

RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF KERN COUNTY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Walter Stewart and a moment of silence was held. Two new members and 3 guests were introduced. President, Norman Briggs, introduced Paul Leonard as the new liaison from CCAPE. Paul has taken the place of Blue O'Connor who had to resign due to his failing health. President, Norman Briggs, announced that handicapped members and the head table would pick up their lunch first followed by the tables in order of the numbers drawn.

President, Norman Briggs, turned the meeting over to 1st Vice President, Jeanne Berkshire, who introduced Ray Bishop and Teresa Hitchcock from the Kern County Airport. Ray gave an intensive update about the airport. Meadows Field has one of the longest runways in the state – the newest runway will be 7,700 feet long when finished. Ray explained that the Airport does not get any money from the general fund. The money they get is generated at the airport and stays at the airport. In 2005, the parking lot made almost one million dollars. The airport needs to enlarge the parking area because the lots are full all the time due to 100% growth last year. Rental cars bring revenue into the airport budget at the rate of 10% per car rented at the airport. There were several comments from members regarding the fact that there are straight flights to Salt Lake City and questions on the possibility of straight flights to other cities. Ray gave a very interesting presentation of things that are taking place at the airport.

BUSINESS MEETING:

TREASURER, Mary Lou Bennett, gave the Treasurer's Report for March 2006 which showed that REOKC membership as of March 31, 2006 was 3,542.

CRCEA – David Merritt gave a short report on the spring conference that took place March 20 – 22, 2006 in Newport Beach. Two presentations were on “Reverse Mortgages – Pros and Cons” and “Estate Planning – Getting Your Affairs in Order”. Estate Planning was an eye opener and something that seniors don't always want to do. *Health care directives* need to be reviewed to be sure they comply with the HIPPA requirements for privacy and disclosure. David also reported on the Brandt v Board of Retirement San Diego County which came up at the Business Meeting with minimal information available to the delegates. After much discussion, a motion, voting which was very close, bringing the item back before the delegates, another motion and a unanimous vote for the Board of Directors to write a letter if necessary. After the conference was over, numerous e-mails, research, more e-mails, lost sleep by a large group of people, including David Merritt, a letter from the CRCEA Executive Committee was mailed to the California Supreme Court requesting that the case be decertified for publication.

EYE GLASS – Helen Heath reported that she has collected 16 pair of glasses and 13 cases since the March meeting.

SUNSHINE – Belva Jared commended the membership on giving her names and addresses which enabled her to send cards, including 1 sympathy card and 6 get-well cards to our members.

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. The total visitors assisted since 1992 through March 2006 have been 232,824. The General Services Department will be doing a luncheon in May for the volunteers who work the information desk.

NEWSLETTER – The deadline for the TREND will be April 15th.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS: No New Business

The attendance prize was won by George Lennell. There were 45 - \$5.00 prizes and after the distribution of prizes, the meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of April, 2006.

Ginger Mello, Secretary