

# At Your Service

Orange County Employees Retirement System  
Magazine for all Members October 2013

**Seminars prepare members for the future**



## At Your Service



Volume 12 Number 4 Magazine for all Members October 2013

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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 edited and designed by  
Robert Kinsler and Jayne Ritchey

### Board of Retirement Meetings:

All regular business meetings are held in OCERS Board Room at 9:00 a.m. Upcoming meetings:

October 21, 2013  
November 18, 2013  
December 16, 2013

## Retired? Stay in touch

At various times, you may need to change your personal information on file with OCERS. Keeping this data up-to-date ensures your benefit payments are processed without interruption.

To set up direct deposit or to change your financial account, you must sign and complete a *Retirees Authorization for Electronic Deposit of Retirement Checks* form and return it to OCERS.

Complete a *Change of Address* form if you are moving or if your mailing address has changed.

You may also need to change your beneficiary designation due to marriage, divorce, domestic partnership registration, death or other life events. To update your beneficiary information, please fill out and return a *Beneficiary Change* form to OCERS.

All of these forms can be downloaded from [www.ocers.org](http://www.ocers.org), picked up at the OCERS office or requested by phone by calling (714) 558-6200. In addition, these changes can be submitted online using OCERS' Member Information Center.

*Please note that your personal information cannot be updated by phone.*

## Election Reminder

An election is currently being held to fill the Retired Member seat on OCERS' Board of Retirement. The selected Board Member will serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2014.

All retired members eligible to vote in this election were sent ballots in September 2013. Ballots should be completed and returned to the Registrar of Voters no later than 9 a.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2013. Ballots will then be counted that same day at the Registrar of Voters' office.

Results of the upcoming election will be posted at [www.ocers.org](http://www.ocers.org) following the election.

## Corrected Retiree Payment Schedule for 2013

The 2013 payment schedule that was published in our January 2013 *At Your Service* print edition has been updated to include the correct December payment date.

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 are 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 and are payable on the first of the month.

Payroll Month	Payment Day	Payment Date
November 2013	Friday	November 1, 2013
December 2013	Friday	November 29, 2013

For more information, visit [www.ocers.org](http://www.ocers.org) and visit the “Retired Members” drop down feature at the top of the home page to select the “Payment Schedule Policy” page.

## County’s Benefits Open Enrollment, Nov. 1 – 22, 2013

The Annual County of Orange Benefits Open Enrollment period will be from November 1, 2013 through November 22, 2013. Please note: Open Enrollment ends the Friday before Thanksgiving week. This is your opportunity to review your health coverage, 2014 rates and determine if your current health plan still meets the needs of you and your family. During Open Enrollment, you may change health plans, and you are able to add dependents or take dependents off of your health coverage. All changes will be effective January 1, 2014. The County of Orange and the Benefits Center will be there to support and assist you with your questions and concerns. There will be Open Enrollment meetings throughout the month of November. These meetings will provide an opportunity to ask questions of each of the health plan representatives. A schedule of the meetings will be included in your Open Enrollment package.

During Open Enrollment, if you are 65 or older and planning to enroll in one of the County Medicare Advantage plans, please make your elections early. Enrollment in a Medicare Advantage plan must be approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and depending on the plan you choose, you may be required to send in enrollment and/or disenrollment forms. If your form is not received by the required deadline, or you are not approved by CMS, you will be automatically enrolled in the County’s PPO health plan at higher rates.

Be sure to watch your mailbox and carefully review all Open Enrollment materials provided before Open Enrollment and in your OE package. For information about your current benefits, if you have any questions about Open Enrollment, or to verify the Benefits Center has your current mailing address, please call the Benefits Resource Line toll-free at 1-866-325-2345.

# Register for a Financial Strategies Seminar

Understanding steps you can take to help enhance your overall financial health is a key reason to enroll in the Financial Strategies Seminar that will be held at OCERS this year. The seminar teaches members worthwhile tools to:

- Create a path to follow and make appropriate financial decisions
- Make appropriate investment selections for your short, mid and long-term goals
- Locate resources for further education and planning

Members will also get a detailed explanation of the OCERS' pension, among other things.

The class is small, interactive, presented in a supportive environment, and the instructors do not spend time on self-promotion, or discussing specific products. Members will have an opportunity to meet with the financial advisor after the class is completed at no cost on a one-on-one basis to have specific questions answered and create a personalized financial plan with recommendations for the best steps to achieving their financial goals. Attendees have found this individualized planning to be extremely valuable.

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](http://www.ocers.org) and click on "Retirement Seminars." These workshops are held at OCERS, 2223 E. Wellington Ave., Suite 100, Santa Ana. For more information please call Robert Kinsler at (714) 558-6230.

**SCHEDULED DATES**  
**for three-session workshop:**

**Workshop**  
Wednesdays  
October 2, 9 and 16, 2013  
6 – 9:30 p.m.

**Workshop**  
Wednesdays  
November 6, 13, and 20, 2013  
6 – 9:30 p.m.

## Death and survivor benefits bring peace of mind

The bond OCERS builds with each member is personal, beginning when a member is working for one of OCERS' participating employers and continues after they retire. Ultimately, that relationship often carries on after the member is gone, through survivor benefits.

Upon the death of a member, his or her eligible survivors and beneficiaries are entitled to certain benefits. That is why it is so important for members to keep their beneficiaries up-to-date.

Family members should call (714) 558-6200 as soon as possible to notify OCERS of a member's death. Upon notification of the member's death, OCERS will review the member's file to determine any applicable benefits and beneficiaries.

## David Ball appointed to Board of Retirement

When Reed L. Royalty decided to step down from OCERS' Board of Retirement after 15 years of service at the end of August 2013, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to select David Ball to fill the seat. Mr. Ball grew up in Orange County, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and graduated with honors from California State University, Fullerton.

Mr. Ball began his career in the banking industry prior to making the transition to real estate development. Initially, Mr. Ball was employed with Union Bank in 1976 where he completed extensive formalized training in loan underwriting, cash flow analysis, balance sheet and income statement preparation and risk evaluation. He then worked for Wells Fargo Bank and Crocker Bank, serving in a wide range of positions including Credit Manager, Loan Officer, Vice President, and Senior President.

He then went to work for Arnel Development Company and Affiliates, where he held a number of positions including Chief Financial Officer responsible for accounting systems, investment of cash, lender relationships, and financial projections for real estate projects. Mr. Ball then served as the Executive Vice President of Real Estate Development and was subsequently promoted to the position of President of Arnel Development Company.

Subsequent to 1994, Mr. Ball was an active partner with Ambassador Argyros developing shopping centers both acting as a developer and as a financial partner. Concurrent with the ongoing operations of this new entity, Mr. Ball also continued to over-see the operations of Arnel Development Company.

## OCERS and public pensions are in the news

Several recent media articles have focused attention on OCERS funding levels and the retirement system's ability to pay promised benefits. All current and future retirees should be confident in OCERS' ability to pay those promised benefits today and in the future.

As of August 31, 2013, OCERS' portfolio had more than \$10.4 billion. OCERS' active members (those eligible employees working today) and plan sponsors (employers including the County of Orange, Orange County Fire Authority and about a dozen others) continue to make their mandated contributions to OCERS. Those contributions and income from OCERS' diversified investment portfolio provide the funds necessary to pay all promised benefits.

OCERS, and other public pension systems in California, use widely accepted guidelines for long term planning, controlling costs, management of investment risk as well as controlling the volatility of employee and employer contributions.

OCERS will continue to update members in future issues of *At Your Service* or on [www.ocers.org](http://www.ocers.org) if there are any significant changes that impact active and deferred members, or retirees.

## Pre-Retirement Seminars help 'employees' make smooth transition into life as 'retirees'

It's not unusual for some OCERS members to work 20 or 30 years before they begin to seriously think about retirement. Other members begin planning for their retirement from the very beginning. The good news is that OCERS offers a special seminar designed for all members thinking about making the transition from employee to retiree. The Pre-Retirement Seminar is designed to provide the wide-range of information and resources to help any active or deferred member take the necessary steps to make their move into retirement.



*Representative from OCERS Member Services*

These daytime seminars are held at OCERS, 2223 E. Wellington Avenue, Suite 100, Santa Ana, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The one-session seminar is free, and there is plenty of free on-site parking for those attending. Various topics are covered.



*Representative from REAOC*  
and there is no cafeteria on-site.

A Social Security representative will discuss Social Security and Medicare benefits; a representative from "Deferred Compensation" will discuss the County of Orange 457 plan; a representative from the County of Orange retiree medical program will discuss the County's retiree medical benefit options; a representative from REAOC will discuss the benefits of joining the Retired Employees Association of Orange County; and an OCERS Retirement Specialist will focus on your OCERS' retirement benefits.

No registration is necessary to attend the Pre-Retirement Seminars. OCERS members are welcome to take this seminar as often as they like. We also recommend that attendees bring something to eat, or plan on driving/walking to a nearby eatery during the 75-minute lunch break since food is not provided

The upcoming fall seminar dates are:

**October 2 and 16, 2013; November 6 and 20, 2013.**



*Representative from Social Security*

Here is the itinerary for the Pre-Retirement Seminar:

- 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. “Social Security/Medicare”
- 9:30 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. Morning Break
- 9:40 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. “Retired Employees Association of Orange County (REAOC)”
- 9:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. “OCERS Benefits”
- 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Lunch Break
- 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. “County of Orange Defined Contribution Program”
- 12:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. “County of Orange Retiree Medical”

For more information about all of OCERS’ daytime and evening seminars, please log on at [www.ocers.org](http://www.ocers.org) and click on “Retirement Seminars.”

### **Special October 30th lunchtime seminar – The Roth Option: Is It Right for You?**



A Great West representative will be here at OCERS, 2223 E. Wellington Avenue, Santa Ana, on October 30, 2013 from noon – 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to bring lunch and learn.

In this seminar you will learn the basics of the Roth option—what it is and how it works. The seminar will explore Roth contributions, income taxes and rollovers. Then, we will compare the Roth option to the traditional before-tax option. Finally, we will walk through the Roth Contribution Analyzer, an online calculator that can help you determine whether to save through your traditional 457 or the Roth 457 account.



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## OCERS' Web site offers wealth of resources online



OCERS members are increasingly logging on at [www.ocers.org](http://www.ocers.org) to learn more about their retirement benefits. OCERS' official Web site provides a wealth of information and services for anyone connected to the Internet. For active and deferred members, one of the most popular features is the Benefits Calculator, which allows any member to get a fast estimate of their projected retirement allowance based on their current Final Average Salary, Plan Type, age and years of service credit. No registration is required and it only takes a few seconds to complete the easy-to-use online form. Indeed, the Benefits Calculator is a financial planning tool that provides an immediate and personalized estimate of their OCERS retirement benefits at any eligible age.

Active and deferred members can use the Member Information Center ("MIC") to complete a Retirement Application online, while retired members are able to view screens detailing tax withholding, direct deposit and 1099-R information (if you have trouble using the MIC, please call OCERS at 714-558-6200).

While members are at OCERS' Web site, they can learn more about retirement, disability, death and survivor benefits utilizing easy-to-use links directing them to various areas of the site.

All members are free to use OCERS' "Live Chat." This is a unique feature where computer users can chat online with OCERS Retirement Specialists in real time during regular business hours. For more information, visit [www.ocers.org](http://www.ocers.org).