



T R E N D

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

Volume MMXXII-V

September & October 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.

A year ago, in September, we started our General Meetings up again.

They have been very successful, and we are now up to about 165 members attending. Our attendance should be back up to 185-200 by December. So, knowing that, please set your calendar for YOUR 'REOKC' luncheon meetings the second Tuesday of each month, doors opening at 10:45 am with the meeting starting at 11:30. Remember to come early so that you and your friends can get the seats you want and spend some time socializing.

As I stated a year ago, it looks like we will have our General Luncheon Meetings back in September. As they say: "Were Getting the Band Back Together!" "The Gang Is Back!" "Our Friends Are Coming Back!" ...

During our July luncheon, we enjoyed the music of Tom and Santos. For our August luncheon, we had some very special guests: six of the scholarship recipients for this year along with some of their family

members. Being able to meet the recipients, present their awards and congratulate them in person was a great experience for everyone at the luncheon. The remaining six scholarship recipients, many of whom live in other states, will receive their awards by mail.

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 will have some new retirees with us, we always do, and after about a year or so it is great to be together again. If you need more information, there will be email addresses and phone numbers on the next few pages.

NOW, some words of wisdom:

"Old age comes at a bad time... you finally know everything, just in time to forget it."

"Life never seems to be just the way we want it. But we live it the best way we can. There is no perfect life. But we can fill it with perfect moments!" (Come to the luncheon)

"I see people around my age mountain climbing, and zip lining, and here I am feeling good about myself because I got my leg through my underwear without losing my balance."

"The older you get the more you realize you have no desire for drama, conflict, or stress. You just want a cozy home, food on the table, **and to be surrounded by kind people who make you happy.**" (Come to the luncheon)

For some it's been too long without the opportunity to be together with old friends.

Have a Wonderful and Safe September and October, hope to see you all at the luncheons!



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 will be safe. Unfortunately, we are still experiencing the Coronavirus disease serious health risk. Although 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) revisions and other August Board Meeting agenda items.

The actuary has determined that there are 108 members entitled to an increase in their SRBR Tier 3 benefits starting on July 1, 2022. SRBR Tier 3 is a benefit that maintains 82% purchasing power protection. Past members, who retired in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, beneficiaries of such members who elected 100% continuation may be entitled to this benefit. This may have included 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 2021 August meeting the 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 Policy purpose is to set forth an overall strategy regarding management of the SRBR. This is a working document and may be modified as the Board deems necessary.

During the past year of work by staff and KCERA Actuary, there had been meetings with the Finance Committee to present a more equitable and responsible restructuring of SRBR benefit distribution to eligible retiree members. Details of the proposed SRBR

Policy restructuring are on the KCERA website under the August Finance Committee Agenda. The Finance Committee unanimously voted to recommend the proposed SRBR benefit restructuring for KCERA Board approval at the September Board meeting.

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, 2022, by Verus; Hedge Investments by Alborne America LLC; and Actuarial SRBR Policy by staff.

During the August KCERA Board meeting, Verus (KCERA’s Investment Consultant) presentation included the fund balance and investment performance (net of fees) for the period ending June 30, 2022, as follows:

Total Assets - \$5,046,342,206 (Net of Fees)

- 1 Year – - 4.5%
- 3 Years – 6.8%
- 5 Years – 6.5%
- 10 Years – 7.1%

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.

“Laws are spider webs through which the big flies pass and the little ones get caught.”

— Honore de Balzac

SIGN IN A SHOE REPAIR STORE IN VAN COUVER READS:

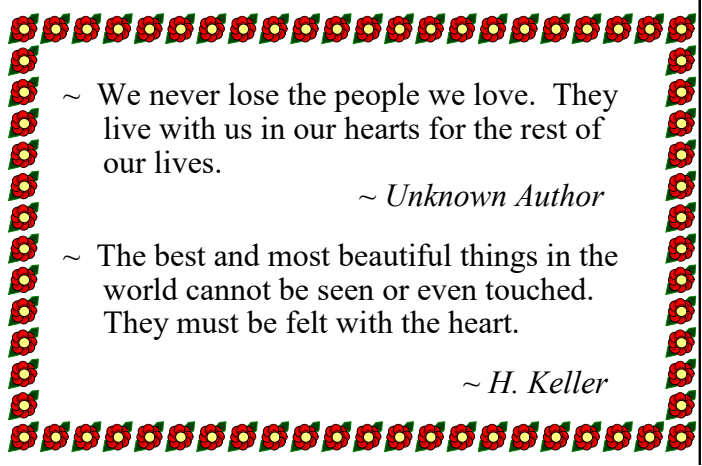
We will heel you.
We will save your sole.
We will even dye for you.



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

- Lydia Alaniz—General Services
- Shirley Alaniz—Public Health
- Linda Beller—Child Support
- Sandra Boxley—Kern Medical Center
- Karen Dunkel-Davis—Kern Medical Center
- Donald Faulkenberry—Probation
- Patricia Hamlet—Human Services
- Terry Hollowell—Beneficiary
- Barbara Kleier—Beneficiary
- Shirley Longacre—Kern Medical Center
- Albert Lyons—Behavioral Health & Reco
- Pamela Mays—Risk Management
- Barry Potter—Garage
- Ronald Pryor—General Services
- Jewell (Julie) Salley—KCERA
- Elaine Slater—Kern Medical Center
- Bob Smith—Risk Management
- Carol Stinson—Sheriff
- Dorothy Terry—Sheriff
- David Trunkey—Fire
- Lurine Webb—Human Services

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



- ~ We never lose the people we love. They live with us in our hearts for the rest of our lives.
~ Unknown Author
- ~ The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.
~ H. Keller

DO YOU HAVE INTERNET ACCESS?

TREND EMAIL LIST CONTINUES TO GROW!

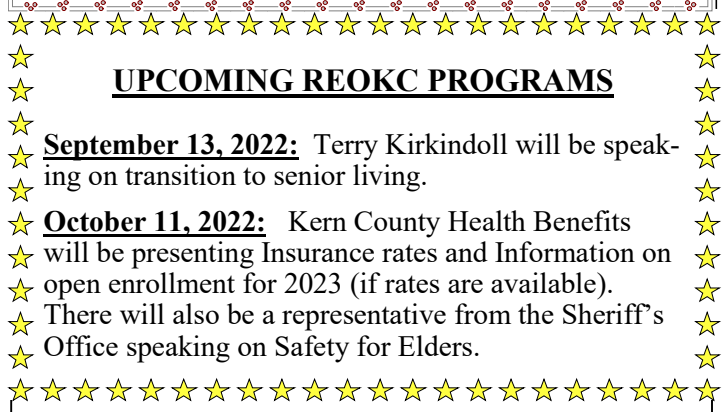
Thanks to all of you who signed up for membership on the TREND Email list. We are now saving over **\$6,000.00 per year!!**

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).

SMILE

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.



UPCOMING REOKC PROGRAMS

- ★ **September 13, 2022:** Terry Kirkindoll will be speaking on transition to senior living.
- ★ **October 11, 2022:** Kern County Health Benefits will be presenting Insurance rates and Information on open enrollment for 2023 (if rates are available).
- ★ There will also be a representative from the Sheriff's Office speaking on Safety for Elders.

**LUNCHEON MENU
AT HODEL'S**



- September**
- Burgundy Sirloin Beef Tips
 - Buttered Egg Noodles
 - Fried Chicken
 - Steamed Vegetables

- October**
- Sliced Tri-tip in Au Jus
 - Basque Marinated Chicken
 - Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
 - Green Beans

- 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

BENEFICIARY: Irma Becherer; Tamera Easterday; Erin Wedeking

FIRE: Wendy Benson

GENERAL SERVICES: Sonia Fieber

K. C. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY: Rowena Blakely

KERN MEDICAL CENTER: Gail Probert-Thomas

SHERIFF: Dennis Hall

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



<u>September 5, 2022</u>	Labor Day
<u>September 11, 2022</u>	Patriot Day and Grandparents Day
<u>September 14, 2022</u>	KCERA Board of Retirement Meeting
<u>October 10, 2022</u>	Columbus Day (observed)
<u>October 12, 2022</u>	KCERA Board of Retirement Meeting
<u>October 31, 2022</u>	Halloween

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

~ Many times a politician's most interesting point is the point of departure.

~ Too many people these days have diarrhea of words and a constipation of ideas.

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

PRINCESS CRUISE LINE CRUISES

15 day Hawaii cruise March 2 - 17, 2023. Balcony cabin rate is \$3628 per person. Rate includes port charges, taxes, Beverage Package, Crew appreciation and Wi-Fi 1 device per person. Additional would be travel insurance.

Itinerary is Los Angeles, Honolulu, Kauai, Maui, Hilo and Ensenada, MX.

11 Day Alaska cruise out of San Francisco:

June 23 - July 4, 2023. Balcony cabin rate is \$2914 per person. Rate includes port charges, taxes, Beverage Package, Crew appreciation and Wi-Fi 1 device per person. Additional would be travel insurance and airfare.

Itinerary is Vancouver Canada, Icy Strait Point, Juneau, Hubbard Glacier (scenic cruising), Haines, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria Canada, Vancouver, Canada.

14 Day Cruise Europe –Mediterranean Odyssey:

Sept. 2 - 16, 2023. Balcony cabin \$3925 per person. Rate includes port charges, taxes, Beverage Package, Crew appreciation and Wi-Fi 1 device per person. Additional would be travel insurance and airfare.

Itinerary is Athens Greece, Santorini, Kotor Montenegro, Sicily (Messina) Italy, Naples, Italy (for Capri and Pompeii), Gibraltar, Marseille, (Provence) France, Florence/Pisa (Livorno) Italy and Rome (Civitavecchia) Italy.

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**



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small enough to
give members the
attention they
deserve.

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**September & October 2022
Time Dated Material**

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

REOKC LUNCHEONS AT HODEL'S

5917 KNUDSEN DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

LIBERTY HALL (building north end of parking lot)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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)