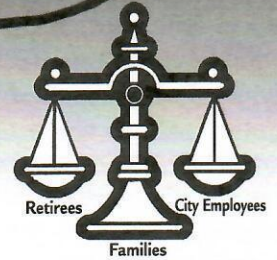


RECSL News

Volume XXIV, Issue 2
JUNE 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mike Sullivan

Greetings members and friends!

I am again pleased to inform you that our meetings have been well attended as we are halfway through 2024.

Our February meeting featured not the usually one, but two, speakers. First Dianne Stasa spoke on real estate trends in our area. She had many helpful hints for those looking to buy or sell real property.

Our second speaker was Diane Johnson, a representative of Shriner's Children's Hospital. Ms. Johnson gave us a detailed history of the hospital beginning with its founding in 1922 as well as its mission moving forward.

Jim Garavaglia informed and entertained us as usually with his wit and humor regarding the month of February. Not only is February Chocolate Lovers month, Black History month, Heart Association Fund month, but Ground Hog day; Valentines day and President's day are all occur during that month.

Our March meeting featured Nancy Price of the League of Women Voter's. An AV problem prevented Ms. Price from presenting the detailed program she had planned but nonetheless an informative presentation of the leagues history on a national as well as a local basis. Important local, quality of life and women's rights issues were discussed.

As usual Jim Garavaglia gave us the list of notable happenings during March as well as the many notable St. Louis persons born then. We also learned about St. Louis's own - Ralston Purina History and Development. In addition little known facts about March such as the name being from Greek Gods MARS and the fact that the last day of March and the last day of June are always on the same day of the week.

Our April meeting began with our usual report of officers. We then heard briefly from Rick Williams who gave us a run down on how our organization's investments are fairing in today's everchanging market.

Jim Garavaglia provided our always interesting summation of the month of April. It turns out April was originally the second month of the year until 700BC when two months were added.

We also learned about the history of root beer on a historical basis and its close connection to St. Louis. IBC Root Beer was started here and many St. Louis brewers sold Root Beer during prohibition. It seems root beer was even sold as a medicine in the late 1700's at pharmacies.

Our May meeting featured Mrs. Jane Ponzie of the Missouri Botanical Garden. She presented a helpful overview of both Monarch butterflies and Mosquitoes as they relate to our area.

We were provided with our usual information about the month of May by Jim Garavaglia. May Day, National Teacher's Day, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day all occur in the month. It is also physical fitness month and skin cancer awareness month.

Our annual members picnic will be held on Thursday, August 15th. Please see the back page of this newsletter for details. Hope to see you there!



Elections:

Date	Where	What
August 6, 2024	City Wide	Primary
November 5, 2024	City Wide	General

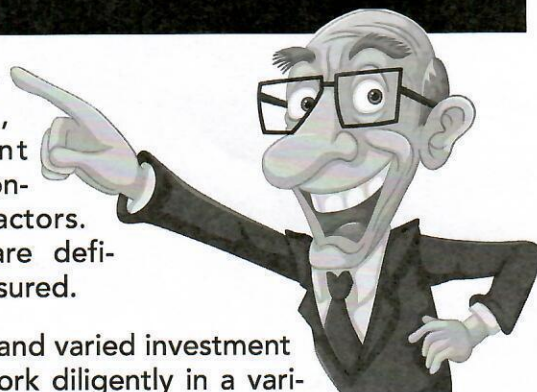
As we approach the end of the first half of 2024, there is still a lot of uncertainty in the market. The results have been mostly positive but there have been some hiccups along the way. April was the first negative month since October 2023. United States inflation tracked sideways in April, a sign that Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE) levels above the Federal Reserve's target could persist into the future. The U.S. economy added 272,000 jobs in May (before being adjusted) which was well above consensus expectations. The unemployment rate ticked up to 4%.

The first quarter saw a slowdown in spending on goods. While services spending remained strong, lower spending on goods (things like cars, food and gasoline) weighed down overall economic growth in the first quarter. Rate expectations are mixed. The Federal Reserve held its policy rate constant at its May meeting. They will meet again in July and September. Investors now expect one or two rate cuts before the end of the year. That is not a universally held expectation and any decision would be

affected by inflation, employment and other contributing factors. Rate cuts are definitely not assured.

Our many and varied investment managers work diligently in a variety of disciplines, every day, to produce positive results from our diverse portfolio. The Board of Trustees monitors and reviews those results, monthly, and make adjustments and changes as necessary resulting in our fiscal year to date performance, net of fees, of 11.8% with a market value of \$853,956,043 as of June, 10, 2024.

Summer is upon us and St. Louis heat and humidity has returned. I hope to see all of you at the annual RECSL picnic August 15, 2024. Until then, stay cool and hydrated.



Submitted by Theresa White, Secretary,
Mike Sullivan, President

MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 21, 2024

The meeting was opened on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 10:01 am. The pledge was recited. The minutes were read and approved with no corrections. The Treasurer's Report was given and approved pending audit.

The Pension Report was given by Tom Stoff indicating our fund to be currently at \$841,081.017 and he stated we continue to be strong in the midst of a roller coaster economy.

Our speaker for the month was Nancy Price of the League of Women's Voters. She provided a very lengthy explanation of what they do and how they began. She mentioned leaders such as Abigail Adams, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, Phoebe Cousins, Virginia Miner and many others who contributed to the attainment of women's rights in voting.

Jim Garaveglia spoke on the events for the month of March. He stated various events for the month of March, such as Women's History Month, St. Patrick's Day, Pie (314) Day, Read Across America Day, Dr. Seuss, National Nutrition Month, Fire Prevention Month and many others. The stone for the month is aquamarine, the flower is the daffodil and the name - March comes from the Greek god Mars. In light of Women's History month, Jim mentioned various women to be recognized such as Julia Soulard,

Harriet Scott, Susan Blow, Mary Meacham,, Katherine Dunham, Sallie Benson, Frankie Freeman, Tina Turner, Phyllis Diller and many more women who were Missourians and are now a part of our history. The theme for the month of March focused on Ralston Purina. Jim gave a lot of historical facts about the company, its founders and its many diversified holdings. As a result, he offered six giveaways related to the company, Chex cereals, cat food and dog food products of the Ralston Purina Company.

Attendance prizes:

\$25 went to Emery Webre

\$15 Cliff Seratti

\$10 went to Norman Lewis

50/50 (\$97) went to Dave Brant

Rollover went to Sharon S. (\$110)

The special gifts donated by Jim Garaveglia went to Joyce Austell, Peggy, Nettie, Rodney, Armon, and Barbara.

Our new members for the month are Chuck Vasilenk and Ronald Brenner and we lost three members.

A sheet was provided for members to review and update their contact information.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 for the corn beef and cabbage luncheon which was provided by Legrand's Catering

The next meeting will be April 18, 2024.

Continued on page 3

In Memorial

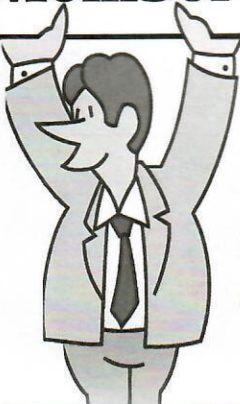
During 2024, we were notified that the following members have passed away:

Edward J. Machowski

Mary Louise Tapella

Our deepest condolences to the families of deceased members and may they rest in peace.

New Members



During 2024, the following retirees have become members of our organization.

Jeffrey L. Boyd

Ronald A. Brendel

Donna C. Fisher

Vincent Foggie

Michael F. Stelzer

We welcome them and hope to see them at our monthly meetings.

Note: RECSL Membership Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month EXCEPT no meetings in January, and December (Christmas Party). The meetings are at the American Czech Center, 4690 Landsdowne, St. Louis, MO. Meetings start at 10:00 am.

RECSL Officers

President	Mike Sullivan	314-631-9158
Vice President	Tom Stoff	
Treasurer	Norm Sutterer	314-752-7997
Secretary	Theresa White	
Trustees	Gary Gooden	
	John Stoverink	
	Joanna Stoverink	
	Jim Gadell	314-781-6220
	Peggy Triska	
ERS Pension Rep	Tom Stoff	
Newsletter	Jim Gadell	

Treasurer's Report by Norm Sutterer

As of May 31, 2024 our balances are:

Checking Account	\$4,859.65	
Edward Jones Franklin Fund	\$33,000.00	(Mkt. Value \$33,375.43)
	\$37,859.65	

Disclaimer of Liability

RECSL disclaims any responsibility for typo errors and the accuracy of information that may be contained in its newsletter. The information included in the newsletter has been compiled from a variety of sources and may be subject to change without notice. RECSL makes no warranties or representations whatsoever regarding the quality, content, completeness, suitability, adequacy, accuracy or timeliness of any and all information herein.

The services and information available in and through this newsletter including but not limited to website links are provided "as is without warranties of any kind."



Address Changes

A separate address change notification to RECSL is required in addition to the address change notification made to the Employees Retirement System. Please notify RECSL as soon as possible when you have an address change. We do not want you to miss a Newsletter or notice of an upcoming event. It is costly and time consuming to have mail returned to us, often the Post Office will not forward mis-addressed mail.

Address changes should go to:

RECSL
Joanne Stoverink
P.O. Box 190724
St. Louis, MO 63119-6724

APRIL 18, 2024

The meeting was opened on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 10:03 am. The pledge was recited. The minutes were read and approved with no corrections. The Treasurer's Report was given along with income and expenses for the month and was approved pending audit.

The Pension Report was given by Tom Stoff. He talked about the current economy in light of which our pension fund still remains steady.

Our speaker for the month was Rick Williams of Edward Jones. He provided the membership with a flier showing the state of the Franklin Income Fund as of December, 2023. He gave a brief update on the status of the fund and how well it has been producing in the midst of an unstable climate. Questions were asked and answered.

Jim Garaveglia spoke on the events for the month of April. He stated various events for the month of April, such as Earth Day, Arbor Day, National Poetry Month, American Heritage Month, Teacher Appreciation, Jazz Appreciation, Alcohol Awareness, and Cancer Control just to name a few. Diamond is the birthstone and the flower for April is daisy and sweet pea. Another history lesson was provided for the month of April, but the theme for April centered on "root beer". Jim provided the body with the history of root beer in dating back to 18th century. Originally produced for medicinal purposes, it has been engineered and produced by many different companies. Many are well known and still produced today. Jim, as he usually does, provided six attendance prizes inclusive of the IBC root beer product. The body eagerly looks forward to what each month will have in store and we thank you Jim for his intuitive expressions.

Attendance prizes:

\$25 went to Frederick

\$15 Paula

\$10 went to Gary

50/50 (\$80) went to Jack

Rollover went to Lois Morgan. (\$20).

The special gifts donated by Jim Garaveglia went to Denise, Joanna, Nini, Artie, Jack and John Stoverink

There was no report of new members for April.

A sheet was provided for members to review and update their contact information as well as and application for new members.

Fliers were distributed concerning the picnic for August 15th. Please contact Gary Gooden for additional information.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

MAY 16, 2024

The meeting was opened at 10:04 am. The pledge was recited. The Treasurer's Report was given, was moved and seconded for approval pending audit. The Secretary's report was given with no corrections and approved.

No pension report was given.

Our speaker for the month was Jean Poinzi of the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Her presentation was on butterflies and mosquitoes and she provided a slide presentation titled Project Pollinator Gardening. Additional information concerning this project can be found at www.mobot/mosquitoAlertSTL as well as the STL Pollinator Gardening. The St. Louis was the first city to use the app. Questions and answers re solicited. She also spoke about the Monarch butterflies and milkweed flowers, their choice food which is poisonous to everything except the Monarch butterfly. There were lots of questions and answers concerning the Monarchs. Ms. Ponzi also provided information as to where to obtain information milkweed plants at www.grownative.org and she also stated what products to use to protect from mosquitoes such as mosquito dunk kills, fogging which only kills adult mosquitoes. Additional information can be obtained by calling 314-577-0246. She also stated that free admission is available on Wednesday and Saturdays beginning at noon.

Jim Garaveglia spoke on the events for the month of May. May Day, Cinco De Mayo, Victoria Day, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Physical Fitness, Asian American Heritage, Jewish American Heritage, Cancer Awareness, National Bike , just to name a few. The birthstone for May is emerald, the flower is lily of the valley, the astrological signs are Taurus and Gemini and many other interesting facts were provided by Jim. The theme for the month focused on liquorice which originated in 2300bc in China. The original purpose was for medicinal use however it was later determined by adding sugar it could be marketed for other purposes. It has been said to reduce appetites and cravings, fat burning, promotes collagen production, elasticity, helps fight acne and numerous other medical conditions. Jim also provided information on Frederick Switzer and as a bonus, provided various liquorice provides as attendance prizes.

There were no new members.

The RECSL new Facebook page has been established as recsl14731@gmail.com for RECSL city retirees.

The speaker for June will be from the Dredd Scott organization. Request for made for a speaker from the Urban League

Please remember to review the information sheet for contact information provided at the door.

Attendance prizes:

\$25 went to Sharon

\$15 Eugene

\$10 went to Vince

50/50 (\$77) went to Joe Ebert

Rollover was (\$20) however you must be present to win

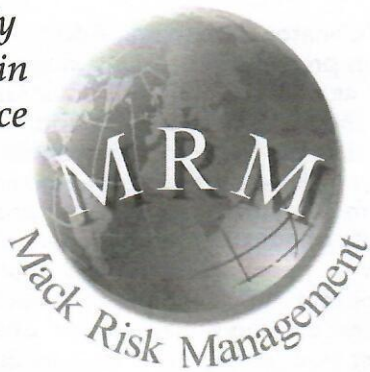
The special gifts donated by Jim Garaveglia went to Joe Ebert, Pat, John, Wes Bokal, Joyce, Emery, Barb and Evelyn.

A reminder concerning the August picnic was given. Further details to follow

A motion was made to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.

The next meeting will be June 20, 2024

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To The City Retirees;**

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***Good Luck
to Members
of RECSL***

From

Gregory F.X. Daly

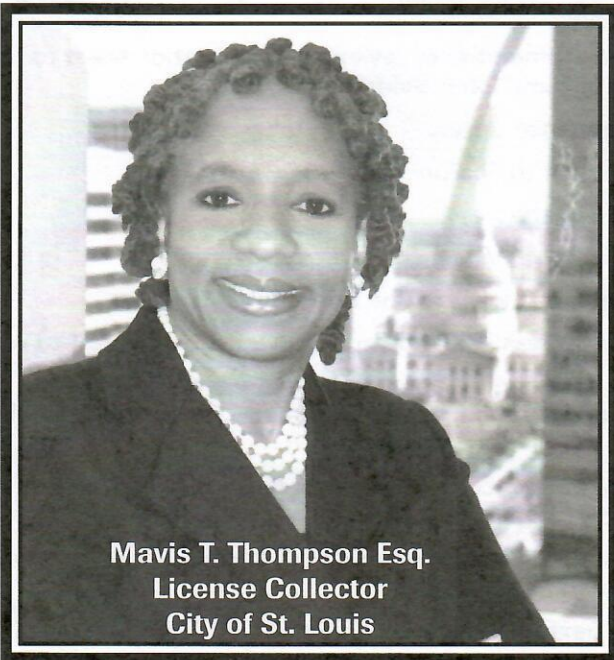
Collector of Revenue

City of St. Louis



User Name: Retiree

Password: Relax



**Mavis T. Thompson Esq.
License Collector
City of St. Louis**

Dianne Stasa

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Fenton, MO 63026**

🌐 **www.DianneStasa.com**

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ALLIANCE REAL ESTATE





RECSL Picnic Notice

Thursday,

August 15, 2024

11:00 am • Cost is \$7.00 per person

American Czech Center

4690 Landsdowne

HAMBURGERS AND HOT DOGS

Beverages available at the hall

Attendance Prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25 for members only

Make checks payable to RECSL, must be paid by Aug 8, 2024.

Cost \$7.00 per person

Send payment to: Gary Gooden

42 Seabiscuit Dr • St. Charles MO 63301 • 314-614-9919

