1-800-400-4569
cosaretirees.vspforme.com

Delta Dental
1-888-216-8566

DeltaCare DHMO website:
[https://www.deltadentalins.com/
cityofsanantonio/retirees-
dcusa.html](https://www.deltadentalins.com/cityofsanantonio/retirees-dcusa.html)

DeltaCare PPO website: [https://
www.deltadentalins.com/
cityofsanantonio/retirees-
ppo.html](https://www.deltadentalins.com/cityofsanantonio/retirees-ppo.html)

Aetna
1-800-338-4533
www.aetna.com

Retiree Liaisons
Alan Janzen
Sara Mata
Ann Solis
210-207-0073

**Texas Municipal
Retirement System**
1-800-924-8677
www.tmrs.com

**Blue Cross and Blue Shield of
Texas**
1-800-521-2227
www.bcbstx.com

CVS/caremark
1-866-808-7470
www.caremark.com

HSA Bank
1-855-731-5220
www.hsabank.com



If you have experienced issues with some local health providers accepting the Aetna Medicare Advantage PPO plans, remember that the plan is an Extended Service Area or ESA plan. What this means is that you can see any doctor, even if they are outside the

network, if they are eligible to receive Medicare payment and willing to accept your Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan.

Here are some quick tips to keep in mind.

- If the provider you want to see accepts Medicare, but is not contracted with Aetna (non-participating or out-of-network), you can still use that provider because the provider is able to receive Medicare payment. Please visit our City website at www.sanantonio.gov/EmployeeInformation/RetiredEmployees and click on the PPO Extended Service Area Flyer to see a document that you can print and give to your provider to assist with billing.
- Just always remember when selecting a provider, make sure they accept Medicare and are able to receive Medicare payment. If the provider is willing to bill Aetna, then you will not have to submit anything, but if the provider is not willing to bill Aetna and accepts Medicare, you will have to submit the claim to Aetna directly.
- If the provider does not accept Medicare, do not use that provider. If you decide to use a provider that does not accept Medicare, you will have to pay out of pocket and if you submit the claim to Aetna, it will not be reimbursed.

If there are any providers in particular you are interested in that do not accept the Aetna MA Plan, please notify Aetna by calling 1-800-338-4533 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.



HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

PO Box 839966
San Antonio, Texas
78283-3966

JOINING YOUR RANKS—CONGRATULATIONS!

Esteban Adame, 25 yrs.
Convention & Sports Facilities

Donna Armstrong, 10 yrs.
Public Works

Emiliano Baiza, 6 yrs.
Office of the City Clerk

Andres Benavides, 22 yrs.
Development Services

Gary Boubel, 24 yrs.
Parks & Recreation

Teddy Bradshaw, 5 yrs.
Police

Deborah Brantley, 28 yrs.
Library

Cynthia Bravo, 6 yrs.
Department of Human Services

Esperanza Brown, 25 yrs.
Parks & Recreation

Amos Bumgardner, 21 yrs.
Metro Health

Kathy Burriola, 8 yrs.
Department of Human Services

Armando Cardenas, 33 yrs.
Public Works

Ramon Casillas, 15 yrs.
Solid Waste Management Department

Concepcion Chavez, 6 yrs.
Aviation

Diana Chavez, 28 yrs.
Aviation

Kimberly Coleman, 26 yrs.
Aviation

Troy Cook, 16 yrs.
Parks & Recreation

Steven Cordell, 8 yrs.
Public Works

Janie Cruz, 20 yrs.
Metro Health

Olga Cruz, 6 yrs.
Department of Human Services

Sarah Cuellar-Galvan, 25 yrs.
Department of Human Services

Manuel De La Garza, 6 yrs.
Public Works

Patricia Dominguez, 23 yrs.
Information Technology Services Dept.

Marilyn Dunn, 25 yrs.
Information Technology Services Dept.

Norbert Dziuk, 22 yrs.
Finance

Felix Escobedo, 35 yrs.
Solid Waste Management Department

Randel Fahnert, 5 yrs.
Fire & EMS

Ramiro Fernandez, 20 yrs.
Parks & Recreation

Rafael Flores, 5 yrs.
Department of Human Services

Kathryn Franco, 7 yrs.
Department of Human Services

Ruben Fuentes, 14 yrs.
Building & Equipment Services

Frank Garcia, 20 yrs.
Aviation

Brian Getchell, 19 yrs.
Parks & Recreation

Arnie Glascock, 12 yrs.
Department of Human Services

Reynaldo Gonzales, 20 yrs.
Parks & Recreation

Raul Guerra, 26 yrs.
Public Works

Alex Guzman, 24 yrs.
Information Technology Services Dept.

Linda U. Herrera, 35 yrs.
Human Resources

Francisco Huerta, 25 yrs.
Police

Armando Huron, 10 yrs.
Public Works

Rebekah Jamison, 9 yrs.
Office of the City Clerk

Robert Jones, 11 yrs.
Office of Risk Management

Lisa Juarez, 26 yrs.
Library

Eloy Lopez, 25 yrs.
Public Works

Juanita Mack, 14 yrs.
Finance

Elva Mandujano-Machado, 26 yrs.
Police

Ida Martinez, 19 yrs.
Development Services

Steven Middleton, 13 yrs.
Human Resources

Irene Mitchell, 7 yrs.
Pre-K 4 SA

Susan Montoya, 8 yrs.
Pre-K 4 SA

Adam Morales, 20 yrs.
Public Works

Martin Morales, 24 yrs.
Building & Equipment Services

Dennis Moravits, 16 yrs.
Parks & Recreation

David Morgan, 5 yrs.
Convention & Sports Facilities

Johnnie Neal, 20 yrs.
Solid Waste Management Department

Alberto Olivas, 3 yrs.
Development Services

Hilda Ortegon, 18 yrs.
Finance

Benselado Ozuna, Jr., 27 yrs.
Parks & Recreation

Gilbert Ozuna, 20 yrs.
Solid Waste Management Department

Connie Paquette, 15 yrs.
Development Services

Morris Quintanilla, 25 yrs.
Public Works

Abel Rabago, 6 yrs.
Public Works

Patricia Renteria, 20 yrs.
Planning

Troy Robin, 26 yrs.
Solid Waste Management Department

Martin Rodriguez, 12 yrs.
Metro Health

Gerald Roebuck, 39 yrs.
Development Services

Lorenzo Romero, 25 yrs.
Convention & Sports Facilities

James Sontag, 22 yrs.
Library

Lori Steward, 8 yrs.
Human Resources

James Story, 30 yrs.
Convention & Sports Facilities

Audrey Thompson, 21 yrs.
Parks & Recreation

Henry Vasquez, 22 yrs.
Solid Waste Management Department

John Vlieger, 16 yrs.
Convention & Sports Facilities

Barbara Wagner, 16 yrs.
Police

Rich Walker, 16 yrs.
Library

Walter Wellbacher, 26 yrs.
Development Services

Napoleon Willis, 20 yrs.
Municipal Courts

Carlos Zuniga, 25 yrs.
Development Services