

At Your SERVICE

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE ORANGE COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM *January 2020*

OCERS 75th Anniversary is a Reason to Celebrate



A lot has changed since OCERS was established on January 1, 1945. The development of television, the internet, personal computers, smart phones and establishment of the International Space Station are among the dramatic developments recorded over the past 75 years.

One thing that has remained constant over those fast-moving 75 years is OCERS' commitment to providing customer service to our members and the employers we serve.

Reaching a 75th anniversary is cause for celebration. The retirement system has evolved to meet the requirements of a changing world while serving more than 45,600 active members and payees. OCERS' members are working hard to serve the residents and visitors here in Orange County. OCERS' staff has an equally strong commitment to be here to assist those who count on us.

With you, we are celebrating 75 years throughout 2020.

If you visit OCERS' website, there are a series of new videos where long-time members reflect on their public service and the importance of OCERS.

And if you come to our office, we now have digital signage showcasing OCERS-centered events, retirement-related information and short videos to make your visit more enjoyable.

OCERS' social media platforms (including Instagram, Twitter and Facebook) will also provide a way to share insights and glimpses celebrating OCERS' rich history.

After all, this anniversary is really a celebration of each and every OCERS member.

Here's to the next 75 years!

Find it online!

Look for the 2020 Cost-of-Living Adjustment announcement in early 2020 on the home page of our website.



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Board of Retirement and Committee Meet-
ings and Agendas can be found online at
ocers.org

This newsletter is intended to provide you with
general information. It does not constitute legal
advice, and OCERS cannot provide legal advice
to members. If there are any discrepancies be-
tween the information in this newsletter and the
law, the law will prevail. Should you have legal
questions, you are advised to consult an attorney.

New Animated Videos

More and more video content is being watched today than ever before. In fact, 85 percent of all internet users in the United States watch online video content monthly on their computers, smart phones and tablets (*Statista*, 2018).



OCERS' staff is aware that people process information differently. An exciting new series of "animated whiteboard videos" are being produced that provide a fun way for OCERS members to learn about their retirement benefits.

The first whiteboard video posted on ocers.org provides an "Introduction to OCERS" for new members. This video is focused on members who are just entering public employment and may be participating in a public pension plan for the first time. While there is a comprehensive Summary Plan Description (SPD) document available on our website, many new members simply need a general overview when they are getting started with an OCERS-covered employer.

To access the animated videos, click on the "Video Library" link located under the Quick Links area on the home page of OCERS' website.

Follow us on



A Huge ‘Thank You’ To Each Of You 2019 Marked by Innovation and Achievements

By Steve Delaney, Chief Executive Officer

On May 22, 2019, OCERS launched its redesigned website, one of many exciting new projects designed to improve our ability to provide information and essential services to members and employers. OCERS’ team recognized the importance of bringing the website up-to-date with current web technology, including the ease of using the new site with a smart phone or tablet. This major achievement was one of many initiatives completed in 2019.

OCERS’ website is also where you can view a growing number of exciting new videos. As part of our 75th Anniversary celebration that is being commemorated throughout 2020, we have been posting profiles of long-time members of the retirement system. I have recently had the opportunity to sit with several members who retired with 50 years of service with the County of Orange, as well as OCERS’ longest-termed member Anne Crosson (who became an OCERS member in 1946, only a year after the system was established!).



We have also been expanding our Video Library to include cutting-edge animated videos that highlight the many features and benefits offered by OCERS (*see page 2 of this issue for more details*). The first of these videos provides a clear and fun-styled introduction to the retirement system for those just coming to work for an OCERS-covered employer here in Orange County. Long-time members will also enjoy the “Introduction to OCERS” animated whiteboard video. I encourage you to visit our new website and view all of these wonderful videos at ocers.org.

This is also an excellent chance to celebrate the success of our Investment portfolio, which is used to pay retirement benefits to our more than 18,000 payees. As of November 30, 2019, our fund had recorded a year-to-date return of 12.4 percent (net of fees) and is at an all-time high of \$17 billion.

On December 5, 2019, I was joined by several members of the Board of Retirement and my executive team to host our annual OCERS Informational Town Hall Meeting at the Orange County Hall of Administration. We had the opportunity to speak before 150 members about topics such as our investment portfolio and what makes up a retirement formula.

Finally, the *At Your Service* newsletter that you are reading now was completely redesigned in late 2019, with the publication designed to mirror the look and feel of our new website. For 75 years, OCERS has served its members and their families, as well as our participating employers. I want to thank the members of the OCERS Board of Retirement and OCERS’ team whose collective efforts truly embody our Mission Statement: “We provide secure retirement and disability benefits with the highest standards of excellence.”



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‘How Much Will I Get When I Retire?’

*W*hen we attend special events such as employer health fairs, one of the most common questions we receive from members is “How much will I get when I retire?”

The good news is there are several quick and easy ways to get an idea about your future retirement allowance. The best way is to use your myOCERS on-line portal account. After logging in, use the Benefits Estimator to get a personalized benefit estimate. You can modify the information on the portal depending on your own retirement-related plans to do custom projections. You can even complete several estimates.



Additionally, you can click on the “Calculate Your Benefit” tile on the home page of OCERS’ website to get a quick estimate. If you have accrued service credits in multiple formulas, you should access the Split Service Calculator to generate a benefit estimate.

If you use the Benefits Calculator, you will need to input your projected age at retirement, years of service credit and Final Average Monthly Salary to complete the estimate.

Did you know?

Tax rates and health care premiums may change annually

▶ **Log into your myOCERS online account to check**

▶ **Adjust your tax withholding if necessary**