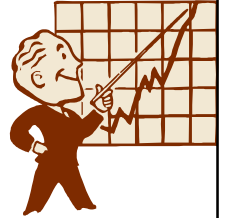




# TREND

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



David Merritt, President (661) 589-9119

Joe Porter, Editor (661) 872-4299

## **President's Corner**

By Dave Merritt



We are moving toward having lunch at every meeting. Some details need to be worked out yet, but it is coming along. If you have been following *The Bakersfield Californian*, they are looking at retirement for all county employees.

CRCEA is holding their spring conference in San Diego this month, and I am looking forward to attending to see what is developing regarding retiree medical. I won't harp on it, but we need to stay involved.

Our sympathy goes out to John DeMario on the passing of his mother. John works very hard for both REOKC and KCERA.

Norm Briggs—our fearless 1st Vice President—is lining up speakers for the luncheons and we hope you feel you get something for your money when you attend. Spring is here and so are the weeds in my yard, so this month the message is very short. See you at the meeting.

### **REMINDER TO ALL SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES.**

**All identification cards must be signed by  
Sheriff Wimbish  
Personnel, 1350 Norris Road**

## **Volunteer Program**

### **Animal Control Services Division**

#### **Do You Want To Make A Difference**

Do you have some extra time and want to make a difference in the community? Animal Control Services, a division of Kern County Environmental Health Services, has initiated a Volunteer Program and is searching for people that can donate a couple hours a week to assist at the Bakersfield Animal Shelter. The Volunteer Program is in the formation stages and is actively recruiting volunteers to help establish the program.

The goal of the Volunteer Program is to augment services provided by the Animal Control Services Division and help promote responsible pet ownership in the community. Animal Control Services' primary function is to ensure the public's safety from dangerous animals and diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans and provide various services to the public. These services include low-cost rabies vaccination clinics, licensing, investigation of animal cruelty reports, stray animal control, animal quarantine, promotion of spaying and neutering, public education programs, and maintenance of a shelter system. The Division provides a broad scope of services to the public, but needs the support of the community to be successful. The Volunteer Program, supported by caring and compassionate citizens, can make a difference for animals, pet owners, and the residents of Kern County.

The initial focus of the Volunteer Program will be assisting with lost and found animals, helping to reunite animals with their owners, assisting with adoptions of animals from the shelter, and participating in public education and outreach programs. As the program grows and becomes established, there are many other projects that can be implemented to help promote responsible pet ownership and safeguard animals and people in our community.

Volunteer applications are available at the Bakersfield Shelter at 201 South Mt. Vernon in Bakersfield and on the internet at <http://www.co.kern.ca.us/acd>. For additional information on the Volunteer Program or to receive an application by mail, contact Cheryl Ripley,

**Host/Hostess Program**

During the month of January, 31 volunteers worked 95 hours assisting 1,317 visitors, and during the month of February, 28 volunteers worked 86 hours and assisted 1, 115 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**

Esther Aswad	12/25/02	KMC
John Basye	12/30/02	General Serv.
Frances Clark	01/02/03	Fire-Safety
Janet Dials	01/01/03	Benef.-Fire
Eugene Harrison	01/23/03	General Serv.
Albert Hunzeker	01/17/03	Benef.-KMC

Due to an oversight:  
Mr. Jay Cunningham's name was omitted from the list of deceased members. Mr. Cunningham passed away July 10, 2002. He was an employee of the Roads Department.

**Welcome New Members**

Kathleen Brookey	Kern County Water
Richard Clason	Fire-Safety
Kenneth Fraser	Fire-Safety
Frederick Howell	Deferred
Philip Shepard	Fire-Safety
Charles Davis	Parks & Recreation
Phyllis Gattian	Auditor-Controller

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\_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Addresses**

All of us are trying to cut costs in our personal finances.  
So is REOKC.

We would like to send the  
TREND

to those of you who have e-mail access in an attempt to cut postage and printing costs. If you would like to receive your copy of the  
TREND

via e-mail, please submit your e-mail address

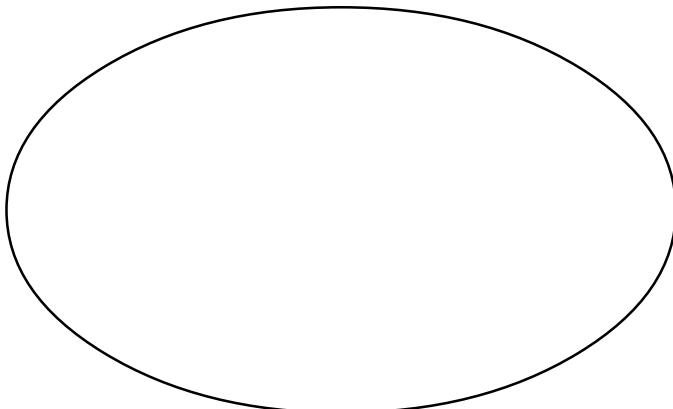
Go to [www.REOKC.org](http://www.REOKC.org)

Go to CONTACT

Go to E-MAIL:[info@REOKC.org](mailto:info@REOKC.org)

which will take you to Outlook Express.

Enter your e-mail address—SEND



## **April Luncheon**

April 8, 12:00 noon at the Southwest Veterans Hall, 1095 Wilson Road, Bakersfield. 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) \_\_\_\_\_

## **Scheduled Luncheon Entertainment**

March 11, 2003 South High School Jazz Band will entertain

## **Important Dates to Remember**

March 11, REOKC meeting, 10:00 a.m. brown bag at noon, Wilson Road  
March 12, KCERA Board Meeting, 8:00 a.m. County Admin. Bldg  
April 8, REOKC meeting, 10:00 a.m. luncheon will be served, Wilson Road  
April 9, KCERA Board Meeting, 8:00 a.m. County Admin. Bldg.

**April 20 Newsletter Deadline for TREND articles**

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

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



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## Milestones in the lives of Kern County Retirees

PICTURE

### **Bob and Karen Ekdahl Fields**

November 10, 2002 marked the 40th wedding anniversary of Bob and Karen Ekdahl Fields.

Bob and Karen were married at the Gretna Green Chapel in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1962.

Bob retired from the Kern County Sheriff's Department as a Sergeant in 1992. Karen, a native of Kern County, retired from the banking industry after many years of service.

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PICTURE

### **Mary and Eugene White**

Mary and Eugene White of Bakersfield celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on January 4, 2003.

Mary Drew and Eugene White both grew up in Dinuba, and married in 1958. They moved to Bakersfield in 1960, where Eugene started his career in Kern County as a microbiologist at Kern Medical Center. He retired from the Kern County Health Department as a supervising microbiologist in 1995. Mary worked as a physical therapist until her retirement in 1999.

PICTURE

## **Send Mothers to Iraq**

Have you noticed anything fishy about the inspection teams who have arrived in Iraq?

***They are all men!***

How in the name of the United Nations does anyone expect men to find Saddam's stash? We all know that men have a blind spot when it comes to finding things.

***For crying out loud! They cannot find the dirty clothes hamper.*** They cannot find the jar of jelly until it falls out of the cupboard and splatters on the floor...and these are the people we have sent into Iraq to search for hidden weapons of mass destruction? They probably could not find them if they were lying in the middle of a dusty street with a picture of Saddam aiming a rifle in the air taped on the side.

I keep wondering why groups of women were not sent in...preferably mothers.

After all, mothers know that their boys cannot find their socks or underwear when they are neatly folded in their dresser drawers, so how could they be expected to find hidden biological weapons?

On the other hand, mothers can sniff out secrets quicker than a drug dog can find a gram of dope.

What we need over there are women like my mother.

My mother could find the old olive bottles filled with dimes that dad stashed in the attic beneath the rafters.

She could sniff out a diary two rooms and one floor away. She always knew when the lid of the cookie jar had been disturbed, and I swear she must have dusted for prints on the roll of salami that was always in the refrigerator. She knew if a slice had been removed and by whom.

I developed her ability to stalk out criminal activity when my kids were at home. They could not get away with much that I did not know about.

They still think they got away with a lot.

(continued on next page...Mothers)

