

At Your SERVICE

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE ORANGE COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM July 2022

An Important Update On OCERS' Operations

*M*ore than two years have passed since the COVID-19 pandemic struck the world and impacted seemingly every aspect of our lives.

Even as we were forced to close our office doors as part of an effort to help safeguard the health and well being of our members and staff, OCERS continued to carry on its important mission to "provide secure retirement and disability benefits with the highest standards of excellence."

In addition to processing more than 1,000 retirement applications during the global pandemic, OCERS' Investment Committee and the investments staff carefully managed our \$22.5 billion investment portfolio. Those assets are used to pay out more than \$1 billion in retirement benefits to our members annually.

The OCERS Board of Retirement continued to meet monthly to oversee operations at the retirement system, while the Governance, Personnel, Disability and Audit Committees also met regularly, all virtually.

OCERS was able to successfully utilize a myriad of re-

sources to continue to serve members and employers including the use of a state-of-the-art phone system, Zoom, the myOCERS member portal and OCERS' website.

Now our office is once again open to serve members and employers. Members – including those planning their retirement – can get information from a retirement specialist with a 1-on-1 meeting over the phone as well.



We are also set to once again offer in-person seminars for members who wish to attend events in our office location. Learn more about in-person as well as virtual seminars being held via Zoom at www.ocers.org/retirement-seminars.

This year has seen several economic challenges including inflation, rising interest rates and market volatility. But we want to assure our members that OCERS is here, strong, and ready to assist you in ensuring a successful retirement.

For more information, or to answer your questions, call our office at 714-558-6200.

Are you interested in OCERS' investment portfolio? Check out OCERS' website at www.ocers.org/investments to see the latest updates on the retirement system's \$22.5 billion fund, which is used to pay benefits to retirees and their beneficiaries.



Members of the Board of Retirement

Frank Eley, Chair
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Suzanne Jenike

Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Finance and Internal Operations

Brenda Shott, CPA

General Counsel

Gina Ratto

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

Board of Retirement and Committee Meeting
dates 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 Retiree Medical Open Enrollment

Mark your calendars! Open Enrollment for County of Orange
retirees will run from Wednesday, October 19, 2022, through
Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Elections made during Open Enrollment
will be effective January 1, 2023.

To ensure you receive all the vital information, take a moment to verify
your settings in your communications preferences on the Benefits Service
Center website: mybenefits.ocgov.com. Your Open Enrollment notifica-
tion will NOT be mailed to you if you have your communication prefer-
ence set for e-mail. It is also very important if you move to report your
updated address with the Benefits Service Center in a timely manner.

Starting mid-October, you can access essential benefits information by
clicking the tile “Open Enrollment begins Wednesday, October 19, 2022,
Prepare Now.” This tile allows you to view the new 2023 rates, 2023 Grant
(if applicable), short informative videos, and your health plan options
before the start of Open Enrollment.

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 can also 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 Open Enrollment questions between 8 a.m.
and 8 p.m. We encourage you to take advantage of the extended hours
during Open Enrollment!

Carefully review your Confirmation of Benefits (COB) notice if you make
elections during Open Enrollment. The allowable correction period is
Wednesday, November 9 - Friday, November 18, 2022. In addition, make
sure you check your e-mail 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 2023 proof of Part B payment by December 31, 2022,
to the Benefits Service Center.

As a reminder, **(THESE ARE NOT OCERS-SPONSORED MEDICAL
BENEFITS)** if you are retired from anywhere other than 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 they
were affiliated with when employed.

-Article provided by the County of Orange

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Rebecca Guider's Commitment To Service

As a long-time employee with the County of Orange and most recently, Board Member with the Retired Employees Association of Orange County (REAOC), Rebecca Guider has an inspiring story to share with both Active and Retired Members. Her 32 years of service working for the County of Orange were followed by utilizing skills that ultimately assisted OCERS retirees in the seven years she served REAOC before stepping down from that organization's Board in May of 2022.

Hired in 1978 to work at the Health Care Agency (HCA), she worked for the "Department of Mental Health" as a clinical gerontologist. She was soon transferred to the Social Services Agency (SSA) as a Senior Social Worker in a newly emerging Adult Protective Services program.

She was promoted within that agency and retired in 2010 as an Executive Director of Adult Services and Assistance Programs for SSA. Prior to her retirement, she was instrumental in the development of the first "Elder Abuse Forensic Center." Additionally, Rebecca testified at several Congressional hearings on "elder mistreatment" and related topics.

After her retirement, Rebecca served for seven years on the REAOC Board providing input on "geriatric issues" such as assisting retirees with navigating where to get medical services or securing formerly in-person services now available only online. She was also Chair of the REAOC Scholarship Committee. This committee is comprised of REAOC volunteers, and two members of the Orange County Department of Education to select the annual recipients of \$2,000 each to contribute to the cost of their college education.



A Successful Guide To Retirement

Rebecca Guider has some tips for maximizing a successful retirement that she wants to share with OCERS members.

1. Stay active and take care of your health.
2. Do things you used to enjoy but never had time to do when working.
3. Stay in touch with old friends AND make new friends.
4. Stay intellectually challenged; learn something new.
5. Share more time with your family . . . all generations!
6. Be of service to others; pick up groceries for a frail neighbor, drive a friend to an appointment, volunteer at your place of worship, etc.
7. Find the good and compliment someone each day.

"Certainly my time served on the REAOC Board met many of the categories above," Rebecca explained. "I am so grateful for having had the privilege to serve our County Retirees!" For more information on REAOC, visit: www.reaoc.org.



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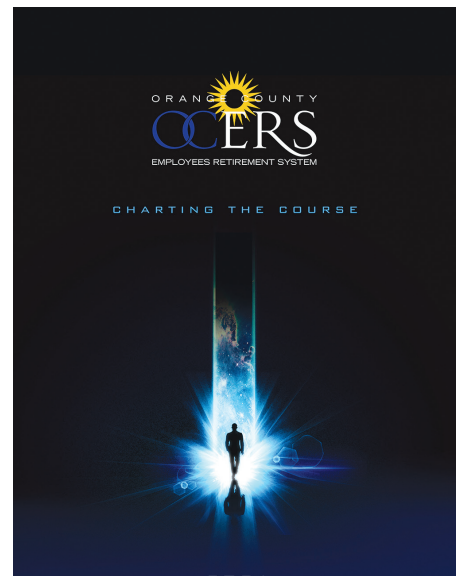
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Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report tells OCERS' annual financial story. The important document now available for members to view on OCERS' website, provides detailed information on OCERS' assets, liabilities, additions and deductions for the 2021 calendar year. Additionally, both our operating costs and details about our investment returns are included in the Annual Report.

Understanding the financial operations of OCERS helps our members, employers, and various other stakeholders gain a greater understanding of the retirement system.

The theme of this year's publication is "Charting The Course" with the document looking at how OCERS is utilizing the latest technology to improve service to members and employers, safeguarding member data, the ability to have OCERS' staff serve members while working remotely, and even the future utilization of Artificial Intelligence ("AI") in the years ahead.



You can see the new Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2021 on the Finance page of the OCERS website.

Did you know? myOCERS provides you access to your personalized account



You can use myOCERS once you register online!



You can gain entry to myOCERS via ocers.org