

# NEWSLETTER

UESF-RETIRED DIVISION

**UPCOMING  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 16TH  
10:30 AM-1:00 PM  
SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER**

**RSVP HERE.**

Hi UESF Retirees! Make sure to RSVP for the first membership meeting of the year. It will be on **Tuesday, September 16th**, at the **Scottish Rite Masonic Center**. The meeting will run from **10:30 am till 12:00 pm, with complimentary lunch to follow**. The address is 2850 19th Ave San Francisco, CA 94132. Street parking is available and there is parking under the building.

Here are the **upcoming membership meeting dates for the rest of the school year**:

- Tuesday, November 13th
- Thursday, January 22nd
- Thursday, March 19th
- Thursday, May 14th

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## LETTER FROM LISA

Hello!! It's Lisa, UESF Retired Division Chair. I took over temporarily in November and then was affirmed in January. (I will be finishing off Dennis Kelly's term this year.)

Retired classified and certificated employees, welcome back to the school year even though you no longer work for the District! Whether you retired years ago or in June, welcome to our division, as well.

I retired from the classroom and subbed in 2013, but I didn't feel totally retired since I was still UESF's Secretary. I "retired" from THAT job in 2018, and started regularly attending the RD meetings. I was excited that I could dedicate more of my time to UESF-Retired. What a wonderful opportunity to stay connected with public education--and still relax and enjoy retirement! In my case, I sat in on the Executive Board when Diane and Rudi were chairs and later, with Dennis when I was a Member-at-Large and this last year, Vice-Chair.

Besides now being the Chair, I volunteer in my grandchildren's classrooms and tutored before that, but I no longer get paid for helping kids. It's all on my schedule now!

During the summer, your Executive Board worked for you. In June, Elaine Merriweather (Member-at-Large), Pat Crawford (our recently retired Treasurer), and I went to an all-day meeting with UESF Treasurer, Geri Almanza, and Membership Specialist, Amanda Saiz. We met with several CTA-NEA Retired officers and CTA staff at the CTA headquarters. Our job was to work out the snafus that we had become aware of last year. There are some members who are/were paying for CTA-NEA Retired and paying for UESF-R, some who didn't know they were doing that (I was one of them), some retirees who are only CTA-NEA Retired and not members of UESF-R, and some of our members who are only members of UESF-R. We are doing research to weed out the errors that were made either because of incorrect records given to us from the District and/or errors that fell through the cracks somehow. Our homework now is to continue fixing up the situation. We're working on it!

Susan Kitchell and I were elected to represent you at the NEA Representative Assembly. Read the article that Susan wrote about our experience there. Susan and Elaine Merriweather also attended the Retired Annual Meeting pre-conference, and Elaine wrote something about that meeting. We did our best to represent your diverse interests at these summer meetings.

The Retired Division will have their first meeting on TUESDAY, September 16th at the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple as stated on the front page. All meetings listed on the front will be held there. Please mark your calendars. At the meetings, we usually have 30-45 minutes of business and often have a speaker about issues affecting retirees. Then, we have a catered lunch of delicious food paid out of your union dues, a wonderful chance to visit with friends and those who you'd like to get to know. United we stand even if we're retired!



In unity,

*Lisa*

Chair, UESF-Retired

P.S. We'll have a holiday party in December. Also, for STRS members who have their dues deducted, the increase went into effect on 7/1/25. Finally, if you haven't done so already, read about the exciting play coming soon. Please respond if you want to go. Time is of the essence!

## ADDENDUM FROM LISA

At the September 16th Retired Division membership meeting, as previously stated, we will have elections for vacant positions on our Executive Board. Janet Eberhardt has agreed to run for the classified representative position (thank you, Janet!), and when Pat Crawford retired, I temporarily appointed Terry Lai who currently sits on our E-Board as the replacement treasurer (thank you, Terry!)

Neither Janet nor Terry have the positions yet. We need elections. If you are interested in either being our paraeducator Member-at-Large OR Treasurer, please nominate yourself or ask a friend to nominate you. If no other candidate comes forward, we will need to affirm Janet and Terry to their new roles AND have another vote to fill the vacant Member-at-Large position.

We need your help! Please consider running for these important positions.

P.S. Besides introducing ourselves to each other, we will have the elections at our first meeting AND important speakers about the upcoming November elections. Please respond at your earliest convenience so we can start to get a head count and order the appropriate number of lunches.

# JOIN UESF COPE!

**Help keep S.F. and California Pro-Public Education and Labor!!!**

As the new school year has started, it is time to dig deep and contribute \$20 to the UESF-COPE Fund (Committee on Political Education). If you are reading this from a document sent from the office via USPS, **please look for the attached COPE sign-up form found in the envelope with this newsletter.** You will be joining the ranks of hundreds of UESF active members in the fight to keep San Francisco a "union town," standing for working people, our schools, students and educators. We need to help build a UESF political program that can help, along with our labor and community allies, take the fight to Bay area "tech bro" billionaires and their unfortunate alliance with the Trump/MAGA movement that day-by-day is looking more dangerous and extreme. Because we are retired, we have to send in our contribution for the entire year (i.e., \$20) via a check written to **UESF- COPE** since we no longer receive an income in which we can have it deducted from our pay.

Again, if you are reading this via e-mail or by USPS, **the UESF office staff does not have the ability for you to pay your COPE dues electronically. You need to fill out the form and send in a \$20 check to the union office or have someone bring it to the office on your behalf.**



Respectfully submitted,  
***Ken Tray***  
Vice-Chair, UESF-Retired  
UESF COPE Sub-Committee Member

# REPORT ON NEA-RAM

I attended the NEA Retired Annual Meeting in Portland , Oregon on June 29th and 30th. There were 306 delegates at the Annual meeting. We celebrated the Social Security Fairness Act. Our NEA President, Becky Pringle, addressed the retired members about all the changes facing public education. The highlights of the meeting was the auctions held by the NEA officers to raise money for the Jack Kingman Scholarship. Every year, retired members give scholarships to at least 3 or 4 inspiring educators for their college expenses. The silent auction also raised a lot of money for the scholarships.

***Elaine Merriweather***  
Executive Board, UESF-Retired

# FIGHTING FORWARD AT THE 2025 NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

Approximately 7,000 delegates gathered in Portland, Oregon, for the 2025 NEA Representative Assembly (RA), setting policy and priorities for our 3-million-member union. The energy inside the Oregon Convention Center far outmatched the rumble of passing MAX trains, as educators from across the country came together with a shared purpose: **to defend and strengthen public education.**

NEA President Becky Pringle urged members to shift from “fighting back” to “fighting forward,” guided by seven action verbs: **educate, communicate, organize, mobilize, litigate, legislate, elect.** She shared compelling examples of how these actions are shaping our work and our impact. Using digital tools provided by NEA, delegates contacted members of Congress to demand action on critical issues: education funding, vouchers, workers’ rights, immigration, and more.

This year’s RA introduced a reorganized agenda. Official business was completed in the first three days, allowing the final day to focus on skill-building workshops. Business items were grouped into six focus areas, streamlining debate and boosting efficiency. The workshops on the final day were on skills building topics, equipping delegates with tools to use at home, ready to lead. Delegates chose from four dynamic sessions, including “Kids Not Cuts: Advocacy and Social Media Skills,” “Not On Our Dime: Fighting Vouchers and Privatization,” “Building Power for the Common Good: Organizing Strategies,” and “Countering Authoritarian Overreach: Protecting Democracy.”

The RA concluded with passage of the NEA budget and a united commitment to move forward, organizing, mobilizing, and advocating for the needs of educators and students nationwide. Next year’s RA will take place in Denver, CO.

Respectfully submitted,

***Susan Kitchell***

CTA State Delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly and representing UESF-R members

## HSS UPDATE - AUGUST 2025

from Rudi Faltus, Executive Board

The first meeting of the 2025-26 SF Health Service Board (HSB) took place on August 14, 2025, 1:00 pm, City Hall, Room 436. Commissioner Mary Hao was elected President and Commissioner Art Howard was elected Vice-President. Committees were staffed by the President and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) were approved and sent out to appropriate vendors for the next three year cycle, beginning in 2028. Claire Svanski was recognized for her long-term service as a long time city employee, union leader, activist, and HSB Commissioner. Negotiations between UCSF and Blue Shield (BSC) were successfully concluded on July 28, bringing relief to BSC members. The positive result was accomplished by the active involvement of our members and members of every senior organization in the city, Bay Area and most of the state and country.

Although many problems throughout the transition from United Healthcare (UHC) to Blue Shield have been resolved, many members are still having difficulties. The HSS, HSSB, and BSC need to hear from you.

Document specific issue: date, time, what you did, what happened, who you talked to, result

- send email to HSS, HSSB Commissioners, [sfhss.org](http://sfhss.org); and BSC, [blueshieldca.com/sfhss](http://blueshieldca.com/sfhss)
- write a letter to San Francisco Health Service System, 1145 Market Street, 3rd Floor, San Francisco, 94103
- call HSS, 628-652-4700 and BSC retiree customer service, 1 (800) 370-8852 and leave a specific message
- go to a HSSB meeting: most Second Thursday of every month, 1:00 pm, City Hall, Room 436
- watch HSSB meeting and participate on TV or computer, (channels 26, 78 or [sfgov.org](http://sfgov.org), SF Government TV

BSC provides an Annual Health Assessment program which includes a free wellness check for members. BSC members should call BSC customer service, 1 (800) 370-8832, to arrange a phone or home visit.

Kaiser members with issues or concerns, call 415-833-2000 and the HSS and email specific information to [sfhss.org/kaiser-permanente-hmo](http://sfhss.org/kaiser-permanente-hmo).

We should all be concerned about the current attacks on health care across the country. Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid cuts all impact our healthcare options and the picture is not pretty. SFHSS does not operate in a vacuum and is dependent on federal, state and local resources. We must pay attention and insist our voices be heard.

Open enrollment occurs in October and HSS will set up information sessions throughout the Bay Area. The schedule will be finalized at the September 11th HSSB meeting.

# THEATER OFFERING



## SUFFS

**Saturday, October 25, 2025, 1:00 PM**  
**Orpheum Theater - 1192 Market Street**

The 2024 Tony Winner for Best Book of a Musical and Best Original Score.

A century ago, Suffragette women in the United States were fighting for the right to vote. It's the early 1910's and a group of Suffragists have taken to the streets ready to transform the country and protest against the likes of the public, the president, and even each other. They were the SUFFS! This captivating story will take you on the journey of women working against the divides - racial, generational and class - with both victories and failures right up until the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920.

It's a fight that is still far from over.

Rear Orchestra \$73 (discounted from \$124)  
Loge \$141 (discounted from \$163)  
Center Balcony - \$87 (discounted from \$100)

*cont....*





## THEATER OFFERING

To order tickets, copy the form below and mail it along with your check made payable to Sandra Shure, at 324 Frederick St, San Francisco 94117.

**All checks must be received no later than Monday, Sept. 15, 2025.**

For more information, call Sandy at 415-664-1133.

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### ORDER FORM - SUFFS Saturday, October 25, 2025, 1 PM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (& Zip Code) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets	Price
Rear Orchestra - ____ x \$73	\$
Loge ____ x \$141	\$
Center Balcony _____ x \$87	\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>