



TCREA
 TULARE COUNTY RETIRED
 EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
 P.O. BOX 6981
 VISALIA, CA 93290-6981

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Kevin Mizner

Hello to all my fellow retirees and TCREA members. I hope that you have a great summer so far and are looking forward to getting past this hot weather. Over the summer, we had some hot days, but until recently, the nights cooled down nicely, almost like in the desert. We were able to open our windows overnight and cool the house down before the heat of the day. But over the past several weeks, that changed with the lows being in the mid to high 70’s, so I had to wake up to the sound of the air conditioner running at 3:00 am. The only ones who like that are SCE and PG&E! Hopefully we are coming to the end of that soon – in fact, at the writing of this article, our low tonight is 63 degrees...yay!!

I am excited to share an update on our nominating process for 2026. I had mentioned in the past that I felt it was time for some new blood as president of the association (I think I have been saying that for at least 5 years!) And now that day has come...I am excited to say that we have a member who is ready to step up to the podium and lead our wonderful organization in 2026. Maggie Melo is a retired prosecutor from the District Attorney’s Office and after serving the past year on our Board, she is willing to accept the nomination. She has been helping at the luncheons and has been very active with our Board, so I look forward to seeing what new energy and ideas she will bring to our association. I will be moving to the Past President position on the Board, so I won’t be going far!

In addition, we have a couple of other Board members who will be stepping back from their roles. Val Barnhart and Betty McGill will be leaving the Board and Peggy Gilreath will be moving from Secretary to a Director-at-large role. I am pleased to say that we have already been able to recruit two new Board members and are hopeful to get 1-2 more to give us plenty of help in 2026. If you have the time and interest to serve on our Board, please contact me at the number listed in the newsletter – I would love to talk with you about it!

I also have some other news to share. Over the past three years, Roland Hill has served as our elected retiree member to the Tulare County Board of Retirement. While he was planning to run for another 3-year term, a serious health issue has led to his decision not to seek re-election. Roland is doing well but please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. Because of my stepping down as the TCREA Board President, I have offered to run for election to fill the seat in Roland’s place. As a little background, I served as the Safety-elected member of the Retirement Board from 1996 – 2007, so I believe I have a good foundation to build on. In addition, my 17-years as Board President has allowed me to work closely with all our past elected Retirement Board members, so I am hopeful, if elected, to hit the ground running. George Finney, our Alternate Retired member, will also be running for another 3-year term.

Special points of interest

There are always many things to do when you move to a new address. One of the most important is to let the Retirement Board know your new address so you won’t miss receiving your pension check.

Inside this issue

President’s Message.....1-2
 Pacific Group Open Enrollment...2
 Upcoming Bus Trip.....3
 Luncheon Info.....3
 Square Reader.....3
 2025 Board of Directors.....4
 2025 Dates.....4
 TCREA Website info.....4
 CRCEA Website.....4
 Email Newsletter info.....4
 Important Notes.....4
 Important Notice.....4
 Luncheon Minutes.....5
 Scholarship Info.....5
 Welcome New Members.....6
 Memoriam.....6
 Newsletter Sweepstake.....6
 August Drawing Winners.....6
 Retirement Article.....7
 Elections Info.....7
 Article.....7
 Pacific Group Agencies Ad.....8

The TCREA NEWS is published five times each year. The information in the TCREA NEWS is believed to be from reliable sources. However, no responsibility is assumed by the TCREA NEWS for inaccuracies contained herein.

Cont. from page 1

Open enrollment is upon us for both Medicare and our PGA insurance policies. You will be receiving the Benefit Guide for PGA in the mail very soon. I have been told that most insurance plans remain in place with limited or no increases. You will know it is time for Medicare when Medicare commercials are on every channel (October 15 – December 7). If you have questions about Medicare coverage, you can contact the local *HICAP Office* at 559-713-2875 or our CRCEA affiliate, *MySeniorHealth* at (877) 255-6273. *MySeniorHealth* is an independent insurance broker and can write policies for many different companies.

On the social front, we enjoyed a wonderful bus trip on August 16th to the Reagan Library, where we saw the special exhibit of the Dead Sea Scrolls. As always, it was a great experience, with so much to see. Thanks to our driver and TCREA retiree, Joe Rosas, for getting us there safely. Our next trip will be leaving on October 5th, as we head to the Golden Nugget Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas. The trip is currently full but please feel free to check with Val to see if there may be room on the waiting list.

We also held our August luncheon on August 21st, where we had 172 reservations. We enjoyed another great buffet prepared by Hometown Emporium (Exeter) and an educational program provided by Valley Oak Credit Union and Tulare County Adult Protective Services (APS). There is never a shortage of bad people trying to scam you out of your money so be careful!! Thank you to all who donated extra raffle gifts and the Progressive Drawing of \$350 went unclaimed, so we will draw for \$400 at our October luncheon on October 16th. Hope to see you there!!!



TCREA Benefit Plans Open Enrollment



We are pleased to announce the upcoming 2026 Open Enrollment period for TCREA benefit plans. For those already enrolled in a supplemental insurance plan, now is the time to ensure you're making the most of your benefits and staying up to date with any plan updates. If you are new to TCREA or looking to enroll for the first time, open enrollment is the perfect opportunity to choose the benefits that best support your health, lifestyle, and peace of mind.

Plans include high benefit dental plans (PPO & HMO), a VSP vision plan, legal services, identity theft protection, pet care, life insurance, accident coverage, and much more. This is your once-a-year chance to enroll in or make changes to your dental and vision coverages. Our plans are designed with retirees in mind—offering affordable premiums, comprehensive coverage, and convenient access to care. Many plans include nationwide provider networks and user-friendly online tools to help you manage your benefits with ease.

All retirees will receive their annual Open Enrollment Benefits Guide in the mail, and you should have it no later than October 15th. This guide details the benefit plans offered exclusively to TCREA members. The Benefit Guides are mailed to the address TCERA (the retirement system) and not TCREA (your retiree association) has on file, so if you have moved, please make sure they have your current address. The benefits guide and enrollment forms are also available online for your convenience! Visit us at www.pgagencies.com/TCREA for more information.

If you are planning to make changes to your current elections or enroll for the first time, you must complete and return your Enrollment Form no later than November 14, 2025. If you are not making any changes to your current coverage, you do not need to return the Enrollment Form; your existing benefits will automatically continue into the 2026 plan year.

Submitting your form on time ensures your updated or new benefits will begin without delay on January 1, 2026. Thank you for being a valued member of TCREA. It is our privilege to support TCREA and contribute to your continued health and wellbeing.



*OCTOBER LUNCHEON
Exeter Memorial Building
324 N. Kaweah Ave, Exeter, CA
October 16, 2025
12:00 Noon*



Join us for a great time of food and fellowship at our October 16, 2025 TCREA Luncheon at the Exeter Memorial Building. We are looking forward to enjoying a buffet luncheon prepared by Kristy McGill of the Hometown Emporium. The buffet will include Turkey, Cornbread Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Country Green Beans, Salad, Dinner Roll, Water, Tea, Coffee and Pumpkin Pie for Dessert. Cost is \$11.00 per member and \$11.00 for one guest. Each additional guest is \$20.00. Payments can be made at the door by cash, check or debit/credit card. We will have a “tip” bag on each table for you to place a gratuity. Please join us in blessing her and her staff.

- ◆ Great lunch provided by Kristy McGill/Hometown Emporium
- ◆ Fellowship with fellow Tulare County Retirees
 - ◆ Raffles
- ◆ Open Enrollment Information
 - ◆ Elections

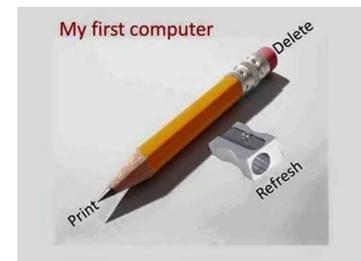
PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SPOT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 9, 2025 BY TEXTING PEGGY REDFERN AT 559-901-7905.

Notice: We no longer can accept late reservations or cancellations. If you cancel your reservation after October 9, 2025 or fail to attend the luncheon, we are asking that you kindly mail your payment to TCREA. Thanks for your attention in this matter. Payments for the cancellation can be mailed to P.O. Box 6981, Visalia, CA 93290-6981 or call our Treasurer, Terrie Saenz at 559-972-1734 if you want to pay with credit/debit card.

UPCOMING BUS TRIP

SQUARE READER
We now have a Square reader where we can accept payments by debit or credit card. A small fee is assessed on larger purchases such as for our bus trips, however you **will not** be charged a fee for paying for your luncheon tickets. Are you ready to save time in lines paying or having to mail in a check? If you would like to pay for any events in advance, contact our treasurer, Terrie Saenz at 559 -972-1734

Tulare County Retired Employees Assoc.	
October Bus Trip 2025	
	Join us as we take our first trip to Las Vegas for a 4-day adventure. We will leave early Sunday morning and travel to the Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino on Fremont Street. The trip price includes bus transportation, hotel costs, and Bingo and snacks on the bus. We will return home on Wednesday afternoon! Join us for a great time of travel and fun!
	
	
Sun - Wed Oct 5—8, 2025 \$286.00 per person (Double-occupancy)	Contact—Val Barnhart 559-280-9679 Mail check to: TCREA PO Box 6981, Visalia CA



TCREA OFFICERS 2025

President

Kevin Mizner - 623-6638

1st. Vice - President

Elva Strawn—936-9643

2nd. Vice - President -

Thelma Brown— 381-0125

Secretary-

Peggy Gilreath—331-4626

Treasurer

Terrie Saenz—972-1734

Retirement Board Member

Roland Hill—372-7240

George Finney— Alt.

Member -

909-2099

Directors - at- Large

Dora Anaya—936-3892

Maggie Melo—732-3000

Jorge Abad—690-4337

Valerie Barnhart—
280-9679

Peggy Redfern—901-7905

Betty McGill—300-2223

Newsletter Editor

Valerie Barnhart—
280-9679

Past President

Jerry Pundt - 361-0430



Get your newsletter by email...no printed copy

Full color version
Save paper
Reduce our cost of mailing

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please send an email to Val Barnhart at Admin@tc-rea.org and include the following information: Last name, First name, home address, and email address (use the spelling as is on your retirement checks)

TCREA Website is now available

Visit us at
www.tc-rea.org



2025 DATES

Luncheons
October 16, 2025
December 18, 2025

Board Meetings
September 9, 2025
November 11, 2025

Bus Trips
Las Vegas—Golden Nugget Hotel: ⇒ October 5-8, 2025

CRCEA has a website!

www.crcea.org

This is our Statewide Retirement Organization

Visit the site and take advantage of the information they provide for our members

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If you make **no changes** to your **Pacific Group policy/plan** you are currently signed up for, you **do not** need to complete paperwork each year. This is a great savings of your time.

IMPORTANT NOTE

It is very important for you to notify your current insurance company in the event of a death of your spouse.

We have been notified that many folks have not reported the death and therefore are still being charged the same fee for their insurance policy.



TULARE COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON

Kevin Mizner opened the luncheon meeting at 12:00 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation. Lunch was served. Lunch was provided by Kristi McGill, Hometown Emporium and served at the Exeter Memorial Building. The menu was Meat Loaf, Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Corn and Peas, Salad, Rolls, Water, Tea, Coffee, and Cookies for dessert. The food was enjoyed by everyone in attendance. Thanks to Kristi McGill and her crew for their service. Kevin reminded everyone about the tip bags for our caterers for us to bless the caterers for their hard work. Kevin welcomed the new members in attendance.

Kevin welcomed the guest speakers from Valley Oak Credit Union and Adult Protective Services – Public Guardian Office. Their presentation was on scams and fraud. They reminded all of us to always be cautious. Watch for anything that “sounds too good to be true is probably is too good to be true.”

No retirement board report given. However, Kevin reported that Roland Hill will not be running as the Retirement member due to health issues. This left an opening for the 3-year term as the Representative Retirement member. Kevin has agreed to have his name on the ballot for this position. George Finney will run as Alternate Retirement Representative.

Kevin announced that a few members will not be returning for the 2026 Board, however, we have a few folks that are willing to have their names placed on the upcoming ballot at the next Luncheon/Meeting on October 16, 2025. If anyone is interested to be on the 2026 Board, please contact Kevin Mizner.

Kevin announced the fall bus trips. The trip to Reagan Museum and Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit was a nice trip and enjoyed by all in attendance. The next trip will be to Las Vegas on October 5-8 to the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino. There are still a few openings so you can make reservations by calling or texting Val Barnhart.

Kevin announced that open enrollment was coming soon for our PGA insurance plans. Kevin advised that our members will be receiving their benefit guides in the mail.

Kevin reminded everyone about receiving digital newsletters. Each month we receive requests but would love to see the number of mailed copies (snail mail) decrease, which is a great savings (\$5.00 per year per member) to our organization. We will have a drawing for 2 winners to receive a \$25 digital Amazon gift card on June 1st for all those that have signed up to receive their newsletter digitally. This will continue through the end of the year.

The raffles began. Many thanks to all those who donated a gift for the raffle. The progressive drawing was \$350.00. The winner was not present. Congratulations to all the raffle winners!

Kevin thanked everyone for coming and we are looking forward to our next luncheon on October 16, 2025, at the Exeter Memorial Building. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



2026 Scholarship Information

Now is a great time to be thinking of family members who may qualify for one of our TCREA \$1,000.00 Scholarships. Four scholarships will be awarded each year. To be eligible, they must be a High School Graduate in 2026 and be a relative of a current TCREA member.

The deadline for applying is April 1, 2025. Contact Thelma Brown at 559-381-0125 for an application or download from the TCREA Website, www.tc-rea.org





NEW MEMBERS

MEMBER	DEPARTMENT
Anderson, Michael	RMA
Brito, Kathleen	Unk
Broadhead, Randy	Solid Waste
Encinas, Leonard	Continuant
Pierce, Susan	Unk
Cossio, Mary	HHS
Ellis, Stephen	Sheriff
Jones, Patricia	Child Support
Alvarez, Jose	Sheriff
Anaya, Kim	Legal Filings
De Leon, Omar	HHS
Eisele, Ronda	HHS
Hamilton, Joseph	HHS
Inman, Arvada	Continuant
Jones, Patricia	Child Support
Labrie, Marilyn	DA
Ledbetter, Jerry	CAO-Motor Pool
Lopez, Obdulia	CAO-Admin
Serna, Valentina	Sheriff-Records
Summerlin, Sherry	HHS
Tyndal, Darlene	DA
Young, Anthony	Sheriff

In Memoriam

TCREA extends our deepest sympathy to family and friends of retirees listed below

MEMBER	DEPARTMENT
Brazil, William	Unk
Lenz, David	Tulare Co. Fire
Awbrey, Larry	RMA
Logan, Thomas	HHS
Byrd, Bob	Sheriff
Drew, Kathleen	NMFS Retiree
Flowers, Linda	Unk
Inman, Kenneth	Sheriff
Labrie, Albert	Sheriff
Palmer, Loveda	Unk
Rodriguez, Ephraim	HHS
Sell, George	RMA
Gheen, Delbert	HHS
Jacobsen, Billie	HHS
Moreno, Rachel	Unk
Starling, Connie	HHS
Stillman, Josephine	Unk
Watson, Michael	Sheriff

TCREA Digital Newsletter Sweepstakes

Sign-up for our Digital Newsletter
(a full-color copy sent to your email)

&

Be entered to win one of two \$25 Amazon
gift cards each month



(through 12/2025)



Signing up is easy!

Just go to our website at www.tc-rea.org and subscribe at the bottom of the homepage.

All digital subscribers are included in the drawing each month!



**August Drawing Winners are
Maureen Souza and Dianne Pyle
(Each received a \$25 digital Amazon gift card)**

Retirement Report
By Roland Hill, TCREA Elected Trustee



Nothing new to report since the last publication.



ELECTIONS

Elections will be held at our October Luncheon. The terms are one year but not limited to only one year. The following have agreed to have their names run on the Board of Directors, Maggie Melo, President; Kevin Mizner, Past-President, Elva Strawn, 1st Vice President; Thelma Brown, 2nd Vice-President; Leonor Maestas-Banuelos, Secretary; Terrie Saenz, Treasurer; Dora Anaya, Jorge Abad, Peggy Gilreath, Peggy Redfern (and Newsletter Editor), Sherri Shiffert, Directors at Large.

We are needing a few more volunteers. If you wish to run for any position on the Board for 2026, contact Kevin Mizner at 559-623-6638. He will provide details of the position.

Nominations will be held from the floor at our luncheon. Eligibility to hold office is limited to members. Associate members are not eligible to hold office.

What Common Hazards Exist for Seniors Living at Home?

Common [hazards for seniors](#) living at home include kitchen appliances, clutter, household chemicals and medications. These hazards can lead to falls, burns and accidental poisoning. Remove items from the floor, and secure area rugs to reduce the risk of falls. Adding night-lights, grab bars in the bathroom and traction mats on slippery surfaces also helps.

Burns often result from kitchen accidents and fires. If a fire occurs, the person should leave the home and call 911 instead of trying to put out the flames. Medication confusion commonly causes poisoning in older adults, so keep prescriptions in their original containers, request large-print labels and ask your doctor for help if you have questions about taking your medicines correctly.

TULARE COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 6981

VISALIA, CA 93290-6981

A plan offered by Pacific Group Agencies for our TCREA membership



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