

RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF KERN COUNTY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES  
April 11, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President, Norman Briggs.

**ROLL CALL:** Mary Lou Bennett, Jeanne Berkshire, Norman Briggs, Nettie Collins, Opal Hargis, Ginger Mello, David Merritt, Greg Salas, Earlene Smith, Walter Stewart and Elinor Wells

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Belva Jared

The Board adjourned into Executive Session. The Executive Session adjourned at 10:17 a.m. The Board Meeting was reconvened at 10:18 a.m.

**MOTION** by David Merritt to approve the March 2006 minutes as read, seconded by Elinor Wells and **CARRIED**.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**CRCEA** – David Merritt circulated a summary of the Spring Conference at Newport Beach that was held March 20 – 22, 2006. David announced that the largest issue was failing to present adequate briefing information on the Brandt case which led to a motion, retraction of the motion, another motion, a couple versions of a letter, 24 – 48 hours of lost sleep, legal research, and finally a letter was sent to the California Supreme Court by CRCEA on March 29, 2006 requesting that the Supreme Court order the depublishing of the Brandt case so that it doesn't become a precedent. This took place at the Business Meeting on Wednesday morning with only a few people who attended the Executive Session on Monday morning having any knowledge of the Brandt case. David also announced that the Spring Conference will be moved to April each year. David reminded us that we are the host county in the spring of 2008 that it would be a good idea to appoint a conference committee. President, Norman Briggs, appointed the following people to the Conference Committee: David Merritt, Opal Hargis, Ginger Mello, Belva Jared and Greg Salas.

**CCAPE** - President, Norman Briggs, announced that he has appointed Paul Leonard to replace Blue O'Connor as the liaison from REOKC to CCAPE. Paul recently retired from the Roads Department. Paul was very active in CCAPE for many years and comes highly recommended by Ward Wollesen.

**HOST/HOSTESS PROGRAM** – Mary Lou Bennett reported that for the month of March there were 31 volunteers who worked 94.5 hours and assisted 1,040 visitors to the County Administration Building. She announced that from 1992 through March 2006 the volunteers have assisted 232,824 visitors. She announced that there will be a luncheon held on May 16<sup>th</sup> for the volunteers who work the information desk and possibly a gift to commemorate their service to the County. Mary Lou is still in need of volunteers. If you are a volunteer at the information desk you will be receiving a letter inviting you to the luncheon.

**MONTHLY PROGRAM** – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Jeanne Berkshire, announced that Ray Bishop from the Airports will be our speaker. Ray will be speaking on the new terminal.

**NEWSLETTER** – The deadline for the upcoming TREND will be April 15<sup>th</sup>. President, Norman Briggs, requested the Mary Lou Bennett write up a little column on the Host/Hostess Program describing the luncheon that the County is going to give for the volunteers.

**KCERA** – Wanda Castro was not in attendance. President, Norman Briggs, announced that he attended an actuarial meeting held on April 4, 2006. Norm refreshed everyone's memory regarding the letter that CCEOK had written to the Retirement Board requesting either an increase in the death benefit from the current \$1,000 to \$5,000 by \$1,000 increments; or, change the death benefit to a life insurance policy; or, to look at raising the purchasing power from 80% to 85% using the \$17 million surplus SRBR funds. The sad story is that we do not have \$17 million because of the different ways that the actuaries do the figuring. Norm and John DeMario are in hopes that we will be able to get the death benefit increased up to \$2,000 or maybe \$3,000. Norm stated that it is not a done deal and that it will be revisited.

**MEMBERSHIP** – President, Norman Briggs, received an e-mail from Mary Hancock stating that due to illness she has to resign from being the membership chair.

**TREASURER** – Mary Lou Bennett gave the Treasurer's Report for March 2006. **MOTION** by David Merritt to approve the March Treasurer's Report, seconded by Opal Hargis and **CARRIED**. **MOTION** by David Merritt to approve the Claims Payable for March 2006, seconded by Opal Hargis and **CARRIED**. Mary Lou stated that she had spoken to John DeMario who suggested that it would be a good idea to mail a REOKC ink pen with the other items to the new members. It was the decision of the Board to send ink pens to NEW members only. Mary Lou also stated that she had our income taxes completed at a cost of \$275.00. She gave a copy of the 2005 income taxes to the Secretary to receive and file.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – In the mail at the Post Office Box, President, Norman Briggs, received 6 county newsletters, 1 Letter of the Law newsletter, a letter from Hoffman Hospice and from the Rescue Mission. He also received a letter of information from Jack Chambers regarding the Tier levels of SRBR and how that came about. Norm also received a communications through the TREND editor from PC Networks. Earlene Smith gave a synopsis of her computer problem and the outcome of the situation. Mike (PC Networks) fixed the computer and installed free of charge an anti-virus. He stated that all computers that are brought to him do not leave without the anti-virus software. Members of REOKC will receive a 15% discount on the purchase of hardware and software. A discussion was held on what amount we charge for advertisements in the TREND. Secretary, Ginger Mello, stated that she would research the amount to charge Liberty Mutual and Kern Federal Credit Union. The decision was made to allow a free advertisement from PC Networks for a ¼ page ad.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**STATUS OF PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE** – Secretary, Ginger Mello, stated that the next scheduled meeting will be on May 17, 2006.

**WEB PAGE** – The Web Page will soon be updated.

**PAC UPDATE** – Status the same

**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS** – President, Norman Briggs, will get more information on the scholarships.

**CSUB ENDOWMENT** – The Board has chosen not to get involved in this endeavor.

**NEW BUSINESS:** President, Norman Briggs, announced that he has received a certified copy of the candidates running for office. The decision was made to interview the candidates for the Board of Supervisors (District 2 and 3) and for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District. It was stated that it would be best if we could do the interviews prior to our next meeting, but if not, then we could send out a one page special newsletter telling the membership who we recommend for the offices just prior to Election Day. It was decided that there were 11 candidates that we should interview. President, Norman Briggs, appointed Nettie Collins, Opal Hargis, and Ginger Mello to help him with the interviews.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Greg Salas thanked the Board for the Get Well Card for his father-in-law.

**MOTION** by Norman Briggs to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m., seconded by Elinor Wells and **CARRIED**.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Ginger Mello, Secretary