

Look for SDCERA Outreach coming your way



One of the many resources SDCERA offers to members is the Outreach program, designed to educate active members about their retirement benefit, as well as a host of other important and related topics.

SDCERA's Outreach meetings are conveniently held at various departments around the county, bringing the information directly to your workplace. Last year, more than 2,500 active members attended an Outreach meeting in their department.

A variety of topics are covered during each meeting, but the goal is always the same: that members leave an Outreach meeting having learned something new about their SDCERA benefit, or with an enhanced understanding of what they already knew. During the meeting, SDCERA covers how your retirement benefit is calculated, and how the components of the calculation (age at retirement, service credit and final compensation) specifically affect your benefit amount. Topics such as service credit purchases, reciprocity and how the retirement application process works are also covered.

Outreach meetings are held at a variety of times, conducive to each department's needs. Contact your department personnel officer to find out if an upcoming meeting has been scheduled for your department.

Remember, Outreach is for everyone—even new members. Regardless of how long you've been an SDCERA member, you will benefit from attending an Outreach meeting. We look forward to seeing you the next time we're in your neighborhood.

Board of Retirement seat open for election

Active General members (non-Safety) will have the opportunity to participate in an election for the Board of Retirement in May. The Retirement Board's third seat expires June 30, 2007. The third seat is one of two seats elected by active General membership.

All active General members are eligible to run for the seat. Candidates may pick up a petition beginning March 26 at the SDCERA office, 2275 Rio Bonito Way, Suite 200, in San Diego. Petitions must be returned no later than noon, April 16. The elected candidate will serve a three-year term, beginning July 1, 2007.

Click [here](#) to view the responsibilities of a board member on the [Board of Retirement](#) page.

Board of Retirement election schedule

Monday, March 26	Candidate petitions available
Monday, April 16 (by noon)	Petition filing deadline
Tuesday, May 15	Election day
Friday, May 18	Election winner certified
July 1	Board member begins term

click here to visit www.sdcera.org

Service credit purchase requests require ample notice

SDCERA routinely receives requests from members who wish to purchase service credit. If you have eligible service credit that you wish to buy, please keep in mind that SDCERA must receive these requests no later than four months prior to your retirement.

A service credit purchase requires several important steps. Once SDCERA receives your request, the period of service that the member wishes to purchase must be researched, and a contract specifying the cost of purchasing that time is generated and sent to the member.

Also, if a member wishes to use rollover or transfer funds from a qualified plan to purchase the service credit, that requires a separate component to the process, resulting in more time needed to complete the member's request.

Remember, not allowing enough time for your service credit purchase could result in a delay in your retirement date, so be certain you follow these suggested guidelines in order to ensure a smooth process. Also, allowing yourself ample time to fund the service credit purchase will make it easier on you as well.

Not all members are eligible to purchase service credit. Click the link below to view the *Service Credit* fact sheet for more details on the types of service credit you can purchase, and eligibility requirements.

Only SDCERA

When you were hired, you became an SDCERA member and completed a form called a *Member Sworn Statement*, which required you to designate a beneficiary for your retirement account.

The only record of this beneficiary is kept at SDCERA. Be certain to keep your beneficiary up to date by submitting changes as needed on the SDCERA *Beneficiary Designation* form. If you are not certain of who you named, the easiest solution is to submit a new form (SDCERA can not release beneficiary information by phone). Even if you name the same beneficiary you originally named, you gain peace of mind in knowing you have the correct information on file. Click below to access the form.

[Beneficiary Designation form](#)

SDCERA Definitions

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Service Credit is the measure of time earned as a member of SDCERA while you are in paid status. This time is one of the three factors used to determine the amount of your retirement benefit. One year of service credit is earned for each year of full-time employment. Time is earned proportionately; for example, if a member works 20 hours per week, that member earns six months of service credit for one year of employment. Currently, the maximum amount of service credit a member can earn in one year is one year of service credit. If you are working on a full-time basis and work more than your regular working hours, you do not receive additional service credit for overtime.

SDCERA tracks your service credit by the hour, and service credit is posted at the end of each pay period. Each fall, the annual statement you receive from SDCERA contains your total service credit as of June 30 of that year. Click the *Service Credit* fact sheet to learn more, or contact the SDCERA Call Center at 619.515.6800 to inquire about your service credit balance, as well as other important facts about your retirement benefit.

[Service Credit fact sheet](#)