



T R E N D

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

Volume MMXXII-II

March & April 2022

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.

Welcome back Retirees, now into March (and April) we are experiencing some warmer weather and greener pastures. We have endured another year of COVID-19 and hope to get back to living life and being with friends. I don't want to write about COVID, we get enough of that already, so let's look at what is coming up and what to get involved in and celebrate. Our lunch meetings have been a big success and we are having 130 to 140 members attending. It is good being back with old friends and making new ones. So, let's look at what is coming up in the next two months (don't forget to adjust your calendars).

March: 1 Mardi Gras, 2 Read Across America Day/Ash Wednesday, 4 Employee Appreciation Day, 6 Professional Pet Sitters Week, 8 REOKC Monthly Luncheon Meeting, 13 Daylight Saving Time Begins, 17 St. Patrick's Day, 20 First Day of Spring, 23 National Puppy Day, & the Month of March is Poison Prevention Awareness Month.

April: 10 Palm Sunday/National Dog Bite Prevention Week/Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week, 12 REOKC Monthly Luncheon Meeting, 15 Good Friday/ Passover Begins at Sunset/ Tax Day, 17 Easter/ Animal Cruelty Awareness Week/ National Volunteer Week, 22 Earth Day, 27 Administrative Professionals Day, 29 Arbor Day, 30 Adopt A Shelter Pet Day/World Veterinary Day.

There seems to be many things happening on the calendar, now adding our to-do-items, this could be a busy two months. So, enjoy yourself, stay safe, stay active, make a new friend, touch a life, and see you at our March and April REOKC Luncheons.

Too often we underestimate the power of:

A touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear,

an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring,

all of which have the power to turn a life around.

Hope to see you at the next REOKC Luncheon!

QUOTES

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

~ Abraham Lincoln

"May your walls know joy, may every room hold laughter, and every window open to great possibility."

~ Mary Anne Radmacher



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).

Good news!! A Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) as of April 1, 2022 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-Long Beach-Anaheim 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 31870 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 fluctuations 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 for those in retirement prior to April 1, 2022. As always, direct all questions concerning the COLA to KCERA Administration.

During the January and February KCERA Meetings the Board approved consent agenda items (routine and noncontroversial items); heard and approved presentations: Private Market Review; 4th Quarter December 31, 2021 Investment Performance Report; 4th Quarter December 31, 2021 Hedge Program and the External Audit Services. The Board also heard various staff administrative reports.

During the February Board meeting Verus (Investment Consultant) presentation included the fund balance and investment performance (net of fees) for the period ended December 31, 2021 as follows:

Total Assets - \$5,557,439,932
1 Year - 13.7%
3 Years - 13.5%
5 Years - 9.8%
10 Years - 8.0%

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 may be obtained from the KCERA website at www.kcera.org. All members are encouraged to attend Retirement Board Meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on March 11, 2022.

“Never argue with stupid people, they will drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience.”

- Mark Twain

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

- ~ Happiness is not doing what you like, but liking what you do.
- ~ Remember when a hard drive was a long trip and not a computer part?
- ~ The one thing that is okay to swallow that won't result in indigestion is your pride.
- ~ The thing to try when all else fails, is again.
- ~ The smallest good deed is greater than the greatest good intention.
- ~ Food prices are getting so high that one supermarket is putting in a recovery room.

MARCH 13, 2022

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Set clocks ahead one hour

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**

AIRPORTS-ENT FUND: Ruth B. Whisler

ASSESSOR: Janettee Huling

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & RECO: Carolyn M. Anderson; Kathleen Maloney

BENEFICIARY: Patricia Ashburn; Larry Bartlett; Doris Bondurant; Frances Ewald; Rod Radney; Lois Roach; James Ryals; Brenda Sharp; JoAnn St. Louis; Linda Wright

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Stephanie Medunic-Brewster; Brett Sakamoto; Hendrina Wielenga

COUNTY COUNSEL: Kayleen Ungar

COURT SUPPORT: Peter Warmerdam

DEVELOPMENT SERV. AGENT.: Steven Ewing

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Susan Dietz; Barry Klein; Pamela Quillen

GENERAL SERVICES: Vickey Barrett; Larry Swan

HEALTH DEPT: Portia Choi; Lisa Sterner

HUMAN SERVICES: Janice Ellison; Elizabeth

Gearhart; Beatrice Hancher; Barbara J. Jones; Carolyn Lowe; Lonna Mackeprang; Wayne Mount; Ashley Reyes

INFO TECH SERVICES: Jacquelyn Ambrose

K.C. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY: Graciano Amezola; Dina Carrera; Bessielisa Casanova; Lethia Massey; Ana Morales; Carmen Morales-Board

K. C. WATER AGENCY: Brent Walthall

KERN MEDICAL CENTER: Robin Bowe; Kathleen D. Kearney; Lydia Moynagh; Linda Villalobos

KERN MOSQUITO & VEC. CON.: Sherry Sharp

LIBRARY: Katherine Ross

PROBATION: Alfred Cervantes III; Crystin Finch

PUBLIC WORKS: Gregory Fenton; Paula Mande

RISK MANAGEMENT: Rachel Field

ROADS: David Morrison

S. J. VALLEY APCD: Kari Liljebblad; Sam Parks; Hilary Swartz; Karen Tani

SHERIFF: Robert Allen Jr.; Darrel Brooks; Eve Byrd; Shelly Castaneda; Charles Cowell; Owen Forbes; Mark King; Scotty Miller; Marcie Shannon; Kimberly Vandoorn

SOLID WASTE ENT. FUND: Angela Briggs

SUPERIOR COURT: Armando Espinosa, Jr.

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

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

Ireland & Scotland Tours & Cruises

CELTIC HIGHLIGHTS ESCORTED BUS TOUR JULY 24 - AUGUST 6, 2022 - includes hotels, tour guide, daily full English breakfast & 6 three course dinners. \$ 3,619 per person, plus airfare & travel insurance Glasgow (Scotland), Fort William, Inverness, Culloden, Blair Atholl, Edinburgh, Gretna Green, Grasmere, Liverpool (United Kingdom), North Wales, Dublin (Ireland), Kildare, Cashel, Blarney, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Adare, Limerick, Cliffs of Moher, Galway, Sligo, Derry, Northern Ireland Giant's Causeway, Belfast, Glasgow (Scotland).

OCEANIA CRUISE LINE – IRELAND IMMERSION JULY 3 - 13, 2022 - CONCIERGE LEVEL, VERANDA CABIN \$ 6,999 per person, includes economy roundtrip airfare from LAX Dublin (Ireland), Waterford (Ireland), Bristol (United Kingdom), Cork (Ringaskiddy – Ireland), Bantry (Ireland), Galway (Ireland), Killybegs (Ireland), Belfast (Ireland), Douglas (United Kingdom), Liverpool (United Kingdom), Dublin (Ireland).

PRINCESS CRUISE LINE - 16 DAY RING OF KERRY CRUISE & LAND TOUR SEPTEMBER 2 – 18, 2022 EMERALD PRINCESS - CLUB CLASS MINI SUITE \$6,561.38 per person, plus airfare Tour 3A. Limerick, Ireland to Southampton (London), United Kingdom. Land first (4 days), followed by cruise (12 days). LAND DESTINATIONS: Limerick, Ireland | Killarney, Ireland | Cork, Ireland | Southampton 9 PORTS: Southampton (London), United Kingdom | Portland, United Kingdom | Guernsey (St. Peter Port) | Cork, Ireland (Cobh - For Blarney Castle) | Dublin (Dun Laoghaire), Ireland | Belfast, Northern Ireland | Glasgow (Greenock), Scotland | Invergordon, Scotland | Edinburg (South Queensferry), Scotland | Paris/Normandy (Le Havre), France | Southampton (London), United Kingdom.

**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

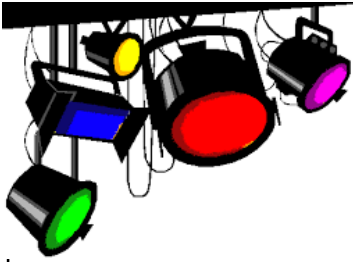
- Phil Franey –
franeyp@bak.rr.com
- Alternate—Robb Seibly -
seiblyrl@gmail.com

Kern County District Attorney's Office

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

Kern County Aging & Adult Services

- **661 868-1000**



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR REOKC BOARD



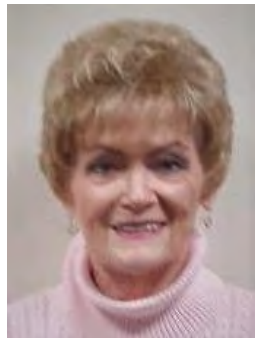
Robb Seibly
President
KCERA Board Alternate
Retiree Member



Barbara Goodlow
1st Vice President



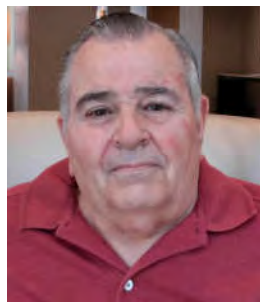
Ginger Mello
Secretary
CRCEA Delegate



Mary Lou Bennett
Treasurer
TREND Editor



Alan Annis
Director



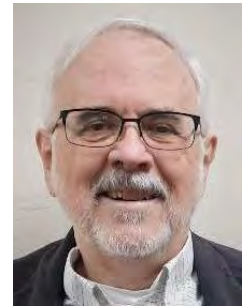
John De Mario
Director
Past President



Phil Franey
Director
KCERA Board Retiree Member



Brenda Preston
Director



Tony Rizos
Director
Webmaster



Nancy Warnick
Director

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!!**

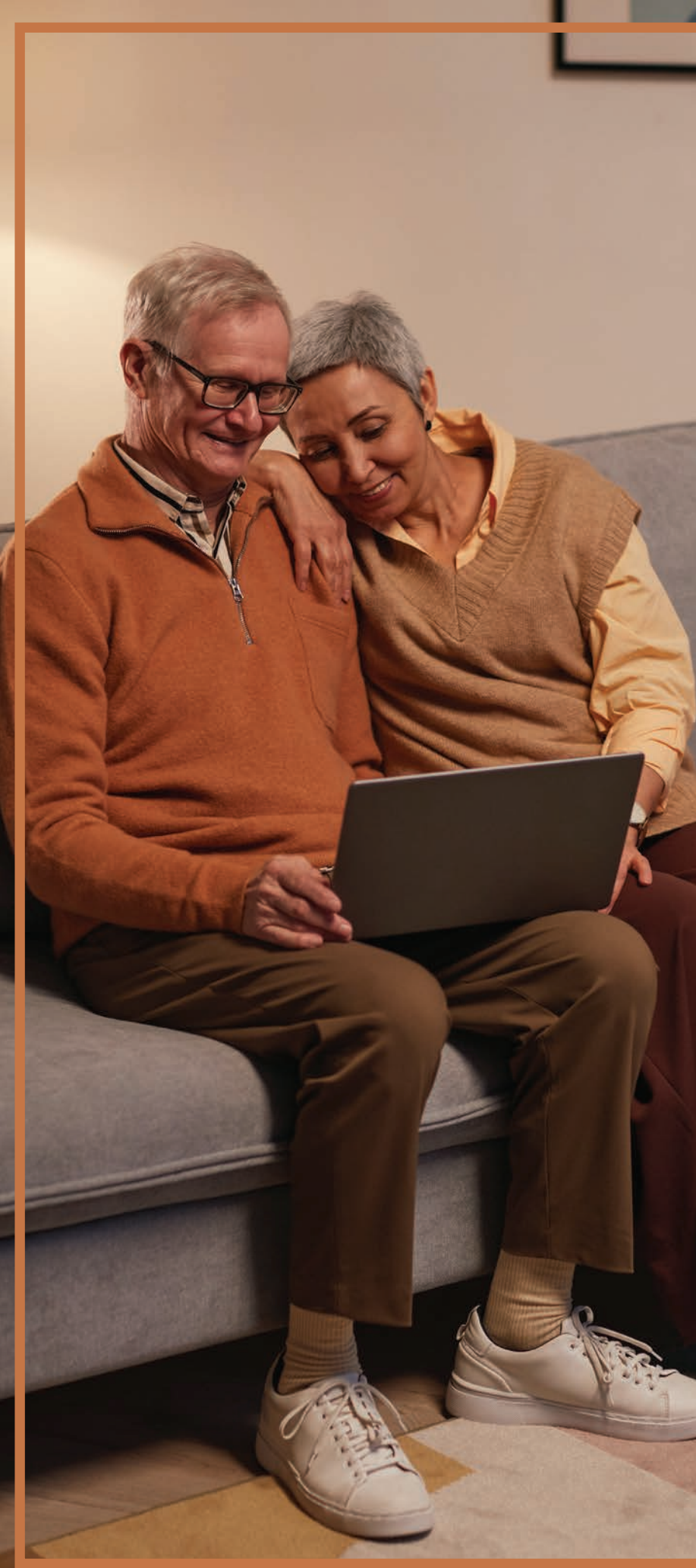
As you can see, we have finally recalculated the savings amount due to our TREND email recipients and we are pleased to announce the amount above! Keep those savings coming folks!!

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).**

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.



OUR NEWEST BRANCH IS JUST A CLICK AWAY!

Strata Credit Union is proud to announce our **ONLINE VIRTUAL BRANCH**. Everything you can do in a branch, you can do with our Virtual Branch

To learn more or video chat with our expert staff go to www.stratacu.org

STRATA
CREDIT UNION

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**

**PRSRT-STD
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**March & April 2022
Time Dated Material**

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

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022

LIBERTY HALL (building north end of parking lot)

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 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)