




Strength. Service. Commitment.

March 8, 2018

To: Board of Retirement

From: David B. Wescoe 
Chief Executive Officer

Re: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Employee Recognition Luncheon. My favorite day of the year is the day of our Employee Recognition luncheon. We held this year's luncheon on February 22, and it did not disappoint.

Four employees were recognized as 2017 Employees of the Year: Diwata Brown (Manager of the Retired Benefits unit), Eileen Gaeta (the Finance Division's Executive Assistant), Christina Landers (a Senior Specialist in the Active Benefits unit) and Tom Williams (Assistant Chief Investment Officer).

Three employees were awarded the "Why?" award: Kristen Gorman (Manager of the Beneficiary Benefits unit), Mary Montgomery (Public Communications Manager) and Manual Velasco (an Associate in the Retired Benefits unit).

Angela Carrillo (an Accountant in the Finance Division) was recognized as a "Rising Star."

Other employees recognized for their special talents or positive behaviors were: Lee Castillo, Fortune Cheng, Teresa Clanton, Teri Crocker, Jerry Fafaul, Roxy Fulgham, Kahei Ingles, Christina Landers, Long Mai, Ja'Mar Montgomery, Yvonne Sanders, Marie Seares and Dave Wolford.

Phylicia Cicalo-Aiken and Melissa Martinez organized and orchestrated the luncheon, which included music, movie clips and BBQ. It was a ton of fun.

March Retirements. Because of the application of the COLA in April, SDCERA receives more retirement applications in March than any other month. This March will be no exception. Indeed, March 2018 looks to be busier than usual: as of March 7, we have received 221 retirement applications compared to 196 for all of March 2017.

Member Outreach. Since last February's Board meeting, we have hosted four retirement seminars that were attended by more than 660 Members, and staff provided retirement counseling to more than 120 Members.

New Colleague. SDCERA welcomed Rosa Gurrola-Martinez to the Member Service Center (MSC) earlier this month. Rosa will be our primary MSC receptionist and assist the MSC team in their other activities. Rosa has a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership from National University and, prior to joining SDCERA, worked as a Legal Support Specialist and Investigative Aide with the Maricopa (AZ) County Attorney's Office. Her past work experience also includes customer service support and preparing and presenting presentations to staff and customers.

Book Club. Louise Penny's superb mystery novel, *Still Life*, was discussed at SDCERA's Book Club yesterday. Spoiler alert: staff is (well, at least I am) drinking Scotch and eating croissants.

Staff Anniversaries. March staff anniversaries include Kristen Gorman (28 years), Alla Melnik (11 years), Dina Howell (11 years), and Mario Correa (2 years).

Conclusion. Staff is doing a great job keeping the plates spinning during a very busy time of the year.