

Good morning and welcome to a wonderful start to a new fiscal year! I'd like to tell you a little about myself so we can get to know each other.

My name is Sarah Tierce and I live in Bakersfield, CA. Yes, it's very hot here during the summer. In fact, on Tuesday, September 6th, we broke a 75 year old record with a temperature of 115 degrees! It's not usually that hot but I was glad to be retired so I didn't have to go out in the heat!

I've been married to my husband, Jeff for 38 years and we have three children, Eric (Michele), Jennifer (Jerry) and Emily (Shawn). I have two beautiful granddaughters, Isla and Skye, and a grandson due in November. I am truly blessed!

I retired from the Kern County Superintendent of Schools after serving the students and their families for 36.5 years. During that time, I worked in the divisions of Special Education, Administration and Finance (District Advisory, working with school districts on budgets and school board elections), and Maintenance and Operations (school bus drivers and mechanics, warehousing, custodians, and maintenance personnel).

I've been a long-time member of our local affiliate, Kern AEOP and have served in almost every position. I also served on the California AEOP Board for several years. I had not been to any national conferences due to obligations with other organizations, but my first one at South Carolina had me hooked! I attended to Retirees Board meeting as a guest the following year and was installed as Secretary, a position I held for two years. Last year, I volunteered to be President Elect and was installed as President in Salt Lake City this past July. I couldn't be more proud of this fine group I am serving. We've seen it all, done most of it, and we still enjoy getting together every year to renew friendships and see what's happening with the organization we treasure.

I'd like to introduce you to the Executive Board:

President - Sarah Tierce, CEOE, California
President Elect - Sharon Lucas, CEOE, North Carolina
Vice President - Debora Jensen, CEOE, Kansas
Secretary - Maria Sara Gonzalez, California
Parliamentarian - Ellen Gamel, CEOE, Alaska
Immediate Past Presidents - Darlene Hovorka, CEOE, Nebraska/Wisconsin and Karen Pulaski, CEOE, Kansas
Presidential Advisor - Darlene Hovorka, CEOE, MN/WI
Scholarships (appointed) - Becky Shipley, CEOE, Oklahoma and Linda Rush, CEOE, California

This dynamic group is here to serve you, the members. Feel free to contact any of the Board should you have suggestions or concerns and please consider being a part of the Board. We need people to serve if we are to continue as an organization. In that regard, a nominating committee of five people (one chairman and four members) was

established at conference to get you excited about serving. Brenda Blodgett, Charla Callahan, Rose Hill, Susie Martinez and Becky Shipley all volunteered to serve on this committee with Becky being elected as chairman. We have a lot of fun, but we work hard, too! We'd love to have you serve with us.

Another committee activated is Guidelines. This committee consists of three persons, along with the President and President Elect (chairman), to review and present any needed changes to our Guidelines. Those serving on the committee for 2022-23 are: Judy Ganier, Michelle Newton and Donna Tapp. We have not set a deadline for suggestions to date and will inform you when we have one.

For those who haven't heard, next year's NAREOP conference will be in Omaha, NE. I've never been to Nebraska, so I'm really looking forward to the trip. I hope many of you will also attend as I'd love to meet you! I'm hoping National has several interesting breakout sessions for us.

I would like to remind you of the scholarship opportunity we offer. The Jackie and Anne L. Evans Scholarship is given to a grandchild or great-grandchild of a NAREOP member in good standing who meets the scholarship requirements. Two scholarships of \$1000 (one thousand dollars) shall be awarded each year providing funds are available. This year we are hoping to offer more scholarships to be awarded at the 2023 conference in Omaha. Attached is the application form to be completed and forwarded to scholarship chairmen. Wouldn't it be fabulous to see your grandchild or great-grandchild receive assistance to help further their education!

Ways and Means will be sending out letters looking for support sometime during the year to fund our operating budget. Your participation in these fund raisers is appreciated. Welcome to NAREOP 2022-2023

I hope to continue the newsletter every month, following in the footsteps of Darlene and Karen. Thank you!

Sarah Tierce, CEOE
NAREOP President, 2022-23