



# Retirement Chronicles

*News Today About Your Tomorrows*

October 2003

Quarterly Newsletter

## Reader Feedback

You may reach us at:

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1115 Truxtun Ave 1st Floor  
Bakersfield CA 93301  
Attn: Newsletter Editor

E-mail: [Editor@kcera.org](mailto:Editor@kcera.org)  
Fax: (661) 868-3779

## Upcoming Events

Retirement Planning Seminar

December 4, 2003

Board of Supervisors' Chambers

Contact Wanda Castro at KCERA  
to make a reservation.

Retirement Board Meetings

Investment Board

2nd Wednesday each month

Regular Board

4th Wednesday each month



## KCERA Earns National Award

For the third consecutive year, Kern County Employees' Retirement Association has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the KCERA's comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of public employee retirement systems accounting and financial reporting. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment.

Staff Accountant Sheryl Lawrence will be presented with the Award of Financial Reporting Achievement at a future Board meeting. Sheryl is recognized for her primary role in preparing the award-winning CAFR.

In order to meet the high standards of the program, our CAFR was judged by an impartial panel. Recognition was given for demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate our financial story and for motivating interested parties to use the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit association serving approximately 14,000 government finance professionals from offices in Chicago, Illinois and Washington, D.C.

KCERA's award-winning CAFR is available on-line at [www.kcera.org](http://www.kcera.org). On the left menu bar, point your mouse to "Investments." From the fly-out menu, click on "Investment Reports."



## Service Credit Purchases

Many KCERA members know that it is possible to receive retirement service credit by purchasing permissible service credit for work performed before becoming a member of KCERA. Such purchased service credit enhances a member's benefit at retirement. In addition, some types of service credit, such as Extra-

See "Service Credit," Continued on Page 2

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Board Members:

Sharon E. Lesser, Chairman  
Tony Plante, Vice Chairman  
Brad Barnes  
John De Mario  
Brent M. Dezember

Claude D. Fiddler  
Phil Franey  
Barbara Patrick  
Michael Bradley, Alternate  
Lois Maujer, Alternate

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# KCERA Retirement Chronicles

## FAQ's

### Q. I've been working for Kern County for five years but my retirement deduction hasn't stopped yet. Why?

A. After you have earned five years of retirement service credit as a Kern County employee, your retirement deductions stop. Kern County, as your employer, then picks up your retirement contributions. The key distinction is that *you must have five years of retirement service credit*, not five years of employment, before your deduction will stop. If you are employed by a Special District, this benefit may not apply to you.

You begin earning retirement service credit from the date that you enter the retirement system. Your retirement entry date will be the first day of the bi-weekly following your date of hire. Therefore, there can be up to a two week difference between your County hire date and your retirement entry date. The time between your hire date and your retirement entry date does not earn retirement service credit.

In addition, you earn retirement service credit at the same percentage that you are employed. For example, if you are working in a 50% part-time position, you will only earn 1/2 year of retirement service credit for every completed year of employment.

Finally, you earn retirement service credit while you are working and while you are on leave with pay. You do not earn any retirement service credit while you are on a leave without pay.



### “Service Credit,” Continued from Page 1

Help service, count toward a member's eligibility for vesting in the retirement plan and toward eligibility for retirement. If you are contemplating purchasing service credit, you should be aware of the following:

**December 1, 2003** is the deadline for you to turn in a Certification to Purchase Prior Public Service or a Certification to Purchase Prior Kern County Service and have your service credit purchase calculated at current interest. This is also the deadline for requesting an updated contract to purchase service credit at current interest payable if KCERA had calculated your service credit purchase earlier. Interest is charged for service credit purchases and increases at the end of each six month period.

**457 Deferred Comp Rollovers** - Please contact a KCERA Service Representative if you wish to rollover funds from a 457 deferred comp plan to pay for your service credit purchases. If you plan to rollover funds from your Kern County 457 Deferred Comp plan to pay for your service credit purchase, you must make an appointment with Susan Leedy to sign a Memorandum of Understanding before your rollover can be completed. You should contact Susan for an appointment as soon as you receive your service credit purchase contract from KCERA.

**Vacation Rollovers** - Additional steps are necessary to rollover unused vacation hours to pay for service credit purchases. Contact your KCERA Service Representative if you plan to rollover unused vacation hours.

If you have any questions about purchasing service credit, please contact the KCERA office at 661-868-3790 to speak with a Service Representative.



## Web Site Updates

KCERA has updated its web site at [www.kcera.org](http://www.kcera.org). Members can now download and print informational brochures as well as past issues of the *Retirement Chronicles*.

To access the brochures, go to [www.kcera.org](http://www.kcera.org). On the left menu bar, point your mouse to “Members-Active Deferred/Benefits.” From the fly-out menu, click on “Information Brochures.” Four brochures are available: “Your Retirement Contributions,” “Marriage Dissolution Guidelines,” “Reciprocity,” and “Temporary Annuity Option.”

To access past issues of the *Retirement Chronicles*, click on “Latest KCERA News” on the right menu bar. You can select from past issues of the *Retirement Chronicles* sorted by date.

You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to access the brochures and the newsletters. You may download a free version of Acrobat Reader at [www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html).

Please visit the KCERA web site at [www.kcera.org](http://www.kcera.org) to view these latest updates. If you have any questions or comments about the KCERA web site, please e-mail us at [servicerep@kcera.org](mailto:servicerep@kcera.org) or [webmaster@kcera.org](mailto:webmaster@kcera.org).



## Board of Retirement News

The KCERA is pleased to welcome Bradley C. Barnes as the newest member of the Board of Retirement (BOR). The Kern County Board of Supervisors appointed Mr. Barnes as the Ninth member of the BOR to fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of Ethelyn Looy. Mr. Barnes is a Senior Vice President for Investments with Smith Barney. Mr. Barnes holds a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Southern California and is a Certified Financial Planner and a Certified Investment Management Analyst.

In other Board of Retirement news, three BOR seats will be up for election this fall. The Second Member Elected- General will be elected by KCERA General members and is open to any KCERA General member.

The Seventh Member Elected - Safety and the Alternate Member Elected - Safety will be elected by KCERA Safety members. The Seventh Member seat is filled by the Safety member receiving the most votes. The Alternate Member is the Safety member receiving the second most votes.

Anyone interested in running for election to the BOR should contact the Kern County Auditor-Controller-County Clerk, Elections Division.



## Retiree's Corner

### Delayed Check Delivery

The KCERA and Northern Trust, our custodial bank, make every effort to assure that monthly retirement checks are mailed to reach members by the first of each month. Unfortunately, delays sometime occur due to circumstances beyond the control of KCERA and Northern Trust. A recent case in point occurred with the July 2003 payroll. Northern Trust mailed checks and payment advices on July 28 - in time for those documents to arrive by August 1. However, many members did not receive their checks until Saturday, August 2 or Monday, August 4. According to Northern Trust, the delay was associated with Northern Trust's change to mailing checks from its North Carolina facility rather than its Chicago facility.

KCERA deeply regrets any inconvenience to members caused by the delay. Rest assured that we are working closely with Northern Trust to ensure timely delivery in the future.

To avoid the possibility of delayed delivery or a lost check, you may wish to have your monthly retirement check electronically transferred to your checking or savings account. If you are interested in establishing direct deposit, please contact the KCERA office at 661-868-3790 to request a direct deposit enrollment form. Forms are also available on the KCERA web site at [www.kcera.org](http://www.kcera.org).

### Ventura Update - 8/22/2003

61% of cases have been settled resulting in retroactive payments totaling \$4,369,203.04, interest payments totaling \$1,091,485.81, and a monthly payroll change of \$64,912.51.

## Profile - Meet the KCERA Staff

The KCERA is pleased to welcome Anne M. Holdren to the KCERA staff. Anne joined the KCERA staff effective July 14, 2003 as our new Assistant Executive Director (AED). Anne will be responsible for the daily operations of the KCERA including Member and Support Services, Accounting, and Information Systems. Her duties include working with Staff in developing the annual administrative budget and delivering retirement benefits to KCERA members as well as assisting the Executive Director in developing and implementing KCERA's strategic plan.

Anne is well qualified to fill the AED position. She holds a BA in Finance/Business Administration from the University of Findlay, Ohio. She is also a Certified Retirement Administrator and holds licenses in the National Association of Security Dealers Series 6 and 63 and Life and Disability Insurance. Anne previously worked for the State of Washington as Administrator for the Deferred Compensation Program. While there, Anne received the Governor's Distinguished Management Leadership Award and the Governor's Award for Service and Quality Improvement. Anne has also been an active member in the Government Association of Defined Contribution Administrators.

Anne lived and worked in Washington for ten years and previously lived in Ohio. She is delighted for the opportunity to work with KCERA and welcomes the warmer climate found in Bakersfield. She enjoys many outdoor activities including jogging, biking, and hiking and appreciates the diversity Kern County offers.

The KCERA staff is pleased to have Anne as a new staff member and looks forward to a long and rewarding relationship.

KERN COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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Return Service Requested



**KCERA earns National Award for CAFR Report**

**Avoid additional interest costs by purchasing Service Credit early  
See inside for information about Service Credit Purchase deadlines**

**Reserve your spot now for the Retirement Planning Seminar  
scheduled for December 4, 2003**