



# T R E N D

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

Volume MMXXII-IV

**July & August 2022**

[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.*

### **\*\* 2 Years Ago, in the May/June 2020 TREND,**

**I wrote this:** These are strange times. I understand that at no time in the good old USA have we been required to stop almost everything and go hide in our homes from this enemy called COVID-19..... In order to keep from being exposed to this terrible virus schools are being closed, many businesses are closing, people are losing their jobs, parts of the city and state are closing down and we....

### **\*\* Last Year, in the July/August 2021 TREND,**

**I wrote this:** **Where is the Good News?** Maybe it is that most of us are doing well, so far, and there is still a light at the end of the tunnel, we just don't know how long it will be before we get to that light. With that in mind, I would like to share with all of our 5000+ members, some information I received about staying healthy and surviving this virus...

### **\*\* So now, a few years later (July/August 2022), I can write this:**

We have made it to the light at the end of the tunnel. Organizations have opened, and we can go out to dinner and travel in safety as well as shop and visit as before. We still have to stay safe from viruses, like colds and such, but we are now out and about. Masks have just about

gone by the wayside. The decision to wear or not wear a mask should not keep us from getting out.

So with that in mind, your Board of Directors has moved ahead with our General/Luncheon Meetings at Hodel's. Attendance has been going strong (around 160+) with more attending each month. It's good to get out of the house and enjoy friends once again. We continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month (doors open at 10:45 and lunch starts at 11:30). We have some very interesting speakers in-line for future luncheons that should be of interest to most seniors. We're planning some special entertainment for the July luncheon, and look forward to getting our numbers closer to 200 for that meeting. It seems there will always be issues out there that will try to slow us down, but we can't stop living our lives because of a cold or virus.

Probably one of the most important things for a senior, especially a retired senior (that's us), is to have interaction with other people. It is always good to be with friends and associates that we've known for some period of time. This keeps our lives active and enjoyable. For what is life without friends, family, or associates with whom we mix and mingle? So let us find time on our calendar the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month to come together and enjoy meeting with old friends or making new friends. Let us get together and enjoy a few laughs and smiles. So don't close yourself up and hide in the closet. Come out and enjoy an afternoon with friends and have an excellent lunch while receiving some good information. We protect ourselves and our sanity by being with those we love and appreciate.

**Have a Wonderful, Healthy and Safe July & August. Happy Independence Day on July 4th! (God Bless America).**



## 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 had an enjoyable Memorial Day. I also wish everyone a safe July 4<sup>th</sup> with family and friends. Currently, we are now experiencing less onerous health measures because of COVID 19. Although, Covid and some variants are increasing in some areas as we continue to follow official medical advice. Again, we encourage everyone to use proper safety protocol to minimize pandemic health risks. KCERA also is using the Zoom Meeting platform and other measures in conducting safe Board and Committee Meetings.

The KCERA Board approved the KCERA 2022-23 budget presentation by Dominic Brown, Executive Director. The \$8.6 million budget provides services for more than 20,000 members and over \$5.4 billion in assets. The largest budget category of staffing is 71% of the total proposed budget. For 2022-23, staffing required \$6.1 million that is \$936,089 more than last year’s approved budget of \$5.2 million. The salary and benefits needed for a staff of 41 employees from the 39 of last year. The Finance Committee recommended approval of a revised 2022-23 budget to the KCERA Board for the June meeting.

The 2022-23 Budget document included a revised organizational chart to reflect another reorganization phase of staffing and operations. With a more focused approach, energy of the Executive Director Dominic Brown and his management team, the leadership continues to accomplish more with the support of the KCERA Board. Chief Investment Officer Daryn Miller is working with investment staff and KCERA Investment Consultant Verus in developing revisions to our investment program.

The May and June KCERA Board meetings approved the consent agenda items (routine and non-controversial items); heard presentations for trustee education; heard presentation and approved 1st Quarter Hedge Fund Portfolio Review ending March

31, 2022 by Alborne America LLC; heard staff presentation and approved 2022-23 Budget; and heard presentation and approved 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Investment Performance Review ending March 31, 2022 by Verus Investment Consultant.

During the KCERA Board meeting the Verus presentation included the fund balance and investment performance (net of fees) for the period ending March 31, 2022 as follows:

Total Assets - \$5,484,522,465 and the following returns net of fees:

- 1 Year – 8.9%
- 3 Years – 10.7%
- 5 Years – 8.7%
- 10 Years – 7.7%

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 and/or view Retirement Board Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on August 10 since July will be dark.

***“This country has come to feel the same when Congress is in session as when the baby gets hold of a hammer.”***

***- Will Rogers***

### **QUOTES by WILL ROGERS**

- ~ Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
- ~ There are two theories to arguing with a woman, neither works.
- ~ Never miss a good chance to shut up.
- ~ Never slap a man who’s chewing tobacco.
- ~ If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.

**WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER  
OUR DECEASED REOKC MEMBERS:**

- Robert Aguilar—Sheriff
- Cecil Blackwood—General Services
- David Chalupa—Employers’ Training Resource
- Jimmy Chapman—Fire
- Teresa Coburn—Kern Health System
- Carol Cox—Human Services
- Jean Crabtree—Beneficiary
- Leo Cuevas—Probation
- Steven Fambrough—Probation
- Mary Frey—Sheriff
- Fred Garrison—Sheriff
- James Glaser—Fire
- Randall Goins—General Services
- Phyllis Gray—Beneficiary
- Virginia Huesby—Planning & Comm. Devl.
- Margaret Julkowski—District Attorney
- Dixie Kemp—Human Services
- Karl Liechty—Info. Tech. Services
- Raymond Lomas—Kern Medical Center
- John Ocain—Parks & Recreation
- Larry Oneal—Parks & Recreation
- Joe Orman—Sheriff
- Mary Propps—Human Services
- Elia Quintero—Kern Medical Center
- Charles Randall—Sheriff
- Sarah Razo—Beneficiary
- Joyce Reyes—Human Services
- Wilma Rowles—Beneficiary
- Gerald Sherwood—Parks & Recreation
- Rosemary Speight—District Attorney
- Dickie Stark—Construction Services
- Richard Stitt—Sheriff
- Edward Terman—Parks & Recreation
- Mary Turner—Library
- Leonard Warner—Human Services
- Darrin Wedeking—Sheriff

*“A Life well-lived leaves behind  
a beautiful bouquet of  
memories.”*

**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).**

**THE SENILITY PRAYER**

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

**UPCOMING REOKC PROGRAMS**

**July 12, 2022:**

Our entertainment will be music by Tom & Santos on the keyboards.

**August 9, 2022:** Susan Pinza from the Bakersfield College will be presenting information on the Levan Institute for Lifelong Learning.

**LUNCHEON MENU  
AT HODEL'S**



**July**

- Deep Pit Pork
- Fried Chicken
- Ranch Beans
- Buttered Corn

**August**

- Hand Carved Tri-tip
- BBQ Chicken
- Mashed Potatoes/Beef Gravy
- Vegetable Medley

- 5 Different Salads
- 3 Different Desserts

Coffee, Tea & Water  
will be on each table



## 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**

**AGING & ADULT SERVICES:** Leslee Joseph

**ASSESSOR:** Rebecca Gibbons

**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Roy T. Sekine

**COUNTY COUNSEL:** Jerri Bradley

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Brenda Lopez

**HUMAN SERVICES:** Susan Casterline; Debra Davis; Sherry Kelly

**K. C. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY:** Ida Gandara; Brenda Reed

**LIBRARY:** Sherry Wade

**PROBATION:** Jon McGowan

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Nicole Bailey

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

### THOUGHTS TO PONDER

~ Some folks are always looking for the bright side. Others roll up their sleeves and polish the dull side.

~ Expecting the best never improves your chances of getting what you want, but it'll make waiting for it much more pleasant.

~ An error is like a leak in the roof of your house - the amount of damage it can do depends on how fast you fix it.

~ A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, and a little less than his share of the credit.

~ The best things in life are free. It's the worst things that are so expensive.

~ Admit you're all wrong when you're all wrong and you'll be all right.

**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**

**NO COVID TEST REQUIRED TO RETURN  
BACK TO USA**

**UNUSUAL CRUISES ON THE WEST COAST!!!  
PRINCESS, ROYAL CARIBBEAN &  
CELEBRITY CRUISE LINES**

7 Night Baja Peninsula & Sea of Cortez, Mexico Cruise Roundtrip from San Diego, CA **Nov. 13 - 20, 2022** Diamond Princess - Balcony cabin from \$1289 per person based on double occupancy - Loreto; La Paz and Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

20 Night Central America & Mexican Riviera Cruise **Nov. 27 - Dec. 17, 2022** Diamond Princess - Balcony Cabin from \$3766 per person based on double occupancy - Roundtrip from San Diego, CA - San Diego, CA; Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Huatulco, Mexico; San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua; Puntarenas, Costa Rica; Fuerte Amador, Panama (for Panama City; Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala; La Paz, Mexico; Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; San Diego

8 Night Pacific Coastal Cruise - Celebrity Cruise Line Solstice **Sept. 16 - 24, 2022** - Balcony Rate from \$1414.75 per person, one way airfare additional from LAX to Vancouver - Victoria, British Columbia; Astoria, Oregon; San Francisco, CA; Santa Barbara, CA; Catalina Island, CA; Los Angeles, CA

Royal Caribbean Cruise Line Serenade of the Seas **Sept. 25 - Oct. 1, 2022** - Balcony cabin from \$1315.17 per person based on double occupancy. Airfare one-way from LAX to Vancouver additional - Victoria, British Columbia; Astoria, Oregon; San Francisco, CA; Catalina Island, CA

**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](mailto:franeyp@bak.rr.com)
- Alternate—Robb Seibly -  
[seiblyrl@gmail.com](mailto:seiblyrl@gmail.com)

**Kern County District Attorney’s Office**

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

**Kern County Aging & Adult Services**

- **661 868-1000**



## REOKC WEBSITE

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

**By Tony Rizos,  
REOKC Webmaster**

While the general purpose of the Retired Employees of Kern County (REOKC) organization is to preserve the benefits earned by and promote the general welfare of all retired employees of Kern County and their beneficiaries, REOKC also strives to keep its' members informed. It does this primarily through this bimonthly TREND newsletter, monthly luncheons, and the REOKC.ORG website. You are familiar with the TREND and maybe the luncheons but maybe not so much with the website. Hopefully, this article will help.

The website can be easily reached by using the link [www.reokc.org](http://www.reokc.org) with your favorite browser.

The homepage will welcome you and tell you a little information on what REOKC is about. The homepage is where you will find the latest News & Information with appropriate links. You will also find information on the monthly meetings and luncheons.

The bottom of the homepage provides quick links to other topic locations on the website. You will also find contact information for REOKC along with an email link, [contactus@reokc.org](mailto:contactus@reokc.org), if you need to email us. This email address is monitored and will result in a response. This area is carried forth at the bottom of each page on the site.

If you are uncertain of where to find topics for which you are looking, each page on the website has the same drop-down menu at the top under the banner. In addition to a link to the home page, you will find drop downs for topic areas that include Who We Are, Membership Benefits, Governance, News & Alerts, Resources, and Affiliates.

The Who We Are page includes how to join REOKC along with a printable enrollment form. It also lists the volunteers who keep the organization running smoothly.

The Membership Benefits page explains what retired Kern County employees can expect by joining REOKC and what their \$2 monthly membership fee provides. This includes insurance plans and an active scholarship program.

The Governance page explains how the organization is run along with a link to the latest Directory and Bylaws handout. This includes the list of officers, directors, and

volunteers with their contact information. The bylaws will tell you all about REOKC, its Mission Statement, and how it is governed.

News & Alerts is where you will find a link to the latest TREND newsletter in addition to a link to archived newsletters going back 14 years. If you are looking for information on the Supplemental Retirement Benefits Reserve (SRBR), you will find links here to related documents going back to 2010.

The Resources tab will take you to links related to organizations and resources important to retirees. This includes retirement information, supplemental insurance benefits, credit reporting agencies, and national and state fraud reporting hotlines.

The Affiliates tab takes you to our important affiliates that actively support REOKC by providing services and products that make the lives of REOKC members better. This includes The Cruise Port for your travel needs, Pacific Group Agencies (PGA) for supplemental insurance products, and Strata Credit Union for your banking needs.

As you can see, and in case you haven't visited the website before, it has a lot to offer our members in the way of information that may come in handy to make retirement and being an REOKC member better. Enjoy!

### HOW BAD IS INFLATION?

- ~ CEO's are now playing miniature golf.
- ~ Called to get Blue Book Value on my car. They asked if the gas tank was full or empty.
- ~ A picture is now only worth 200 words.
- ~ Parents in Beverly Hills fired their nannies and learned their children's names.

**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.**



# A LOAN FOR ANY REASON

With our personal loan and credit lines you can fund a vacation, consolidate debt, pay for a major purchase or manage unanticipated bills.

**STRATA**  
CREDIT UNION

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

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

**PRSRT-STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BAKERSFIELD, CA  
PERMIT NO. 349**

**July & August 2022  
Time Dated Material**

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

**REOKC LUNCHEONS AT HODEL'S**

**5917 KNUDSEN DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD**

**TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2022**

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

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022**

**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)**