

*Welcome to The Retirement Connection!*

## Kudos to Chief Investment Officer, Prabhu Palani



Our Chief Investment Officer, Prabhu Palani, was named one of Trusted Insight's Top Transformational Leaders of the Last Five Years. Trusted Insight is the world's largest limited partner network, bringing global investment and market information, and professional connections and news to institutional investors. Since joining ORS in 2018 as the City of San Jose Retirement systems CIO for both the Police & Fire and the Federated funds, he has worked tremendously hard in the area of governance, leading to improved investment performance and progress toward the ultimate goal of full funding. Prabhu reports he is proud of the honor and credits both Boards' trustees, the investment team, and investment consultants.

### Actuarial Report

Once again, our annual actuarial report is in and it continues to show steady progress toward our goal to ensure both pension funds are strong and sufficient to pay obligated benefits to retirees now and in the future. Those who wish to see the full report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 can do so at [www.sjretirement.com](http://www.sjretirement.com). Click on Investments & Reports and scroll down to Federated or Police and Fire. These reports can be heavy reading and dense with data, so we offer these essential bottom lines:

- Our funded status for both the Federated and Police & Fire Funds is gradually moving in the right direction to ensure we can pay both monetary benefits and other post-retirement benefits such as health care.
- The Federated Pension is funded at 55.1 percent, up from 52.3 percent in the 2020 report.
- The Federated fund for other post-retirement benefits is funded at 66.3 percent, up from 54.3 percent the prior year.
- The Police & Fire Pension is 77.4 percent funded, up from 73.6 percent the prior year.
- Police & Fire's fund for other post-retirement benefits is funded at 39.8 percent, up from 30.7 percent the prior year.
- These results are comparable to the funding level achieved at CalPERS, and state and national pension fund averages.

These annual reports not only provide a snapshot of our funds' ability to pay its long-term obligations, but also help guide decisions about the level of City and employee contributions needed to meet those obligations.

Both plans have funding policies and plans to reach 100 percent funding in about 20 years, if assumptions upon which the policies were developed are met.



### April 18 Tax Filing Deadline for Most

The filing deadline to submit 2021 tax returns or an extension to file and pay tax owed is Monday, April 18, 2022, for most taxpayers. By law, Washington, D.C., holidays impact tax deadlines for everyone in the same way federal holidays do. The due date is April 18, instead of April 15, because of the Emancipation Day holiday in the District of Columbia for everyone except taxpayers who live in Maine or Massachusetts. Taxpayers in Maine or Massachusetts have until April 19, 2022, to file their returns due to the Patriots' Day holiday in those states. Taxpayers requesting an extension will have until Monday, October 17, 2022, to file.

APRIL 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### Fascinating Members: We know you are out there!

Here at the Office of Retirement Services we realize that among out thousands of active employee and retired members there are many remarkable people with fascinating hobbies, talent, or exceptional dedication to causes and achievements. Do you play with the symphony or sell as an established artist? Commit countless hours to a charitable organization? Compete in a sport at a high level? Have you travelled to exotic locations or climbed Mt. Everest? We want to hear your stories and share them with our members through *The Retirement Connection* newsletter and maybe social media. Email us at: [Retirement.Dept@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Retirement.Dept@sanjoseca.gov)

## Message from CEO Roberto L. Peña



Spring is here and we are seeing a return to some sense of normal life, including here at the Office of Retirement Services. We have all learned by now that the pandemic is a fluid situation, so the following is based on current information and plans but could change. We are pleased to report that we have more staff working from the office on a regular basis. We continue to

work diligently, engaging with our members as they need us. It is critical that we do this safely, so we will continue to strongly recommend masks when in the office.

The City of San Jose recently lifted the mandatory masking for employees and guests in City facilities, though it is also still recommending employees and visitors continue to wear masks in all indoor public spaces. The County also continues to recommend masks for certain indoor settings where people at high risk may be present, and due to concerns about those suffering long-term effects from the virus. Both the City and

ORS will continue to look to Santa Clara County Public Health for guidance as the experts monitor case rates.

Finally, we are anticipating the return to in-person Board meetings in the coming months and look forward to seeing members take the opportunity to attend. We also look forward to the possibility of opening the ORS offices to more “in-person visits” soon. We encourage members who wish to visit the office to make an appointment. We will provide updates on our operations via our social media accounts and on our website including when a date for in-person Board meetings has been determined. Otherwise, of course, you can attend the meetings on the website.

On another world-changing front, everyone has been watching the tragic Russian invasion of Ukraine, as well as its economic repercussions around the globe. Pension plans everywhere are monitoring the situation. Our retirement plans’ investment portfolios are diversified across asset classes as well as geographies. While our plans’ do not directly invest in securities, we do make investments in fund vehicles through investment managers who may take positions in securities of countries

*Continued on page 3*

## Quarterly Question

**Q:** How can I change my communications preferences from the Pension Administration System and Office of Retirement Services online?

**A:** This question underscores another of the benefits of the Member Direct Portal found on the ORS website. Go to your Member Direct portal, select Communication Settings screen, and you will find the option to change the method of delivery (mail or email) for certain communications from the retirement office. You can even opt for different methods for different kinds of communications. You will see listings for each communication type. Simply follow the “Delivery Method” selector and find the specific address associated with your current delivery method. Your mailing and email addresses will appear, allowing you to select one. Once you have finished selecting delivery method(s), click “Insert” to save the new setting(s). For example, this is an easy way to switch from getting your Retirement pay advice by snail mail to paperless email delivery.

*Note that “Default” on this page applies to any communication not specifically shown on the screen. And, if you wish to add a communication setting for a communication type not shown, you can click the “Add Communication Setting” link and follow the same process. Select communications may not allow options for changing delivery online. For these, you would need to contact the office for help.*

## Find Additional, Fresh News from ORS on Facebook, Twitter

Our social media platforms launched late last year to offer you timely news, links to valuable resources, and other tidbits of interesting features and information that the quarterly newsletter format simply cannot accommodate. For example, the recent Open Enrollment period featured almost daily posts throughout the month informing members of webinars, consulting time with health vendors, deadline reminders, and links to resources. We’ve posted news of available Covid tests and resources, new recreational opportunities in the region, and even links to published articles helping us figure out technology tasks to make our online life easier, more productive and safer.

Our audience is growing – click on to the Facebook and Twitter icons atop the home page of our website at [www.sjretirement.com](http://www.sjretirement.com).



## Welcome to ORS!

**Chris Ha**, Network Technician

# Profile:

## ORS Accounting Group



**Johnny Nyugen**  
Account Clerk

**Q:** Tell us a bit about how you came to join ORS' Accounting team?

**A:** I was hired in 2019 after working previously in the Accounting Department for a local hotel and a small accounting firm.

**Q:** What are your duties here at ORS?

**A:** As an account clerk, I process invoice payments, deposit checks and issue payments to retirees.

**Q:** What are the major challenges and gratifying parts of your work?

**A:** The biggest challenge has been keeping up with and track of so many changes to policies and procedures as we adapted to Covid over the past two years. But I find it very gratifying when I can help retirees with their question or concerns, and especially when I hear their gratitude for my help.

**Q:** Who is Johnny Nyugen off duty?

**A:** I am Vietnamese, Korean and Irish (born in Hawaii), and married my lovely Vietnamese-German wife just weeks before Covid broke out. In retrospect, it was nice to have the family and friends together one last time before Covid struck. Last year, we welcomed our first child, Madilyn, who is now 10 months old and growing so fast!

I love NFL football and am a 49er fan, collect sneakers, and like to play video games.

## Lonnie Lang

### Accounting Technician

**Q:** How did you come to work for ORS?

**A:** I started with the City of San Jose in 1998 at the Convention Center as a clerk, eventually promoting to senior clerk. In 2004, I began working at ORS as an accounting technician.

**Q:** What is your role at ORS?

**A:** I balance various accounts for the Police & Fire Fund. I also process payments to health and vision care insurance carriers, reconcile Police & Fire disbursements of funds, and reconcile several benefits accounts.

**Q:** What do you enjoy most about your work, and what is most challenging?

**A:** For us accounting people, it's very satisfying when all your accounts are in balance. Most challenging is ensuring timely distribution of benefits and all payroll posting, regardless of what might be happening, on time, the last business day of every month.

**Q:** Tell us a bit about Lonnie – your background, family, interests.

**A:** I was born in Vietnam and came to the U.S. in 1983. I attended William C. Overfelt High School and San Jose City College. I love to travel and have been to Japan, Hong Kong, Canada, China, and other states in the U.S. I enjoy shopping and lunch out on the weekend with my 93-year-old mom. At home, I love to bake for myself and for friends and family, and walking with my wonderful dog, Lucky.

## Nam Cao

### Accountant

**Q:** Share your path to working at ORS.

**A:** This was my first job after graduating with an accounting degree from San Jose State University in 2016. I started working for ORS on a temporary basis, I then applied for a full time position in the ORS Accounting division when one became available and was hired in my current role in 2019.

**Q:** What are your duties at ORS?

**A:** I do payroll for the Federated Plan, prepare monthly expense reports and quarterly budget reports for the Board. I also do various internal accounting tasks and work on various projects with other team members.

**Q:** What is satisfying and what is challenging about the work?

**A:** Always knowing I have the support of my team members when I need help is the most gratifying part of the job. Audits and year-end accounting is the most challenging time because the workload is heavy and busy!

**Q:** Tell us about your life outside the office.

**A:** It's varied. I like to bowl, play online video games with my brothers and cousins, and even feed the stray cats in the neighborhood.



### *Message from the CEO, continued from page 2*

and regions globally. Through such investments, as of 1/31/2022, which was prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Police and Fire Department Plan and the Federated City Employees' Retirement System had a combined exposure of 0.53% (\$42 mm) to Russian debt and equity securities. More recently, as of 2/28/2022, our exposure to Russian investments has come down significantly to 0.14% (\$10.8 mm) for both plans combined, due to a combination of selling down our positions in these investments as well as write-downs in their value. It is to be noted that these exposure numbers are approximate. A combination of sanctions and closed exchanges has made it difficult to determine the value of these investments using market prices. Major index providers have determined that the Russian Market is "uninvestable" and its securities have been removed from Emerging Markets indexes. When trading recommences in these securities, it is quite possible that their values may be considerably diminished. We continue to closely monitor developments on this front.

# The Retirement Connection

1737 N. First Street, Suite 600, San Jose, CA 95112

Executive Editor: Barbara Hayman  
Editor: Linda Alexander

## GO GREEN!

Send ORS an email to retirement.  
dept@sanjoseca.gov if you would like  
to receive your copy of the newsletter  
electronically, via email or if you  
prefer to access the newsletter online  
at our website  
[www.sjretirement.com](http://www.sjretirement.com)

## PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED

Make sure we have your updated  
email and mailing address. Please  
complete a change of address form if  
your email or mailing address changes.

 Printed on Recycled Paper

### Federated City Employees' Retirement System Trustees

Spencer Horowitz, Chair  
Julie Jennings, Vice Chair  
Prachi Avasthy  
Anurag Chandra  
Mark Keleher  
Mark Linder  
Elaine Orr

### Police and Fire Dept. Retirement Plan Trustees

Drew Lanza, Chair  
Andrew Gardanier, Vice Chair  
Sunita Ganapati  
Howard Lee  
Eswar Menon  
Richard Santos  
Franco Vado  
Dave Wilson  
Trustee, Vacant

## Upcoming Board Meetings

COVID-19 virus has had an impact on our operations. Meetings are being held by teleconference. Please check our website for the latest information.

*Police and Fire Board meetings* are held on the 1st Thursdays of each month except in July and September. Upcoming meetings will be held on the following dates:

May 5 June 2 August 4

*Federated Board meetings* are held on the 3rd Thursdays of each month except in July and September. Upcoming meetings will be held on the following dates:

April 21 May 19 June 16

### BOARD UPDATES

Welcome to new FED Trustee Prachi Avasthy!

Police & Fire Active Trustee Dave Wilson was re-appointed by the City Council in February.

The Board vacancies for recruitment are posted on the City Clerk's website at:  
<https://sanjose.granicus.com/boards/w/923860ac785826ef>

All meetings unless otherwise posted on the Agenda, are at City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara Street, Wing Rooms 118-120. Meetings are also live-streamed on our website at [www.sjretirement.com](http://www.sjretirement.com)

### Upcoming City Closures

May 30th Memorial Day  
June 20th Juneteenth  
July 4th Independence Day

### CONTACT US!

408-794-1000 or 1-800-732-6477  
Our staff directory can be found on our  
website at: [www.sjretirement.com](http://www.sjretirement.com)  
Click on "About us"/"Office Staff" or email  
us at [retirement.dept@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:retirement.dept@sanjoseca.gov)