

# COAERS NEWSLETTER

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

Fall 2019

On July 16, COAERS held its **2019 Annual Member Meeting** at the Austin Central Library, where COAERS' members received an organizational update. Speakers included Executive Director Mr. Christopher Hanson, Chief Investment Officer Mr. David Veal, Chief Operations Officer Mr. Russell Nash and COAERS' Actuary, Mr. Lewis Ward. Attendees



included members of the Board of Trustees, active and retired members, and Staff. Visit the COAERS website for a complete summary of the meeting and links to presentation slides. COAERS would like to thank everyone who came out and participated in the event.

Each year, COAERS publishes a **CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report)** to report on the condition of the Fund. It includes detailed financial information, such as receipts and disbursements, actuarial, statistical, and investment information. The report is available on the COAERS website at [www.coaers.org](http://www.coaers.org) under Resources, then Publications. Hard copies are available in our office. If you have any questions regarding the CAFR or how to access it offline, contact us at [info@coaers.org](mailto:info@coaers.org) or call 512-458-2551.

COAERS made some **Pre-Retirement Seminar changes** to better accommodate members' schedules. The start time for the remaining 2019 seminars is now 1:00 p.m. The November and December seminars will be held at the LCRA Redbud Center, located at 3601 Lake Austin Blvd. Beginning in January, seminars will occur on the last Wednesday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will tentatively be held at the City of Austin's new Learning Resource Center located at 5202 E. Ben White Boulevard. To register, call Member Services at 512-458-2551 or visit [www.coaers.org/events](http://www.coaers.org/events).

COAERS would like to give a **warm welcome to Ash Schindler** as our newest Member Services Coordinator. Ash joined the team in July 2019. Prior to joining COAERS, Ash worked as an IRA and Trust specialist. Her background is in finance and she brings more than 10 years of customer service experience to her new role.



## Active Member Board Election Places 6 & 7

See candidate statements and voting information on pages 2 and 3. Voting deadline is 5:00 p.m. on December 2, 2019.

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## CONNECT WITH COAERS

Have questions or need help navigating your retirement benefit? Our member services team is a phone call or visit away. COAERS can help with accommodations for those without the ability to drive or without access to the internet.

### Business Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

6836 Austin Center Blvd  
Suite 190  
Austin, TX 78731

512-458-2551

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

[member.services@coaers.org](mailto:member.services@coaers.org)

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## COAERS Board of Trustees

Mike Benson - Chair

Eyna Canales-Zarate - Vice Chair

Stephanie Beach

Amy Hunter

Yuejiao Liu

Frank Merriman

Chris Noak

Leslie Pool

Anthony B. Ross, Sr.

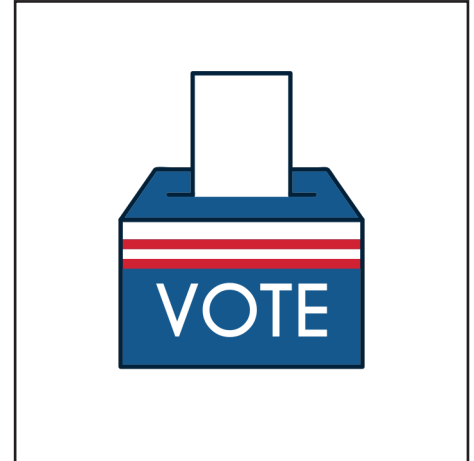
Randy Spencer

Ed Van Eenoo

# ACTIVE MEMBER ELECTION

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTIVE MEMBER ELECTION Places 6 & 7

Active members, it is time to cast your vote to fill two of the eleven trustee positions on the COAERS Board of Trustees who have terms expiring on December 31, 2019. Both positions will serve four-year terms that will expire on December 31, 2023. Candidate statements for the three candidates running for the two positions are featured on this page and page three. All active-contributing COAERS members may now cast their ballots in the election. Ballots and pre-paid return envelopes were mailed to all members who are eligible to vote. Each ballot contains the names of the three candidates who are seeking to be elected. Vote for two candidates. Space on the ballot has also been provided for write-in candidates. Employees from Austin Energy and the Public Works department are already represented on the Board and are not eligible to be write-in candidates. To be counted, ballots must be received by COAERS no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 2, 2019. If you are an active member and did not receive a ballot in the mail, please contact Michelle Mahaini at 512-458-2551 x111 or [michelle.mahaini@coaers.org](mailto:michelle.mahaini@coaers.org).



## COAERS PLACES 6 & 7 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Candidate statements have been prepared verbatim from the candidate's application.

### Albert Ortiz

**Department:** Austin Public Health  
**Position:** Occupational Health & Safety Coordinator  
**Length of City Employment:** 6 years, 6 months

**Relevant Experience/Qualifications:** I served as the Pension Board Secretary, Vice-Chairman and Trustee for the McAllen Firefighters Retirement Plan during my tenure with the City of McAllen Texas Fire Department. I served for 15 years on the Board of the 25 years of employment with the Fire Department. I have a Master degree in Business Administration (MBA) and attended a numerous amount of investment training programs including fiduciary guidance while serving on the Firefighter Pension Board.

**Reason for wanting to serve on the Board of Trustees:** The reason I want to serve on the board is to share my pension systems experience with the COAERS. The experience I obtained while serving on the Firefighters Pension Board taught me a wide variety of investment skills and fiduciary responsibilities needed to have a successful retirement plan. During my tenure on the Pension Board the retirement plan kept a solid amortization period that would keep pensioners confident that their retirement check would not fail them. I would like to see the same for our current COAERS.



*More candidates on page 3.*

# ACTIVE MEMBER ELECTION

## COAERS PLACES 6 & 7 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

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### Amy Hunter

**Department:** Austin Water

**Position:** Senior Financial Analyst

**Length of City Employment:** 6 years, 7 months



**Relevant Experience/Qualifications:** I am currently serving as trustee place 7. I am member of the Investment Committee which is an excellent match to my 20-year career experience as a financial analyst with 6-years at Austin Water. I have a Master of Business Administration from Saint Edward's University with a Bachelor's degree in Finance from Texas A&M, College Station. During my time as trustee I participated in designing an asset portfolio which allows flexibility to adapt to market changes that aligns to our investment policies. We also evaluated management expenses to reduce costs for members. These changes have created a more resilient fund.

**Reason for wanting to serve on the Board of Trustees:** The pension is an excellent source of income for our retirement. As a Plan B member, I am dedicated to maintaining the stability of the fund. I understand the long-term security of the fund is critical for providing future retirement income to all members. I will continue to ensure active members contributions are protected against unnecessary risk, fund costs aligned to financial returns, and great customer service for us as members. It would be my honor to continue to serve as your trustee place 7.

### Michael Benson

**Department:** Financial Services

**Position:** Chief Administrative Officer

**Length of City Employment:** 18 years, 5 months



**Relevant Experience/Qualifications:**

Bachelor's degree in accounting

MBA with focus in Finance and Accounting

Served four years on the City's 457 Deferred Compensation Plan committee

Currently serving as Board Chair in my fourth year as a trustee of the City of Austin Employee Retirement System.

2 years as Vice Chair

2 years Investment Committee Chair

Member on multiple other committees

Excellent attendance and preparation record for all meeting types

CFA Institute Investment Foundations certificate holder

Astute understanding of the retirement system and its needs

I have been investing since the age of 16 when I started my first IRA

**Reason for wanting to serve on the Board of Trustees:** I would like to continue serving on the Board of Trustees to help ensure the long-term viability of the pension trust. I have a passion of helping people prepare for retirement. The city's retirement plan is a great benefit and shoulders much of the burden of a sustainable retirement for our employees. I want to finish the work the Board and staff have started to improve the plan's long-term sustainability for current and future employees and retirees. I feel it is important to have continuity on the Board as there is a learning curve for new trustees.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### OCT

**31** Retiree Payday

### NOV

**11** Veteran's Day (Office Closed)

**15** Retirement application deadline

**21** Pre-Retirement Seminar

**28 & 29** Thanksgiving Holiday (Office Closed)

**29** Retiree Payday

### DEC

**10** Board Meeting

**13** Retirement application deadline

### DEC (cont'd)

**19** Pre-Retirement Seminar

**24 & 25** Christmas Holiday (Office Closed)

**31** Retiree Payday

### JAN 2020

**1** New Year's Day (Office Closed)

**15** Retirement application deadline

**29** Pre-Retirement Seminar

**31** Retiree Payday



*City of Austin Employees' Retirement System*

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



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1. Download a QR reader from your app store.
2. Scan the QR code.
3. Scroll down and subscribe to this newsletter electronically.
4. If you do not have a device with a QR reader, send an email to [news@coaers.org](mailto:news@coaers.org) and include your first and last name.

On April 1, 2019, COAERS' mailing and physical address changed to:

**6836 Austin Center Boulevard  
Suite 190  
Austin, Texas 78731**

The COAERS Newsletter 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.