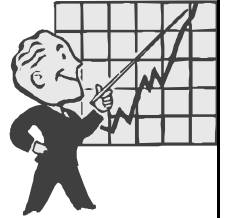




# TREND

(Thinking Retired Employees Need Direction)  
**Retired Employees of Kern County**



Volume XXVII

**JULY-AUGUST 2003**

[www.reokc.org](http://www.reokc.org)

David Merritt, President (661) 589-9119

Joe Porter, Editor (661) 872-4299

## President's Corner

By Dave Merritt



Summer is almost here and we certainly can't complain about the weather so far. Next week may be a different story. The July picnic is almost here so make your **reservations** so we can get a count and have enough food on hand to feed everyone. I'm helping to cook so watch out! The program will be a demonstration of the new automated voting machines that go into service this fall. Come and learn how to be one step ahead of Florida.

Switching from having lunch on even numbered months to every month is still moving ahead ñ slowly. We are waiting on a ruling from County Counsel to help KCERA clarify some new legal issues surrounding deductions from retirement checks. The earliest we could start monthly luncheons would be the September meeting. Why September? Because July is the free picnic, August is a traditional even numbered month with a luncheon so September would be the earliest we could kick it off. The June luncheon was well attended and the food was very good ñ nobody complained about the chocolate covered strawberries!

I want to thank Norm Briggs for the line up of speakers we have had at our recent meetings. They have all been great, and the variety has been nice. We have plans to invite some of the best back. See you at the picnic.

## REOKC

### Annual July Picnic

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Norris Road Veterans Hall

11:30 a.m.

Hamburgers  
Salad  
Drinks  
Dessert

Join your fellow retirees for a  
good time and good food.



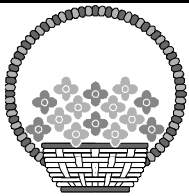
Order your *free* tickets today by  
using the order blank on the back  
of this newsletter.

### Host/Hostess Program

During the month of May, 30 volunteers worked 92 hours assisting 1,007 visitors to the County Administrative Building.

To those retirees who volunteer their time,  
THANK YOU

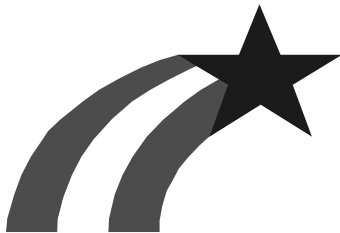
Host/Hostess volunteers are needed for 3 to 6 hours a month at the County Administrative Building information booth. If you would like to volunteer contact Allan Choy at 832-2245.



### WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

#### Deceased KCERA Members

Pauline Ellis	04/08/03
Clarence Evans	03/20/03
Thomas Johnson	04/01/03
Ellamae Lundy	03/22/03
Wanda Martin	04/03/03
Martha Rankin	03/23/03
Blanche Vanderveer	04/08/03
Lena Gipson	04/25/03
Wilbur Goodrich	04/18/03
Martin Kooken	05/13/03
Larry Whitfield	04/27/03



### We Are Thinking Of You

To all of our members with loved ones serving in the armed forces in this time of conflict....

We especially remember the brave men and women who are on the battlefield with our loving thoughts and prayers.

### Application for Membership in REOKC And Authorization for Deduction of Dues

I receive a retirement and/or survivor's allowance from Kern County. I hereby authorize the Kern County Employees Retirement Association to deduct from my monthly retirement benefits, dues of one-dollar (\$1.00) per month for my membership in REOKC, and to pay such deductions monthly to that organization.

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

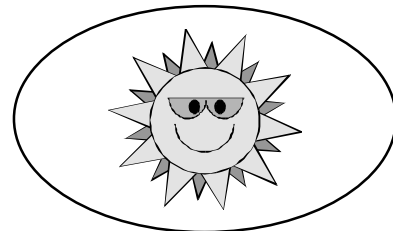
Telephone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

SSN \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### NEW LUNCHEON SCHEDULE FOR REOKC MEMBERS

Beginning with the August, 2003 luncheon, the schedule of luncheons will change. In the past, a catered lunch was held on the even number months. The luncheons will now be catered every month. Extra reservation forms will be made available in the TREND.



### Free Car Wash Tickets

The Board would like to thank *White Water Car Wash* for their generous discount on the car wash tickets. The car wash tickets are part of the raffle ticket drawings during the luncheons, and are a highly sought after prize.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE 2003  
GREAT KERN COUNTY FAIR**

Volunteers are needed to help in various capacities during the Kern County Fair. The volunteers will be rewarded with free tickets to the Christmas banquet and party.

The REOKC receives free use of the Harvest Hall at the Kern County Fairgrounds for the Christmas banquet and party in exchange for the hours worked by the volunteers. Normal cost for the use of the Hall is \$3000.

Please insert wedding picture here

*Albert and Marilyn Rosenlieb  
Are celebrating 50 years of marriage  
June 22, 2003  
Rock Creek Fire Station  
McFadden, Wyoming*

*Al and Marilyn were married  
June 21, 1953  
In Laramie, Wyoming  
Al retired from the Kern County Road  
Department in 1994 as the  
Equipment Maintenance Superintendent  
After Al's retirement, he and Marilyn moved  
back to Wyoming. They live on the ranch  
Al's grandfather homesteaded in 1887.*

*Congratulations Al and Marilyn*



**TREASURERS REPORT**

**For the month ending  
May 31, 2003**

**Submitted by  
Doris Williams, Treas.**

Revenues:

Dues	\$3,036.00
Luncheon tickets	267.00
KFCU reimbursement	.00
Contributions	17.00
Interest earned	68.12
Other	____.00
 Total revenues	 \$3,388.12

Expenditures

Admin Postage	\$ 67.00
Luncheon & mtg. Exp	369.38
Memorials/Gifts	10.00
Office supplies	25.64
Stipends:	
Luncheon Admin	75.00
Programs	50.00
Treasurer	175.00
TREND editor	100.00
TREND postage cost	850.00
TREND printing cost	____.00
 Total expenditures	 \$1,647.02

Net Income +\$1,741.10

Summary of cash position

Cash in bank April 30, 2003	\$51,956.92
Net income from current period	____1,741.10
 Cash in bank at May 31, 2003	 \$53,698.02

Actual cash in bank at March 31, 2003

Checking account	\$ 1,118.99
Savings account	2,146.87
Special account	38,267.58
Money market	____12,164.58

Total \$53,698.02

**Free \*\*JULY Luncheon Reservation**

July 8, 2003, at the Norris Road Veterans Hall. If you wish, you may use this form to order tickets for this luncheon. Please send this order blank, together with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to **Doris Smith, 2500 Drake, Bakersfield, CA 93301**. Deadline for reservations is the Wednesday prior to the luncheon. **Phone reservations are not accepted.**

Member's name (Free) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse (Free) \_\_\_\_\_

**AUGUST Luncheon Reservation**

August 12, 2003 at Noon, Southwest Veterans Hall, 1095 Wilson Road. If you wish, you may use this form to order tickets for this luncheon. Please send your check, made payable to REOKC, together with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Doris Smith, 2500 Drake, Bakersfield, CA 93301. Deadline for reservations is the Wednesday prior to the luncheon. Phone reservations are not accepted. You may cancel your reservations by calling Doris at 321-9344 prior to the deadline. Cancellations after the deadline cannot be refunded.

Member's name (\$5.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse (\$5.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Guest (\$7.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Total tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**September Luncheon Reservation**

September 9, 2003 at Noon, Southwest Veterans Hall, 1095 Wilson Road. If you wish, you may use this form to order tickets for this luncheon. Please send your check, made payable to REOKC, together with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Doris Smith, 2500 Drake, Bakersfield, CA 93301. Deadline for reservations is the Wednesday prior to the luncheon. Phone reservations are not accepted. You may cancel your reservations by calling Doris at 321-9344 prior to the deadline. Cancellations after the deadline cannot be refunded.

Member's name (\$5.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse (\$5.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Guest (\$7.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Total tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Retired Employees of Kern County  
P.O. Box 3022  
Bakersfield, CA 93385**

**PRST-ST  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BAKERSFIELD, CA  
PERMIT NO. 349**



**JULY/AUGUST 2003  
Time Dated Material**

**Official Newsletter of  
The Retired Employees  
of Kern County Inc.**

## **Your Retirement Board**

By John J. De Mario

Since my last report to you, a number of additional changes to the Retirement Board and Retirement Administration have occurred. As I mentioned in my last article, Ms. Sharon Clark (active general member representative) retired in March 2003, and resigned her seat on the retirement Board. Also in March, Ms. Ethelyn Looy (appointed by the Board of Supervisors in January 2002) resigned her seat to pursue other opportunities. With these changes, alternate Michael Bradley will sit in Ms. Clarks position until a new active general member representative is elected. The Retirement Board will be one position short until the Board of Supervisors appoints a new public member. Also, David Deutsch, our Executive Director has appointed a new Assistant Executive Director, Ms. Anne Holdren, to replace Mr. Roberto Pena who took the Executive Director position in the Fresno County Employee Retirement System. Since these changes have occurred, your Board of Retirement has not had a full board present at the last five meetings with some meetings having a bare quorum of only five members present to conduct its business. Your Retirement Board is very important to all of us and makes numerous decisions that effect retirees daily. I look forward to the time when the board is back to its statutory nine members.

As for Ventura II, as of May 16, 2003 the Retirement Administration had completed their review of 53% of the 4,516 retirees and beneficiaries. They issued 465 retro payments in the amount of \$4,491,702. They have mailed an additional 27 recalculation letters to members and are awaiting a response and have notified 1,899 retirees that no re-calculation is required. To date, the change in total monthly payroll amounts to a \$53,073 increase for those retired members that are covered by Ventura II.

The County of Kern has completed its issue of a second Pension Obligation Bond (POB) in the amount of approximately \$285 million dollars. This POB was issued to pay off a significant portion of the Counties Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) in the pension fund that has occurred over the last few years. Wit this payment, the KCERA funding ratio improved from 83% to 97% as reported by the Actuary in its report ending December 31, 2002. As a result of the Actuarial Valuation as of December 31, 2002, and the counties election to issue POB to pay down the UAAL, the Retirement Board has recommended to the Board of Supervisors that both the employee and the employer contributions to KCERA be decreased for FY 2003-2004.

I have assembled some interesting, but useless facts from the 12/31/2002 Actuarial Report just released, so here goes:

1. KCERA has 6,414 active general members with an average age of 44.7 years, and with average service of 9.6 years. They are 32% male and 68% female, and they have an average salary of \$40,702 annually.
2. KCERA has 1,641 active safety members with an average age of 40.5 years, and with an average service 12.2 years. They are 83% male and 17% female. They have an average salary of \$51,072 annually.
3. KCERA has 3,498 retired general members with an average age of 69.6 years. They are 35% male and 65% female, and have an average benefit of \$13,584 annually.

## Your Retirement Board continued

4. KCERA has 1,018 retired safety members with an average age of 62.8 years. They are 73% male and 27% female, and have an average benefit of \$30,852 annually.

5. KCERA has 852 deferred members with an average age of 46.2 years. They are 46% male and 54% female.

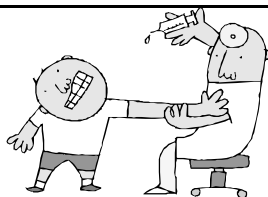
KCERA has a total membership of 13,423 with 40% either retired or deferred.

On to a new subject. The Retirement Administration is currently working the SRBR III calculations for 2003. As you know, the CPI for KCERA increased by 2.8% over last year. The COLA only picked up 2.5% of that and the remaining 0.3% adding to the COLA bank. This means that those retirees that receive SRBR III will receive an increase of 0.3% of their base retirement pay, and a small number of additional retirees will be entitled to start receiving SRBR III benefits. Those retirees with COLA banks that exceed 20% will be notified of the increase. Those retirees who retired before 1986 are those that generally have a COLA bank in excess of 20%. Those retirees that retired after 1986 generally have a COLA bank of less than 20% and are not yet entitled to SRBR III benefits. It is hoped that the new amounts can be paid in July, but if not, it will be in August.

If you have any questions or need help with a retirement problem, you can contact me via the internet at [jjdmario@aol.com](mailto:jjdmario@aol.com).

I hope to see you at one of the Retirement Board meetings they are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month starting at 8:00 a.m. on the 3rd floor of the County Administration Building  
1115 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA.

Presented at the June 10, 2003 meeting by:  
Audrey Cochran, MSN, CNS, RN, CS.  
Clinical Specialist in Gerontological Nursing



## Survival Skills for Emergency Room Use

Problem: Waiting time to be treated in the ER is excessive in our community. The statewide average is far less than in our area. If you or a family member experience excessive wait in the ER, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations can help. They can be reached at 1 800-994-6610.

## Be Prepared for Your Emergency Room Visit

1. Get a Durable Power of Attorney for Health-care (DPAHC). If an attorney drew up a trust for you, it probably is included. Otherwise get the form from an office supply store, the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman, 615 California Ave.), or on the internet. Ask two friends/neighbors/coworkers to witness your signature. Make lots of copies to give to all your doctors and take a copy with you each time you go to the hospital.
2. Find an ER Buddy. This could be a family member if they live nearby, friend, neighbor, or coworker. They would promise to be with you if you need to go to the ER, and you would do the same for them.
3. Assemble an ER survival kit. It should include a copy of your DPAHC, a list of your usual medicine, allergies, health insurance, contact information for your doctors and family members, small notebook and pen, ear-plugs. To it you (or your buddy) will add enough medicine for one day, snack bars, change for the telephone and vending machines, bottle of water, and a paperback book or magazines.
4. Take a cell phone and recharger unit if you or your buddy have access to one.
5. Do not clean up before going. Go as you are. If vomiting, bring a sack, paper towels, baggies, and handiwipes.
6. Maximize, not minimize descriptions of pain. Chest pain takes highest priority. When describing possible symptoms of stroke (which must be treated within two hours) such as one sided weakness, or slurred speech, be sure to ask, "Do you think this might be a stroke? How do you stop it from getting worse?"
7. Insist on staying with the sick person in the ER if you are named in their DPHAC, or if they have dementia or are too sick to speak for themselves. You are their lifeline.
8. Avoid going to the ER if at all possible by doing the following:
9. Phone your doctor early in the week or day, if you get sick. You can always cancel the appointment if your condition improves.
10. Go to an Urgent Care Center if you cannot get your doctor to see you. These centers handle everything except broken bones and cardiac emergencies. They are wonderful resources for such things as lacerations, foreign bodies in the eye, urinary tract infections or persistent nausea and vomiting.
11. Where there is no other choice, go to the ER. **They can save your life**, but be prepared.

## 2003 Board of Directors

### Officers

David Merritt—President  
Norman Briggs—1st Vice President  
Jeanne Berkshire—2nd Vice President  
Ginger Mello—Secretary  
John De Mario—Treasurer (acting)

### Directors

Alan Choy	2003/2004
Opal Hargis	2003/2004
Tom McCarthy	2002/2003
Joe Porter	2002/2003
Elinor Wells	2002/2003
John De Mario	Past President

The Board of Directors meets at 10:00 a.m. prior to each regular meeting. All members are invited to attend.

### REOKC Meetings

When: 2nd Tuesday of the month

Where: Southwest Veterans Building  
Wilson Rd. Veterans Hall  
1905 Wilson Road  
Bakersfield, CA

Time: 11:30 a.m. Social Hour  
Noon luncheon  
(Details in the TREND)

Luncheons: Catered lunch each month  
Cost: \$5 for members or spouse  
\$7 for guests

Tickets for the luncheons are sold at prior meetings, or send reservation form with a self addressed, stamped envelope and check to the address listed on the TREND order form.



### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Paul Anderson	Fire/Safety
Cora Blanco	Kern Medical
David Brassfield	Fire/Safety
Theresa Burchfield	Deferred
Alexander Candia	Fire/Safety
Richard Chanley	Fire/Safety
Sharon Clark	Recorder
Roger Cowan	Sheriff/Safety
Ophelia Curry	Bldg Inspect
George Dickey	Parks & Rec.
William Dierck	Fire/Safety
Donald Ferguson	Sheriff/Safety
Claudia Fivecoat	Sheriff/Safety
Jerry Frederick	Fire/Safety
Walter Garratt	Bldg Inspect
Stella Goff	Human Services
Barry Hayslett	Roads
Peter Hurley	Fire/Safety
Carol Jagers	Sheriff/General
Susan Jennings	Human Services
Loretta Jones	Library
Michelle Kiel	Sheriff/Safety
Vernon Kline	Sheriff/Safety
Michael Leisten	Sheriff/Safety
Charles Moffitt	Waste Mgt.
Frank Najjar	General Svcs
Suresh Patel	Kern Medical
Steve Perez	Deferred
Carl Poulton	Roads
Sharon Riley	Muni Court
George Rufus	Fire/Safety
Richard Russell	Assessor
Beatrice Shipman	Superior Court
Reynaldo Soto	Fire/Safety
Laine Strong	Human Svcs
Darrell Tiede	Fire/Safety
Larry Trone	Fire/Safety
Mitchel Van Wyk	Prop-Magt
Barbara Vanlandingham	Sheriff/General
Toni Watts	E. Kern Cemetary
Mary Weerts	Library
Lloyd Weese	Environ Health
Henry Weldin	Fire/Safety
Dennis Wilson	Sheriff/Safety
Ralph Wilson	Fire/Safety
Charles Wyckoff	Fire/Safety
Sandra Boxley	Kern Medical
Terry Brodrick	Human Svcs
Thomas Cripps	Deferred
Mary Z. Vela	Kern Medical