

CALIFORNIA STATE RETIREES

**California State Retirees
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Hilton Arden West
2200 Harvard Street
Sacramento, CA 95815**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Reynoso at 12:30 p.m.

2. Salute to the Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by District Director F, Jerry Fountain.

3. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Executive Vice President, Keith Umemoto.

Joe Reynoso, CSR President
Keith Umemoto, Executive Vice President
Vincent Herrera, Vice President
Geanie Hixon, Chief Financial Officer
Steven K. Alari, District A Director
Leticia Soria, District B Director
Maria Aguilar, District C Director
Pat Gantt, District D Director
Gail Fasciola, District E Director
Jerry Fountain, District F Director

District Director G, Jay Jimenez-unexcused absence. A quorum was established.

4. Swearing in of Directors & Committee Chairs

President Reynoso administered the oath of office to re-elected District A Director Steven K. Alari, District B Director Leticia Soria, District C Director Maria Aguilar and newly appointed Finance Committee Chair Cora Okamura.

Lieutenant Coopwood was not present but was also appointed to the Bylaws and Governing Rules Committee.

5. Approval of Agenda

CSR 26/4/1 Motion: Alari, second by Hixon – The CSR Board of Directors approves the April 14, 2026, Board meeting agenda. CARRIED

6. Approval of Minutes of October 22, 2025, Meeting

CSR 26/4/2 Motion: Alari, second by Aguilar – The CSR Board of Directors approves the October 22, 2025, Board meeting minutes. CARRIED

7. President's Report

President Reynoso highlighted recent attendance at both the Democratic and Republican state conventions, ongoing outreach efforts to CDCR and CCPOA members, and recruitment successes that resulted in new CSR memberships. He also reported on a potential opportunity to secure a CSR booth at a future CCPOA convention. President Reynoso emphasized the continued need for increased membership growth, stronger organizational visibility, and sustained outreach efforts.

8. Chief Financial Officer Report

The Chief Financial Report was presented as included in the meeting packet. The report reflected a positive financial position, with a new operating surplus and revenues trending slightly above budget while expenditures remained below projected levels. The organization's investment balance as of March 31, 2026 was approximately \$7.2 million. Members were reminded of the importance of timely submission of financial documentation and adherence to established accounting procedures.

9. Board Member Reports

Board member reports were presented by the District Directors, with full reports included in the meeting packet. Reports reflected ongoing chapter engagement, attendance at meetings and events, recruitment efforts, and participation in legislative and community outreach. Directors noted the continued need to strengthen chapter leadership, increase member participation, and expanded political and advocacy efforts.

10. Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee – Cora Okamura

The Finance Committee report was presented by Cora Okamura. Okamura reported on the committee's review of chapter financial reports and 2026 budgets and identified concerns regarding several chapters submitting budgets with projected deficit balances. Discussion was held regarding expectations for financial management and the importance of avoiding negative cash balances.

Concerns were also raised regarding internal leadership challenges within certain chapters that may impact financial oversight. The committee emphasized its role as a resource to assist chapters with financial management and compliance.

CSR 26/4/3 Motion: Alari, second by Soria – That the CSR District Directors work with chapters with negative budgets to amend and resubmit. WITHDRAWN

No further action was taken.

b. Health Benefits Committee – Jose Gutierrez

The Health Benefits Committee report was presented by Jose Gutierrez. Gutierrez reported on the committee's March 12, 2026 and March 19, 2026 meetings, which focused on current health benefit issues affecting members.

Topics presented included prescription drug pricing, Kaiser and Blue Shield updates, rural mental health access, SilverScript concerns, vision and hearing developments, and updates related to high cholesterol and dementia. Members were encouraged to provide input on future topics for presentation.

No formal action was taken.

c. Membership Committee

The Membership Committee report was presented by Pat Gantt. Gantt reported that overall membership numbers are increasing; however, there are ongoing challenges in recruitment, particularly with declining rollover membership due to state employee retirements.

He reported that surveys were conducted to assess membership engagement, with one survey achieving an 85 percent response rate and a second survey conducted during the holidays achieving a 56 percent response rate. Three chapters did not participate in either survey. Gantt further reported that there were 177 new member sign-ups in 2025, compared to 104 in 2024, all of which were non-rollover members.

Discussion emphasized the need for improved communication and increased member engagement, particularly through virtual presentations and outreach efforts. Concerns were raised regarding low participation levels and the need for Chapter Presidents to better communicate available resources and information to members.

Gantt also emphasized the importance of increasing social media visibility and expanding CSR's use of social media as part of recruitment efforts. He discussed next steps, including assisting Chapter Presidents in understanding available resources, conducting additional surveys with a goal of increased participation, reviewing findings with the Board of Directors, and identifying resources and timing for training for Chapter leadership. He also noted that each chapter should maintain an active Membership Committee.

d. Bylaws and Governing Rules Committee – Michael Ellison

The Bylaws and Governing Rules Committee report was presented by Michael Ellison. Ellison reported that the committee is reviewing Governing Rules language to improve clarity and accuracy and may work with legal counsel to develop revised language.

He explained that the item under consideration involved a two-part issue, including immediate proposed language edits and a broader need for clarification within the governing rules related to chapter operations.

Diane Buffington presented the proposed amendment to Governing Rule 8.09 (a) regarding chapter Executive Committees. Discussion followed regarding the composition and role of Executive Committees, including questions related to the inclusion of delegates, voting authority, and consistency across chapters. Concerns were raised regarding ambiguity in the current language and the need for further clarification.

CSR 26/4/4 Motion: Hixon, second by Herrera – The CSR Board of Directors table the discussion of Governing Rules Amendment of 8.09 (a).
CARRIED

No further action was taken.

e. Political Action Committee – Gaspar Luna Oliveira

Gaspar Luna Oliveira reported that the committee held two virtual meetings and that members have attended over 40 political events since October. He reminded the Board that prior endorsements were shared at the October meeting. President Reynoso requested the development of a strategic plan for political action.

The Board of Directors appointed Frank Ruffino to the Political Action Committee.

CSR 26/4/5 Motion: Alari, second by Umemoto – The CSR Board of Directors endorse incumbents Joaquin Arambula AD 31 (D-Fresno), Celeste Rodriguez AD 43 (D-San Fernando), and Jessica Caloza AD 52 (D-Los Angeles). CARRIED

11. Guest Speaker

Guest presentations were provided by Rob Jarzombek (CalPERS) and David Lauck (CVS Caremark). The presentation addressed the transition to CVS Caremark and SilverScript for CalPERS prescription drug coverage and its impact on members.

Presenters outlined the objectives of the new pharmacy contract, including affordability, quality and access, and increased transparency. SilverScript, part of the CVS Caremark, serves as the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan and works in coordination with Caremark to administer benefits.

It was reported that most members are able to continue using their existing pharmacies, and formulary changes were designed to maintain safe and effective medication alternatives, though some changes may impact copays. A 90-day transition period was implemented to minimize disruption, including automatic transfer of approved prior authorizations.

Presenters also addressed member concerns related to formulary changes, transition fills, and ongoing communication. Tools available to support members include dedicated customer service lines, online resources, and mobile access through CVS Caremark.

No formal action was taken.

12. Upcoming Meetings:

June 23-24, 2026, BOD Statewide Meeting, San Diego

13. Adjourn