

# Retirement News Update

A Publication of the City of Austin Employees' Retirement System

Available online at [www.coaers.org](http://www.coaers.org)

1st Quarter 2018

## Farewell to Long-Serving Citizen Trustees

The Board of Trustees has bid farewell to Ms. Elizabeth Gonzales and Mr. Reagan David whose committed and distinguished service to our Board of Trustees will not be forgotten.

Ms. Gonzales was appointed to serve as our Place 3 Citizen Board Member by City Council in October of 1992. She served as Board Chair from 2009-2010 and has served on every Committee of the Board. She has previously chaired Policy, Audit & Finance, Benefits & Services, and the Disability Committees. Ms. Gonzales moved to Austin in 1977 and has been with New York Life Insurance Company as an agent since 1986. Her volunteer work includes her dedication to the Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. David became our Board-Appointed Place 5 Citizen Board Member in February of 2001. He has served as both Vice-Chair in 2003 and 2005 and then as Board Chair in 2006. He has been a valuable member of many of the Board's Committees. He has served as Chair of the Disability Committee in 2007 and as Chair of the Investment Committee from 2008 to 2013.

We thank them both for their outstanding service and dedication to COAERS.



*Pictured (left to right): Elizabeth Gonzales and Reagan David*

## Active Member Places 7, 8 & 9 Sworn In

It has been a busy election year, with winners of the Active Member Election Places 7, 8 & 9 recently sworn in and beginning their terms on the COAERS Board of Trustees.

Mr. Chris Noak was elected to Place 8 and Ms. Yuejiao Liu was elected to Place 9 in December 2017. The results were certified and Mr. Noak and Ms. Liu were sworn in at the December 12th Board Meeting.

The winner of Active Member Place 7 was Ms. Amy Hunter. This special election began in December 2017 and ballots were tallied mid-January 2018. Ms. Hunter won with 297 votes. She was sworn in at the January 30, 2018 Board Meeting.

Congratulations to Mr. Noak, Ms. Liu and Ms. Hunter!

## City Council & Board Places 3, 4 & 5 Appointed

New citizen members have been appointed to the COAERS Board of Trustees. Citizen Place 5 spot, which was previously held by Mr. Reagan David, has now been filled by Mr. Randy Spencer, who was sworn in at the January 30, 2018 Board meeting. Mr. Spencer received his B.S. from Baylor University and his Master's from UT Arlington. He is employed with Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services as their Sr. Vice-President of Organizational Impact.

The Citizen Place 3 City Council Appointee has been filled by Ms. Stephanie Beach. The City Council appointed her at their February 1, 2018 council meeting. Ms. Beach received her B.A. from University of Wisconsin and her Master's at University of Texas. She is currently a Principal and Health Actuary at Mercer.

Also of note, current Citizen Board Member for Place 4, Mr. Frank Merriman, was re-appointed by City Council to another four-year term.

Congratulations to Mr. Spencer, Ms. Beach and Mr. Merriman.

# Member News and Notes

## Annual Member Statements

Each year, COAERS mails Member Account Statements to all members with funds on deposit with the System. These statements include information regarding your retirement membership date, contributions you made during 2017, interest credited as of December 31, 2017, and both taxable and non-taxable service purchases made during 2017. For active-contributing members, the year-end balance on your annual statement will not match the retirement contribution balance on your City of Austin pay stub. The City does not include any interest, creditable service purchases, or prior refunds when calculating lifetime-to-date retirement contributions.

Please review your statement carefully and contact COAERS if you have any questions or concerns about your statement. The statement is provided for information purposes only and allows you to verify our records, especially if you have proportionate service with another retirement system.

## 2017 Interest Posting

At the December 12, 2017 Board Meeting, the COAERS Board of Trustees set the interest rate paid on member deposits at 2.32%. Interest was credited as of December 31, 2017, on deposits in members' accounts as of January 1, 2017.

## Retiree Statements

At the end of January 2018, all retirees were mailed a paper statement showing changes in their monthly benefits due to insurance rate changes. COAERS will apply the new tax tables to retiree annuities for the February 28, 2018 benefit payment. Then, COAERS will mail paper statements to any retiree with a tax withholding change. The paper statement will show the new tax withholding amount. After retirees see their new tax withholding, they are encouraged to consult their tax advisor and, if necessary, complete and submit a new W4-P to COAERS.

## Annual Retirement Luncheon For Austin Water Retirees

**When:** Friday, April 6, 2018  
11:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Catfish Parlour  
4705 E. Ben White Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78744

**Contact:** Navye Cummings at 512-796-0800  
Carol McKinney at 512-917-5062

## Stonewall Equality Employees Network (SEEN)

The City of Austin's Stonewall Equality Employees Network (SEEN) is a newly created employee and retiree resource group for LGBTQ+ and straight and/or cis-gender allies. The mission of the group is to foster an inclusive and respectful organizational culture for the Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) community, which includes gender and sexual minorities and their allies, at the City of Austin. SEEN advocates on behalf of LGBTQ+ employees and partners with City leadership to develop ways to attract, support, and retain LGBTQ+ employees through visibility and education.

To join SEEN, email them at [seen@austintexas.gov](mailto:seen@austintexas.gov)

# Member News and Notes

## COAERS Member Specialist Ms. Laura Fugate Retiring

Please join us in celebrating the career of Ms. Laura Fugate, a COAERS Member Services Specialist. Laura is retiring June 30, 2018 after a seventeen year career with COAERS.

"I want everyone to know how much I have enjoyed getting to know them and how privileged I am to have been part of their retirement journey," she said. Ms. Fugate began working with COAERS in 2001 after relocating from Portland, Oregon. In retirement, she and her husband plan on traveling more, connecting with friends, and enjoying the pleasures of home.



During her career, Laura has been recognized for her work with City of Austin veterans and has helped numerous COAERS members from a wide variety of City departments such as the Austin Water Utility, Austin Resource Recovery, EMS, and the non-sworn employees of the Police and Fire departments. Laura has assisted countless members through the retirement and service purchase process, produced thousands of retirement estimates, and met with members day-in and day-out throughout her career.

If you would like to celebrate her retirement with us and wish her well, please RSVP to [rsvp@coaers.org](mailto:rsvp@coaers.org) no later than 5 p.m. April 4, 2018. Here are the details for the event:

**Date:** Friday, May 4, 2018  
**Time:** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Where:** COAERS Boardroom  
418 E. Highland Mall Blvd.  
**RSVP:** [rsvp@coaers.org](mailto:rsvp@coaers.org)

If you can't make the event, you can email Laura directly at [laura.fugate@coaers.org](mailto:laura.fugate@coaers.org) or mail your cards and letters to COAERS at 418 E. Highland Mall Blvd., Austin, TX 78752.

 *With Deepest Sympathy*   
We extend our condolences to the family and friends of those retirees of COAERS who have passed away since our last publication.

### Aviation

John Krug  
Dtookadta Wilburt

### Austin Energy

Douglas Hohenshell  
Jack Kyle  
Thomas Lichenstein  
Robert Sconci

### Austin Water Utility

Joe Arnold  
James Crites  
Debra Owens  
Baldemar Rivas  
Elijah Sneed, Jr.  
Pete Terrazas  
Willie Whitely, Sr.

### Brackenridge Hospital

Dory Levy  
Ester Martinez  
Dorothy Partain  
Orlene Patterson  
Mary Sherman

### Convention Center

Cynthia Gibbs

### CTM Department

Jack Davis  
William Grimes  
Edward Hopkins  
John Morlberg

### Financial Services

William Butler, Jr.  
Charles Capel  
Agnes Roberts-Nelson  
Carlos Verdin

### Health & Human Services

Clyde Boyd, Jr.  
Maria Gorham

### Library

Colleen Lucas  
Heather Valdez

### Municipal Court

Dorothy Ferguson

### Parks & Recreation

George Carmona  
Marvin Lewis  
John Marr  
Catherine Tanguis

### Planning & Development

Clifton Dukes  
Glenn Marshall

### Public Information Office

Jose Rodriguez

### Public Works

Loney Dumas  
David Espinoza  
William Gardner  
Hector Gonzales  
Rafael Salinas  
Edward Sosebee

### Purchasing

Wilbur Jones



We also extend our condolences to the family and friends of the COAERS members who were active City of Austin employees who have passed away.\*

### Aviation

Karen Arnold

### Convention Center

Jacqueline Zachritz

### Development Services

Kenneth O'Neal

### Mayor & City Council

Cecilia Gratias

### Parks & Recreation

William Brown

\* Please note, this list only includes those deaths of which COAERS has been notified.

## COAERS Board of Trustees

Chris Noak - Chair  
Mike Benson - Vice-Chair  
Stephanie Beach  
Eyna Canales-Zarate  
Amy Hunter  
Yuejiao Liu  
Frank Merriman  
Leslie Pool  
Anthony B. Ross, Sr.  
Randy Spencer  
Ed Van Eenoo

### MARCH

15 Pre-Retirement Seminar  
27 Board Meeting  
30 Retiree Payday

### APRIL

19 Pre-Retirement Seminar  
30 Retiree Payday

### MAY

17 Pre-Retirement Seminar  
28 Observance of Memorial Day Holiday  
31 Retiree Payday

2018



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[www.coaers.org](http://www.coaers.org)

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## Go Green in 2018

Don't wait for the mail to arrive! Go green and sign up electronically to get the latest newsletter straight to your email inbox!

Go to [www.coaers.org](http://www.coaers.org) and look for the E-Newsletter sign-up at the bottom of page.

*Retirement News Update* is a publication of the City of Austin Employees' Retirement System and is distributed for the information of COAERS Active, Vested, and Retired Members, and their beneficiaries. While COAERS has made every attempt to provide correct information, it does not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained or referenced herein.

## 2018 Retiree Pay Dates

January 31st	July 31st
February 28th	August 31st
March 30th	September 28th
April 30th	October 31st
May 31st	November 30th
June 29th	December 31st

*Note: Expect monthly benefit payments to be available on the last business day of each month*