

At Your Service

Orange County Employees Retirement System

Volume 7 Number 1 Magazine for all Members January 2008



Planning for retirement in 2008?
OCERS is here

At Your Service



Members of the Board of Retirement

Richard A. White, Jr., Chair
Reed L. Royalty, Vice Chair
Russell Baldwin
Frank E. Eley
Robert A. Griffith
Arthur Hidalgo
George W. Jeffries
Thomas J. Lightvoet
Chriss W. Street
David J. Thompson

Chief Executive Officer

Steve J. Delaney

Chief Investment Officer

Shanta Chary

General Counsel

Julie Wyne

Assistant Chief Executive Officer

Stephen Cadena

At Your Service is published for all members of the Orange County Employees Retirement System.

Comments and suggestions should be directed to: Robert Kinsler, Public Relations Analyst

OCERS
2223 E. Wellington Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92701
Telephone: (714) 558-6200
Toll-free: (888) 570-6277
Web site: www.ocers.org

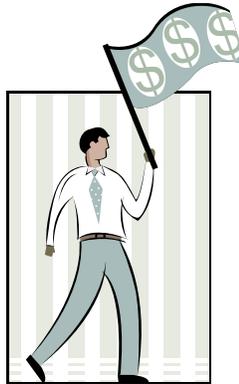
At Your Service is written and designed by Robert Kinsler and Jayne Ritchey

Board of Retirement Meetings:
All regular business meetings are held in OCERS' Board Room at 8:30 a.m.

January 22, 2008	July 21, 2008
February 19, 2008	August 25, 2008
March 24, 2008	October 20, 2008
April 21, 2008	November 17, 2008
May 19, 2008	December 15, 2008
June 16, 2008	

Pre-Retirement Planning Seminars are coming

While it's easy to live for today, moving into retirement requires plenty of advance planning.



OCERS is offering a full schedule of Pre-Retirement Seminars in early 2008 for those considering retirement in the next one to three years. The few hours you spend at the seminar can have a beneficial and long-lasting impact on your quality of life after you retire.

The Pre-Retirement Planning Seminar will be held at OCERS, 2223 Wellington Ave., Santa Ana, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Jan. 16 and 30; Feb. 13 and 27; and March 12 and 26. The one-session, five-hour seminar is free, and there is plenty of free on-site parking for those attending.

Various topics of interest and importance to you will be covered. A representative from "Deferred Compensation" will discuss your 457 plan; a Social Security representative will discuss your Social Security and Medicare benefits; a representative from Retiree Medical will discuss medical benefit options; and an OCERS Retirement Specialist will focus on your OCERS retirement plan.

No advance registration is necessary and this information will help prepare you for the move into retirement. For more information, please log on at www.ocers.org and click on "Retirement Seminars."



OCERS names Steve J. Delaney as new CEO

Steve J. Delaney will assume his post as OCERS' new Chief Executive Officer on Jan. 2, 2008.

As CEO, Mr. Delaney will lead a staff of 57 full-time employees in the administration of the \$8 billion public pension fund. He will oversee all areas of the Retirement System, including investments, legal, financial, administrative services, communications, information technology and member services.

Mr. Delaney comes to OCERS from the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System, where he most recently served as Deputy Director. He began his career at the public pension system in 1992 as a Retirement Counselor, going on to serve as Supervisor of the Employer Relations Unit (1994-1998) and Administrator of the Policy Planning and Legislative Analysis Division (1998-2004) before assuming the Deputy Director post in 2005.

"I am excited to join OCERS' management team, and together with all of OCERS staff, work to continue providing the best in customer service to OCERS members while providing value to the citizens of Orange County," Mr. Delaney said on Nov. 19, 2007, following his appointment to CEO by OCERS' Board of Retirement.

Mr. Delaney holds a Bachelor's degree in Management and Business Information Systems from George Fox University. He is completing work on his Master's degree in Business Administration at the same university and expects to complete that in 2008.

"He comes to us with extensive management experience and a proven record of accomplishments in the public pension arena," said Richard A. White, Chairman of OCERS' Board of Retirement.



New CEO Steve J. Delaney (left) with OCERS' Board of Retirement Chairman Richard A. White.

Frank Eley and Robert Griffith to serve 3-year terms

Board Members Frank Eley and Robert Griffith will continue to serve on the Board of Retirement through the end of 2010.

Two candidates were nominated for the General Member position, with incumbent Frank Eley receiving the highest number of votes. He will serve a three-year term running Jan. 1, 2008 through Dec. 31, 2010.

Because Robert Griffith was the only candidate to file for the Retired Member position, he was reappointed to the position in lieu of an election. His next term will also run Jan. 1, 2008 through Dec. 31, 2010.

Financial Strategy Seminars help prepare for future

If you are planning to retire within the next 3 to 10 years, you should plan to attend a free Financial Strategies for Retirement Planning Seminar. Planning Seminars are held at:

**OCERS (Training Room)
2223 Wellington Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92701**

The Financial Strategies for Retirement Planning Seminar consists of a three-session workshop. Each meeting will cover important topics for successful planning. The third meeting concentrates on information from an OCERS representative. Individuals and couples are welcome to attend. There is plenty of free on-site parking for those attending.

Various topics of interest and importance will be covered over the course of the three-session workshop. Some of them are:

- Deferred Compensation investment choices
- Tax-free and low-cost investing for profit
- How to determine retirement goals
- Investment choices to consider in the current stock market

The third meeting of each workshop focuses on information relating to OCERS, including such topics as:

- Eligibility for retirement
- Reciprocal benefits
- Benefit calculations, and how to apply for your retirement benefits from OCERS online
- How to determine your future OCERS benefit

Don't miss out on this valuable information. It will help you prepare for your future. The seminars are free, but reservations are required. To make your reservation to attend this seminar, please log on at www.ocers.org and click on "Retirement Seminars."

An important note: anyone registering for the Financial Strategy Seminar should plan on attending all three sessions. For more information on upcoming Financial Strategies for Retirement Planning Seminars, please call Catie Flores at Financial Management Specialists, (714) 245-1954.

SCHEDULED DATES:

The Financial Strategy Seminar is a three-session workshop, and persons signing up should plan on attending all three sessions of the Workshop.

Dates are as follows:

Workshop

Wednesdays

January 9, 16 and 23, 2008

6 – 9:30 p.m.

Workshop

Wednesdays

February 6, 13 and 20, 2008

6 – 9:30 p.m.

Workshop

Wednesdays

March 5, 12 and 19, 2008

6 – 9:30 p.m.

Workshop

Wednesdays

April 2, 9 and 16, 2008

6 – 9:30 p.m.

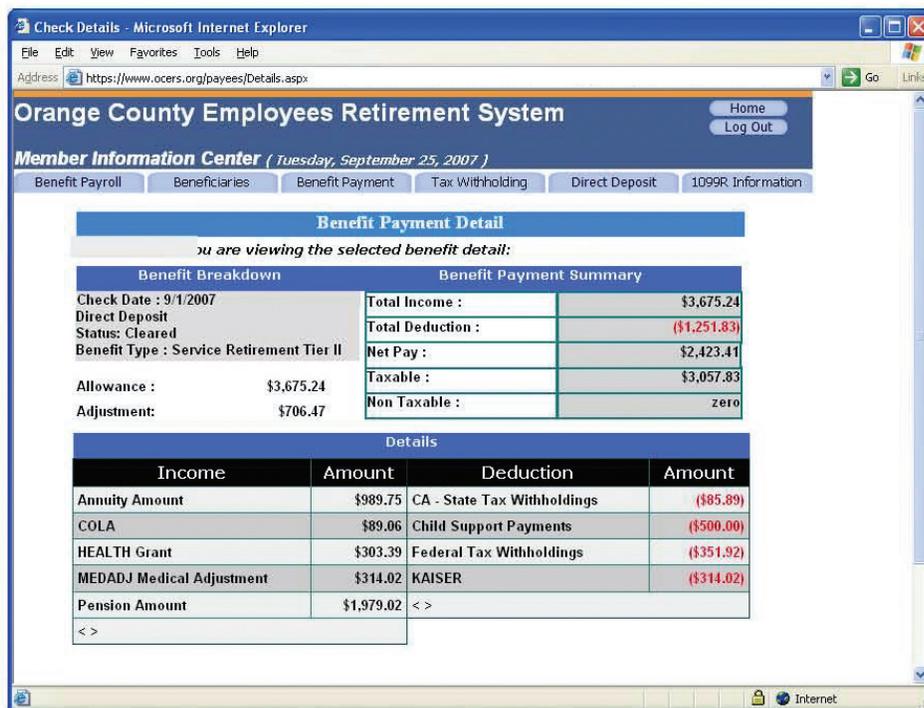
Retirees can view their Direct Deposit Advice online

The era of Retirees having to wait anxiously by their mailbox to see if their Direct Deposit Advice notice has arrived is over.

Retirees can now view and print copies of their most recent Direct Deposit Advice using the Member Information Center at www.ocers.org.

The Member Information Center is an exciting online tool for members interested in viewing their retirement account information online. Retirees who use the site are able to view screens detailing their 12 most recent benefit payments.

In addition, Retirees can also view tax withholding, beneficiary, direct deposit and 1099R information.



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Check Details - Microsoft Internet Explorer" with the address bar displaying "https://www.ocers.org/payees/Details.aspx". The page header includes "Orange County Employees Retirement System" and "Member Information Center (Tuesday, September 25, 2007)". Navigation tabs include "Benefit Payroll", "Beneficiaries", "Benefit Payment", "Tax Withholding", "Direct Deposit", and "1099R Information". The main content area is titled "Benefit Payment Detail" and states "You are viewing the selected benefit detail:". It contains two tables: "Benefit Breakdown" and "Benefit Payment Summary".

Benefit Breakdown		Benefit Payment Summary	
Check Date : 9/1/2007		Total Income :	\$3,675.24
Direct Deposit Status : Cleared		Total Deduction :	(\$1,251.83)
Benefit Type : Service Retirement Tier II		Net Pay :	\$2,423.41
Allowance : \$3,675.24		Taxable :	\$3,057.83
Adjustment : \$706.47		Non Taxable :	zero

Details			
Income	Amount	Deduction	Amount
Annuity Amount	\$989.75	CA - State Tax Withholdings	(\$85.89)
COLA	\$89.06	Child Support Payments	(\$500.00)
HEALTH Grant	\$303.39	Federal Tax Withholdings	(\$351.92)
MEDADJ Medical Adjustment	\$314.02	KAISER	(\$314.02)
Pension Amount	\$1,979.02	< >	
< >			

More than 8,300 members, including more than 1,800 Retirees, have enrolled to take advantage of the free and interactive site. The best way to learn about all the new features is to log on at www.ocers.org and enroll at the Member Information Center today.

Protect yourself from fraud; sign up for direct deposit

Convenience is not the only reason to sign up to receive your monthly retirement check via direct deposit. Mail fraud and identity theft have become increasingly common and OCERS is committed to helping all of our Retirees get their check as quickly as possible, while also utilizing every safeguard available to help them avoid becoming victims of a crime.

“The most important step that a Retired member can take to ensure they get their monthly retirement allowance from OCERS quickly and safely is to sign up for direct deposit,” said Stephen Cadena, Assistant CEO.

“If you currently receive your OCERS retirement check, consider making a change. Direct deposit eliminates the risk of lost or stolen checks, reduces fraud, and gets Retirees their money much faster.”

Retired Members can sign up for direct deposit by completing the “Retirees Authorization for Electronic Deposit of Retirement Checks” form, which can be printed out at www.ocers.org.

Investment Performance Review: diversified portfolio continues to fuel growth in third quarter of 2007

By Shanta Chary, Chief Investment Officer



The Board of Retirement has adopted a broadly diversified asset allocation policy and routinely monitors OCERS' asset allocation and investment structure. Every three months, the Board of Retirement receives a detailed overview of the investment program and manager performance from OCERS' investment consultant (Callan Associates).

Capital Markets:

During the third quarter, there were increased concerns about liquidity and higher oil prices and the potential impact on future economic growth in the U.S. In response to these concerns, the Federal Reserve lowered the federal funds rate to 4.75 percent on September 18. The Federal Reserve continues to monitor the situation closely and will attempt to strike a balance between inflationary pressures and averting a significant slowdown of the economy.

OCERS Performance:

At the regular Board of Retirement meeting held on Nov. 19, 2007, it was reported that OCERS' total fund increased 3.54 percent in the third quarter of 2007 and the fund increased 9.92 percent during the first nine months of the year (Jan. 1, 2007 thru September 30, 2007). The fund recorded investment gains in excess of \$720 million as of Sept. 30, 2007. Total assets at quarter end were valued at approximately \$7.9 billion. OCERS' one-year return at the end of Sept. 30, 2007 was 15.69 percent; while the retirement system's fund recorded a 13.40 percent annualized return for the three years ending on that date. Additionally, OCERS' five-year annualized return as of September 30 was 13.70 percent. Indeed, looking back 10 years, OCERS has recorded an 8.42 percent return, exceeding the actuarial assumption rate of 7.75 percent.

OCERS' International Equity portfolio posted a 3.77 percent increase, while the Retirement System's Domestic Equity Account portfolio posted a 1.76 percent return during the three-month period. Domestic and international fixed income also posted positive returns for the quarter. The portfolios returned 3.49 percent and 6.07 percent, respectively. Alternative investments and Real Estate continued to post positive returns during the quarter. Alternative investments were up 7.84 percent, while real estate posted an increase of 4.25 percent for the quarter.

Ongoing Activity:

Ongoing activities include: Manager searches in the areas of absolute return, cash management and commodities.

In conclusion, the investment program continues to be well positioned to meet the challenging investment environment ahead given the broadly diversified asset allocation policy.

Board Member Keith Lloyd Concannon remembered

Keith Lloyd Concannon, who served on OCERS' Board of Retirement as an Active Member from 1961 to 1981, and then as a Retired Member from 1987 until 2004, died Sept. 14, 2007 of natural causes. The Redmond, Oregon resident was 86.

When Mr. Concannon stepped down from the Board of Retirement at the end of 2004, he was presented a plaque from the Retirement Board that read:

“Presented to Keith Concannon with sincere appreciation for his tireless work on behalf of the Orange County Employees Retirement System and its members through service on the Board of Retirement for more than thirty-eight years.

He has served with dedication, passion and integrity, and has contributed immeasurably to the System by his efforts.”

Mr. Concannon was born Jan. 1, 1921 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the son of Harry and Leila (Mylon) Concannon. He married Evelyn Cooper on April 4, 1948, in Cedar Rapids.

During World War II, Mr. Concannon served as a radioman in the U.S. Army Signal Corp and was stationed in Hawaii. After returning home from the war, Mr. Concannon worked as a machinist and then as a police officer in Cedar Rapids while attending Coe College and the University of Iowa.

He moved to Orange County in 1954, living first in Santa Ana, then moving to Villa Park in 1960. He worked for the County of Orange for nearly 50 years, including as a Chief Deputy Probation Officer in the Probation Department, as CEO for the Criminal Justice Planning Council, and as a Senior Staff Budget Analyst in the Orange County Executive Office, and completed his career in the Assessors Office.

Mr. Concannon is survived by his wife; a son, Greg, of Redmond, OR; a daughter, Diane Concannon-Turk of Woodinville, WA; 5 grandchildren and one great-grandson. He was preceded in death by a brother, James. A memorial service for Mr. Concannon was held at Redmond Memorial Chapel on Sept. 22, 2007.



Keith Concannon was honored on Nov. 15, 2004 for almost four decades of service on the Board of Retirement. Pictured (from left), Frank Eley, Richard A. White, Lisa Silbar, Reed Royalty, Keith Concannon, Sharon Neebe, George Jeffries and John Moorlach.

REAOC Membership Drive

The Retired Employees Association of Orange County (REAOC) is a long-standing, grass roots organization actively supporting and fighting for Retiree interests and issues. If you are an OCERS Retired Member who is not a member of REAOC, please consider joining us now. Benefits include receiving our newsletter, The Informer, published five times per year to keep you updated on important Retiree issues and benefits. Luncheon meetings are also held five times each year and membership entitles you to enroll in a dental and/or vision fee-for-service plan as well as personal accident and pre-paid legal coverage.

As the new Membership Chair of REAOC, I'm working to increase our Association's membership. I would like to ask each of you who is currently a REAOC member to contact and encourage friends and acquaintances who are County Retirees - but not members of REAOC - to join us. If you are not a member, please accept our invitation to join us. Solidarity and resolve will be important in maintaining Retirees' hard-earned benefits. REAOC works to protect your rights as a Retiree and gives you a voice that will be heard.

This is a time of difficulty and acute challenge for many Retirees. Membership in REAOC can make an important difference. There is strength in numbers and in our ability to act in unison to reach the objective of protecting Retiree benefits and interests. Dues are only \$1 a month and may be automatically deducted from your monthly retirement check. For more information or to provide prospective member names and addresses, please contact reaoc@reaoc.org or call 714-840-3995. New members will receive a free ticket to the next REAOC Luncheon meeting. If you are already a REAOC member - for every new REAOC application we receive with your referral information you will receive a \$5 check or credit toward a luncheon, whichever you select. Please consider action today and add your name to our membership roster. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
John Iagjian, REAOC Membership Chair

Orange County Employees Retirement System
2223 E. Wellington Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Presorted First-Class Mail U.S. Postage Paid Santa Ana, CA Permit # 61
--