



# T R E N D

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

Volume MMXXI-VI

**November & December 2021**

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

Robert Seibly, President

M. L. Bennett, Editor ([mlbennett36@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlbennett36@sbcglobal.net))



## President's Message

**ROBB  
SEIBLY**

*Our mission is to promote the education and earned benefits of all retirees of Kern County, advocate the safeguarding and continuation of Kern County retiree pension and health benefits, provide avenues of support and information for Kern County retirees and beneficiaries, ensure proper and necessary representation on the Kern County Board of Retirement, and participate as an integral contributor in our Kern County communities' quality of life.*

Welcome back Retirees! Welcome back to the land of "Out & About," "Luncheons," and "Fellowshipping." We had a great time at our General Luncheon Meeting in September with 88 members (and friends) at Hodel's and missed the rest of you who decided not to come. Of course, our next Luncheon meetings will be even better because you now know we are up and running again and (we hope) you will come back for retiree information and a great lunch with friends. More information on the upcoming Luncheons is in the rest of this newsletter.

We, the Board, hope you have had a memorable and safe summer and are ready for cooler weather with the Fall season. More things seem to be happening now, more businesses are opening back up, we are starting to go places, seeing more people (mask and no mask), families are traveling, parks are filling up, ball games are back. I see car shows opening, the Veterans Day Parade is back (in November on Veterans Day), shopping has picked up, and more people/families are eating out. We still want to be careful about our health and enjoy our freedom where possible and safe.

Your REOKC Board of Directors and our dedicated retiree volunteers continue to conduct normal business meetings and monitor related legislation, legal updates, and mission issues as noted above. We are also networking with statewide and national retiree associations, communicating with this publication (The TREND) and working closely with KCERA.

As I stated in the last TREND, for the safety and comfort of all, it is your choice if you want to wear a mask or not wear a mask to our luncheons. We want all who attend the meetings to feel comfortable and enjoy the opportunity to be together again.

Since everything seems to be going in so many directions, and staying positive is such a challenge these days, making it through each day is a challenge for all of us. I received a story in an email the other day that seemed worth sharing:

"I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit, and his ancient one-ton truck refused to start. While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands. When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss. Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier. 'Oh, that's my trouble tree,' he replied 'I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the home with my wife and children. So, I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again. Funny thing is, (he smiled,) when I come out in the morning to pick them up again, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.'"

(President's Message concluded on Page 2)



## KCERA Retirement Board

By

Phil Franey, KCERA Retiree Trustee

*“A retirement system board’s duty to the system’s participants and their beneficiaries shall take precedence over any other duty” (Section 17(b) of Article XVI of the California Constitution).*

I hope everyone will have an enjoyable holiday season with family and friends. So, I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Now to some retirement business.

The September and October KCERA Board meetings approved the consent agenda items (routine and noncontroversial items); discussion and appropriate action: legislative matters; Grand Jury Report; Cortex Governance Report; Governance Consulting finalist interview and selection; KCERA’s voting delegation for the State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS) Fall Conference and appoint Nominating Committee for selection of the KCERA Board 2022 Chair and Vice-Chair for 2022.

The KCERA Board, as fiduciary, is responsible for ensuring effective governance practices in KCERA’s operations. The Board has been advised in the development and monitoring of the governance process for more than 20 years by Cortex Consulting. At the Board’s direction, the Administrative Committee is to assist the Board in KCERA’s governance oversight. The duties of the Administrative Committee are set forth by the Board with the guidance of the governance consultant. During the October meeting, Cortex presented the KCERA Governance Report for the period ending June 30, 2021.

Unfortunately, Cortex is no longer continuing their governance consulting services. The Board directed staff to request proposals from governance consultants. During the October meeting, the Administrative Committee presented governance consultants to the Board for interview and selection. The consultants being presented provided the Board with an opportunity to select a consultant for advice in promoting operational integrity and efficiency.

During the August KCERA Board meeting the Verus

presentation included the fund balance and investment performance (net of fees) for the period ending June 30, 2021, as follows:

Total Assets -	\$5,375,460,223
1 Year –	23.9%
3 Years –	10.3%
5 Years –	9.8%
10 Years –	7.6%

As of June 30, 2020, the actuarial assumption rate was stated at 7.25% (expected long-term investment return) and current funding ratio of 64.4% (% of fund assets available to pay liabilities).

More detailed information and reporting with supporting documentation may be obtained from the KCERA website at [www.kcera.org](http://www.kcera.org). All members are encouraged to hear virtual Retirement Board Meetings on the second Wednesday of each month.

***Behind the cloud the sun is still shining.***

- Abraham Lincoln

### **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE concluded from Page 1**

Life may not be the party we would like it to be, but we don’t have to take away the happiness others may have found. We all need a friend and the opportunity to help one another. It has been over a year and a half since we enjoyed our monthly luncheons, being able to mix and mingle with old and new friends, and now we have the opportunity to bring this back. Let’s look to the value of being together and sharing our memories, let’s put this last year of everyone hiding from everyone and not getting out and around behind us and come together again to visit and see old and new friends. Let’s enjoy being back together again safely. Hope to see you all in November and December.

Have a Wonderful, Healthy and Safe Thanksgiving and Holiday Season (Christmas and whatever holidays you celebrate). Hope to see you at the Veterans Day Parade.

**Happy Holidays**





## PAYROLL DEDUCTION FORM

To sign up for (or stop) payroll deduction, check the box(es) below, complete the form, and submit it to REOKC.

- REOKC Luncheon Payment**  
By checking this box, I authorize KCERA to deduct \$6.00 per month from my pension benefit as an additional elective payment to REOKC. This deduction shall begin with my next pension payment.

*(Sign up for the luncheon payroll deduction and save \$1.00 per meal!)*

- REOKC Membership Dues**  
By checking this box, I authorize KCERA to deduct \$2.00 per month from my pension benefit as dues for my REOKC membership and to pay that organization. This deduction shall begin with my next pension payment. I understand my authorization and REOKC membership are voluntary and may be revoked by me, in writing, at any time.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Dept. from which retired \_\_\_\_\_

Full Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Clip out completed form and send to:

REOKC / PO Box 2592 / Bakersfield, CA / 93303

### STOP DEDUCTION(S)

- Check box to stop your deduction for the luncheon.
- Check box to stop your deduction for REOKC membership dues.



**"WELCOME!"**  
**NEW MEMBERS OF THE**  
**RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF**  
**KERN COUNTY**

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & RECO:** Donald J. Hallgren

**BENEFICIARY:** Darryl R. Ebel; Alexis Lukehart

**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Paul M. Gonzalez

**PROBATION:** David B. Keene

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Deborah Procell

**S. J. Valley APCD:** Richard Edgehill; Jan Rothenfluh

**SHERIFF:** Brian Germanetti

***REOKC wishes all Kern County  
retirees  
a long and happy retirement!***

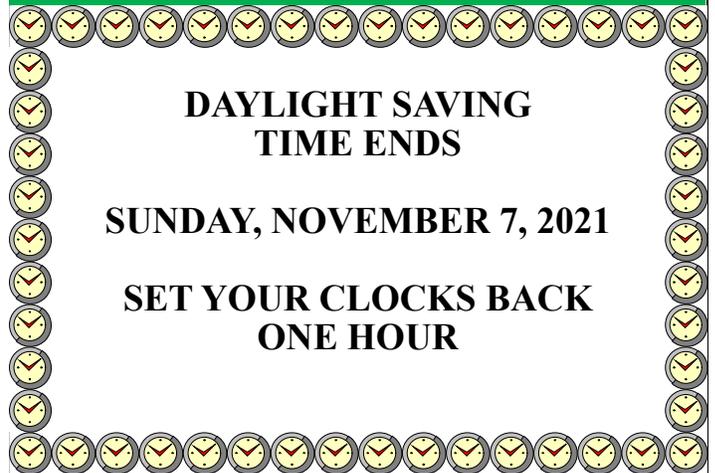
## **DO YOU HAVE INTERNET ACCESS?**

### **TREND EMAIL LIST CONTINUES TO GROW!**

Thanks to all of you who signed up for membership on the TREND Email list. We are now saving over **\$6,000.00 per year!!**

As you can see, we have finally recalculated the savings amount due to our TREND email recipients and we are pleased to announce the amount above! Keep those savings coming folks!!

*To receive the TREND newsletter electronically:*  
Send an email to **mlbennett36@sbcglobal.net** with your name, current mailing address and your email address. (**Subject: TREND mailing list**).



**DAYLIGHT SAVING  
TIME ENDS**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021**

**SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK  
ONE HOUR**

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE NOTICE**

**If you know of any of our members  
who could  
use a get-well or sympathy card,  
please contact**

**JOSIE DE LA TORRE at  
(661) 348-4222**

**Thank you!**

**TRAVEL TIPS**

Cruising is Back!!!! As a general rule most of the Cruise Lines will require you to be 100% vaccinated and within 48 hours of embarking on the ship you must have a negative Covid-19 test. Each line and country that is visited is different. Right now is a great time to cruise as the capacity of the ship is between 40% to 75%. Children under the age of 11 are not allowed as they cannot get the vaccination. I have been on 2 cruises in the last 2 months and had a wonderful time! No long lines and loud disruptions!

If you are flying to another country or even just here in the US please check to make sure what requirements are needed to fly. This is more true if you are connecting in another country other than your final destination. You do not want to be denied boarding because you did not complete all of the requirements that are needed to travel.

Check your passports to see if you need to renew them or even wish to get a new one. Processing time on passports is 4 to 6 months. You don't need to wait till your passport expires to renew.

I have 2 Zoom Meetings coming up to find out about cruises. The first one is with Regent Seven Seas on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The second one is with Princess Cruise Lines in December 2021. If you wish to sit in on these meetings just email me and I can send you the links.

Alaska cruise for 10 days out of SFO will start up again for Summer of 2022 & 2023. Now is the time to book to get the best located cabins and rates!!!

Mexico & Caribbean cruises are also booking for 2022 & 2023.

If you have any questions please call me so I can help with your vacation!!!!

**Julie Salazar– Garcia (661) 324-6910  
cruiseport@sbcglobal.net**

The Cruise Port, 1800 Oak St., Suite D, Bakersfield, CA

**Change of Address Form**

If your address has changed, in order to receive the TREND newsletter and other important notices from REOKC, you must complete this form and send it to REOKC, PO Box 2592, Bakersfield, CA 93303:

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

NEW Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

OLD Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**REOKC USEFUL CONTACTS**

**KCERA Administration 661-381-7700  
www.kcera.org**

- Retirement Check
- Withholding Forms
- Beneficiary Change
- Address Change (& REOKC) \*
- Retirement Board Meetings

**Retiree Health Benefits 661-868-3182**

- County – Health Insurance Div.

**Pacific Group Agencies, Inc.**

- Supplemental Insurance Plans  
Available at Discounted Rates  
**1-800-511-9065**

**REOKC Other Related Services**

- **TREND Editor**
- **Membership**
- **Address/Email Change \***
- **Scholarship Program**

Mary Lou Bennett 661-871-5270  
[mlbennett36@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlbennett36@sbcglobal.net)

- **Sunshine (Cards of Expression)**  
Josie De La Torre 661-348-4222

**KCERA Board Retiree Member**

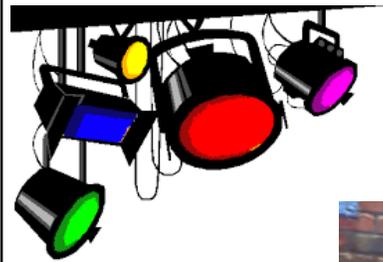
- Phil Franey –  
franeyp@bak.rr.com
- Alternate—Robb Seibly -  
seiblyrl@gmail.com

**Kern County District Attorney's Office**

- **Elder Abuse: 661 868-2400**

**Kern County Aging & Adult Services**

- **661 868-1000**



**REOKC  
BOARD  
MEMBER  
SPOTLIGHT**

**NANCY  
WARNICK**

**Director**



According to Nancy, she had the best job in the world when she was hired as a computer programmer in the Data Processing Department (later renamed ITS) of Kern County in 1974. The department at that time was located in the basement at 1415 Truxtun Avenue and she was the only female for some time, loving the job and all the kind and considerate people with whom she worked, including those in other County Departments.

After working for the County for 34 years, Nancy retired as a Senior Systems Analyst in 2009 and became a member of REOKC and 1st Vice President on the Board of Directors in 2011. She has continued to be very active on the Board, serving as a Director, and as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. For many years she volunteered for the Host/Hostess program at the Kern County Administrative Center and now attends many of the CRCEA (California Retired County Employees Association) Conferences, keeping up with current and future retiree issues throughout California.

So, how did Nancy get her start at this great life? She was born at Kern General Hospital (now KMC) and was raised with her brother in Wasco where her parents lived. She graduated from Bakersfield College and then received her BS at California State Bakersfield.

During her younger years, Nancy worked at a dry cleaners shop in Wasco, she wrote computer programs at Cal State and for Roberts Farms in McFarland. After she went to work for Kern County, she and her husband started their family in 1979, ending up with two boys and one girl. She has no grandchildren as yet but she is always more than willing to share the pictures of her two dogs and two cats.

Travel has always been one thing Nancy truly enjoys, not only in the United States but to other countries as well. When her children were in Junior and High School she brought travel to them by having Exchange Students, live with them, from foreign countries like South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Slovakia and many others.

Nancy has always been very active in her church, teaching Bible classes. She also has been in Bible Study Fellowship for 17 years and worked on a Web Page for the church. Friends of the Library is also an organization that is fortunate to have Nancy as a member, helping with their book sales.

REOKC is also very fortunate to have Nancy as a Board member, working to maintain the quality of life for all Kern County retirees and beneficiaries. Thanks, Nancy, for all you do!

**THOUGHTS TO PONDER**

- ~ If the directions for finding a place include the words, "You can't miss it" - you probably will.
- ~ Enthusiasm is like premium gasoline - it helps take the knocks out of living.
- ~ If you look like your driver's license photo, then you're probably too sick to drive.
- ~ You can never do a kindness too soon, because you never know how soon it will be too late.

**Reminder:** The surviving spouse of a retired Kern County Employee is eligible for REOKC membership. Just complete the Payroll Deduction Form on Page 4 and mail to:

**REOKC, PO Box 2592, Bakersfield, CA 93303**

**NOTICE:** All views and opinions expressed in the TREND are solely the representation of each writer. REOKC's only intention is to fairly inform our membership. The information presented in the TREND is believed to be from reliable sources. REOKC does not sell or disclose information about our members to third parties.



**STRATA  
CREDIT  
UNION**  
WISHES  
YOU AND  
YOURS  
HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS  
**AND A**  
HAPPY,  
HEALTHY  
NEW  
YEAR!

**STRATA**  
CREDIT UNION

[www.stratacu.org](http://www.stratacu.org)  
661.327.9461

KERN COUNTY BANKS WITH STRATA CREDIT UNION

**Retired Employees of Kern County  
P.O. Box 2592  
Bakersfield, CA 93303**

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**November & December 2021  
Time Dated Material**

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

**REOKC LUNCHEONS AT HODEL'S  
5917 KNUDSEN DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021**

**KERN ROOM (old meeting room)**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021**

**LIBERTY HALL (building north end of parking lot)**

**Members without payroll luncheon deductions will pay at the door each month.**

**REOKC members and their spouses \$7.00 each  
Guests \$10.00**

**Doors will be open at 10:45 a.m.                      Lunches served at 11:30 a.m.**

**(Payments requiring no change will be greatly appreciated)**