



T R E N D

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

Volume MMXXI-V

September & October 2021

www.reokc.org

Robert Seibly, President

M. L. Bennett, Editor (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.

CELEBRATE, CELEBRATE, DANCE

TO THE MUSIC !!!

It's about time! It looks like we will have our General Luncheon Meetings back in September. As they say: "We're Getting The Band Back Together!" "The Gang Is Back!" "Our Friends Are Coming Back!" ...

If all goes well, we will start-up our monthly **General Luncheon Meetings** in September and continue monthly thereafter.



Information on the meetings (dates, location, times) is noted on the last page of this Newsletter.

It's been too long without the opportunity to be together with old friends.

For the safety and comfort of all, it is your choice if you want to wear a mask or not wear a mask. We want all who attend the meetings to feel comfortable and enjoy the opportunity to be together again. We should have some new retirees with us and after about a year and a half, it will be great to be together again. If you need more information, there will be email addresses and phone numbers on the next few pages.

Have a Wonderful and Safe September and October; hope to see you all at the meeting!

**FOR LATEST INFORMATION, PLEASE
CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT
www.reokc.org**



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 July 4th and as you approach the Labor Day weekend with family and friends, please be safe. Unfortunately, we are still experiencing the Coronavirus disease serious health risk. Regardless, the business of KCERA must continue in safeguarding the benefits of our many members. This article will be discussing the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR) Tier 3 revisions and other August Board Meeting agenda items.

The actuary has determined that there are 62 members entitled to an increase in their SRBR Tier 3 benefits starting on July 1, 2021. SRBR Tier 3 is a benefit that maintains 82% purchasing power protection. Mostly, members retired in the 1960s, 70s and 80s; possibly new beneficiaries of such members who elected 100% continuation may be entitled to this benefit; and new beneficiaries of deceased members who elected the temporary annuity option. Any questions concerning SRBR Tier 3 need to be directed to KCERA administration.

During the August meeting, staff requested that the Board refer to the Finance Committee the SRBR policy revisions including applicable benefits. SRBR was established pursuant to Article 5.5 of the County Employees’ Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL). The SRBR funds are to be used solely for the benefit of KCERA’s members (both active and retired) and their beneficiaries and paid only upon retirement of the member. The purpose of this policy is to set forth by the KCERA (Board) as an overall strategy regarding management of the SRBR. This is a working document and may be modified as the Board deems necessary.

During the August KCERA Board meeting, the Board approved the consent agenda items (routine and noncontroversial items); heard and approved presentations for: 2nd Quarter Investment Performance Review for the period ending June 30, 2021, by Verus; Hedge Investments by Alborne America LLC; and Actuarial SRBR Policy by staff.

Also 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 (Net of Fees)

- 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. All members are encouraged to hear virtual Retirement Board Meetings on the second Wednesday of each month.

What happens is not as important as how you react to what happens.

~ Ellen Glasgow

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

- ~ It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.
- ~ Procrastination is the fault most people put off correcting.
- ~ We don’t get ulcers from what we eat, but from what is eating us.
- ~ You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself.
- ~ Unfortunately, common sense is not nearly common enough.
- ~ The only ones you should try to get even with are those who have helped you.
- ~ People who know how to laugh at themselves, will never cease to be amused.

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**

ASSESSOR: John W. Dial

HUMAN SERVICES: Joy Lynn Johnson

PROBATION: Lavelle O. Campbell

SHERIFF: Sheryl Harris

SUPERIOR COURT: Cindy Bowden

***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).**

QUOTES

"By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher."

~ Socrates

"I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury."

~ Groucho Marx

"Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you."

~ Winston Churchill

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

Royal Caribbean Cruise Line Cruises

Every Balcony Cabin will get a Specialty dining for two. Junior suite & above will get a Specialty dining for two plus one spa Treatment.

**SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE - EXPLORER
OF THE SEAS - 7 Nights, November 7 - 14, 2021**

Roundtrip San Juan - Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Maarten, St. Lucia, Barbados & St. Kitts.
Balcony Cabin \$951.18 per person plus airfare.

**CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR IN STYLE!
MEXICAN RIVIERA CRUISE - NAVIGATOR OF
THE SEAS**

7 Nights, Dec. 31, 2021 - Jan. 7, 2022

Roundtrip Los Angeles - Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlán & Puerto Vallarta.
Balcony Cabin \$1,454.25 per person, cruise only.

**Special invitation to 2 Cruise Nights. Reservations
required. Call 661 324-6910**

Who: Royal Caribbean Cruise Line with Wine & Appetizers.

When: Thursday, September 23, 2021.

Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Place: Dorner Family Vineyard, 19274 Old Ranch Rd, Tehachapi, CA 93561

Who: Viking River Cruises with Wine & Appetizers

When: Thursday, October 21, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 PM

Place: Dorner Family Vineyard, 19274 Old Ranch Rd, Tehachapi, CA 93561

**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

- **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 AWARDS TWELVE (12)
\$2,000
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2021!**

This year REOKC is very proud to announce the awarding of twelve \$2,000 scholarships; one to each of the following graduating seniors:



Addison Blinn will be attending Dordt University in Iowa

REOKC members:
Steve Groves and Marilyn Phillips

Isabella Caputo will be attending Bakersfield College
REOKC member: Larry Shearer



Jordan Clarke will be attending San Diego State University

REOKC members:
Charlotte & Kenneth Clarke



Nicholas Patrick Davis will be attending Loyola Marymount in California

REOKC member: Irene Robles



Kaleb Dickey will be attending USC

REOKC member:
Judy Walker



Addison Eckard will be attending The University of Iowa

REOKC member: Mary Bolinger



Derek Garner will be attending Dyersburg Community College in Tennessee

REOKC Member: Dorothy Anderson



Macie James will be attending Texas State

REOKC member: Ronald James



Jackson Meadors will be attending Colorado School of Mines

REOKC members:
Mike Meadors and Earl Smith



Harris (Darcie) Shugart will be attending Cal Poly

REOKC member: Abbe Shugart



Russell Sprague will be attending Cal Poly

REOKC member: Jack Russell



Megan Wegis will be attending UC Santa Cruz

REOKC member:
Frank Moody



REOKC's sincere congratulations go out to all these students. We certainly wish them all the best in their endeavors to achieve their goals and hope this small contribution will be helpful in that effort!

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.



SAVE
MONEY
ON THE
CAR
YOU'RE
ALREADY
DRIVING!
LET US
DROP YOUR
RATE BY 2%

STRATA
CREDIT UNION

www.stratacu.org
661.327.9461

Applicants who: 1) have financed an auto at another lender within the last 12 months, 2) have no late payments on that loan, and 3) are currently employed (verification required), are prequalified to refinance their auto loan with Strata Credit Union at a rate equal to 2.0% below their current APR, subject to a minimum APR of 2.99%*. Original loan term will not be extended. Applicants with auto loans at another lender originated more than 12 months ago may also be eligible for refinance subject to credit approval. Offer does not apply to existing Strata auto loans. Offer is available 9/7/2021 through 11/24/2021, subject to availability. Strata Credit Union membership and a share savings account with a minimum deposit of \$5 is required. Federally insured by NCUA.

*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of 2.99% includes a .25% discount for automatic payments from a Strata checking account. If automatic payments are canceled, the interest rate will increase by .25% with a corresponding increase in the payment. For a \$10,000.00 auto loan for a term of 60 months with a 2.99% APR, the monthly payment will be \$179.64. Without the automatic payment discount the interest rate is 3.24% APR and the monthly payment will be \$180.76.

KERN COUNTY BANKS WITH STRATA CREDIT UNION

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

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

**September & October 2021
Time Dated Material**

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

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

LIBERTY HALL (building north end of parking lot)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021

KERN ROOM (old meeting room)

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

(Payroll deductions will start again with pension checks at the end of September.)

**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.