



# T R E N D

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

Volume MMXVIII-II

March & April 2018

www.reokc.org

John De Mario, President

M. L. Bennett, Editor (mlbennett36@sbcglobal.net)



## President's Message

### JOHN DE MARIO

*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.*

Well, it is late February 2018; this article will be published in the March-April 2018 TREND, and by this time you have more than likely broken all the New Year's resolutions that you made. I too have also broken my New Year's resolution although it is always the same one, to lose weight and exercise more. I make the same resolution each year, and each year I break the resolution, and inevitably gain an additional 10 pounds. So I have decided to not make a New Year's resolution this coming year in hopes that I will lose 10 pounds. OK, so it may not work, but what have I got to lose, I probably would gain the weight anyway.

Now for some good news, the KCERA Finance Committee has recommended a new benefit called SRBR Tier 4 that would start on July 1, 2018. The benefit would be \$21.00 per month for all current KCERA members. That means that all retirees would be paid the \$21.00 in their July 31 payment, while all active members would be entitled to the payment when they retire. They also proposed raising the purchasing power from 80% to 82% on the same date. This benefit has only been recommended by the Finance Committee to the full KCERA Board, it should be heard at the March 2018 regular Board meeting. We will keep you informed.

More good news, the KCERA Board approved a 2.5% COLA increase for 2018, and the payment will start with your payment on April 30, 2018. Unlike the COLA over the past few years where the amount varied by year of retirement, this year the 2.5% applies to all retirees re-

gardless of retirement date.

Now for the bad news, or less good news, REOKC was only partially able to convince the KCERA Finance Committee to recommend a higher dollar amount for SRBR Tier 4. The actuarial study indicated that SRBR 4 could pay \$30.00 to each member, but the Committee decided, over the objection of REOKC, to recommend only \$21.00 per member and set the remainder in reserve. This was very disheartening because it means that for each \$1.00 of benefits granted there is \$1.38 in assets to pay that benefit. It is the REOKC position that 138% is an unrealistic collateral reserve, the KCERA policy states that 120% collateral reserve is adequate and KCERA only requires 110% collateral on its own stock lending program. REOKC will be asking, in the near future, that KCERA increase the SRBR 4 allocation by \$9.00 a month to bring the reserve into alignment with reality and what the real world does on a day to day bases.

REOKC has spent the last three years dragging and kicking the Finance Committee to do what the state statues direct them to do, and now we are only a few weeks away from the finish line. The full Board of Retirement is up next; let us hope that they will do their fiduciary duty and approve the Finance Committee recommendation.

One last thing, I want to thank all of you for your support for the last three years, and to those of you that actually came to the many Board meetings, you have my personal thanks. I know, when over 100 retirees showed up at their Board meeting last year, they were very impressed; that number of retirees showing for a hearing at 8:30 am is a sight to behold.

As most of you know, REOKC moved its monthly meeting/luncheon to Hodel's Country Dining this year. We booked the 2nd Tuesday of each month for 2018 with the exception of March which had been previously booked by Hodel's to others. Therefore, our March meeting/luncheon will be held on March 20, 2018, with the remainder of the year back on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. January and February's meeting/luncheons were both well attended with approximately 200 members at each one.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE MARCH MEETING/LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 20, 2018 STARTING AT 11:30 AM.**



## 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).***

As to KCERA business, Dominic Brown (acting KCERA Executive Director) continues to work with the KCERA Board (Board) in developing an interim program for staffing and operations. The Board continues to review operational and investment functions while considering possible changes to the current administration. During the February Board Meeting and in Executive Session (nonpublic), the Board interviewed candidates for Executive Director and possibly will announce the selection before or at the March KCERA Board Meeting.

During the 2017 August Financial Committee Meeting, Segal Consulting (KCERA Actuary) presented a proposed Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR) benefit improvement. This was the result of another of many REOKC requests to the Board to allocate available SRBR funds from a reserve balance exceeding 200%. As a reminder and concerning the Board’s fiduciary responsibility, the Board majority has failed for more than 15 years to act according to law in authorizing a reasonable allocation of available SRBR funds to retired and beneficiary members. After many Finance Committee Meetings on this matter of exploring various program enhancements for distribution of available unallocated SRBR funds, the Committee has finally approved a recommendation to the KCERA Board. The Committee’s recommendation conflicts with the recommendation presented by John De Mario (REOKC President) for a more reasonable benefit. John’s recommendation during this same meeting was with unanimous support from the REOKC Board of Directors. We expect this matter to be presented and acted on during the Board March Meeting.

During the February Board meeting Verus (Investment Consultant) presentation included the fund balance and investment performance (net of fees) for the period ending December 31, 2017 as follows:

Total Assets - \$4,159,887,840  
1 Year – 13.7% (returns net of fees)  
3 Years - 6.8%  
5 Years - 7.6%  
10 Years – 4.3%

As of June 30, 2017, the assumption rate is 7.25% (expected long-term return) and funding ratio is 63.2% (% of fund assets available to pay liabilities). As of January 31, 2018, the KCERA membership was 17,280; active - 8,857; retirees and beneficiaries - 7,077 (REOKC’s membership is more than 5,000 of those members); and deferred and reciprocal - 1,346.

More good news for you: a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) as of April 1st will be seen on your retirement check at the end of April. According to Segal Consulting the COLA amount is based upon a comparison with the annual average CPI (Consumer Price Index) for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County Area (with 1982-84 as the base period) in each of the past two years. Our COLA is limited to a maximum of 2.0% pursuant to Section 318760 of the 1937 Act. However, the maximum COLA is increased by an additional 0.5% (to 2.5%) based upon the "Ventura Settlement" and funded through the Supplement Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR). Due to fluctuation of CPI over the years and dependent upon when you retired, your COLA may be affected. If you have not been able to build up a reserve in your COLA account, there may not be enough to bring your COLA adjustment up to the maximum of 2.5% when the CPI adjustment falls below the maximum COLA allowance. Although, this year the following COLA rate of 2.5% will be applied to all retirees and beneficiaries. As always, direct all question concerning the COLA to KCERA Administration.

Pensions & Investments, The International Magazine of Money Management, listed the largest retirement funds in the United States as of September 30, 2017 with KCERA ranked as number 458 out of the top 1,000.

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

## DO YOU HAVE INTERNET ACCESS?

### TREND EMAIL LIST CONTINUES TO GROW!

Thanks to all of you who have signed up for membership in the TREND Email list. We are almost up to saving **\$3,475.00 per year** and that's not chump change!

We need to keep this "trend" going. :)  
So, if you have internet access, please email Mary Lou Bennett to sign up and help our budget.

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



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME  
BEGINS  
MARCH 11, 2018  
(SET CLOCKS AHEAD ONE  
HOUR)**

### AGING

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

### TRAVEL TIPS

**Thursday, May 17, 2018: King Tut Exhibit**, Cost is \$100—includes roundtrip bus fare, entrance, IMAX Movie and lunch

**Tuesday, March 13th & April 17th: Chukchansi Casino** Bus 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. \$10.00 Includes roundtrip bus & \$10.00 cash & \$5.00 food voucher

**Laughlin Bus Trip:** Nov. 9 - 12, 2018 - \$165 per person based on double occupancy

**15 Day Panama Canal:** December 7 - 22, 2018—\$3125 per person for Balcony Cabin based on double occupancy

Single travelers who don't want to pay the single traveler supplement and are looking for a travel partner, contact Julie at The Cruise Port.

Call **Julie** at **The Cruise Port**, (661 324-6910) with any questions or to make reservations for your travel plans.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 14 KCERA Board Meeting:**  
Investment/Regular Board 8:30 am  
KCERA Office, 11125 River Run Blvd., Bakersfield

**March 20 REOKC Board Meeting 9:30 am**  
**Hodel's, Carriage Room, 5917 Knudsen Dr.**

**March 20 REOKC Lunch 11:30 am—noon**  
General Meeting 12:00 noon  
**Hodel's, Kern Room, 5917 Knudsen Dr.**

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**April 10 REOKC Board Meeting 9:30 am**  
**Hodel's, Carriage Room, 5917 Knudsen Dr.**

**April 10 REOKC Lunch 11:30 am—noon**  
General Meeting 12:00 noon  
**Hodel's, Kern Room, 5917 Knudsen Dr.**

**April 11 KCERA Board Meeting:**  
Investment/Regular Board 8:30 am  
KCERA Office, 11125 River Run Blvd., Bakersfield

### UPCOMING REOKC PROGRAMS

#### March 20 2018:

Our speaker will be a representative from the Aging and Adult Services Department

#### April 10, 2018:

**Attorney Kevin Danley** with Young Wooldridge will be speaking on Estate Planning

## LUNCHEON MENU AT HODEL'S



Selections:

- 1 Beef Entrée
- 1 Chicken Entrée
- 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 \$4.00 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) \_\_\_\_\_  
 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:** J. Mark Johnson
- ASSESSOR:** Jackie W. Nisbett
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:** Pamela Goodchild; Carol Shertzer; Kenneth S. Willoughby; Elizabeth A. Wilson
- BOARD OF TRADE:** Kathy White
- CHILD SUPPORT:** Robert E. Ballew; Laura Fester; Princess McFadden; Lori Norris; Jay C. Smith; Sylvia Wells
- CORRECTIONAL MEDICINE:** Marion Molhook
- COUNTY COUNSEL:** Madelyn Nickerson
- COURTS:** Linda Harris; Evelyn Wilson
- DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Rachel V. Garcia; John Quinlen; Julie L. Suarez
- EMPLOYERS' TRG. RESOURCE:** Sharon Baldwin
- ENVIR. HEALTH SERVICE:** William O'Rullian
- FARM & HOME ADVISOR:** Ute Fritz
- FIRE:** Deborah Baird; Guy Finocchiaro; Tim J. Holliday; William Sandborg III
- GENERAL SERVICES:** Carleen Hull; Nancy Rodriguez
- HEALTH—PROMO:** Steve Flores
- HUMAN SERVICES:** David L. Alesso; Matthew Bohn; Rebecca Bustamante; Delia P. Carrasco; Richard Castillo; Consuelo Chairez; Donnel C. Craib; Frank Davis; Epifania De La Rosa; Maria Espinosa-Chavez; Cheryl Lawyer; Janie Pena; Ernesto Reyes Jr.; Edward Taylor
- K.C. WATER AGENCY:** Mary Lou Cotton
- KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS:** Fredric Zeller
- KERN MEDICAL:** Jeffrey Hill; Paula Ludwick; Yolanda Minear; Rosario Ortiz; Gloria Pacciorini; Lisa Poindexter; Julieta S. Rodriguez
- LIBRARY:** Beth Baker; Gloria Washington
- MENTAL HEALTH:** Carol Bowman; Kelly Krueger; Micheline Lee; Anita Sinco-Kerchner; Robin Starzman; Kristin Wheelan
- PARKS & RECREAT.:** Dona Foster; George Vasquez
- PROBATION:** Cheryl Harris
- PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Gina M. Mattson Calvillo
- PUBLIC HEALTH:** Ann Black; Paula Darr; Cecilia Reza
- PUBLIC TRANSIT ENT. FUND:** Linda Wilbanks
- PUBLIC WORKS:** Denise R. Haynes
- RISK MANAGEMENT:** Alice Hurd
- ROADS:** Dan C. Gough; Judy Iribarren

(continued on Page 5)

**NEW MEMBERS OF THE RETIRED  
EMPLOYEES OF KERN COUNTY—continued**

**SHERIFF:** James Allen; Steven Amick; Cheryl L. Bray;  
Curtis Cornelison; Ralph Dransoff; Donald P. Glennon Jr.;  
Isabel V. Gonzalez; Helen Hernandez; David Messerly;  
Monica Provencio; John Romero, Jr.; Andres Villasenor

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Debra Matheney

**TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR:** Ihab Abdelmalek

**SMILES**



**CONGRESS AND  
GERTRUDE**

**By Walter Stewart**

This conglomeration is purloined from Mark Twain, Will Rogers, Milton Berle and others:

Do you wonder what Congressmen do for a living? Congressmen don't pass the buck, they keep it. Congress is the only native American criminal. We have the best Congress money can buy. When you vote for a Congressman you only encourage him. Congressmen love to adjourn and go home. If I was a Congressman I'd be afraid to go home. When a Congressman agrees with you he'll lie about other things too. Congressmen are like diapers, they should be changed often and for the same reason.

Enough about Congressmen, let's talk about Gertrude. I don't know why Gertrude's husband married her, she brought her boyfriend to the wedding. Her first baby was born in the hospital. She pored over her dictionary looking for a name. The nurse told her, "We have a book that lists hundreds of baby names." Gertrude said, "I'm looking for a last name." Then she started to compile an index for her dictionary. By the time her kid was six years old he was doing bird impressions - he ate worms.

Gertrude hopes her grown son gets married and moves out before he gets a divorce and moves back home. When Gertrude received a letter from her grown son in the Army telling her he'd grown another foot, she knitted him another sock.

Thanks Mark Twain, Will Rogers, Milton Berle and others!

**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.

**REOKC Endorsed Insurance and Other Supplemental Benefits**

- Pacific Group Agencies, Inc.  
1-800-817-8838  
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)

• **Luncheon Reservations**

Brenda Preston 661-204-4386

• **Sunshine (Cards of Expression)**

Josie De La Torre 661-348-4222

**KCERA Board Retiree Member**

- Phil Franey –  
franeyp@bak.rr.com
- Alternate—John Mattly  
jmattly@bak.rr.com

**Kern County District Attorney's Office**

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



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

- Theresa Aud—Fire
- Earl Bray—Sheriff
- Geneva Davis—Roads
- Thea Dorman—General Services
- Shirley Earley—Kern Medical
- Barbara Gardiner—Public Defender
- Sharon Green—Probation
- Lawrence Hamilton—Sheriff
- Roy Harrington—Probation
- Paulanna Hodges—County Admin. Office
- Michael Horne—Fire
- Richard E. Hosey—Sheriff
- Deborah Howlett—Child Support
- Gordon Hunnicutt—General Services
- Dan Kimm—K. C. Water Agency
- Aaron Lackey—Parks & Recreation
- Monique Lantz—Sheriff
- Andrea Lynch—Human Services
- Richard Lynch—Library
- Letha Marlatt—Public Health
- Carolyn Nason—Court Support
- Andrew Negrete—Airports - Ent. Fund
- Marie G. Nelson—Kern Medical
- Daisy Noldon—Kern Medical
- Don Ott—Sheriff
- Coral Roberts—Probation
- Edward Shilleto—Human Services
- Donald Sipe—Sheriff
- Claudette Smith—Risk Management
- Willie Wilson—Human Services
- Shirla Wright—Superior Court
- Herman Young—West Side Mosquito

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

*Author unknown*

**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!

**REOKC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**We are now accepting Applications  
for the 2018 Scholarship Awards for  
Graduating High School Seniors**



Two scholarship awards of \$1,000 each will be presented at our August 2018 luncheon/meeting.

Relatives (children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews) of **REOKC MEMBERS** are eligible to apply.

Scholarship application forms, instructions and relevant information are all available on our website:

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



Applications and required documents must be submitted no later than April 15, 2018

**THOUGHTS TO TREASURE**

- “Yesterday’s errors are today’s power.”
- “Kindness is loving people more than they deserve.”
- “Gratitude is the most exquisite form of courtesy.”
- “Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change.”
- “Beauty is being in harmony with what you are.”
- “Keep calm and think positively.”

*Authors unknown*

**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.



# New Online Banking

You're going to

# LOVE it!

In March you'll experience a new, modern online banking design that's faster and easier to use than ever before. Redesigned with YOU in mind.

We need you to  
Update Your Personal Information  
today to ensure you have the best online  
banking experience possible!

If you have any questions about the upgrade,  
please call us at (661) 327-9461



**KERN**  
Federal Credit Union

The logo for Kern Federal Credit Union features the word "KERN" in a large, white, serif font with a horizontal line underneath. Above the letter "N" is a stylized graphic of a mountain range with a sun rising behind it. Below "KERN" is the text "Federal Credit Union" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

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

**PRSRT-STD  
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**Mar. & Apr. 2018  
Time Dated Material**

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

**March Luncheon Reservation**

**March 20, 2018**—11:30, **Hodel's, Kern Room, 5917 Knudsen Dr., 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 **REOKC, PO Box 40801, Bakersfield, CA 93384-0801**. Deadline for reservations is the Wednesday prior to the luncheon (03/14/18). Phone reservations are not accepted. You may cancel your reservations by calling Brenda Preston at (661) 204-4386 or Mary Thorp at (661) 832-5578 prior to the deadline. Cancellations after the deadline cannot be refunded.

Member's name(\$5.00)\_\_\_\_\_ Spouse(\$5.00)\_\_\_\_\_  
Member's Phone No. (required) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest (\$8.00)\_\_\_\_\_ Total tickets\_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**April Luncheon Reservation**

**April 10, 2018**—11:30, **Hodel's, Kern Room, 5917 Knudsen Dr., 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 **REOKC, PO Box 40801, Bakersfield, CA 93384-0801**. Deadline for reservations is the Wednesday prior to the luncheon (04/04/18). Phone reservations are not accepted. You may cancel your reservations by calling Brenda Preston at (661) 204-4386 or Mary Thorp at (661) 832-5578 prior to the deadline. Cancellations after the deadline cannot be refunded.

Member's name (\$5.00)\_\_\_\_\_ Spouse (\$5.00)\_\_\_\_\_  
Member's Phone No. (required)\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest (\$8.00)\_\_\_\_\_ Total tickets\_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_