

**Crucial Retirement  
Board Election**

**Vote Al Casciato to Protect Our Pensions**  
Balloting Starts December 19. Mark & Mail Your Ballot Early.  
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# JOURNAL

— Official Publication Of The —

## SAN FRANCISCO POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

This Publication was Produced and Printed in California, USA \* Buy American \* Support Local Business

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 12



SAN FRANCISCO, DECEMBER 2016



www.sfpoa.org

### Ballots in the mail starting December 19th

## Al Casciato — The Best Candidate for Retirement Board

By Chris Canning,  
SFPOA Board of Directors – Investigations

Every year our pension contributions can go up or down. Last year they went down. I'm told they will likely go up next year – a de facto pay cut. So, it's no surprise that SFPOA members overwhelmingly identified "Pension" as their top priority in a survey administered in early November 2016.

Beginning on December 19th, SFERS members will have the opportunity to cast a vote that affects pension contributions. Just before Christmas, over 50,000 ballots will be mailed to all active and retired employees of the City and County of San Francisco. This election is for a seat on our pension system's board of directors – the San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS) Retirement Board. The Retirement Board is made up of seven members. Three members elected by the active and retired members of SFERS; three members appointed

by the Mayor, and one member from the Board of Supervisors.

**In this election, Captain Al Casciato (Ret.) has been recruited out of retirement by a large coalition of labor unions and retiree groups to return to the Retirement Board.** Captain Casciato served on the Retirement Board for 17 years and retired as President of the Board in 2012. While Captain Casciato served on the Retirement Board the fund tripled in size, from \$6 billion to a staggering \$18 billion.

This coalition of unions and retiree groups are actively working to remove Herb Meiberger. I'm told Meiberger has mired our pension system in politics and he has routinely blocked investments. **I'm told that in the past 24 months, Meiberger has cost our pension system over \$130 Million in lost profits.** The problem is that when the investments in our pension system do poorly, **we now have to pick up the difference and retirees will not receive a Supplemental COLA.**

If the Retirement Board does not invest wisely, active SFERS members will pay more into the fund and retired SFERS members will not receive a supplemental COLA. Captain Casciato's leadership and experience are necessary to ensure the Retirement Board invests wisely.

For newer SFPOA members who may not have known Captain Casciato, he served as a San Francisco police officer from 1969 until 2012. In 2012, Captain Casciato retired from the SFPD as the Commanding Officer of the Solos. Captain Casciato's reputation was one of commitment to public safety, the values of the SFPD, and (perhaps most importantly) the members of the SFPD (Captain Casciato served as SFPOA President in the early 80's). Captain Casciato's reputation, leadership, and advocacy are why the SFPOA endorses Captain Casciato for Retirement Board.

It is important that every member ensures SFERS has their correct contact information in order to receive a ballot.



We need every member to vote. **Join the SFPOA and vote for Captain Casciato, the best candidate for the Retirement Board.**