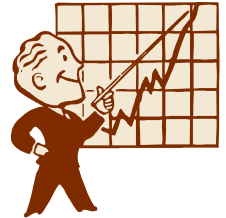




TREND

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



Volume XXVII

September–October 2002

President's Corner

By Dave Merritt



It has been a busy summer for REOKC. **Norm Briggs** has been working to get our web site developed and on line. It is still under construction so if you want to check it out, go to

www.reokc.org

and take a look. Some of the links are listed now but this is a big job and will take some effort. In case you did not know, the last issue of the **TREND** cost \$1,136.40 to print and mail. We will continue to mail it so don't panic; but once the web site is up and running, it will also be available on line and you may elect to receive it that way and save your organization some money.

Jerry and Helen Dodd deserve a big **THANK YOU** for their hard work on the picnic. Most of the burgers made it safely to the table. You can thank **John DeMario** for that. **Joe Porter** deserves a pat on the back for the new look of the **TREND**. Got a lot of compliments about it. All the officers and volunteer coordinators deserve my thanks for all their help. If you have not attended one of our meetings, you are missing out. Lunch is served on even numbered months and dessert and drinks on the odd numbered months. Please remember to make your lunch reservations *IN ADVANCE* with **Doris Smith**. See the form on the back page of this issue.

We have had our first meeting with the CAO's Office regarding medical plans for 2003. **Vernon Lowe** went with me to provide some intelligent background and keep me out of trouble. I have had a volunteer or two who said they would help

with medical issues and I will be asking them to help in the near future. We have a second meeting coming up but Blue Cross and Kaiser had not submitted their 2003 premium quotes to the CAO yet. You can expect some changes! I did pose an offer to assist Health Benefits with their health care sign up day as well as requesting to look over material that is to be mailed out to our members before it actually goes out. Perhaps we can avoid any confusion or at least minimize it.

The Kern County Fair sign-up list is going around. Remember that our volunteer work there is what gets us free rent of the Harvest Hall for our Christmas luncheon and anyone who volunteers gets a free ticket to the lunch. My speed—I work for food! To volunteer call **Jeanne Berkshire** at 589-3744.

Nettie Collins is working on some interesting speakers for the remainder of the year. This month we had **Susan Leedy** from Great West. She discussed changes that have taken place in the Deferred Compensation Plan and what might be expected in the near future. She did not venture a guess on the market, however.

I think I have written more letters in the past week than I have written to my family in the last 20 years. We have invited 12 candidates for state and local offices to come and be interviewed by the Board of Directors. The Board chose races that can have an impact on retirees and can also carry legislation relative to retirees. The board will make their findings known in both the **TREND** and on the web site prior to the November general election. You can do as you wish regarding following those recommendations.

Ventura settlement research and payments are coming along. Be patient. This involves a lot of work by KCERA staff and they have been moving methodically through old data and microfiche to dig out answers and payroll records. David Deutsch and Roberto Pena have been helpful and understanding in spite of all the confusion and difficulty. So, say THANKS when you see them, and again—Be Patient.

CRCEA Update

By Everett Julkowski, Delegate

CRCEA's Fall Conference will be held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Marin County on October 21-23, 2002. As this is written, the tentative agenda is almost complete and includes speakers on Social Security GPO/WEP, current legislation, Real Estate and Asset Allocation, Financial Planning and more.

In an attempt to alleviate some of the expenses that are incurred putting a conference together, CRCEA's Board of Directors voted last March to create a new attendance fee of \$15.00 which will be required to be paid by all conference attendees. This new fee will go in effect at the October Conference and will go to the host county to help offset their expenses. If any member of REOKC is planning on being in the Bay area in October and would like to attend all or a part of the conference, I can be contacted at (661) 836-0649 no later than October 1st to obtain a registration form.

In June, CRCEA's Executive Committee voted to accept a proposed new dues plan by the budget committee which would ultimately change our current dues structure. Presently, REOKC's membership dues are paid annually on a per capita sliding scale basis based on a percentage of total retired members to the actual total association members. If the new proposed dues plan structure is approved by the Board of Directors at the Fall Conference, REOKC can look forward to a decrease in our annual dues to CRCEA starting in January 2004.

Everett Julkowski

Host/Hostess Program

During the month of June, 30 volunteers worked 92 hours assisting 1,205 visitors. During the month of July, 31 volunteers worked 95 hours assisting 1,199 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.

November 5th Elections

Mark your calendars to cast your vote in the upcoming November General Election. You have 29 days prior to the election to register if you have moved or know that you are not registered to vote. It is important for everyone to be involved in the election process. It is your way of having an effect on our future. You may find out details for registering through the Secretary of State's web site:
(<http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections.htm>)

or Kern County's web site:
(<http://www.co.kern.ca.us/elections/>)

Both sites can assist you in registering either on-line or through the mail. The important thing is to be sure you are registered and that you vote on November 5, 2002.

To become informed and active in this process you may want to visit the League of Women's Voters web site:
(<http://www.ca.lwv.org>)

This site is non-partisan and has information on most candidates running for office as well as information on other issues on the ballot.

Your Board of Directors will be interviewing candidates on August 29, 2002 to develop a slate of candidates to support in the November election. The offices we are interested in are as follows: State Senate; 16th District; 18th District; 30th Assembly District; 32nd Assembly District; 2nd Supervisor District, and the 4th Supervisor District.

We have invited 12 candidates to participate in this process. The list of candidates and their respective office are on page 4.

Norman Briggs

ANNOUNCEMENT

Our webpage is up and running. Check it out at www.reokc.org. If you have any suggestions on content or there are things you would like to see on the page, please contact Norman Briggs at nbriggs@bak.rr.com, or (661) 834-5721. Your feedback can also be done through the webpage at info@reokc.org.

Welcome New Members

June

Mary Azevedo	Farm & Home
Patricia Harvey	Kern Medical
Beverly Hayden	Co. Adm. Office
Dennis D. Holik	Fire-Safety
James Mathis	Sheriff-Safety
Juanita Patton	DA-Family
Mary Robinson	Kern Medical
Harold Sallee	Sheriff-Safety
Mary Thompson	Kern Medical
Rosemarie Thompson	Kern Medical
Betty Villarino	Kern Medical
Elizabeth Villicano	Kern Medical
Ross Welch	Probation-Safety

July

Richard Hales	Fire-Safety
Thomas Latham	Sheriff-Safety
Louis Smith	Kern Medical
Diane Clark	Beneficiary
Helen Cunningham	Beneficiary
Donna Tarrence	Beneficiary

WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

Deceased KCERA Members

June

Vinny Brown	5/28
Jenny Gallacher	6/07
Betty King	5/19
Albert Leddy	4/24
Carol Middleton	6/07
Margie Pollard	5/24
Birute Prokatas	5/22
Thelma Silva	4/23
David Snodgras	5/15
Geary Taylor	6/17
Wilmer Teel	6/14
Gladys Tice	6/20
Marvin Wolfer	6/02

July

Alta Bell	6/25
Walela Cobb	6/29
Sylvia Prestage	7/07
Michael Rector	7/15
Colleen Ryan	6/09
Fern Scales	6/19
Frances Von Osten	7/13

Getting to Know Your REOKC Officers



Doris Williams
Treasurer

Doris Williams was born and raised here in the San Joaquin Valley growing up on an orange ranch in Lindsay. She graduated from Lindsay High School. The next two years was spent at the College of Sequoias in Visalia. With World War II underway, higher education was cut short as employees were needed everywhere.

Doris went to work for Security First National Bank in Lindsay where she met and later married her banker husband. He was sent to Bakersfield to open a new branch. Due to the housing shortage, Doris joined him in June of 1948. Doris and her husband were the proud parents of three beautiful daughters. She now has five grandchildren who bring her great joy with their many accomplishments and a beautiful new great granddaughter.

Through the bank, Doris met John R. Doty, Assistant Treasurer at that time. He offered her a part time job compiling records placing the retirement system on data processing. This being an off and on position, she also worked twice yearly for the Tax Collector division. Having these short time positions was great because she learned to know so many wonderful people who continue to be her very good friends.

With her daughters in college, Doris decided to join ranks and become a full time employee in November 1972. The bulk of her career with the county was in the Bond Section of the Treasurer's Office. Doris' husband passed away in April of 1988. She continued working until retirement in 1990.

Almost immediately Doris became a board member of REOKC. Again Mr. Doty talked her into becoming Treasurer in 1993. She has thoroughly enjoyed this busy job, but would like to send it on to someone else.

Doris remains active in her church and the women's organizations of the church.

October Luncheon Reservation

October 8, 2002 at 12:00 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) _____

Luncheon Speaker

Jimmy A. Steen, Certified Senior Advisor (CSA), will be the featured speaker at our September 10, 2002 luncheon. He is a former BPD lieutenant and now associated with the Society of Certified Advisors. He will be speaking on very important issues relating to the seniors of today.

The REOKC board members and the general membership would like to take this opportunity to thank Cope's Food Market on Norris Road for their help refrigerating the meat and drinks during the set up and cooking of the July picnic.

Important Dates to Remember

September 10 REOKC meeting, 10:00 a.m. brown bag at noon, Wilson Road
September 11 KCERA Board Meeting, 8:00 a.m. County Admin. Bldg
October 8 REOKC meeting, 10:00 a.m., luncheon at noon, Wilson Road
October 9 KCERA Board Meeting, 8:00 a.m. County Admin. Bldg.
October 20 **Newsletter Deadline for TREND articles**

Future REOKC meetings and luncheons for calendar year 2002

November 12 REOKC meeting, 10:00 a.m., brownbag at noon, Wilson Road Veterans Hall
December 10 REOKC meeting, 10:00 a.m., luncheon at noon, Wilson Road Veterans Hall

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

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Current Candidates

Respective Office:

Dean Florez, Democrat
498 Oleander
Shafter, CA 93263

State Senator, 16th District

Blair Knox, Republican
902 Poplar Avenue
Wasco, CA 93280

State Senator, 16th District

Roy Ashburn, Republican
7704 Calle Corta
Bakersfield, CA 93309

State Senator, 18th District

Dean Gardner, Republican
914 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Assembly, 30th District

Nicole M. Parra, Democrat
417 Pepper Drive #D
Hanford, CA 93230

Assembly, 30th District

Kevin McCarthy, Republican
8208 Portsmouth Street
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Assembly, 32nd District

Michael A. Shea, III, Democrat
20580 Coyote Trail
Onyx, CA 93255

Assembly, 32nd District

Don Maben
20643 Fallen Leaf Drive
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Supervisor, 2nd District

Linda White
2400 Calvin Street
Bakersfield, CA 93304

Supervisor, 2nd District

Sam Ackerman
7345 Adohr Road
Buttonwillow, CA 93206

Supervisor, 4th District

Tom Fallgatter
7713 El Verano Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Supervisor, 4th District

Ray Watson
7904 Luces Corta
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Supervisor, 4th District

As of press time, Dean Gardner, Don Maben, and Tom Fallgatter have excepted the invitation to be interviewed by the Board of Directors.