



The Informer

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.

REAO Luncheons

Though our regularly scheduled May luncheon will not be held, there is good news on the horizon. Depending on CDC and County of Orange Covid advisories, we are planning to hold September and December luncheons.

We have heard from approximately 60 members who took time to let us know that they would like to attend an in-person luncheon. It is great news that many of you are once again ready to meet and visit with your fellow retirees. The luncheons will be held at Mile Square Park on September 28th and December 7, 2022 if all goes as planned.

We will carefully monitor the luncheon possibility. We will provide an update in the September *Informer* newsletter and on our website, www.reaoc.org. Again, we need to all keep an eye on the Covid situation and we will follow the CDC and County guidelines related to meeting in person.

We wish you and your families a very happy and healthy summer.



Presidents' Message

From the Desks of Linda Robinson and Doug Storm

Greetings, Retirees! Welcome to the Summer of 2022. It's time to enjoy special times and celebrations this new summer season has to offer—Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July, planned vacations, adventures and spontaneous getaways. As retirees, we are experiencing a unique time in our lives and new memories are there for the making. Wouldn't it be fun to add a few new ones to our own personal life story? Be brave, have fun! You have definitely earned it! Wherever you go and whatever you do during the upcoming months, we ask that you PLEASE be healthy and safe. Health precautions are important as that nasty Covid virus and its troublesome variants have yet to be eliminated. We certainly hope the virus will be under control soon and present few disruptions over the coming months. HAPPY SUMMER, EVERYONE!

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The REAO and AREOC Board of Directors have been very busy during the past couple of months. In addition to annual tasks and routine business responsibilities completed each month, Board of Director meetings are held, OCERS retirement meetings attended, O.C. Board of Supervisor meetings monitored and legislation

oversight provided by volunteers and Board members. Numerous hours have been spent planning for and hosting a first-ever VIRTUAL Conference offered through the California Retired County Employee Association (CRCEA). The 2022 Spring Conference was held May 2nd and 3rd with a good deal of interest from the twenty '37 Act County Retiree Associations in attendance. You are invited to review several of the excellent speaker presentations posted on the REAO website at www.reaoc.org.

The Scholarship Committee has spent a great deal of time and effort following strict guidelines to complete the process for determining scholarship award winners of the Keith L. Concannon Scholarship Program—a program initiated 18 years ago. Following a rigorous application and evaluation process finalists are identified and scholarships awarded to the top candidates. Recipients will be notified and recognized in the next REAO newsletter. Scholarship awards are an investment in the future and a valuable way for REAO members to support and contribute to the education of outstanding students who are bound to be future workers, leaders and custo-

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Did Your Voting District Change Due to Redistricting?

With all of the redistricting changes, it may be a challenge to figure out what district/precinct you are now in! We will try to assist you with this effort. If you enter in your search browser the different links listed below, you will be lead through a process that will allow you to obtain personal information regarding your districts. We hope this is of assistance to you as you prepare to vote in 2022!

To find your US Congressional district, go to:

<https://www.census.gov/mycd/>

To find your California Congressional District, CalMatters provides the following link:
<https://calmatters.org/politics/2022/01/california-election-new-districts-lookup/>

To find your California Senate District, go to:
<https://www.senate.ca.gov/senators>

To find your Orange County Board of Supervisors District, go to:
<https://cob.ocgov.com/2021-redistricting>

Presidents' Message

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dians of the society in which we live. Thank you REAOC membership for your contribution to this worthwhile program.

The REAOC website is continually updated with timely material related to retirement. The website includes current news articles—check out “The Weekly News” and funnies section, pertinent communications and items of interest to retirees. If you have not accessed this valuable source of information, please feel free to visit our website at www.reaoc.org. If you do log into the website your feedback and suggestions would be greatly appreciated and certainly considered.

The 2023 Retiree Medical Rate process is underway. REAOC has requested meetings with County staff to discuss experience data and the development of premium rates, including any proposed plan design changes for the coming year. Rates are generally adopted by the Board of

Supervisors in July or August. Those rates will be posted on the REAOC website as soon as they are available. We look forward to providing input and recommendations for the County to consider.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Frank Eley, the retiree-elected member and current Chair of the OCERS Board of Retirement is leaving his position on 12-31-22. An election will be held in October to fill Frank's position. REAOC is excited to endorse retiree **Roger Hilton** whose depth of experience, service and competences can benefit all retirees. Roger's background and level of expertise is presented on Page 6 of this newsletter. More to follow in the September issue of *The Informer*.

We will close by expressing our thanks to each of you for being a member of REAOC. Your support, participation and membership in the REAOC organization continue to be

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REAOC

P.O. Box 11787
Santa Ana, CA 92711-1787
Phone: 714-840-3995
Website: www.reaoc.org
Email: reaoc@reaoc.org

OFFICERS

Linda Robinson	Co President
Doug Storm	Co President
Rebecca Guider	Secretary
Bill Castro	Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Tom Cooney
Frank Eley
Gaylan Harris
John Iagjian
Larry Leaman
Sara Ruckle-Harms
Michael Schumacher

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Ilene Bárcenas	Executive Director
John Iagjian	Membership Committee
Ilene Bárcenas	<i>The Informer</i> Editor
Vacant	Luncheon Committee
Norma Roberts	Board Watch
Linda Robinson	CRCEA Delegate
Michael Schumacher	Legislation
Rebecca Guider	Scholarship Committee

The Informer is published 5 times a year. Readers are encouraged to write *The Informer* expressing their views and comments on the subjects of interest to them.

The mission of REAOC is to promote and maintain fellowship and camaraderie of OCERS retirees and their spouses by sponsoring social and recreational activities and by maintaining contacts via the newsletter, the REAOC website, e-mail, or other means of communication. A secondary purpose is tracking and dissemination of information relating to pension and legislative actions, financial matters, physical and mental health care, volunteer and employment opportunities and other concerns that may be of interest to our members.

OCERS retirees and their spouses are eligible for regular association membership. Dues are \$3.00 per month, payable through payroll deduction. Active employees, who will receive their retirement through OCERS, are eligible for Associate Membership. Dues for associate members are \$1.00 per month payable for the year each January.

Luncheons are held at Mile Square Golf Course in Fountain Valley on the fourth Wednesday of January, March, May and September, and on the first Wednesday of December. A local chapter of REAOC is active in Hemet.

12 States That Won't Tax Your Retirement Distributions

by John Waggoner, AARP, Updated February 24, 2022

Note: This article applies only to State Income Taxes.

One of the biggest items on your retirement budget is taxes. If you're thinking of moving somewhere else, consider one of the 12 states that don't tax distributions from pensions or defined contribution plans such as 401(k) plans. Retiring in one of these places may help you stretch your nest egg.

A LACK OF TAX

Nine of those 12 states don't tax retirement plan income simply because distributions from retirement plans are considered income, and these nine states have no state income taxes at all: Alaska, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. The remaining three—Illinois, Mississippi and Pennsylvania—don't tax distributions from 401(k) plans, IRAs or pensions. Alabama and Hawaii don't tax pensions but do tax distributions from 401(k) plans and IRAs.

Taxing retirement plan distributions isn't an all-or-nothing proposition. For example, 34 states don't tax military retirement income. Nine of those, are the states listed above that don't have income taxes. The others: Arizona, Alabama, Arkansas,

27 states that limit the amount of tax by income levels		
Alabama	Kansas	New Jersey
Arizona	Kentucky	New Mexico
Arkansas	Louisiana	New York
Colorado	Maine	Oklahoma
Connecticut	Maryland	Rhode Island
Delaware	Massachusetts	South Carolina
Georgia	Michigan	Virginia
Iowa	Montana	Wisconsin

Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin. California, Vermont, Virginia and Washington, D.C. fully tax military retirement pay. All other states have partial allowances for military pay. Virginia only allows Congressional Medal of Honor recipients to exclude their military retirement income.

Note: You may not have paid tax on your retirement income, but that doesn't mean that your state doesn't tax retirement income under certain conditions: 27 states tax some, but not all, retirement or pension

income. Typically, these states limit the amount of tax by income levels.

TAXES AREN'T EVERYTHING

Some states with low-or no-income taxes have higher property or sales taxes. For example, while Illinois does not tax retirement income, it has one of the highest sales and property taxes in the U.S. Other low-tax states may have fewer programs that you might find helpful, such as senior centers and public transportation.

Ultimately, where you live in retirement depends on what you can afford and what makes you happy. If you have a beloved child or grandchild in a high-tax state, you may figure the extra taxes are worth being nearby.

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invaluable. Let's stay informed and united, Retirees. We are all in this together. Take care, be well and be safe!

— Linda Robinson and Doug Storm



Memorial Day 2022

Memorial Day will be celebrated this year on May 30th. Most of us will be commemorating the true meaning of Memorial Day as a time to honor our veterans and those who gave their lives for our country. Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, began during the American Civil War when citizens placed flowers on the graves of those who had been killed in battle. After World War I, it came to be observed in honor of those who had died in all U.S. wars, and its name changed to Memorial Day.

Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in

Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C.

Many Americans will pause at 3 p.m. during the National Moment of Remembrance. This is an annual event that asks Americans, at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day, to pause for a duration of one minute to remember those who have died in military service to the United States. This is a moment for all of us to reflect on the sacrifices made by so many to provide freedom to all.

Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. Some people wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war—a tradition that began with a World War I poem. On a less somber note, many people take weekend trips or throw parties and

barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because Memorial Day weekend—the long weekend comprising the Saturday and Sunday before Memorial Day and Memorial Day itself—unofficially marks the beginning of summer.

However you celebrate and remember our fallen veterans, have a safe Memorial Day.



Scholarship Update

We are in the process of reviewing the Keith Concannon scholarship applications that were received in early April prior to the publication of the May/June 2022 *Informer* newsletter. Our wonderful Scholarship Committee, chaired by REAOC Director Rebecca Guider with County of Orange retiree member Kathleen Mattivi as well as Ryan Crowdis and Brenda Gomez, both from the OC Department of Education, has been working very hard to identify the candidates who will be awarded the scholarships. This is not an easy task as we have received many outstanding applications. We are always amazed at the talent and dedication of the students who apply for the scholarships. They

have worked very hard to achieve the grades and honors that have been bestowed upon them.

Once the Scholarship Committee completes their review of the applications (with names and identifying information redacted), the Chair will complete a memo to the REAOC Board Presidents informing them of the recommended award winners with a summary of the accomplishments of each proposed awardee. The Chair will also ask the Presidents for their approval or comments. Additionally, the average scores of the applicants will be shared with the Presidents. The applicants with the highest scores are considered the most successful candidates.

Upon approval or as requested by the Chair or Board President(s),

the Executive Director will prepare the approval and denial letters for the scholarship applicants. Approval letters advise successful candidates that they have been selected for the scholarship award. As we are not having a May luncheon to present the checks, the checks will be mailed to the awardees.

This is an exciting process for REAOC, and we look forward to this process each and every year! In our September *Informer*, we will announce the winners to all of our members. We thank all of our members for encouraging their relatives to apply for the Keith Concannon scholarships that will once again become available on January 1, 2023.

In Memoriam

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families and loved ones of those who meant so much to so many.

January 2022 – March 2022

Elizabeth Alfaro, HCA
Catherine Anderson, Superior Court
Shirley Anderson, UCI
Eileen Armstrong, OCPW
Robert Baumgartner, Sheriff's Dept
Sharon Beard, SSA
Nell Bender, OC Public Works
Judith Blount, SSA
Robert Bradley, Probation
Linda Braun, SSA
Loretta Brown, OCCR
Joan Burton, SSA
Robert Capps, Sheriff's Dept
Troy Cole, OCPW
Jack Connor, OCTA
Michael Curry, Sheriff's Dept
James Dahl, OC Fire Authority
Clyde Davis, OC Public Works
Jean Desatoff, Sheriff's Dept
Thaddeus Dwyer, Sheriff's Dept
Mary Esslinger, Assessor
Diane Feierabend, SSA
Robin Fielding, Superior Court
Ernesto Foronda, OCWR
Ruben Guadan, Superior Court
Judith Hall, Superior Court
Virgil Hamilton, JWA
Patricia Hay, OC Public Works

Charles Hollis, Sheriff's Dept
Janice Hugo, OCTA
Mahmood Idris, OC Public Works
Cynthia Klika, SSA
Katherine Klug, SSA
Leonard Krahenbill, OCTA
James Lewis, OCTA
Veronica Lloyd, OCPW
Gloria Long, HCA
Obadiah Louder, Sheriff's Dept
Marianne Luster, District Attorney
Sharri Mahdavi, HCA
Richard Marcum, OC Public Works
Sue Martin, Sheriff's Dept
Raymond Mayer, Sheriff's Dept
Manuel Meza, SSA
Albert Mondello, OCTA
Gertrude Morones, Superior Court
Elaine Moskowitz, Auditor Controller
Joe Natsuhara, OC Public Works
Keith Neely, HCA
Kathy Nguyen, SSA
Cam Ong, SSA
Escolastica Orate, UCI
Frank Ospino, Public Defender
Lois Pardee, Superior Court
Ronald Peace, Superior Court
Georgie Pulliam, SSA
Hermila Rasmussen, SSA
James Richards, OCPW
Maria Sanchez, SSA
Robert Schultz, OC Fire Authority
Lucia Sears, HCA

Clarence Shaddix, OC Public Works
Ralph Silva, District Attorney
Rufus Smith, OCPW
Eric Snethen, District Attorney
Claudia Stiver, HCA
Richard Stolte, OCPW
Wilson Summers, Probation
Le Lonnie Sylvester, Sheriff's Dept
Brooks Talley, Public Defender
Marcella Tapia Carlson, HCA
Elmer Tardif, Fire Authority (OCFA)
Jose Teves, Sheriff's Dept
Arthur Thomassen, Probation
Farrell Tretter, OCTA
William Truett, OCTA
Wallace Wade, Child Support Services
Robert Wagner, Sheriff's Dept
William Williams, Sheriff's Dept
Sandra Willis, HCA
Terri Young, Sheriff's Dept
Concepcion Zavala, Assessor

Surviving Spouses

Bivens, Velma
Brakke, Eugene
Cisneros, Gloria
Clow, Rachel
Crane, George
Cruce, Richard
Daniels, Hamesdouhie
Davis, Robert
Dickson, Robert
Elenes, Josephine
Ferrari, Mary
Genovese, Eugene
Gill, Anne
Gronberg, Virginia
Harlan, James
Harper, Ilga
Hinkson, Jean
Kammel, Dora
Poe, Robert
Prater, Mary
Strahan, Leon
Strayer, Mei-Tsu
Gary Wallace
Williams, Virginia



OCERS Board of Directors Election – REAOC Endorses Roger Hilton!

Your REAOC Board of Directors has unanimously voted to endorse Roger Hilton as the next Retiree Representative on the Orange County Employees Retirement System (OCERS) Board of Retirement. This seat will become available January 2023 as our current representative, Frank Eley, has chosen not to see another term. Frank has been an outstanding retiree advocate and is fully supportive of Roger stating, “Roger is one of the most fair members he has served with, it will be a smooth transition.” This is quite an endorsement noting that Frank has been on the OCERS Board since 1999.

Roger, a current REAOC member, worked for the Sheriff’s Department 30 ½ years before retiring. He has served 9 years on the OCERS Board as a safety member and is well versed in the systems operations and investment protocols. He has served



Left: Roger Hilton, Candidate for the OCERS Board of Directors. Right: Frank Eley, current Chair of OCERS Board of Directors.

as the Chair of the OCERS Board as well as several of its committees. He is known for his ability to work well with other board members and all agencies that participate in the system. He has extensive experience working with the Orange County Board of Supervisors and Legislators in Sacramento. Roger has represented OCERS at the State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS) as both a member and Vice-Chair of

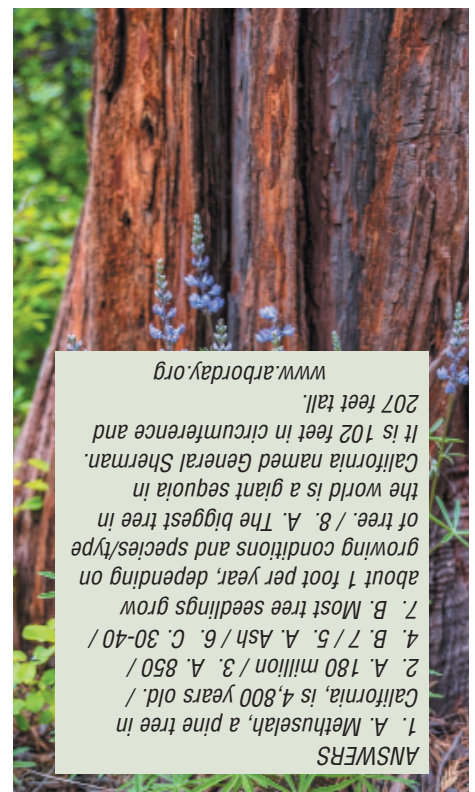
this board.

WE NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT as our endorsement doesn’t automatically place Roger on the OCERS Board. There will be a general election conducted with all OCERS retirees who are eligible to vote. The vote will take place later this year via mail-in-ballots. Your support is appreciated, and we will provide you with additional information as the election draws closer.

Tree Trivia

by Arbor Day Foundation

- How old is the oldest tree in the United States?
A. 750 years old B. 2,000 years old C. 4,800 years old
- How many people rely on forests for clean drinking water in the United States?
A. 180 million B. 1 million C. 50 million
- How many species of trees are there in the United States?
A. 850 B. 375 C. 2,000
- How many trees does the average American use each in paper, wood, and other tree products?
A. 1 B. 7 C. 15
- Baseball bats are made out of wood from which species of tree?
A. Ash B. Oak C. Pine
- How many gallons of maple syrup sap are needed to make one gallon of maple syrup?
A. 5-7 B. 10-15 C. 30-40
- At what rate will most tree seedlings grow per year?
A. 6 inches B. 1 foot C. 2 feet
- What is the biggest tree in the world in terms of overall height and circumference?
A. Giant sequoia B. Douglas fir C. White oak





Welcome, New Members

Assessor: Jeanné Wilbur, Priscilla Alferos

CEO: James Martin, Kendra Hayden

Child Support Services: Maria Murphy

County Counsel: Steven Miller

District Attorney: Evangelina Camarena,
Elizabeth Gomez

HCA: Xiomara Delgado, Sam Barela,
Sandra Rosen, Pamela Sipchen, James R.
Hendron, Stacey Northcutt, Chantal
Sejourne-Daitch, Nga Duong, Jocelyn
Esguerra, Kelley Ponce, David Shepas,
Imelda Garner, Lena Tran, Brett O'Brien,
Luz Conde, Prudence Darley, Mark Sutphin

OCERS: Cuong M. Nguyen

OCCR: Scott Thomas, Khi Luong, Wen Gao

OC Fire Authority: Darren Roberson, Kelly
Zimmerman, Brian Gish, Michael Moffitt,
Greg Hosburg, Linda Verraster, Lloyd
Pinel, Donna Cloe, Christi Denton

OC Public Works: Mark Nestor, Tyler
Hoang, Christine Mendivil-Knapp, Randy
Vannoy, Chris Crompton, Michele
Bartholomew

OC Sanitation District: Shamshad Hyder

OCSD: Michael Janiel, Sherry Lujan-
Carpenter, Doreen Dorsey, Nereida
Gutierrez, Greg Blakeley, Karen Lee-
Vargas, William Edinger, Pete Farrell,
Sharon Tabata

OC Superior Court: Michele Cades, Marie
Harding, Lisa Zaidi, Wendy Nishitsuji

OC Waste & Recycling: Ruth Resnick

Probation: Jan Varven, Rick Weber

SSA: Beverlee Mitsch, Patty Markus, Dan
Butler, Diana Cruz-Toro, Denise Churchill,
Susan Njemanze, Jane Dong

Not Stated: Dennis Gomez, Karen
Hoffman-Winberry, Arlene Marten,
Jonathan Tucker, Julia Montgomery,
Rosemary Orozco



Recipe Corner

Chicken Piccata

Chicken piccata is an Italian-American staple beloved for its piquant flavors cradled in a silky, butter-rich pan sauce. Serve with pasta, polenta, rice or white beans for sopping up the sauce, and a green vegetable.



Yield: 4 servings • Time: 25 minutes

Ingredients

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (about 1-1/2 pounds), halved horizontally (see tip)
Kosher salt and black pepper
All-purpose flour, for dredging
6 tablespoons unsalted butter
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more as needed
1 shallot, peeled and sliced lengthwise
1 lemon, halved (half thinly sliced and seeds removed; half juiced, about 2 tablespoons)
3/4 cup chicken stock
4 teaspoons drained capers
Coarsely chopped fresh parsley, for garnish (optional)

Preparation

1. Season both sides of the chicken with salt and pepper. Dredge the chicken in flour and shake off any excess.
2. In a large skillet, heat 3 tablespoons butter and the olive oil over medium-high heat until the butter has melted. Working in batches to avoid crowding the pan, add the chicken and sauté until golden brown and cooked through, about 3 minutes per side.
3. Remove the chicken, place on a plate and repeat with the remaining pieces, adding more olive oil if needed.
4. Once the chicken is cooked, add the shallot and lemon slices to the pan and sauté, stirring occasionally, until lightly caramelized and fragrant, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the stock and simmer until reduced by half, about 3 minutes.
5. Reduce the heat to low, then stir in the remaining 3 tablespoons of butter, capers and lemon juice, to taste. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve the chicken with the sauce poured over the top. Garnish with parsley if desired.

Tip: Freezing the chicken breasts for 15 minutes will make slicing them through the middle easier.

Recipe by Ali Slagle / New York Times

<https://cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/1019883-chicken-piccata>

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P.O. Box 11787, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1787

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Memorial Day 2022

OCEERS Board of Retirement Election
and REAOC Endorsement

States that Won't Tax Your Retirement

Voting Redistricting

Scholarship Update

Dated Material – Please Deliver Immediately



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