

## Retirees/Recipients: Tax Information

### December Advice of Deposit/Pay Check Stub

AS THE YEAR COMES TO AN END we recommend that you keep your Advice of Deposit or pay check stub from your **December 30, 2022** benefit payment. This document will list some year-end information that you will need when filing your taxes. Specifically, it will give you the year to date totals for your out-of-pocket cost of health, dental, and vision care. If you are itemizing your tax returns or claiming the health care credit for safety officers, you may need to list this information.

### MySCERA Account

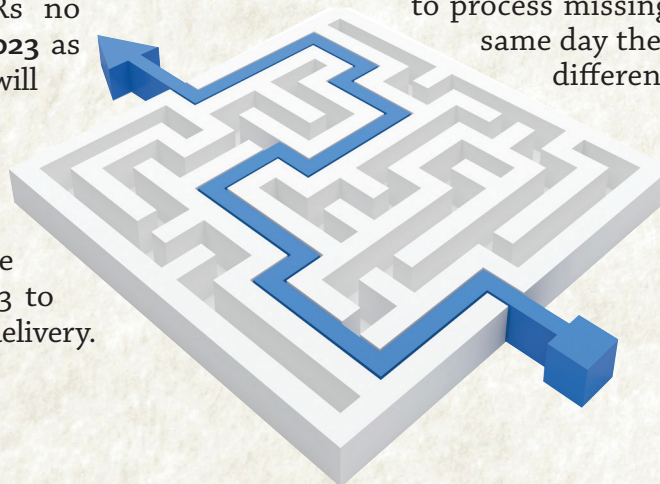
YOU MAY ALSO access a copy of your 1099R in your MySCERA account ([myscera.org](https://myscera.org)). Please check your account now to ensure that you have created one. If not, please contact SCERA to have an enrollment letter mailed to you. If you have an account and no longer remember your login information, you will need to walk through the links on the home screen. SCERA's turnaround time for helping with MySCERA issues the week that 1099Rs are issued is going to be severely impacted.

### 1099R Pension Tax Document

AS A PENSION PAYEE, if you had taxable income, you will receive a 1099R from SCERA, not a W2 which is the tax document issued by an employer. SCERA will issue 1099Rs no later than **January 31, 2023** as required by the IRS. These will be mailed to the address on file so make sure that your information is up-to-date. We will not reissue any missing 1099Rs until the week of February 13, 2023 to allow for delays in the mail delivery.

### Pro Tip

NEVER SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT with a tax preparer until you have **ALL** of your required tax documents. Many companies are not able to process missing tax document requests the same day they are contacted. SCERA is no different!







#### SCERA Board of Retirement

Brian Williams, Chair  
Bob Williamson, Neil Baker,  
Travis Balzarini, Chris Coursey  
Amos Eaton, Greg Jahn,  
Erick Roeser, Joe Tambe,  
Tim Tuscany

#### Board of Retirement Meetings

Meetings are generally held at 9:00 a.m.  
on the third Thursday of the month in  
the SCERA Board Room.

#### Executive Staff

Julie Wyne, Chief Executive Officer  
Jim Failor, Chief Investment Officer  
Cristina Hess, Assistant CEO/CLO

The SCERA Times is published for  
members of the Sonoma County  
Employees' Retirement Association.

Comments and suggestions  
should be directed to:  
Retirement@sonoma-county.org

Or contact SCERA at:  
433 Aviation Blvd., Suite 100  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
(707) 565-8100

**This Newsletter** is not intended or designed  
to be financial advice, tax advice or legal  
advice. SCERA does not render financial, tax  
or legal advice. Please consult with your  
financial, tax and legal advisors regarding  
your personal circumstances.

**This Newsletter** was prepared by SCERA  
staff to help members understand issues  
surrounding many aspects of their retirement  
benefits. Every effort has been made to ensure  
the accuracy of the information provided.  
However, you should not rely solely on the  
information contained in the newsletter. If  
there is any discrepancy between information  
in this newsletter and legal requirements  
under State or Federal law, the law will  
govern.

## SCERA Retirement Seminars

Scheduled upcoming seminars that are  
currently open include the following:

TITLE	START DATE	TIME
Path to Retirement	1/18/2023	8:30 AM
Planning to Retire	2/1/2023	9:00 AM
Planning to Retire	2/8/2023	2:00 PM
Planning to Retire	2/14/2023	2:00 PM
Path to Retirement	3/2/2023	3:00 PM
Planning to Retire	3/13/2023	2:00 PM
Planning to Retire	3/16/2023	2:00 PM
Planning to Retire	4/5/2023	1:00 PM
Planning to Retire	4/11/2023	2:00 PM
Planning to Retire	4/13/2023	2:00 PM
Planning to Retire	5/5/2023	9:00 AM
Planning to Retire	5/10/2023	2:00 PM
Path to Retirement	5/22/2023	12:00 PM
Planning to Retire	6/7/2023	2:00 PM
Planning to Retire	6/19/2023	2:00 PM
Planning to Retire	6/22/2023	1:00 PM

A complete description of the seminars is available at [scretire.org](https://scretire.org). For those considering retirement please note attending a seminar is not a requirement. You can enroll in the seminars by logging into your [MySCERA](#) account and clicking on [Seminar Registration](#).

## Annual Planning Session Recap

**O**n October 12th and 13th, SCERA hosted its first Planning Session since 2019. The Planning Session is our annual meeting to review and discuss major planning, administrative, investment and educational topics for SCERA.

Administrative topics presented during the event included: How to Avoid the Perils and Pitfalls of Being a Trustee, a presentation focused on the fiduciary responsibilities of SCERA Trustees; a legislative update; as well as a presentation on Changing Demographics.

Investment topics covered during the two days included a presentation on the Global Macro Outlook by an Economist with State Street Global Advisors; and panel discussions covering: Investing with ESG Principles, Equities, Real Estate & Farmland, Fixed Income and Infrastructure.

# SCERA Staff Updates

In December, **Steve Marsh** will retire as the Senior Retirement Investment Officer. Steve was hired back in 2012 to be the very first SCERA Retirement Investment Analyst II. He quickly moved through the ranks to the position he holds now. We wish him well in his retirement.

**Salvador Fuentes**, who many of you know as our Senior Office Assistant was promoted to a Retirement Benefits Specialist II working in our Member Services division.

With Salvador's promotion this left a front desk vacancy and we are pleased to introduce you to

**Yecenia Gonzalez** who is the new face that will be greeting you and directing your calls.

In September, **Christine Carli** was hired as our new Accountant I in the Finance & Retiree Services division. Christine previously worked as an Accounting Assistant for the Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector department.

With Steve's departure at the end of the year, we have welcomed **Mickey Nguyen** as SCERA's newest Investment Officer. Mickey is a Chartered Financial Analyst and her experience includes over a decade as an investment analyst.



## IMPORTANT DATES

### Retiree Pay Dates

November 30, 2022

December 30, 2022

January 31, 2023

February 28, 2023

March 30, 2023

April 28, 2023

May 31, 2023

June 30, 2023

### Holiday Schedule 2022

November 24:

Thanksgiving Day

November 25:

Day After Thanksgiving

December 26:

Day After Christmas

### Holiday Schedule 2023

January 2: New Year's Day

January 16:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 13:

Lincoln's Birthday

February 20: Presidents' Day

March 31: César Chávez Day

May 29: Memorial Day

Our office will be closed on these holidays, but we're still available at **scetire.org** when you need information on our programs and services. Our personalized, secure portal **MySCERA.org** lets you view your account information and conduct much of your SCERA business online at any time.

## POWER of ATTORNEY

### Not Just for Our Retirees

**A** **Power of Attorney (POA)** is a legal document that allows someone else to act as your legal agent. The agent, called an Attorney-In-Fact, is authorized to perform important duties that you specify in your POA, such as financial, medical, and retirement decisions and transactions.

SCERA's special POA enables your agent to file applications, make benefit elections, designate beneficiaries, designate a bank account for electronic transfer of retirement benefits, change your address or contact information, choose tax withholdings, access information (including online member account information), endorse benefit payment warrants, etc.

Certain circumstances may trigger the desire for a POA for someone over the age of 18. For example, someone in the military might create a POA before deploying overseas. Anyone that travels for work may wish to have one so that someone can handle their affairs in their absence. A POA can be useful for someone undergoing surgery or in other medical situations where you can't act on your own behalf. Keep in mind that with retirement,

being married does not give your spouse authority to act on your behalf. A POA would still be required.

One concern that many people have is that they believe a POA takes away their rights. This is not true. You can still handle your retirement affairs until you become incapacitated or need your POA to act on your behalf.

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**Sonoma County Employees' Retirement Association**  
**433 Aviation Boulevard Suite 100**  
**Santa Rosa CA 95403-1069**

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Look at it more as a safeguard, not a replacement of your authority.

SCERA members should review whether or not a POA makes sense for them and their current situation. Remember, once you become incapacitated, whether from health issues or an unexpected event, it will be too late to get a POA. Only someone still



deemed competent can authorize a POA. All POAs can be terminated at any time as long as you are still competent. You may submit a written statement to SCERA requesting that it be revoked or terminated immediately.

*[The SCERA Power of Attorney Form is available online at scretire.org under the Resource Center tab.](https://www.scretire.org)*