



# NEWSLETTER

UESF RETIRED DIVISION

## UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>  
10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER

Hi UESF Retirees! Make sure to RSVP for the upcoming and final membership meeting of the year on **Thursday, May 14th**, at the **Scottish Rite Masonic Center**. The meeting will run from **10:30 am till 12:00 pm** and lunch will be after and provided. There is limited street parking, but more available parking under the building. The address of the location is 2850 19th Ave San Francisco, CA 94132.

**RSVP HERE.**

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## LETTER FROM LISA

Happy belated International Workers Day! It is hard to believe that by the end of June, I will have completed my last year of serving out Dennis's term as the Interim and then, the RD Chair. Thank you for your support and patience with this "old girl" learning the ropes.

In review, we were able to start out strong and did not go into financial instability because we passed a long overdue dues increase meaning that we could continue to have holiday events, provide food at our meetings, purchase supplies, etc.

We also were able to have strong representation at the sites during the practice pickets in November and participated with phone banking to get members out to the first strike vote. We were there at Balboa High, helping thousands of members as they voted to authorize the UESF president to call for a final strike vote. And then, we supported them during the four-day strike in February. We estimate that about 40+ retirees participated to one degree or another.

These are some things that we did up to and through February. But now as we gear up for our Summer Break, where are we at? A committee led by Janet Eberhardt, the retired paraeducator on the Executive Board, wrote a resolution for the March membership meeting calling for a campaign to increase the membership and participation of retired "paras". Along with this campaign, we hope to implement a temporary dues roll-back so that retired paraeducators consider joining our division. (We discovered that \$48/year for RD dues is unrealistic for our para siblings.) With your input, we have made changes to the resolution, and it will be up for a vote at the May 14th membership meeting.

In regards to the above, the Executive Board feels there is a need to add an officer to our Executive Board whose main responsibility will be to represent paraeducators who worked so hard for our students for so many years. Did you know that paras don't even have a retirement plan in place? That is shameful. The advocacy for paras and for all educators continues even in retirement. Please come to the meeting later this month to listen to the rationale for these resolutions. Then, you will make up your mind and vote accordingly.

Additionally, we have a campaign going to support candidates and Prop. D. Please read Ken Tray's article and get involved with phone-banking (and canvassing if you are able). A link has been attached if you can make one or both of the phone-banking sessions ([May 11th phonebank](#) and [June 1st phonebank](#)). Plus, within this newsletter, you will find out how to join the Committee on Political Education ("COPE").

## LETTER FROM LISA

Finally, the terms of the officers and Members-at-Large of the Executive Board have come to an end. At our March meeting, we nominated or self-nominated people to most of the positions. Hope Burns and Claire Merced have thrown their hats in the ring, and most of the other EB members want to come back in some capacity or another. We were remiss to close nominations for the positions where only one person was running. You CAN still nominate yourself or nominate someone else at the next meeting. Please consider being a part of our leadership collective, especially if you see an area that needs some strengthening. We are a fun group. We will continue to work together in every way we can to make the Retired Division even stronger.

Please attend our membership meeting for all of the above reasons. Fill out the RSVP which is linked in the first page. See you on May 14th!



Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa*

Lisa Gutierrez Guzman  
Chair, UESF Retired

Lisa Gutierrez Guzman and Ken Tray at the May Day rally in Civic Center Plaza.





## KEN'S CORNER

from Ken Tray, UESF-R Vice Chair

With June 2 Voter Information Pamphlets arriving in our mailboxes and the San Francisco Labor Council hitting the streets on May Day, it's time once again to prove that UESF retired activists never retire. The June 2 Primary presents an opportunity to help the following UESF and SFLC endorsed candidates:

### **Board of Education: Virginia Cheung**

It is critical to help school mom and activist, Virginia, defeat current School Board President Phil Kim, a KIPP Academy charter school employee. Kim bears significant responsibility for the conditions that led to our first strike since 1979.

### **House of Representatives: Supervisor Connie Chan**

A strong supporter of the labor movement, immigrant rights, and public schools, Connie will be a voice for San Francisco values in Congress.

### **Supervisor District 4: Natalie Gee**

Natalie won the UESF and SFLC endorsement for her commitment to city services for poor and working-class San Franciscans, especially following Mayor Lurie's proposed budget cuts to programs that help students stay healthy, housed, and nourished.

### **Yes on Prop D (Protect Care, Not Corporate Greed)**

This proposition would tax the biggest corporations in SF to pay for healthcare. Support SEIU 1021 and IPFTE 21 to maintain fully staffed services against the Trump cuts.

### **Frank Lara for Superintendent of Public Instruction**


Frank is a UESF leader who has a comprehensive vision for the schools our students deserve. His platform includes fully funded schools, ethnic studies, small class size, ICE out of schools, and more.

Finally, we encourage retirees who want to help with these campaigns to participate in the phone banking from the luxury of your homes on either 5/11 and/or 6/1, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Please sign up with the attached link on the next page.

# KEN'S CORNER

from Ken Tray, UESF-R Vice Chair

Register for the [May 11th phonebank](#) and the [June 1st phonebank](#) and share this flyer so we can talk with as many UESF members as possible to get out the vote!



UNITED EDUCATORS OF SAN FRANCISCO  
AFL/CFT 865, AFL-CIO, NEA/CTA

## UESF GOTV PHONE BANK

### May 11 & June 1



[bit.ly/may11phonebank](https://bit.ly/may11phonebank)




[bit.ly/june1phonebank](https://bit.ly/june1phonebank)

### 4:30 - 6:30 pm



Connie Chan



Frank Lara



Virginia Cheung

**Educator Endorsed Candidates**



## COPE MEETING

There is an **upcoming COPE Membership Meeting on Saturday, May 9th, from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM, at the Mission High School Library to help recommend Board of Education (BOE) candidates for the Fall 2026 election.**

At this meeting, members will be asked which candidates for three open school board positions they recommend for endorsement in the Fall 2026 election. Our objective should be to identify three candidates who can help build an independent political voice for educators, our union, the labor movement, and the students and communities we serve. [\*\*RSVP Link here.\*\*](#)

Reminder that COPE Membership is **not** included within your Retired Division Dues. If you plan to attend this meeting or would like to be involved in UESF COPE, you need to sign up for COPE membership for \$20/year. Print out the form linked below with your check and mail it or drop off to the UESF Office. You can also sign up in person for COPE Membership at the May 9th meeting. Please note **ONLY CHECKS are accepted.** We are unable to take electronic or cash payments.

[\*\*Link to COPE Membership Form\*\*](#)



# HEALTH SERVICE SYSTEM YEAR IN REVIEW

from Rudi Faltus, Executive Board

Health Service System (HSS) Director, Abby Yant, announced her retirement at the beginning of the year. A national search was conducted and Rey Guillen, interim director and HSS employee, was hired as Director in March. New members Diana Guevara and Art Howard joined the Board (HSSB) in August 2025. Claire Zvanski, longtime HSSB member and union activist, retired after her term ended and was honored for her commitment and service to all of us throughout the years. Mary Hao was elected HSSB President and Art Howard was elected Vice President in September. Board members analyzed data throughout the year and approved medical, dental, vision, insurance, for the 139,685 HSS members. The rates and benefits calendar was approved and retirees were offered Kaiser and Blue Shield of California (BSC). BSC replaced United Health Care for retirees in 2025 and since then members have expressed their dissatisfaction with benefits and services. Although BSC maintained that benefits and services were comparable, members experiences found that not to be true. At every HSSB meeting since the decision was made, retirees and every organization representing seniors has denied that UHC and BSC are comparable. Many attempts to improve the situation have been initiated and the struggle continues. Members with serious medical conditions have testified that their health has deteriorated as a result of the change. Members have had to make changes in providers, medications, locations of services and other issues that have made accessing care more difficult and in some cases, life threatening. After a retired firefighter was denied treatment for cancer, a demonstration at City Hall and discussions with supervisors educated them to the seriousness of the situation. Connie Chan is providing support to retirees to resolve problems.

At the April 9 meeting of the HSSB, Delta Dental and Delta Care plans were approved for retirees for 2027 and VSP was approved for Vision Services. BSC and Kaiser are to be approved for medical and prescription drugs at the June meeting. The Board of Supervisors will receive the HSSB decisions in June for final approval. The Request for Proposals for the next three year cycle starting in 2028 was approved and is being sent out to eligible providers. Protect Our Benefits (POB) has organized a process, including all of the stakeholders, to definitively deal with BSC concerns. Information will be shared.

The HSS currently employs 51 full-time staff. The mayor's proposed budget cuts 3 HSS staff positions, more positions in the Wellness program, and eliminates the EAP program.

**Members of the Retired Division Health Committee are: Rudi Faltus, Linda Guitron, Alice Mosely, Susan Kitchell, Sandra Mack, Ken Tray. The HSSB meets on the second Thursday of the month, May 14, at 1:00 pm on the fourth floor of City Hall.**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Your membership in UESF Retired Division is important to us and we would like to thank all the members who have attended our general meetings this year. We have one more meeting. Please try to make it and bring another member with you. We have important agenda items coming up. Our membership did increase a little. **Our certificated membership is at 714 and our classified membership is at 28.** We will start recruiting again in August.

See you at the meeting on May 14th,

**Elaine Merriweather**

Chair, UESF Retired Membership Committee

Member-at-Large



## PARA CORNER: ATTENTION ALL PARAEDUCATOR RETIREES!

Join us for the UESF Retired Division General Meeting on Thursday, May 14th, at the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple (19th Ave. and Sloat Blvd.). **We need your input and votes on two resolutions supporting paraeducator membership growth.** Please complete the RSVP form (linked in the first page of this newsletter) if you plan to attend; lunch will be provided for all UESF-R members.

— **Janet Eberhardt**, Member-at-Large (Para Rep)