

At Your Service

Orange County Employees Retirement System

Volume 10 Number 1 Magazine for all Members January 2011

Introducing . . .



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Retiree Payment Schedule

At Your Service



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At Your Service is published for members and retirees of the Orange County Employees Retirement System

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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. OCERS next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011.

OCERS hires new Investment Director

Jennifer C. Hom is OCERS' new Managing Director of Investments. Ms. Hom, who assumed her position on Nov. 15, 2010, is responsible for developing a comprehensive investment vision and strategy for OCERS.

Prior to joining OCERS, Ms. Hom served as the Chief Investment Officer (CIO) for the \$65 billion Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. She also served as Vice President and Director of Swiss Reinsurance Company and in various leadership roles at the Lincoln Investment Management Company, the investment subsidiary of the Lincoln Financial Group.

"Jenny has the diverse investment experience, strategic vision and innovative thinking we are seeking to assist the Board in managing the OCERS investment portfolio," said OCERS CEO Steve Delaney.

REAOC membership drive

REAOC, the Retired Employees Association of Orange County, is currently conducting a Membership Drive and would like to ask all OCERS retirees who are not current members of REAOC but would like to join, or who know of OCERS retirees who would like to join, to contact REAOC for membership information.

REAOC's purpose is to promote and maintain fellowship and camaraderie among County retirees, but also to track and disseminate information on pension and legislative matters around the County, State and nationally, to discuss relevant financial matters, and to bring up issues of interest and concern to our membership.

Retired members may join by emailing REAOC at reaoc@reaoc.org, or by calling office manager Ilene Barcenas at 714-840-3995. For more information, visit www.reaoc.org.
Sincerely, John Iagjian, REAOC Membership Chair

OCERS unveils official new logo

At the regular Board of Retirement meeting held Oct. 18, 2010, Chief Executive Officer Steve Delaney unveiled the new official OCERS logo. The colorful logo was designed by Daniel Kray, who is creative director of Kray Marketing & Creative Services and also teaches graphic and multimedia design at DeVry University.

In early 2010, the Board of Retirement directed Mr. Delaney to have a new logo designed. The previous OCERS logo, which likely dates back to the 1970s, did not include “employees” and was often a source of confusion for those not familiar with the retirement system.

Mr. Kray explained that he has a technical and fine arts background, and utilized both those perspectives in the completion of the new OCERS logo.

“I started with an idea that (OCERS) is financially strong and stable. But since there are people involved, that is where I looked at the fonts (the style used for the letters) that had more character to them,” Mr. Kray explained. “I liked the way the ‘R’ integrated with the logo - the way that OCERS is integrated with its employees and members.”

The final element of the logo was a mark of the sun, which helps further symbolize OCERS’ home in Orange County.

Over the next few years, OCERS will transition its signage, publications, Web site and other media platforms to the new logo.



Financial Strategies Seminars coming soon

If you are planning to retire within the next 5 to 30 years, you should plan to attend a free Financial Strategies for Retirement Planning Seminar. Financial Strategies Seminars are held at:

OCERS (Training Room)
2223 E. Wellington Avenue, Suite 100
Santa Ana, CA 92701-3161

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.

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

- Tax-free and low-cost investing for profit
- How to determine retirement goals
- Investment choices in today's market

The three-session workshop 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." For more information on upcoming Financial Strategies for Retirement Planning Seminars, please call Robert Kinsler at (714) 558-6230.

SCHEDULED DATES for three-session workshop:

Workshop
Wednesdays
January 5, 12 and 19, 2011
6 – 9:30 p.m.

Workshop
Wednesdays
February 2, 9 and 16, 2011
6 – 9:30 p.m.

Workshop
Wednesdays
March 2, 9 and 16, 2011
6 – 9:30 p.m.



Pre-Retirement Seminars set for Winter

While it's easy to live for today, the transition into retirement requires plenty of advance planning. To help fill this need, OCERS offers Pre-Retirement Seminars. Anyone who is within three years of their retirement date should plan on taking this seminar.

These daytime seminars are held at OCERS, 2223 E. Wellington Ave., Suite 100, Santa Ana, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The one-session, five-hour seminar is free, and there is plenty of free on-site parking for those attending. Various topics are 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 benefits. **Seminar dates: Jan. 5 and 19; Feb. 2 and Feb. 16, 2011.**

No registration is necessary for the Pre-Retirement Seminars. Members are welcome to take this seminar as often as they like. We also recommend that attendees bring a light snack since lunch is not provided and there is no cafeteria on-site.

Personalized 1099-R copies to be mailed Jan. 26

OCERS will send personalized copies of Internal Revenue Service Form 1099-R to all retirees on Jan. 26, 2011. The 1099-R form provides each retiree with detailed information on his or her income for the previous year. Retirees may also view copies of their 2010 1099-R statement online, effective Feb. 1, 2011, by logging into the Member Information Center (please note that OCERS online copies cannot be used to submit with your 2010 Federal/State tax returns).

Detailed instructions are located on the reverse side of the 1099-R form.

The following is an easy-to-use guide on how to read your 1099-R:

Box 1 - Gross Distribution. This is the total amount of benefits paid to you by OCERS during the previous calendar year.

Box 2a - Taxable Amount. This is the taxable amount of your income. If you retired after January 1, 1993, the amount is reported less the Safe Harbor exclusion. If you retired prior to January 1, 1993, OCERS did not calculate nor report the taxable amount because of the multiple recovery methods.

Box 2b - Taxable Amount Not Determined. Box 2b is only checked if OCERS is unable to determine the taxability of the amount reported.

Box 3 - This box is left intentionally blank and is not applicable.

Box 4 - Federal Income Tax Withheld. This box shows any federal income tax withheld from your check during the year.

Box 5 - Employee Contributions. If there is an amount in box 5, it is not a deduction or an amount paid for an insurance premium. The amount in box 5 is the portion of your benefit that is non taxable. (If you subtract the amount in box 2a from box 1, you will have the amount shown in box 5) This was after tax money you contributed to OCERS. For retirees, this is the annual amount of your Safe Harbor tax recovery.

Box 6 - This box is left intentionally blank and is not applicable.

Box 7 - Distribution Code. IRS code identifying the distribution you received. These codes are explained on the back of the 1099-R Form.

Boxes 8 and 9a - These two boxes are left intentionally blank and are not applicable.

Box 9b - This box is left intentionally blank and is not applicable.

Box 10 - California State Income Tax Withheld. Any California State income tax deducted from your checks is shown in this box.

Boxes 12 through 15 - These four boxes are left intentionally blank and are not applicable.

Retiree Payment Schedule for 2011

As part of an ongoing effort to provide better customer service to our members, OCERS will continue to bring relief to retirees when the first of the month falls on a weekend or holiday. When the first of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, your monthly benefit will be deposited the prior business day. The only exception to this is the January 1st benefit payment, which will continue to be paid the first business day of the year in order to avoid paying 13 checks in the year and causing tax issues for our members.

The payment schedule below affects only those members who receive their monthly benefit via Electronic Fund Transfer (“EFT”). **Please note:** for those who receive an actual check, they will continue to be mailed out on the last business day of the month via the United States Postal Service regardless of what day the first of the month might fall.

Retirees who want to receive their retirement allowance in the most prompt way should sign up for EFT – also known as “Direct Deposit” or “Automatic Deposit.” This provides retirees with the fastest delivery of their monthly retirement payment possible.

Payroll Month	Payment Day	Payment Date
January 2011	Monday	January 3, 2011
February 2011	Tuesday	February 1, 2011
March 2011	Tuesday	March 1, 2011
April 2011	Friday	April 1, 2011
May 2011	Friday	April 29, 2011
June 2011	Wednesday	June 1, 2011
July 2011	Friday	July 1, 2011
August 2011	Monday	August 1, 2011
September 2011	Thursday	September 1, 2011
October 2011	Friday	September 30, 2011
November 2011	Tuesday	November 1, 2011
December 2011	Thursday	December 1, 2011



OCERS' success is a lesson in achievement

By Steve Delaney, Chief Executive Officer

Before 2010 is relegated to the history books, I want to recap some of OCERS' recent achievements amidst a variety of challenges we faced last year.

As of Nov. 30, 2010 (the most recent financial figures available as of the publication of this newsletter), OCERS has recorded strong returns for the year. Year-to-date, OCERS has seen an increase of 7.72 percent. The one-year return as of Nov. 30 was an even stronger 8.34 percent.

Aside from the \$8.2 billion our retirement system has in reserve, OCERS currently brings in approximately \$537 million a year in member and employer contributions which is more than enough to pay approximately \$450 million a year in pension benefits to nearly 13,000 retirees.

In addition to the crucial role that both the Board of Retirement and our investment team play in overseeing OCERS' investment portfolio, our staff is here to help provide you with a wealth of resources that will help keep you better informed about your OCERS benefits and information related to your retirement planning.

No matter whether you are a new OCERS member or are planning to retire in early 2011, there are things that all active members can do to enhance their retirement readiness:

1. If you are within three years of retirement, plan on attending a free Pre-Retirement Seminar at OCERS. See the article on page 4 of this issue for more details about all of our seminars.
2. Make sure to enroll in the Member Information Center (MIC). This interactive site allows members to access their personal account online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. See page 8 of this issue for more details about the MIC.
3. If you have a 401(k) or other defined contribution (DC) retirement plan from a previous job, know your options. Remember, DC plans have an obligation to continue to send statements to you. So keep those plans (as well as your current employer) updated when you have a new address or phone number.
4. Call OCERS and ask to speak with the retirement specialist for your agency. You can then have a counseling session over the phone. Your specialist can inform you about compensation earnable, and how various factors are used to help calculate your Final Average Salary.
5. Visit the OCERS Web site at www.ocers.org and review the wide range of brochures and other materials to help you learn more about our retirement system and what it means to you.

If you have any questions or concerns about your OCERS retirement benefits, you can contact our Member Services department at (714) 558-6200.





Orange County Employees Retirement System
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'MIC' offers range of services to OCERS Members

Since the introduction of the Member Information Center (also known as the "MIC") on OCERS' Web site in 2007, more than 11,000 members have taken advantage of its growing number of resources.

There are special features for both retirees and active members on the site. All members can use the MIC to ensure that OCERS has their correct address and phone number on file, as well as confirm and/or update the names of their beneficiaries.



Retirees can see the percentage in their COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) Bank, as well as use the "Tax Withholding" tab to change their tax withholding amount utilizing both Federal and State of California sections displayed on the screen.

Active Members can complete an "Electronic Request to Purchase Service Credit," update their email address on file, and use their own personalized salary data to calculate their Final Average Salary. Using the easy-to-follow "Ready to Retire?" tab, active members can even retire online.

If you have lost your PIN number and/or have never used the MIC, you will need your PIN to create your "User Name" and "Password." To get a PIN, please call OCERS at 714-558-6200. To access the MIC, please visit www.ocers.org and click on the Member Information Center "Member Login" button on the upper left of the Web site.