

# At Your SERVICE

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE ORANGE COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM *October 2021*

## Use Your myOCERS Account

*M*yOCERS is a secure, self-service portal where active, deferred and retired members can access their personal OCERS account from the privacy and comfort of their own home.

Active and deferred members can get member statements, check beneficiary information, submit a request to purchase service credit and more. Additionally, deferred members can submit a change of address using myOCERS.

Beginning in 2022, the quarterly At Your Service newsletter will no longer be mailed to active and deferred members; it is important to make sure you have registered to use myOCERS so you receive the newsletter electronically via the email you use to sign into your personalized account.

Many members nearing retirement can utilize the customized benefit estimator in myOCERS to obtain an estimate of their future monthly retirement benefit allowance.

Retired members can view their payment history, check and update their beneficiary(ies), see their an-

nual 1099-R form, change tax withholdings, as well as update their address and phone number.

Members who have not yet registered to use their myOCERS account should do so today. Simply go to [www.ocers.org](http://www.ocers.org) and click on the myOCERS link on the upper right corner.



OCERS has also posted an instructional video titled "myOCERS Registration Instructions" that will walk members through the process of registering to use the member self-service portal. Members can access that video at: [www.ocers.org/video-library](http://www.ocers.org/video-library).

Members who have additional questions about myOCERS can call the Member Services Department at (714) 558-6200.

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**Find it online!**

Visit the "Latest News" section of our website for updates on OCERS operations during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.



**Members of the Board of Retirement**

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- Frank Eley, Vice Chair
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- Wayne Lindholm
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and Internal Operations**

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**General Counsel**

Gina Ratto

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Comments and suggestions should be directed to:  
Communication@ocers.org

Board of Retirement and Committee Meetings  
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.

# County of Orange 2022 Retiree Medical Open Enrollment

 Open Enrollment is from Wednesday, October 20, 2021 to Thursday, November 9, 2021. You will be able to make your elections over the phone until 8 p.m. or online until 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time. Elections made during Open Enrollment are effective January 1, 2022. Manage your communication preferences right away, so you get all the important information. Take a moment to verify your settings in your communications preferences on the Benefits Service Center website, [mybenefits.ocgov.com](http://mybenefits.ocgov.com). Your Open Enrollment notification will NOT be mailed to you if you have your preference set for email. Starting Wednesday, October 13, you can start accessing important benefit information on the "Prepare to Make Your Benefit Choices page!" You can go out before the start of Open Enrollment and see what is new, 2022 rates, 2022 Grant (if applicable), short informative videos, and your health plan options. If you have questions or want to make your Open Enrollment election with a representative, contact the Benefits Service Center at 1-833-476-2347. You also have the option to schedule an appointment for a time and date that works best for you. During Open Enrollment, the Benefits Service Center will be available to answer your questions between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. We encourage you to take advantage of the extended hours during Open Enrollment!

If you make elections during Open Enrollment, make sure you carefully review your Confirmation of Benefits (COB). The allowable correction period is Wednesday, November 10 - Friday, November 19, 2021. Make sure you check your email or mailbox for any follow up actions from the Benefits Service Center. If you are eligible for Medicare Part B Reimbursement, please make sure you submit your 2022 proof of Part B payment by December 31, 2021, to the Benefits Service Center. A reminder for you: if you are retired, besides from the County of Orange, please contact your former employer to see if you are eligible for any post-employment medical benefits. Retirees can learn about other supplemental benefits by calling the Retired Employees Association of Orange County (REAOC) at (714) 840-3995 or the labor organization you were affiliated with when employed.

- Update Provided by the County of Orange

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# Five Essential Retirement Preparation Tips

Active and deferred members should consider these steps as they near and think about retirement:

1. Visit [www.ocers.org](http://www.ocers.org) to access myOCERS, the member self-service portal where you can access your personalized account (see page 1 of this edition for more information), use the Benefit Estimator tool and update your beneficiaries if necessary.
2. Use OCERS' website to read your Summary Plan Description (SPD) and watch our instructional videos.
3. Streamline your retirement by mailing OCERS copies of your proof documents. We require a copy of your birth certificate or valid passport, your marriage certificate or Secretary of State Domestic Partnership Certificate (if applicable). These documents are required to fully process your retirement benefit but you can send them to us in advance.
4. Attend a Retirement Seminar; these seminars are generally held twice a month and members can sign up to attend at [www.ocers.org/pre-retirement-sessions](http://www.ocers.org/pre-retirement-sessions). Seminars are currently being held virtually. Additionally, view the presentations from the Social Security Administration (if you plan to utilize Medicare or are eligible for Social Security benefits) or the County of Orange Retiree Medical Program (if applicable).
5. Feel free to call us with any additional questions! Our phone number is 714-558-6200.



## Remittance Advice Notices to Payees

Don't forget to log into your myOCERS account in January to see any changes to your January remittance advice notice (which are the monthly notices that provide proof of payment of your benefit). Typically this is the time that tax tables have been updated and medical premiums have been adjusted. For direct deposit, the benefit payment date will be January 3, 2022. See the full schedule on page 4 of this edition of At Your Service.

## Information Security Is Critical in 2021

OCERS' cybersecurity program leverages industry best practices to help safeguard our members' data. We continue to implement controls to increase our protection against malicious behavior. For more information on how you can protect your personal data, we encourage you to visit the U.S. Government's official website at: [www.ready.gov/cybersecurity](http://www.ready.gov/cybersecurity).





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## OCERS Benefit Payment Schedule for 2022

Payment Month	Payment Day	Benefit Payment Date*
January	Monday	January 3, 2022
February	Tuesday	February 1, 2022
March	Tuesday	March 1, 2022
April	Friday	April 1, 2022
May	Friday	April 29, 2022
June	Wednesday	June 1, 2022
July	Friday	July 1, 2022
August	Monday	August 1, 2022
September	Thursday	September 1, 2022
October	Friday	September 30, 2022
November	Tuesday	November 1, 2022
December	Thursday	December 1, 2022

\*Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) deposit schedule

An election is being conducted to decide a General Member seat on OCERS' Board



Ballots were mailed to all active General Members on September 27, 2021



Voted ballots must be received by 9 a.m. on November 2, 2021