

At Your Service

Orange County Employees Retirement System

Volume 7 Number 3 Magazine for all Members July 2008



**Volunteers give their
all to help READ**

At Your Service



Members of the Board of Retirement

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

Chief Executive Officer

Steve J. Delaney

Chief Investment Officer

Shanta Chary

**Assistant Chief Executive Officer,
External and Legal Operations**

Julie Wyne

**Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Internal
Operations**

Stephen Cadena

At Your Service is published for members and
retirees 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.

July 21, 2008 August 25, 2008
October 20, 2008 November 17, 2008

December 15, 2008

Please think of OCERS when you are on the move

When it comes time to move, it is important to keep OCERS updated. When OCERS completed a recent mailing to all active, deferred and retired members, thousands of pieces of mail were returned. Not only does this account for thousands of dollars in cost to the retirement system, but that means many members and their eligible beneficiaries didn't receive critical information about their retirement benefits.

Here's where you come in. If you are planning on moving, please submit a change of address immediately. Follow the instructions below that match your current membership status with OCERS.

- If you are an active employee working for an OCERS-covered employer, please contact the human resources specialist or payroll representative within your agency/department as soon as possible. Your employer will then contact us electronically to update our files with that updated information. Do not contact OCERS directly.
- If you are a retiree and plan on moving, please make sure to contact OCERS as soon as possible to keep us updated with a current address and phone number so you continue to receive important information from us. You can change your address by writing to OCERS at 2223 Wellington Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92701, or you can download a "Change of Address Form" at our Web site www.ocers.org.
- If you are a deferred member, it is also important that you keep OCERS updated with your mailing address and phone number. You can change your address by writing to OCERS at 2223 Wellington Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92701, or you can download a "Change of Address Form" at our Web site www.ocers.org.

Scholarships celebrate memory of Keith L. Concannon

Keith Lloyd Concannon, who served on OCERS' Board of Retirement for almost four decades as both an Active Member and Retired Member, died of natural causes on Sept. 14, 2007.

However, Mr. Concannon's memory lives on through the Keith L. Concannon Scholarship, which has been presented by the Retired Employees Association of Orange County (REAOC) since 2005. On May 28, REAOC presented students scholarships to Daniel Dix, Brianna Jansen and Sierra Christensen.

Applicants must be related to a REAOC member and have a GPA (Grade Point Average) of at least 3.0 on a scale of 4.0. In addition, they must be accepted for a degree program or already attending an accredited educational institution authorized to provide a full credit toward a bachelor's or higher degree, or attending an accredited institution that is authorized to provide a training program to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation.

Daniel Dix is the first of the three students to earn a scholarship, whose grandmother Teresa Dix is a member of REAOC. Daniel Dix has a 5.0 GPA, is a National Merit Scholar and has earned a number of other honors. In addition to being an active member of clubs at his high school, he has been a volunteer at an area soup kitchen and hospital. His academic goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in applied physics and he has been admitted to Princeton, Cal Tech, Harvard, Cornell, Stanford, UCI and Yale.

Brianna Jansen, whose grandmother Dolores Ross is a member of REAOC, is the second of the students awarded a scholarship at the May 28 luncheon. She has a 4.55 GPA, is active in Marching Band and Orchestra (she plays clarinet), and has work experience as a lab assistant. She plans to major in business with a minor in music, and has been admitted to a number of university programs.

Sierra Christensen, whose Aunt Sherry Martin is a member of REAOC, has a 3.44 GPA and is currently a premedical student with graduation projected for May 2010 with a bachelor's in Psychology and a minor in Spanish. He is on the Dean's List at Arizona State University and has earned a number of other honors including being named as a National Merit Commended Scholar.

The students were selected after a review of their applications by the REAOC Scholarship Committee, as well as a panel of professional educators at the Orange County Department of Education. For more information on resources and services provided by REAOC, visit www.reaoc.org



From left, REAOC's Nancy Holmes, scholarship winner Brianna Jansen, Kristie Dix and Teresa Dix at recent REAOC luncheon.

Financial Strategy Seminars help prepare for future

If you are planning to retire within the next 3 to 30 years, you should plan to attend a free Financial Strategies for Retirement Planning Seminar. Planning Seminars 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 visit www.ocers.org and click on Retirement Seminars link on the home page.

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

July 2, 9 and 16, 2008

6 – 9:30 p.m.

Workshop

Wednesdays

September 3, 10 and 17, 2008

6 – 9:30 p.m.

Workshop

Wednesdays

October 1, 8 and 15, 2008

6 – 9:30 p.m.

Workshop

Wednesdays

November 5, 12 and 19, 2008

6 – 9:30 p.m.

New Advice Notice policy to begin on August 1, 2008

A policy mandating the discontinuance of monthly remittance advice notices for all of our Retirees, Beneficiaries and Payees was approved by the Board of Retirement on May 19, 2008.

The new policy will result in considerable savings for OCERS, with the annual cost of printing and mailing advice notices amounting to more than \$135,000.

Please be assured that there will not be an interruption to your monthly allowance as a result of this upcoming change.

Beginning August 1, 2008, an advice notice will be mailed to you only on those months when a change occurs to your monthly benefit. For example, every May 1st you receive a cost of living adjustment, and therefore you will receive an advice notice each May 1st.

Orange County Employees Retirement System							Home	Log Out	
Member Information Center (Tuesday, June 17, 2008)									
Benefit Payroll		Beneficiaries		Benefit Payment		Tax Withholding	Direct Deposit	1099R Information	
Benefit Payment Detail									
FITZ, BEN E.		Income		Current	Year to Date	Deduction		Current	Year to Date
Check Date:	2/1/2007	Allowance	\$40.85	\$19,588.74	CA - State Tax Withholdings	0.00	0.00		
Fund:	Orange County	COLA	\$95.03	\$4,743.86	Federal Tax Withholdings	0.00	0.00		
Withholding Status		HEALTH Grant	0.00	\$2,343.84	KAISER HMO	0.00	\$2,343.84		
State: Married - 2 dependent (s)		MEDMCR Medicare Credit	0.00	\$231.66	OCEA Insurance	0.00	\$290.59		
Federal: Married - 2 dependent(s)									
								Current	Year to Date
Total Income								\$135.88	\$26,908.10
Total Deduction								0.00	\$2,634.43
Net Pay								\$180.92	\$24,273.67
Taxable								\$181.92	\$5,363.14
Non Taxable								0.00	\$428.16
ORANGE COUNTY									
EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM									

And remember, you can view the details of your last 12 monthly payments online via the Member Information Center by visiting www.ocers.org. Access to the Member Information Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week once you have enrolled on our Web site and are sent a PIN number.

If you have any additional questions, please contact OCERS at (714) 558-6200 or visit us online at www.ocers.org.

OCERS has also adopted a policy mandating that all monthly retirement payments are paid via electronic funds transfer (EFT) as of August 1, 2008. Retirement monies are directly deposited into a checking or savings account of your choosing and they are immediately available to you the first (or first business day) of each month. "Don't miss a check - Go Direct!"

READ volunteers leave a lasting legacy of literacy

For the thousands of area adults who can't read the menu at a local restaurant, decipher the directions printed on a medicine bottle or complete a job application, illiteracy is a terrible reality.

But a group of dedicated volunteers and Orange County Public Library employees are helping to make a difference in the effort to provide literacy skills in their community.

Anyone reading this article already has the skills that eluded Brea resident Richard Carrizosa for most of his adult life. But thanks to READ/Orange County, he is writing a much happier chapter now.

Carrizosa and his wife Clara were at the Orange County Fair in the mid-1990s when they walked by an information booth related to recruiting both students (also known as "adult learners") and tutors for READ/Orange County.

"I have a good eye to see things, but I couldn't read," Carrizosa admitted. "When my wife called me to 'Come back here,' she told me about the program. That's how I got involved."

Fast forward to 2008 and Carrizosa talks fondly of working with several tutors over the past 11 years.

"We're pretty lucky to have a program like this. The opportunity is there if you want it," Carrizosa said. "I think it's the greatest."

Irvine resident Alveris Corson represents the other side of READ's winning formula. She is a tutor who has helped dozens of adult learners since becoming a volunteer for the program in May 2003.

"After I retired, I needed to do something to make life interesting," Corson explained.

In addition to representing READ at public forums such as the Orange County Fair, golf tournaments and company expos, Corson leads a group of ESL (English as a Second Language) in Costa Mesa and a conversation-focused class at Heritage Park in Irvine.

"It's amazing what I've learned," Corson said. "The first year I worked with a gentleman one-on-one who had not finished high school. Then I spent the next year with a young woman from China. Her problem was conversation and understanding (American) slang."

Corson said being a volunteer for READ requires relatively little time, but she encourages other Retirees to volunteer. They will be matched with an adult learner who can meet them at an Orange County Public Library located near their home.

Marcia Tungate, Literacy Programs Administrator for READ/Orange County, said while the Orange County Public Library is truly one of the best library systems in the nation, 350,000 adults are unable to take advantage of the books, periodicals and other research tools available at the library because of low-level literacy or English skills.

"That is the equivalent of the entire population of Irvine, Lake Forest, Laguna Beach, Laguna

Hills, Laguna Niguel, Dana Point, San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente,” Tungate said of the 350,000 number.

Since early 2004, volunteer tutor Sandy Hague has been serving READ/Orange County on two fronts, tutoring an adult learner in a conference room at Fountain Valley Library and spending four hours a week helping out at READ/Orange County’s headquarters in Santa Ana.

“It’s rewarding because you’re helping people accomplish what they want to accomplish,” said Hague, noting there are a variety of reasons that adult learners come to READ for assistance.

“My current student just got a promotion at work and I like to think what she learned at our sessions played a part in that,” Hague said. “Helping them (students) is terrific.”

READ/Orange County, the adult literacy service of the Orange County Public Library, delivers its services by training community members to become volunteer tutors who work one-on-one with adults and families who have low-level reading, writing and English skills.



Sandy Hague, left, and Marcia Tungate at READ/Orange County.

“Our catch phrase is ‘Leave a Legacy.’ Richard, by learning to read, can now read to his grandchildren,” Tungate noted.

“Alveris has helped expand the program and she has 24 students. The impact of teaching a person to read is amazing,” Tungate explained.

When asked about Hague, who has provided services as a tutor and with professional services at READ/Orange County’s office, Tungate replied: “I could not have survived without her.”

If you are interested in becoming a tutor, or if you or someone you know needs reading assistance, please call 714-566-3070. You can also visit READ/Orange County’s official Web site by pointing your browser to www.readoc.org or visit your local OCPL branch for more information.

“People who have worked hard all their lives can still help make the world a better place in retirement. People who volunteer with READ are giving from their heart,” Tungate said.

Added Carrizosa: “Today when my wife gives me a grocery list, I can read it.”

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 this summer and in the fall to help you gather information you'll need to meet your retirement goals. The few hours you spend at the seminar can have a beneficial and long-lasting impact on your quality of life after you retire. Anyone who is within three years of their retirement date should plan on taking this seminar.

The Pre-Retirement Planning Seminars will be held at OCERS, 2223 Wellington Ave., Santa Ana, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on **July 9 and 23; August 13 and 27; and September 10 and 24**. The one-session, five-hour seminar is free, and there is plenty of free on-site parking for those attending.

Various topics will be covered. A Social Security representative will discuss Social Security and Medicare benefits; a representative from "Deferred Compensation" will discuss the County's 457 plan; a representative from Retiree Medical will discuss the County's retiree 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."

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