



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

President's Message

Maggie Melo



Hello everyone!

I hope this message finds you enjoying summer! Here in Visalia, the temperatures are climbing, and it's the perfect time to slow down a bit, stay cool, and make the most of the beautiful Central California region we're so fortunate to call home. Whether you're seeking relief with a drive to the coast at Pismo or Avila Beach, or planning a visit to our magnificent national parks, there are wonderful opportunities all around us for day trips and getaways. I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy this special season when you can.

I actually enjoy the warm temperatures- not the 108, but sitting in the shade with a cold lemonade when it is 80 is just wonderful. When I first moved to Visalia in the early 1990's, local folks kept telling me that the summers here were brutal. It was October and cold, getting colder. I had moved from San Francisco. So I couldn't wait for the summer warmth to get here. That first summer was perfect! It barely hit 100. I sat by the pool and relaxed most of summer. The next summer, it was over 100 so many days, I lost track. Pool time was before 8:00 am or after 8:00 pm, or you would fry. Not so great. But after all these years, I have adjusted to the idea that "it's only 90, it feels cool" and I try to take full advantage of those lazy Sundays with a cold drink in my hand and my puppy dogs at my feet.

I'm pleased to report another strong quarter for our organization, with excellent attendance at our quarterly luncheons. Your participation truly makes these gatherings special, and it's wonderful to see so many familiar faces and new friends connecting over good food and conversation.

At our June luncheon, we awarded six \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are related to TCREA members. It was wonderful to see so many young men and women moving into the next phase of their lives and starting on the path to higher education.

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Members: **2421**

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Special points of interest

There are always many things to do when you move to a new address. It is very important to let TCERA know your new address so that you won't miss receiving your pension check.
Call (559) 713-2900

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The TCREA NEWS is published four 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.

It was a pleasure to meet and get to know the recipients and their families. It is clear that the TCREA members and the families of these graduates are extremely proud- with good reason! Congratulations to our winners and we know you all have very bright futures ahead of you.

Looking ahead, we have our August summer trip to Morro Bay, where we will enjoy a scenic harbor cruise and a delicious clam chowder lunch. It is expected that the weather will be perfect and that the drive will consist of all green lights at every intersection. I hope to see many of you on the trip. I think I get to pick the songs we sing- Alvin and the Chipmunks here we come!

In October, we have the Lake Tahoe trip. I have received feedback from members who are excited for this trip. It is a popular outing, and it seems to always sell out. Mirtha Diaz has been working hard to get everyone signed up who wants to go on these trips. She has been donating her time and communication skills to make sure everything goes perfectly. I truly appreciate her dedication to getting these trips planned out.

Also, it's time to start thinking about TCREA leadership. Our Board elections will be held later this year, and in September, we will be accepting nominations for the Board of Directors. The Board works hard to serve our membership, but we divide the work so it can be easily done and be fun too. If you have some time you can share and want to join a fun group then we want you! Please reach out to me and let's chat. Fresh perspectives and new volunteers are always welcome!

As we enjoy the summer season, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for being a valued member of TCREA. Your participation, friendship, and willingness to support one another are what make our organization strong. Together, we have built a welcoming community where everyone belongs.

One of the greatest joys of our group is the opportunity to create happy memories together. Whether we're attending events, sharing stories, or simply gathering with friends for lunch, these moments remind us that the friendships we build are among life's greatest treasures.

Thank you for your enthusiasm, your kindness, and your continued support. Because of you, our group continues to grow, thrive, and provide meaningful opportunities for connection and fun.

I hope you enjoy a wonderful summer filled with good health, laughter, time with family and friends, and plenty of opportunities to make new memories. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming gatherings.



*The say with age comes
wisdom, therefore I
don't have wrinkles,
I just have
WISE CRACKS!*



2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

\$1,000 Scholarships were awarded to six high school seniors at the June Luncheon meeting to children/grandchildren of TCERA members.

Elizabeth Aguayo, member Magdalena Castilleja-Gomez

Elizabeth graduated from Golden West High School where she was involved in musical drama and in concert band. She was a member of the National Honor Society for two years. and in Future Farmers of America for 3 years where she showed a market goat. She will attend the College of the Sequoias this fall and later transfer to UC Berkley to study Law. She wants to advocate for those who need a voice and serve her community.

Jordan Anaya, member Dora Anaya

Jordan graduated from Redwood High School where he was in the 4 year Architecture, Construction and Engineering Academy where he learned to design buildings, manage construction projects and understand basic engineering concepts. Jordan will attend the College of the Sequoias to study Agricultural Business as he wishes to pursue a career in the agricultural field to be able to serve his community.

Savanna Benc, member Tommie Benc

Savanna graduated from Golden Valley High School. She is an accomplished softball player. She participated in FFA, showing numerous livestock and has been involved in ASB leadership. She will attend Southwestern Oklahoma State University this fall to pursue a degree in Agribusiness to work toward becoming an accountant specializing in agricultural finance. She is also committed to play Division II softball in the position of pitcher.

Malakai De Rose, member Jo DeRose

Malakai graduated from Redwood High School. He is a dedicated student and athlete and plans to continue this through college. He has taken numerous AP honor courses. He is a charter member of Assisteens (an auxiliary of the Assistance League of Visalia. He will attend Fresno Pacific University this fall to study Business Administration studying finance and marketing to work towards his goal of becoming a financial advisor.

Gannon Gonzalez, member Maria Hovsapien

Gannon graduated from Hanford High School. He has earned the Academic Excellence Award every semester. Soccer and golf have played an important role in shaping who he is. he has balanced academics with athletics which has allowed him to stay focused while juggling multiple responsibilities. He will attend Fresno State University to earn a degree in computer science/Cyber Security. He hopes to become a cyber security manager.

Danielle Hager, member Floyd Hager

Danielle graduated from Immanuel High School. In her freshman year, she started taking college courses online during the summer through Saddleback Junior College and has her college general education completed. She has also taught children to swim, worked in after-school programs, and Gleanings of the Hungry serving in the quilt room, helping families who have been displaced by war. She will attend Cal State University Channel Islands to pursue a career in early education and hopes to become a second grade teacher.

Retirement Report

By Kevin Mizner, TCREA Elected Trustee

Good day to all our TCREA members!

I hope you are getting through this summer heat wave – we always know that it is coming but we never like it when it gets here! It was great to see many of you at our June luncheon where six scholarships were awarded to high school seniors! By our latest count, that is a total of 98 scholarships given over the years by TCREA. Congratulations to our scholarship recipients and my very best wishes in their future academic adventures.

Everything with the Retirement Board (TCERA) continues to be going well. We have a full Board and have had a couple of major changes in personnel with the retirement of our administrator, Leeann Malison. Our Board moved the assistant administrator, Paul Samprieto, into the administrator position. Paul had proven himself to be a very capable manager and was well-prepared to assume leadership of the organization. In our June meeting, after an expansive search, Darcy Nunez, the Benefits Supervisor at TCERA, accepted the position as our new Assistant Administrator. Darcy had also proven herself to be a very capable employee, having served 15 years at TCERA with increasing responsibility in the office.

As with your own investments, the Retirement portfolio moves up and down with the volatility of the economic environment, both domestically and internationally. Our most recent investment report (June 30, 2026) reflects a fund balance of \$2.459 billion with a preliminary return of +12.9% (Net of Fees) for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year. However, the past months have been a bit rocky (understandable with world events), but we still managed to gain 6.0% (Calendar Year-to-Date) – while June's one-month return was +0.1% - down significantly, but still on the upside!

I am looking forward to seeing our actuarial report later this year, as I expect that we will continue to see positive returns to the SRBR, our ad-hoc fund for retirees – which I hope will lead to Board discussions on current benefits. See you in August!



Do you have a favorite recipe you would like to share in our newsletter? Submit your recipe to Admin@tc-rea.org or bring it to the next luncheon.

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 ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON

June 11, 2026

Maggie Melo opened the luncheon meeting at 12:00 p.m. She led the Pledge of Allegiance. Kevin Mizner led the Invocation. Lunch was served. Lunch was provided by Kristi McGill, Hometown Emporium and served at the Exeter Memorial Building. The menu was Deep Pit Beef, Tenderloin Pork, Mash Potatoes & Gravy, Buttered Corn & Peas, Salad, Rolls and cookies for dessert.

Maggie welcomed members and guests, then acknowledged the new members in attendance.

Kevin Mizner gave a retirement update and talked about the COLA that will be in member checks in April. Tier 1 will receive a 3% increase and Tiers 2-4 a 2% increase. Kevin also provided an update on the SRBR Fund, which had a significant transfer to the fund due to strong investment returns. No changes in benefits at this time.

Maggie 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. Sign up on the website at tc-rea.org

\$1,000 Scholarship were awarded to six high school seniors. Scholarship recipients were Elizabeth Aguayo, Jordan Anaya, Savanna Benc, Malakai Joseph DeRose, Gannon Gonzalez, and Danielle Hager.

Thank you to all those who donated gifts for the raffle.

The following individuals won raffle prizes: \$25 check – Renee Dodd. \$25 gift cards – Magadelena Castelleja-Gomez, Alice Lopez, Chris Lipscomb, Barbara Bozarth, Rebecca Lopez, Carol Harland, Irene Mellema. Gift Baskets/Bag – Mike Javaux, Gwen Sellers, Javier Robles, Reta Burkes, Amelia Torres, Tommie Benc, Bonnie Hefner, Barbara Hilger. Cream and Sugar Bowl Set-Graciela Ramirez. Free Lunch – Bill Montgomery, Yolanda Trevino, and Tammy Wilson.

The progressive drawing was \$250.00. The winner was not present. Congratulations to all the raffle winners!

Maggie thanked everyone for coming and we are looking forward to our next luncheon on September 10, 2026 at the Exeter Memorial Building. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.



Luncheon September 10th

Location: Exeter Memorial Building

Prepared by: Kristy McGill and her staff at Hometown Emporium

Menu: Meatloaf, Baked Chicken with Cream Sauce, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Glazed Carrots, Salad and Rolls. **Dessert** - Cookies

Cost: \$11.00 per member, plus 1 guest at \$11.00, additional guest there after are \$20.00 each. A “tip” bag will be placed on each table in appreciation of their hard work.

Notice: Late reservations/cancellations are not accepted. If you cancel your reservation after June 4th or fail to attend, we kindly ask you mail your payment to TCREA, P.O. Box 6981, Visalia, Ca 93290-6981 or call our **Treasurer, Terrie Saenz at 559-972-1734** if you want to pay w/credit or debit. We appreciate your attention in this matter.

*Deadline to book your reservation for the luncheon is **September 3rd, 2026**. Please contact **Peggy Redfern at 559-901-7905** to book your spot. **Texting is preferred.***



TCREA members extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of our retirees



Member

Department

Alvidrez, Tina	Prob-Juvenile Detention
Carranza, Susan	Child Support Services Dept
Chhean, Sophea	DA-Visalia Courthouse
Esquibel, Hipolito	DA-Visalia Courthouse
Fong, David	HHS-MH-Training Svcs
Lupkes, Christi	HHS-Admin Mental Health Svcs
Malison, Leanne	Retirement
Silveria, Dori	HHS_HS_KTAAA/HICAP
Wild, Dayna	HHS-HS-HUMAN SERVICES
Gonzales, Anthony	Sheriff - CS - Visalia Superior
Hart, Joseph	TCSI - HQ Patrol
Jones, Cory	TCSO - South County
Lazcano, Michelle	HHSA
Meyerstein, Jana	Continuance
Ramos, Esmeralda	Sher - OP - Detectives
Best, James	TCICT
Bieber, Michelle	HHS-HLTH-Visalia WIC
Garcia, Cecilio	HHS-HS-Hyde IHSS
Hall, Christopher	TCSO - Farm
Kennedy, Jason	Sheriff Operations - Porterville
Lewis, Lisa	HHS-MH-Visalia Adult Clinic
Salazar, Karen	Continuant
Smith, Ryan	Probation

Members

Department

Cox, Jesse	Unkown
Grau, Helen	DA-Family Support
Nava, Arthur	DA-Criminal Investigations
Parton, Edward	Unkown
Pennington, John	Ag Commissioner/Sealer
Burns, Gregory	Sheriff - OP - Narcotics
Doty, Dale	Sheriff - OP - Pixley
Pundt, Jerry	District Attorney - Visalia
McGill, Dianne	HHSA
Salazar, Leonard	Child Support Services
Comer, Barbara	Unknown
Muller, Irene	Sheriff Op - Records
Sanchez, Vivian	N/A - Continuant
Toste, Marsha	HHS-Admin Health Svcs
Ware, Barbara	N/A - Continuant



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Tulare County Retired Employees Association

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Get your newsletter by email.

Not a printed copy.

Printed copies are in black and white.

Benefits to an Email Copy (e-copy):

- Full color version of newsletter.
- Saves us paper.
- Reduces our cost of mailing.

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please send an email

to **Peggy Redfern** 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).

If you have signed up for an e-copy and received a printed copy, please contact **Peggy** for verification of correct information.

2026 Dates

RESERVATION DEADLINES

March 5, 2026
 June 4, 2026
 September 3, 2026
 December 3, 2026

FUTURE LUNCHEONS

March 12, 2026
 June 11, 2026
 September 10, 2026
 December 10, 2026

BOARD MEETINGS

January 20, 2026
 February 11, 2026
 May 13, 2026
 August 12, 2026
 October 14, 2026

TCREA Website

Visit us at

www.tc-rea.org



CRCEA Website

www.crcea.org

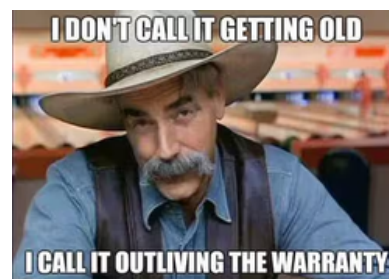
This is our Statewide Retirement Organization website.

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

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 informed that many members have not reported the death and therefore are **still being charged** the same fee for their insurance policy.



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

Tulare County Retired Employees Assoc.				Tulare County Retired Employees Assoc.	
 Morro Bay				 2026 October Bus Trip Lake Tahoe	
Friday August 14, 2026				Join us as we travel to beautiful Lake Tahoe for a 4-day adventure. We will leave Sunday morning and travel to the Golden Nugget Resort. We also plan a day-trip to Virginia City! The trip price includes transportation, hotel costs, day-trip, and Bingo and snacks on the bus. We will return home on Wednesday afternoon!	
		Join us as we travel to the Central Coast for a 2-hour Morro Bay cruise with lunch included! After the cruise, you will have time to walk the Embarcadero. What a way to beat the valley heat for a day!			
Contact Mirtha Diaz bustrips@tc-rea.org		Bingo and snacks on the bus are included. \$94.00 per person			
Mail payments to: TCREA, PO Box 6981 Visalia CA 93290-6981 Checks payable to: TCREA		Deposit \$30.00 deposit will hold your seat...final payment due by July 14.			
		TCREA Upcoming Bus Trips Contact Mirtha Diaz bustrips@tc-rea.org		Sun - Wed Oct 18-21, 2026 \$285.00 per person (Double-occupancy)	
		August 14th & October 18th-21st.		Contact Mirtha Diaz bustrips@tc-rea.org	