



60 Years of Dedicated
Service to L.A. County
Retirees

RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

July/Aug 2018 Vol 53-4

President's Message

by Dave Muir



By the time you're reading this, half the year will be behind us. During that six-month period, RELAC accomplished a lot. We gained over 500 new members, bringing our total membership to a little over 18,450. A strong membership is important to us. It gives us a compelling voice to advocate for our pensions and allows us to maintain a sizeable war chest to fund any litigation should there be an attempt to reduce our benefits.

Many of you have complimented us on our newsletter. We are fortunate to have a great editor, Judy Hammond, who retired from the County as the director of public affairs. Her job brought her into direct contact with the County's movers and shakers. Her extensive contacts serve as a resource for her regular columns in the newsletter – "Keeping Up with Retirees," "Passages," and "Inside LA County." If you would like to share a part of your life in retirement, let our office know so Judy can consider writing about you.

I've now represented you on LACERA's Board of Investment for six months. I'm continually impressed with the truly outstanding talent of LACERA's investment professionals. One of the latest examples of their great work and success came from a recently released report by the American Investment Council (AIC), an advocacy group for the private equity industry. (Private equity refers to investments not listed on a public exchange.) The AIC report includes private equity investment returns for 163 U.S. public pension funds. LACERA, with a 10-year annualized return of 11.6%, ranked number four out of the 163 funds included in the report. Massachusetts' public pension fund was ranked number one, with a 10-year annualized return of 13.37%.

RELAC this year is celebrating its 60th year of outstanding service. Your membership and continued support keeps us strong as your **PENSION AND HEALTH CARE WATCHDOG.**

July 5 is Deadline to File for RELAC Board

July 5 is the deadline to file a petition to become a candidate for the RELAC Board of Directors. Petitions, available at the RELAC office in Alhambra, must be signed by a minimum of 15 RELAC members supporting the candidacy and be accompanied by a letter from the candidate accepting the nomination. If no petitions are received by 3 p.m. on July 5, the current directors whose terms expire this year – Don Fandry, Linda C. Hopkins, Alice Prouty, Mary K. Rodriguez, and Diane Sandoval – will be automatically reelected. For further information, call the RELAC office at (800) 537-3522.

Celebrating 60 Years of Service:

RELAC: OUR HISTORY

RELAC was incorporated on Feb. 5, 1958 as a non-profit organization consisting of retired employees of Los Angeles County (government) and those on the threshold of retirement. Its purpose was to preserve and promote the general welfare of its members. It has done so ever since.

Over the years we have variously been known by two different names: Retired Employees of Los Angeles County (RELAC) and the Alumni Employees of Los Angeles County (AEOLAC). Our organization adopted its final name change on Dec. 20, 1979 when it reverted to RELAC.

In 1961 RELAC was hosting its annual picnic in Sycamore Park at 4800 N. Figueroa St. and its general meetings in Patriotic Hall at 1816 S. Figueroa St. in Los Angeles. Attendance at the picnic was 400 and at the general meeting about 740. The flight to suburbia had not yet begun, our retirees were then mostly living in Los Angeles and their lives were more centralized to downtown – RELAC activities were close at hand. We still hold the annual picnic and general meetings, but they are located throughout the region to accommodate a membership that is far-flung.

Membership grew from 2,050 in 1961 to 4,000 in 1964, to a high of 30,000 in 2002. Membership began to decrease, due primarily to deaths as our members aged, and today we have about 18,500 members. We are diligently working to increase that number by reaching out to present employees and recent retirees, and have begun to see an increase in applications. In 2017, for the first time in many years, we recruited more members than we lost.

RELAC officers were active during the 1960s in promoting the passage of retirement pay packages and the County adoption of the retirement COLA (cost of living adjustment). During that same period they were likewise actively seeking out better health insurance for retirees. As they did so, they were at the same time advancing the revolutionary idea of paying dues via payroll deduction. More importantly, in 1965 there were discussions about "What if the Medicare Bill passes?" It did on July 1, 1966.

RELAC's most important mission today is defending our pensions and health benefits against the relentless attacks of their critics. Three of our directors serve on the LACERA Boards of Retirement and Investments, helping to ensure retirees' interests are protected. RELAC also works with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the California Retired County Employees Association.

While LACERA, County unions, the Board of Supervisors and the state Legislature all care about retirees' well-being, they have to deal with other competing interests. **Only RELAC is exclusively interested in protecting and improving retiree benefits.**



Retirement Board

by Les Robbins
Retiree Representative
LACERA Board of Retirement



One of my responsibilities at LACERA is to chair the Insurance, Benefits, and Legislative Committee. One of our prime responsibilities is to oversee the Retiree Health Care Program and to make sure that we stay on top of the issues that we face in today's ever-changing health care environment.

At our April Retirement Board meeting we approved the rate increases for all of our health care plans that will take effect in July of this year. Our overall increase for all insurance plans was 5.7% and that is pretty amazing, given both the make-up of our plans and our plan members. Because we are a retiree-only plan, we don't have the usual mix of younger, healthy people, who have a tendency to keep rates a little lower, so we were very pleased that our increases were what we consider modest. Remember that with our agreement, if you have 25 years of service with the County of Los Angeles your premiums will be 100% covered based on the Benchmark Plan, which is Anthem Blue Cross I and II.

Here are the rate changes by plan:

ABC I & II, ABC III, ABC Prudent Buyer -- 4.8% increase.

Cigna Medical -- 5.8% increase.

Cigna Dental & Vision -- No increase.

Kaiser California -- 7.1% increase for Basic pre-65 and 6.9% for Senior Advantage.

Kaiser out-of-state plans -- Colorado: Decrease of 2%. Georgia: Increase of 2%. Hawaii: Increase of 1.2%. Oregon: Increase of 12.6%.

SCAN -- 3.7% increase.

United Health Care -- 8.1% increase for pre-65 HMO Plan and 5.2% for Medicare Advantage Plan.

These new premiums take effect July 1. Remember that at LACERA we allow you to switch plans up to twice a year. This allows our members to move more conveniently from one plan to another should something change with respect to their place of residence or the condition of their health.

News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich
Assistant Executive Officer



I hope everyone is doing well.

As I write this edition's article we have just wrapped up our annual March Madness season, which is the time of year we see the most members retire. March Madness begins in December and ends the following March. We were extremely busy during this year's March Madness season. We fielded 42,147 calls, met with 8,321 members at our Member Service Center, and retired 1,682 members. This was an above average year.

I usually prepare the CEO report that is sent to the LACERA Boards each month. This month I want to share with you the report I wrote that is issued for our June Board meetings:

"LACERA is regarded as a premiere organization and a leader in the pension community. With over \$53 billion in assets and a very solid funding level near 80%, we take care of over 163,000 of our fellow members, spouses, and eligible beneficiaries. From the day an employee begins working for L.A. County, or one of our agencies, we focus on educating members and helping them maximize their benefits. Throughout their membership we work hard to make sure that every interaction is accurate and respectful. Our staff members are focused on maximizing and protecting the fund's investments to deliver on the promised benefits.

LACERA's greatest assets are the over 400 staff members that work at LACERA. They are highly trained and dedicated to taking care of every one of our members. In this day and age of automation, it's easy to overlook that without these people there would be no one to answer the phones, write the newsletters, maintain our website, process account maintenance requests, ensure LACERA's facilities are ready for use, interpret the laws so we can provide the benefit you deserve, or make the investments that allow us to continue to provide the benefits our members deserve. They are what keeps this engine running.

Hiring and keeping the right people, with the right skills and experience, is critical to our being able to deliver on our promises. That's why I wanted to take a moment and share some great news with you about two awards that our Human Resources Division recently received. Earlier this year we received the Agency Awards for Excellence in Human Resources for the California and Western Region chapters of the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA). LACERA was one of just three organizations selected to receive these IPMA Agency awards for 2018 in the Western Region, which covers eight states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington).

These awards recognize the overall quality, accomplishments, and contributions of member agency human resource programs that exceed expectations and go beyond the normal standards of a good government human resources program. LACERA was nominated for receiving the WorldatWork Seal of Distinction, our Career Development Program, the Annual Core Benefits Training Program, Charitable Giving, Staff Volunteer Day at the Food Bank, and LACERA's Lactation Support Program, which won the Mother-Baby Friendly Workplace Award.

Winning awards from respectable human resources organizations is a nice recognition for all of the hard work we do to take care of the staff members, who in turn take care of our members. To paraphrase an old saying, "a happy, engaged staff member leads to a happy member," and that's our goal. So I just wanted to let you know that we are focused on creating the type of work environment that allows us to hire and keep the best staff members who will be here to take care of our members."

Well, that's it for this month. Until we chat again, I hope you enjoy every day of your retirement. You earned it!



Domingo Delgado, a 30-year County employee, served on the RELAC Board of Directors from 2001-10. He died April 10. This article was written by RELAC Director Evelyn Gutierrez, who attended a Celebration of Life service for Delgado on April 21. Delgado and wife, Joyce, are shown at RELAC luncheon in January. (Photo by Linda C. Hopkins)

A Celebration of Life Domingo Delgado

*Shared by Evelyn Gutierrez,
County co-worker, friend and fellow RELAC Board member.*

Following a special welcome by Jerry Delgado, Domingo's son, the life of Domingo Delgado, husband, father, grandfather and RELAC Board member, was celebrated on April 21, 2018, in Whittier.

Following a special presentation of the American flag to Domingo's wife, Joyce, by servicemen representing the U.S. Air Force, Domingo's children, Janis, Josh and Jonathan, shared special moments with their dad.

Born on Feb. 24, 1929, a Saturday night, just after midnight, the eighth child born into the Delgado family was named "Domingo" ("Sunday" in Spanish). He was a happy child, attended Roosevelt High School, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, and attended East L.A. College, where he met his beloved Joyce. His County career spanned 30 years with the Department of Parks and Recreation. He retired in 1987, became a champion for seniors as a County commissioner on aging and joined the RELAC Board, chairing various committees. Many of us will remember playing "Bingo with Domingo" at our RELAC annual picnics and listening to him sing "God Bless America" at our special events.

Granddaughter Jessica shared a time Domingo attended a sports event for granddaughter Maddie. Grandpa was yelling "Go Maddie, Go Maddie." When he was told Maddie was not playing yet, he yelled "Put Maddie in, Put Maddie in." Domingo had many loves in his life, Joyce, family, country, painting and singing.

His brother Reverend Louie Delgado stated, "Domingo's legacy is his belief in the power of positivity and happiness."

We will miss Domingo and will treasure all the special moments we shared.

Former Colleagues Reunite at RELAC Meeting

by Victoria Pipkin-Lane

RELAC is known for fighting to protect your hard-earned pension and health benefits, along with advocating for what is in the best interests of retired County employees. But the organization can also be a meeting ground for individuals looking to reconnect with former co-workers.



The quarterly general membership meetings, golf and other recreational activities are open to all members. So, it was no surprise when County retirees Marsha Keeling-Hill and Juanita Higuera had a reunion at a recent RELAC event.

Marsha Keeling-Hill, at left, and Juanita Higuera (Photo by Dave Muir)

For more than 12 years, they worked together at Los Angeles Municipal Court in Burbank, which later merged with and became Los Angeles Superior Court. "Juanita was a well-respected supervisor. Whenever I needed help, she was there," said Keeling-Hill, fondly recalling how her former colleague assisted her with challenging family law and civil jury cases, including actor Robert Blake's murder trial.

Keeling-Hill began County service as a student worker at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and became a full-time employee in 1972 with Los Angeles Municipal Court in San Pedro. She also served with Los Angeles Superior Court in South Bay-Torrance, West Los Angeles, Downtown Los Angeles, Inglewood, Burbank and Glendale. She even met and married her husband, Mark Hill, while working in the court system. He retired in 2009.

Then in 2010 Keeling-Hill decided to change her daily routine and head into retirement. Higuera soon followed her co-worker into a new life's journey. Over the years, each went their separate ways and lost touch.

In April of this year, after a 10-year separation, the women reunited at the general membership meeting of RELAC. "We spotted each other at the same time," said Keeling-Hill. The RELAC meeting brought them back together, to reconnect and catch up on family and other personal developments.

A long-time resident of Glendale who relocated to Glendora in 2013, Keeling-Hill intends to continue her active participation in RELAC events. "I attend the meetings when they are nearby; I like to hear the speakers. The various topics have been enlightening for me," she said.

For more information on joining RELAC and to keep up with its activities, visit www.relac.org.

Antoniette Valtier Appointed to Administrative Staff Position

Antoniette "Toni" Valtier joined the RELAC administrative staff in February of this year. She replaced long-time employee Rita Kojo and is first on phones, so you may have had the pleasure of speaking with her.



Antoniette worked for the LAC+USC Medical Center in the Procurement Department from 1980 to 2009, beginning her career as an intermediate typist clerk and ending as an intermediate stenographer. She reported to Materials Management Managers Michael Myles and Louis White, and Procurement Supervisor Jeannie Burns, monitoring all vendors wanting to visit doctors and nurses at the hospital. She said it was a real pleasure working at the Medical Center and now for RELAC.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

APRIL 2018- MAY 2018

- Assessor** – Wesley Baker, Juanita Pickett-Tate
- Board of Supervisors** – Victoria Pipkin-Lane
- Children & Family Services** – Randalyn Strother-Graham, Norma Nieto, Cecilia Saco, Herman Su, Florida Valentin
- District Attorney** – Jack Gonterman, Brian O'Reilly
- Fire** – Gaylee Ankerberg, Brian Askari, Dennis Buckley, Joel Harrison, Michael Nava
- Harbor-UCLA Medical Center** – Cynthia Guzman
- Health Services** – Allen Welbourn
- Human Resources** – Eliza Carrillo
- Internal Services** – Janice Coleman, Silvia Diharce, Cynthia Irvin, Rosalie Locey, Steven Wong
- LAC+USC Medical Center** – Maria G. Barajas, Irene Hernandez, Edythe Hinkston, Chris Jeng
- LACERA** – Danya Hazen, Deborah Trimble
- Mental Health** – Cynthia Halpin Brown, Barbara Engleman, Mei Fang Sung
- Parks & Recreation** – Michael Smallcomb
- Probation** – Maria Chacon, Mark Herzer, Yvonne Wilbert
- Public Defender** – James Bruns
- Public Health** – David W. Betterton, La Verne Rousseau
- Public Library** – Linda Fernandes
- Public Social Services** – Jill Kaufman, Michael Preston, Sharron Thompson
- Rancho Los Amigo Medical Center** – Terry Starr
- Sheriff** – Ronald Ablott, Charles Antuna, Michael Bailey, Carol Caudle, Timothy Foreman, Albert Martinez, Kelly McMichael, Elmira Walker, Mark Winters
- Superior Court** – Etta Astrachan, Kevin Forc, R Diane Morris, Linda Nettles, Vivian Revilla, Veronica Santillan
- Department Not Designated** – Fugen Archibald, Laverna M. Jennings, Sharon Shibata
- New Associate Members** – Marilyn Ablott, Maricela Antuna, Nancy Askari, Harold D. Astrachan, Cyndy Bailey, Sherrie Baker, Juan Jose Barajas, Migdalia Bruns, Mario Carrillo, David Engleman, Sonia Florez, Paul A. Graham Jr., Nicanor U. Guzman, Dawn Harrison, Barbara A. Herzer, Herbert Lane Jr., Cynthia Martinez, Steven McMichael, Lori Nava, Katherine Taylor, Anthony C. Trimble, Fructuoso Valentin, Vernill Wilbert, Helen Winters Jimmy Yang

RV Outing Notes

Jeanne Klauk,
Assistant Coordinator of the RV Club



Klauk and Mike Reyes, coordinator

LET'S FLAMINGO IN BUELLTON - Flying Flags welcomed us to Buellton with cool weather and a gorgeous RV park on May 20. Ron and Betsy Morgon hosted this event. Attending were: Mike and Veronica Reyes, Leon and Dian Stegall, Danny and Maria Coon, Bill and Janice Hayhurst, Janet Cerato, Ernie and Christina Blanchard, Dave and Jan Coleman, Max Georgi and Dulce, Dorie Fregeau, and Jeanne Klauk. Linda Gutierrez rented a vintage Airstream that the park owns, so joined us as well.

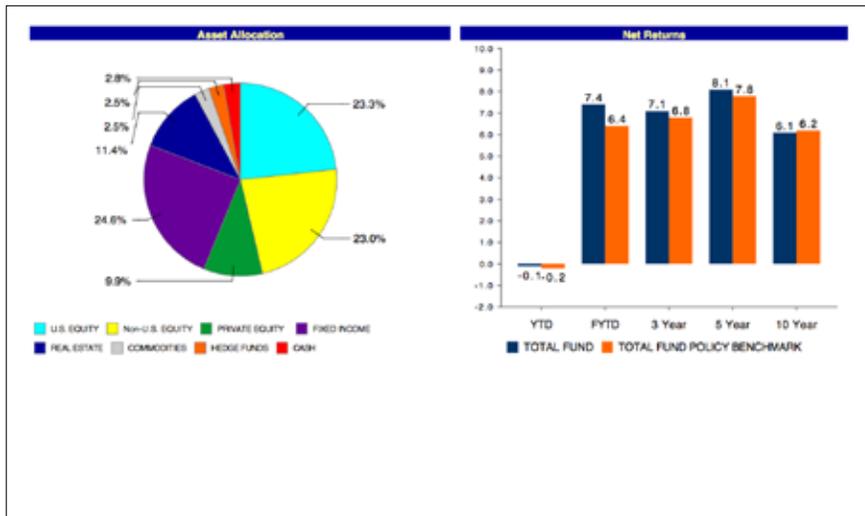
We got caught up on the news of our families and then settled down to serious eating and CARDS. The Morgons served us two great breakfasts, and we all enjoyed our potluck hors d'oeuvres on Monday and dinner on Tuesday. What we most enjoyed was the FLAMINGO- themed margarita party on Tuesday. Betsy made her specialty margaritas, and many of us brought crackers and cheese, nuts and cookies. On Wednesday we crossed the street to dine at Taco Rico -- one of Leon and my favorites.

At the Tuesday morning meeting, I presented Mike with his own engraved gavel – hoping to encourage him to lead us another year. I was fortunate to win the 50-50 drawing and Betsy won the gas card (thank you, RELAC). Our next outing is Sept. 16 at Chula Vista RV Park. Hopefully more of you will join us there.

Board of Investments Report As of March 31, 2018

Total Fund Value: \$55.6 billion

Fiscal Year (July 2017 – June 2018) Investment Return: 7.4%



Thanks for New Member Referrals

We would like to thank the eight members who recruited colleagues to join RELAC during April and May 2018. Membership as of May 31 was 18,460, down 352 since December 2017. Due to our aging membership, we must remain vigilant in signing up new members in order to remain a strong organization to protect your hard-earned pension and health benefits. For membership applications and brochures, call the RELAC office at (800) 537-3522, e-mail admin@relac.org or go online at www.relac.org. Be sure to tell the new member to put your name on the application as making the referral.

Our thanks to these RELAC members (shown in bold) for referring new members (shown in italics):

- Judy Hammond**, *Victoria Pipkin-Lane*, Board of Supervisors
- Frances McCash** and **Dyanne Nelson**, *Deborah Trimble*, LACERA
- Les Robbins**, *Ronald Ablott* and *Mark Winters*, Sheriff
- Les Robbins** and **Ray Rust**, *Brian O'Reilly*, District Attorney
- Linda Sirk**, *Veronica Santillan*, Superior Court
- Bridget Ward**, *David W. Betterton*, Public Health
- Beverly Williams**, *Norma Nieto*, Children and Family Services

Volcano Update from Paradise (Kona):



(We asked RELAC member Margaret Donnellan Todd, who moved to Kona, Hawaii in 2015 when she retired as head of the County Public Library, if she and her husband, Dave, were affected by the Kilauea Volcano eruption on the Big Island. Her article was written June 1, four weeks after the initial eruption, and the volcano was still daily spewing ash and volcanic rock, and lava oozing from volcanic fissures was continuing to burn homes in its path. More than 80 homes had been destroyed and many more were being threatened.)

by Margaret Donnellan Todd

It has been an interesting year -- first a nuclear alert and now Kilauea is erupting.



Contrary to the first reports a month ago, the whole island was not ordered to evacuate. The lava is limited to an area on the east side. Unfortunately for Kona, because of the wind patterns the vog levels have increased. We have had two days where the vog was at red alert, which means it is unhealthy for anyone working outside, etc. Hilo on the east side actually has no vog. The resorts on the northwest part of the island have been largely unaffected. I hear there are some good air and hotel deals to be had.

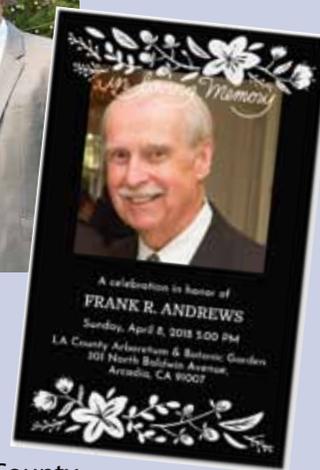
We feel badly for the people displaced by Pele. I know you have seen some of the more eccentric residents interviewed. It would not be the Big Island without them. But, many are working class people or retirees. They live there because it is affordable. Trying to get a mortgage is not possible in lava zones 1 and 2. Lava and earthquake insurance are very expensive and therefore not feasible for these people.

Dave and I are lucky since we planned a vacation to the mainland mid-May and will not be back until mid-July. By then, we hope the air quality levels have improved and Pele has ended her amazing display.



Celebration of Life for Frank Andrews

Former County Chief Information Officer Jon Fullinwider, second from right, and his wife, Margaret, were among those attending the Celebration of Life at the County Arboretum for Frank Andrews, director of the Animal Care and Control Department from 1989 to 2001, who died in April at age 85. With Fullinwider are Pastor Bill Barnes, at left, and Andrews' son, Dr. Robert Andrews. *(Photo by Kaye Michelson)*



Team Hunt – Another Win

The Cal State University Los Angeles graduate students taught by RELAC member Barry Hunt, Health Services Department retiree (third from left), placed in the top three in the American College of Healthcare Executives College Bowl competition among 12 universities – the fourth time in the past five years. Hunt is the team coach and adjunct professor in the Master of Healthcare Management Program.

Happy Birthday, RELAC Centenarians

Happy birthday to our members who will be 100 and older in July and August.

Mary E. Gwin, 103, Harbor General Hospital, July 2, 1915

Mary M. Thomas, 103, Health Services, Aug. 16, 1915

Natsuko Takaki, 102, Mechanical, July 3, 1916

Bertilla Callahan, 102, Public Social Services, July 5, 1916

Gustava S. Morris, 101, July 26, 1917

Rose M. Becerra, 101, Medical Center, Aug. 30, 1917

Mildred E. McFelea, 100, L.A. Municipal Court, July 7, 1918

Evelyn M. Earls, 100, Fire & Forestry, July 12, 1918

John B. Van Den Bosch, 100, Health Services, July 27, 1918

Eleanor L. Cook, 100, Purchasing & Stores, July 28, 1918

Angela McKittrick, 100, Harbor General Hospital, Aug. 2, 1918

Taeko Doi, 100, Purchasing & Stores, Aug. 27, 1918

(Ed. Note: Thanks to RELAC member Linda Markmiller who alerted us that three of the members listed in the birthday column in the May/June edition have passed: Raymond Nimura, Myron Schulhof, and Mary Urich.)



Letters To The Editor

Write On!

I attended Frank Andrews' (celebration of life) reception yesterday and found it to be very moving. He clearly had a wonderful family. There were many current and former County employees who had very fond memories of Frank and his many accomplishments. It was a privilege to be invited and Margaret and I certainly enjoyed ourselves.

Jon Fullinwider, Sierra Madre, California

(Ed. Note: Fullinwider is former chief information officer for the County. Andrews, director of the Animal Care and Control Department from 1989 to 2001, died in April at age 85.)

Thank you so much for the article and your brilliant edits. Reading it makes me happy that this path chose me, and I'll be happy if I can walk it for as long as I can. Thank you again for your consideration and the publication. Fortunately, I've had several people figure out how to search me out or Google me in response to the article -- they found and contacted me. That's a good thing because they are motivated. I did talk to those who made contact with me. Also received several comments from those who do travel and have traveled with my company as well, and happy that I was able to share my story in print. So wanted to let you know and thank you again.

Kay Trotman, Corona, California

(Ed. Note: The May/June issue of the RELAC newsletter included a feature on Trotman, who became a safari guide in Africa after retiring from the Child Support Services Department in 2006.)

The May/June issue of the newsletter is tremendous. Many thanks. Keep up the good work!

Barry Hunt, Inglewood, California

I was glad to see the announcement of Helen Parker's retirement from County Counsel in the May/June issue. Helen advised the County Public Library for many years and I worked with her very closely during my time with the Library. She was always an able advocate, a big supporter of our service, and wonderful to work with. Congratulations and best wishes to Helen on her retirement.

David Flint, Irvine, California

(Ed. Note: Flint was administrative deputy for the County Public Library when he retired in 2008.)

Got the newsletter and first thing I do is head for the obits page. If I don't find my name there, then it's straight to Judy Hammond's column. It's always a great read. Thanks.

Bill Yaney, San Pedro, California

I really appreciated receiving the RELAC newsletter, Vol. 3, May/June 2018. It was very kind of you to print the story of my 35 years of volunteer work (with the Long Beach Police Department) and my 95th birthday event. I appreciate receiving the extra three copies you sent as well. I always look forward to reading the newsletter.

Laura Mathews, Long Beach, California

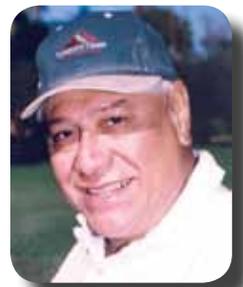
I've been enjoying reading the RELAC newsletter and I appreciate you mentioning that Arts for LA, our county arts advocacy organization, recently named a fellowship for cultural policy and research in my honor. This was the best retirement (or as I call it, realignment) present I could have gotten! The inaugural \$3,500 fellowship has just been awarded through a competitive process to Addy Gonzalez Renteria and will focus on ways to address arts and culture, land use and environmental impact reporting.

Laura Zucker, Sherman Oaks, California

(Ed. Note: Zucker is the former executive director of the L.A. County Arts Commission.)

Golf News

By Gil Sandoval
RELAC Golf Director



Santa Anita Golf Tournament

It was a great day at Santa Anita with a temperature of 82 degrees perfect for play. Benny Martinez repeated his performance as he won the "A" flight with a great net 67. Not far behind was Ken Swan, who placed second with a net 69. Following in third was Fred Whiting, bringing in net 72.

John Shannon had a great round, winning the "B" flight as his net 66 beat Frank Davanzo's second place finish at net 70. Don Hughes came up one stroke short of Frank and finished third at net 71.

The "C" flight winner George Sims was the player of the day as his low net of 64 beat all players. Arthur Dass, playing steady, had a net 72 to finish second. Again, the third place finisher Richard Romandia was only one stroke further back at net 73.

The Ladies Flight was a battle between Kathy Malmfeldt and the course as she was the only female participant. Kathy played better than most of the men as she brought in a net 73. Because the ladies have had trouble reaching the par 3s off the tee, we allow them to get closest to the pin in two shots, giving them a better chance to win the par 3 prizes.

We had a tie on the closest to the pin on #8 as Chuck McGlothlin and Jerry Nottke were the same distance from the pin. In my 43 years of playing golf, I have never seen this happen.

The entry form for the Aug. 6 tournament at the Los Verdes Golf Course can be found on the RELAC web page: www.relac.org. Follow the link to activities (Golf).

SANTA ANITA RESULTS

"A" Flight Winners (19 and under)

1 st Benny Martinez	(67)
2 nd Ken Swan	(69)
3 rd Fred Whiting	(72)

"B" Flight (20 to 26 Handicaps)

1 st John Shannon	(66)
2 nd Frank Davanzo	(70)
3 rd Don Hughes	(71)

"C" Flight (27 and up Handicaps)

1 st George Sims	(64)
2 nd Arthur Dass	(72)
3 rd Richard Romandia	(73)

Women's Flight

1 st Kathy Malmfeldt	(73)
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Closest to the Pin on Par 3s

MEN

- # 4 – Eddie Otero
- # 8 – Chuck McGlothlin, Jerry Nottke
- # 12 – No Winner
- # 13 – Chuck McGlothlin

WOMEN

- # 8 – Kathy Malmfeldt

NEXT TOURNAMENT

Monday, Aug. 6, 2018

Los Verdes Golf Course - 8 a.m. Start
Entry Deadline - July 20

RELAC "DAY AT THE RACES" SANTA ANITA PARK

Oct. 4, 2018

by Mary K. Rodriguez
Chair, Recreation Committee

Good News!

It is time to enjoy another exciting day at SANTA ANITA PARK for our annual RELAC "Day at the Races." This event is always enthusiastically attended by our members. The day provides a lot of enjoyment, the food is great and hopefully we will have a lot of winners. We will be seated in the Sierra Vista Terrace, a prime location that offers a great view of the track. This year our event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 4.

Santa Anita's ticket price is \$53 per person. **However, RELAC will be subsidizing each ticket by \$3 so your cost for this year's event will be \$50.** Your ticket includes park admission, parking, a racing program (available when you enter the park), and a great buffet lunch with soft drinks and dessert.

Please fill in the coupon and send your check to RELAC as soon as possible. The reservation deadline is Sept. 20. Your tickets will be mailed to you on Tuesday, Sept. 25.

Hope to see you there!

Day at the Races - Santa Anita Park Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

No. of Tickets: _____ @ \$50 each

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail Checks payable to RELAC and mail to:

RELAC
1000 S. Fremont Ave., #15
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

Must be received by Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018

RELAC Night at Dodger Stadium Friday, Aug. 24, 2018 *Last Call!*

by Mary K. Rodriguez
Chair, Recreation Committee



The Los Angeles Dodgers are playing the San Diego Padres. It is going to be a great game, topped off with a SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS SHOW!

The ticket price is \$40 per person, but with RELAC's subsidy, **you pay \$36 per ticket.** The seats are in the lower reserved section behind home plate. A very desirable location!

This RELAC event is always well attended and a limited number of seats are still available. Please fill out the coupon below and send it along with your check as soon as possible.

PLEASE NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS AUG. 6 AND TICKETS WILL BE MAILED TO YOU THE WEEK OF AUG. 13.

Come out and enjoy the evening. Hope to see you there!

Go Dodgers!!!

Dodgers vs. San Diego Padres Friday, Aug. 24, 2018

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

No. of Tickets: _____ @ \$36 each

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail Checks payable to RELAC and mail to:

RELAC
1000 S. Fremont Ave., #15
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

Deadline - Aug. 6, 2018

For Sale

CEMETERY PLOTS - ROSE HILLS WHITTIER. Two side-by-side burial plots in Garden of Reflections. This area has been sold out for decades and has beautiful established landscaping. The plots are in Lot 1261, Spaces 3 and 4. Access to this area is off Workman Mill Road, Entrance #1. Asking \$5,000 each. Verification and transfer will be done in person with a title administrator in the Rose Hills office. Contact Bob at (509) 881-4415.

Antoinette Valtier cont. from p. 3

In her spare time, Antoniette enjoys cooking Argentine food with her husband, Edward Stambuk, and friends, visiting her neighbors, mowing the lawn and advising local business owners on marketing.

RELAC Office Manager Pat Koulos says Antoniette has a strong sense of responsibility and a great attitude. She should be a real asset to the RELAC team.



Keeping Up With Retirees

We asked three RELAC members to let us know what they have been doing since retirement. Their articles follow.



SANDRA REUBEN

Transitioning into retirement in June 2000 after 35 years in the County Library was quite a change. I started as a children's librarian and, much to my surprise, ended up the last 11 years of my career as director of the amazing Library Department. Most of my identity and friendships had been tightly entwined with my career and the County family. I transitioned by remaining on the County Library Foundation Board. After a while, however, the 80-mile drive from home to those meetings became a little much. I was ready to really retire.

My husband, Ken, and I decided that it was time to move from our home in crowded Brentwood. After searching for a home near my sister in Thousand Oaks, we opted to build instead. It was fun watching the new one-story house take shape. After the move we familiarized ourselves with the new area. What?! No parking meters. No traffic. Green space. Friendly people. Our time turned to decorating and furnishing the house...making it a home. I couldn't part with my stacks of "library/reading" t-shirts so I had them stitched into a quilt for our guest room. Remembering my Midwest roots, I loved planting a garden and raising our own vegetables. Good thing that mountain lion I saw ambling by was on the other side of our fence. I wouldn't want him eating my crops.

We were free to take trips...various cruises around the world. As much as we enjoyed seeing world sights, a favorite was a domestic car trip to Minneapolis in which we leisurely explored the U.S. We leased a condo in Minneapolis and stayed a month reconnecting with family before visiting national parks on the long drive home. How did I have time to work?

I joined a women's group called NA'AMAT USA. Instantly I built close friendships as we raised money to help women and children in Israel. The group also works with L.A. Family Housing to do the same in the U.S. Ken and I even went to Israel to attend an international conference of NA'AMAT. This group has given me an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the world while having fun as a volunteer.

Though we married too late to have children, Ken and I are lucky to have two great-nephews, Evan (7) and Ben (14). They live too far away in Minnesota, but I found a way to experience their growth. Each year I create a digital book for each of them with photos and text to record their life paths. Thank goodness for my iMac. I'm now pretty good at editing photos. That was a giant leap from my prior, brief scrapbooking experience.

I guess the "librarian" in me also linked me with a project with the library at my alma mater, the University of Iowa. After learning that they established a Jewish Women of Iowa Archive, I knew I had to make sure that our family's women were represented.

continued on p. 11



LAURA ZUCKER

The good news is that working in the arts is not the same as a life in the operating room—if you mess up, the patient doesn't die!—but if you care about anything passionately, as I certainly did for the 25 years I was executive director of the L.A. County Arts Commission (which supports the arts ecology in L.A. through grants, civic art and arts education), it sure feels *personal*. So how do you push off from a county's worth of commitment onto a sea of exploration after a quarter of a century?

The answer for me was slooowly. The first months after my "retirement" last July were spent recovering. I was tired in every way and couldn't get enough of doing nothing. Luckily, my husband, Allan Miller, who's an actor, had a great part in a world premiere play at South Coast Repertory in September. The gig came with a condo in Costa Mesa so my fall project became exploring the beaches of Laguna. Who knew there were 28 of them, all gorgeous? This slight removal from L.A. was the perfect excuse to tell everyone to call me in October.

But in October I found myself in South Korea. I'd been advising the LA28 committee on the cultural Olympiad part of L.A.'s bid and have stayed interested in how L.A. could think about implementing the cultural components of the 2028 Olympics. Colleagues from the World Cities Culture Forum (a coalition of those who head cultural affairs departments for the world's largest cities/regions; I spearheaded L.A.'s participation as part of this group during my tenure) were convening in Seoul and it was the perfect opportunity to check in with those who had run past cultural Olympiads in London and Sydney, as well as those who were planning them for Tokyo and Paris. I discovered that no one has ever collected information on cultural Olympiads in one place...hmmm...we need this.

When I got back I was still trying hard to not do much, but it wasn't meant to be. A global arts management consulting firm whose work I'd always admired, AEA Consulting, asked if I'd lead a feasibility study for a new 3,000-6,000 seat amphitheater the City of Santa Clarita was considering building. How could I say no to drawing on more than two decades of experience overseeing the Ford Amphitheatre's revitalization and renovation? I'm now a senior advisor for projects at AEA, which led me back to Dubai in April to moderate a session on the role the arts plays in gentrification for a convening of arts managers who run cultural districts from around the world.

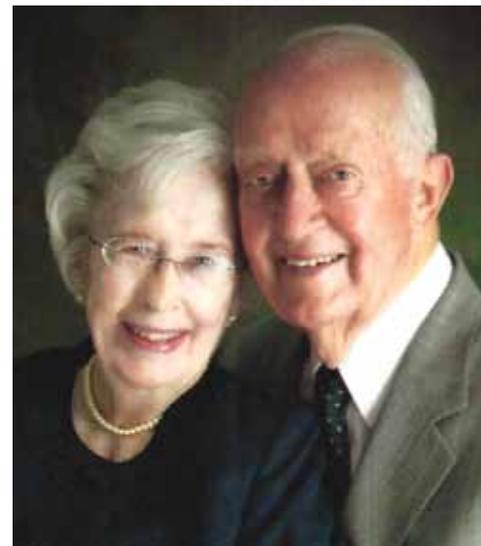
I'm also still a senior fellow in the Masters in Arts Management program at Claremont Graduate University, a program I previously directed for six years. I taught a master class in cross-sector work in the arts—how the arts now intersect with everything from rehabilitation for Parkinson's patients to creating jobs for veterans—in January and February. That the arts should be integrated into the fabric of our lives has been a guiding principal for me for some time; at the Arts Commission I was able to create the Community Impact Grants Program that funds non-arts organizations utilizing the arts in service to their mission. This also includes the sports and arts, of course, so now

continued on p. 11

CHARLES A. NORRIS

Charles and Carol Norris

My first professional work experience was for the State of California Personnel Board as a junior analyst doing recruitment in 1952. Six months later, I moved to L.A. County Flood Control and served there for eight years under a marvelous mentor, Jim Polley. Although I had risen to be head administrative assistant, I was ready for bigger and better opportunities in the form of an executive assistant position for Dr. Harry Brickman at Mental Health. It was a small office of five staff, so when there was an opening at the Health Department, I took it – and found a home among the 1,200 employees of this largest department of its kind in the country.



This was an exciting era. The department, headed by Dr. Gerald Heidebreder, was growing rapidly and was preparing to merge with Public Health. This included moving to a new building. As the administrative deputy, much of the burden fell on me and the 2,000 staff I supervised. It was also while I was here that I became a co-creator of the Public Health Foundation Enterprises (PHFE), an organization which allowed for non-county funded health programs to flourish.

Another rewarding experience was with the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), which I joined in 1970 and later became president. I am still a member today.

The Chief Administrative Office was my next stop. The CAO, Harry Hufford, was a tremendous resource. While there I headed the newly formed Management Services Division. One project we did was an extensive audit of the Public Defender's Office. My recommendation was to create the Alternate Public Defender's Office, which the Board of Supervisors finally did... many years later. In my nine years there we conducted over 65 major audits, resulting in nearly \$30 million in savings to the County; eventually growing to a staff of 40-45 analysts. Perhaps just as importantly, we were commended for improving the "...industriousness, morale and professional competence of the staff."

I retired in 1983, working as a consultant and an adjunct professor. In 1984 I began devoting my time to PHFE as the president and chief executive officer. When it began, PHFE was handling programs, such as Women and Infant Children (WIC), totaling approximately \$10 million. When I retired again 17 years later, the total was \$100 million.

During my second career I was also asked to serve as a bishop, the ecclesiastical leader of our congregation, in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This came in the middle of many other opportunities I have had to serve: directing emergency preparedness efforts and family history research to name two.

I and my wife, Carol, have resided in Hacienda Heights since 1968. I am the father of three, grandfather of seven, great-grandfather of 10, with more on the way.



Norris and most recent grandchild

Since 2001 I have been very busy with church service, world travel (26 countries), local travel (all 50 states), and gardening. I have culled my vast library of historically significant documents, donating many of the papers chronicling the actions of L.A. County government to university libraries.

Always interested in politics (I once ran for school superintendent), I continue to keep abreast of current events, diving deep on issues that concern me, including the environment, the treatment of veterans (I was an Air Force officer), worthy social causes, and, of course, my beloved UCLA (I have only missed two home football games - one for my 50th wedding anniversary and one because of double pneumonia -- since attending school there beginning in 1946).

Throughout my life I have always felt that serving people is the greatest good I could do. My wonderful wife of 63 years and I have been blessed to have had many opportunities to do so.

RELAC NEWSLETTER

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Number 4

Retired Employees
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9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Monday - Thursday
Closed Friday,
Saturday, Sunday &
Public Holidays

What's Happening?

Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair
Special Events Committee



Save the date for our annual October picnic and other interesting events you may wish to attend. Committee members are exploring new and exciting events that we can promote to our RELAC members and their families.

We want you to stay connected to our County family and have identified a number of special events which we hope you enjoy.

May 3 - Aug. 30 -- "Food Truck Thursday" at the Pomona Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona, every Thursday from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Ten food trucks provide a great selection of food and snacks. Tables, benches and a DJ make this a great family outing. Free parking in Lot 1 near the Administration Building. I loved the barbecue and Asian cuisine.

May 17 - Sept. 27 -- "Beach Food Truck Thursdays" at Marina Mother's Beach, 14101 Panay Way, parking lot 11, Marina del Rey. The Department of Beaches & Harbors is promoting a free family night out from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Thursday with live music and a great beach experience. Check the Marina Visitors Center website for additional info.

Aug. 31 - Sept. 23 -- L.A. County Fair. Join County employees on Sept. 2 "L.A. County Day" for a special ticket price, view the County parade and visit County department booths. Look for updates on our RELAC website.

Oct. 13 -- Annual RELAC Picnic at Santa Fe Dam, Area 5, in Irwindale. Save the date for this fun event. We are celebrating our 60th birthday and honoring veterans. The Bobby Z Band will play and hold line-dancing sessions. Tickets are \$25, which includes a great barbecue menu, drinks, desserts, prizes, bingo, line dancing AND free parking.

I look forward to your suggestions and ideas on "Special Events" in the future and request that you also check our website www.relac.org for new postings and updates. Thanks for your support!



Line-dancing at 2017 picnic

RELAC ANNUAL PICNIC THE BIGGEST OUTDOOR EVENT OF THE YEAR!



\$25 INCLUSIVE

OCT. 13, 2018 – 10:30 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

(Food, Fun, Entertainment)

MUSIC WILL BE PROVIDED BY

"The Bobby Z Band"

WILDLIFE EXHIBIT BY WHITTIER NARROWS NATURE CENTER
BINGO, RAFFLE DRAWING/GREAT PRIZES ...and MORE

SANTA FE DAM – RECREATIONAL AREA #5
15501 E. Arrow Highway, Irwindale
FREE PARKING

CATERED LUNCH – PICNIC SERVICES

Lunch Served 11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

St Louis Style Ribs ~ Tender Chicken Breasts ~ Hot Dogs
Baked Beans ~ Fresh Fruit (best in season)
Cole Slaw ~ Potato Salad
Rolls & Butter ~ Gourmet Cookies ~ Brownies

BRING A FOLDING CHAIR
(If you want to sit closer to the music)
MEMBERS & ADULT GUESTS

Oct. 13, 2018 Annual Picnic Registration Form Adults Only

Member _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Guests Names _____

Phone No. _____

Please Provide Names of Guests - Attach List if Necessary

No of Tickets _____ @ \$25 ea. = \$ _____ Total

Mail To:
RELAC
1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

For More Information:
Phone: (626) 308-0532 or (800) 537-3522
E-mail: admin@relac.org

No Admission Without Advance Registration

Pick Up Tickets at the Event
RSVP by Oct. 5, 2018

Nancy's Story In Sickness and in Health...

by David Flint

(RELAC member David Flint was administrative deputy for the Public Library when he retired in 2008 after a 40-year career with the County. When we learned that his wife recently had a kidney transplant, we asked if he would share their story with our readers.)



For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health . . . When we made those marriage vows years ago, I wonder how many of us thought about what we were actually saying. Now, much later in life, we realize that we made a solemn oath to be together and take care of each other, no matter what comes our way. I'm sure many of you have had a similar experience

with a spouse or other loved one who needed someone to see them through a rough patch in life – or to be a caregiver during a prolonged, serious illness.

Nancy and I have been married for 44 years, and for at least the past five years, I watched the relentless progression of her chronic kidney disease. When I retired more than nine years ago we were looking forward to a different life. At first we were able to travel and do other things we had planned; but those eventually became too difficult for Nancy to manage. On our last cruise in Europe her stamina declined drastically, and we needed to hunker down and find a solution.

Nancy was diagnosed with end-stage renal disease in 2012. She was not aware that her kidney function was gradually declining, and she was surprised, even shocked, when the doctor mentioned her advanced kidney disease. Eventually her nephrologist told her that she would need to consider a kidney transplant. We realized early on that we knew very little about kidney disease, and we needed to get educated.

Fortunately, we found a local kidney support group and started attending meetings to learn about kidney disease from others in the group.

Nancy's kidney disease progressed slowly, taking over four years to reach the stage where it was time for her to start dialysis. It's a daunting task to face – being tethered to a dialysis machine for three to four hours several days a week. Dialysis removes the toxins and other impurities from your blood when your kidneys are not working well enough to "clean" your blood as they are designed to do. It really interrupts your life, and disrupts your daily schedule. But it saves your life, and for many kidney patients, it goes on for years.

Nancy was on the national waiting list for a kidney transplant for nearly five years. In Southern California, with a high demand for kidney transplants, it can take up to 10 years to receive a deceased donor kidney. People here are encouraged to find a living donor to shorten the waiting time and improve their chance of receiving a transplant. Older and sicker patients cannot endure waiting 10 years for a transplant, and many simply do not survive the wait.

Nancy had two important factors in her favor: she has blood type A and zero antibodies. (Women can acquire antibodies from pregnancy, blood transfusion, or a previous transplant.) Both factors made her an easy match for transplant. She was placed on the waiting list in April 2013 and eventually accepted by two transplant centers in Southern California. We spent nearly two years trying to find a living kidney donor without success.

Some in our support group went to other states with shorter waiting lists and received a transplant sooner than they would have in Southern California. That led us to pursue the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Arizona, where the waiting

Reuben cont. from p.8

My two sisters and I had grown up in Forest City, a small town of 3,000 people. I sent many historic photos with text to the archive. This project reconnected me with cousins all over the country and led to all of us pulling together our communal memories...in an emergent genealogy effort.

Lunches with the retired rat pack (department heads) and with retired colleagues from the County Library keep me posted on L.A. County happenings. Regular gym sessions keep my joints moving.

Life is good. I am free to read more than ever.

Zucker cont. from p.8

so now I'll be advising a CGU arts management graduate student on a thesis project to aggregate all the information we can find on past cultural Olympiad on a website that will be available to everyone who comes after us.

So I'm discovering that as huge as L.A. County always felt, the world out there is limitless. It's less personal and more engaging all at the same time. It's great to lift one's eyes to the horizon.

Letter continued from p.6

I appreciate the newsletter and belong in order to support the legislative efforts of RELAC. The personal stories are a good read; however, there are hundreds of great stories out there besides reading about retired department heads. Perhaps LACERA could spin out a random retiree and ask for their story occasionally. Thanks for listening

Buck Buchanan, Parker, Colorado

*(retired battalion chief, County Fire Department)
(Ed. Note: We welcome all suggestions for profiles and by no means only those individuals who were in high-level positions. In fact, we make an effort to include articles on less-known retirees who have an interesting story to tell. People like the social worker who was the first person hired with severe speaking and physical disabilities, the sheriff's deputy who was a hero in World War II, the child support personnel officer who is now a safari guide, the 95-year-old former DPSS worker who has volunteered with the Long Beach Police Department for 35 years, the environmental health officer who was one of the first blacks in the Navy. We are proud that former department heads belong to and support RELAC, and try to get them to write articles because they are known by so many of our members, but we are also proud that we have so many rank-and-file members and want to highlight their activities as well.)*

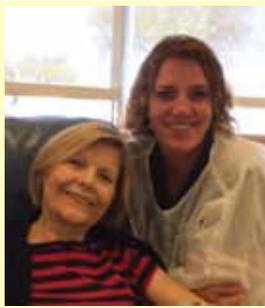
Thank you so much for the lovely birthday card. My grandson, Josh, just bought a house and wants me to move in with him. He wants to take care of me, so I will be moving at the end of this month. I am sending you my new address.

Natalie Scotton, San Pedro, California

Nancy's Story cont. from p.11

period is less than three years, and even shorter for patients with type A blood. Nancy was accepted at the Mayo Clinic in April 2017 and received her first offer of a kidney the following August. That seemed like lightning speed after waiting over four years in California. The process of being offered a kidney, and deciding whether to accept it, needs more explanation than we can address in this article. However, Nancy received a total of three offers before the "right one" came, and we drove off to Phoenix late Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017. We arrived in Phoenix around midnight and she had the transplant surgery the next afternoon.

At dialysis treatment



Her surgery took several hours and I was able to visit her soon after in the recovery room. A routine post-operative ultrasound revealed that a blood clot had formed and damaged the transplant, and it had to be removed. Nancy did not know until much later that her kidney transplant had failed -- it was a devastating setback.

We returned home after nearly three weeks recovery time in Phoenix. Nancy was placed on inactive status on the waiting list and encouraged to try again after full recovery from her surgery. In December she returned to active status on the waiting list and the process began again.

One new development was that she now had 96% antibodies from the failed transplant. That meant it would be more difficult to find a matching kidney and the wait could be longer this time. But, Providence was moving in her favor and barely two weeks passed before another kidney offer came. This one was a "zero mismatch" kidney and just what she needed. In fact, because of her matching antibodies, she was offered a younger, better kidney than she might otherwise have received. On Saturday, Jan. 6 we drove off again to the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix for round two of her adventure.

Nancy had her second kidney transplant surgery the next day and this time it was a success!

The next phase of the process is adjusting to the powerful immunosuppressant drugs used to prevent rejection of the new kidney. Our natural immune system fights off any foreign body and that's how we protect ourselves from common infections and diseases. However, transplant patients need to take special medications to lower the body's natural immune response to avoid rejecting the transplant. It also means that transplant recipients are more susceptible to infection and need to take extra precautions to protect themselves. Most people recover from a common cold or flu without much difficulty, but those can be a serious threat to someone with a transplanted organ.

There are also side effects with the post-operative drugs, and those are part of the bargain. For most people, the side effects tend to decrease over time. What's important is to remember that the transplant extends your life, improves your health, and allows you to participate fully in your daily life, so you endure the side effects for the tradeoff. It's not always pleasant, but better than being confined to a dialysis machine three or four days a week for the rest of your life.

There have been ups and downs during the months since her transplant, but Nancy's new kidney is functioning very well. In May she returned to the Mayo Clinic for her four-month checkup and there were no signs of infection or rejection. Her medications were adjusted again, and she continues her regimen of healthy eating, drinking lots of water, and taking her pills every day and on time.

Nancy now enjoys more freedom in her daily life and improved health overall. We are grateful for her anonymous kidney donation and will find ways to pay that gift forward. We continue attending our support group to offer encouragement and information to other kidney patients from our own experience, both as transplant recipient and caregiver. It's a team effort and we have a greater appreciation for those vows: "for better, for worse, in sickness and in health." We have learned to take life one day at a time and the value of perseverance. We look forward to resuming our retirement plans. Life is good.

RELAC Walks for Babies

by Linda C. Hopkins, Chair
Community Support Committee



RELAC Team walkers - Victoria Pipkin-Lane, Dave Muir, Linda Hopkins, Don Fandry and Brian Berger

We did it!!! Together we raised \$5,359 for research and family services for premature babies. On Saturday, April 28 at Exposition Park, RELAC joined L.A. County departments and walkers at the March of Dimes "March for Babies" to raise funds and awareness of the need for additional research addressing the premature birth of babies at risk. Our goal was \$5,000 and with your support we exceeded our goal!!! This was the first year that we have participated in this event.

Hope to see everyone walking next year! Thanks to all RELAC members and Board of Directors who donated to this worthy cause.



RELAC booth - RELAC Board Directors Don Fandry, left, and Evelyn Gutierrez, right.

Just Saying:

Quote of the Day

"If you can't get out of it, get into it."

John McCoy

(Submitted by RELAC Board Member Bill de la Garza)

Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond
Newsletter Editor



An unnamed Chief Executive Office employee who admitted taking bribes was allowed to resign after secretly recording a developer who was seeking a \$45 million government lease. The employee, who handled leases and other real estate issues, said he received \$1,000 a month from the developer over six years in exchange for leases, nonpublic information and other benefits. The employee is seeking reduced legal sanctions in exchange for his cooperation with the FBI. County supervisors ordered a review of all leases held by the developer as well as those negotiated by the employee, who said he had accepted bribes from a number of people.

With the retirement of Sandra Ausman, who has served as the volunteer head of the Office of Protocol since it was created in 1985, the office will now be officially headed by the county employee who has supervised the office, Lourdes Saab.

Former acting Public Defender Robert Kalunian appeared before the Board of Supervisors to "implore" the Board to name a permanent public defender with substantial criminal justice experience. Supervisor Chair Sheila Kuehl cut him off after two minutes, saying his time had expired. But she added: "Don't worry."

As of June 25, the new public utility Clean Power Alliance is the electricity provider for all businesses in unincorporated L.A. County area, although users may opt out and use Edison.

The County has expanded hours and funding for drop-in health centers serving youths aged 18-24, many of whom are former foster youth who have aged out of the system. About 11 percent of the almost 12,000 homeless persons living in the Third District alone are transitional age youth.

The County has launched a Shower of Hope pilot program to provide weekly showers, meals, clothes, haircuts, and housing, legal and health services to homeless individuals.

The Whittier Courthouse, closed in 2013 due to budget cuts, is now back open.

The Arts Commission, formed in 1947 and presently operating under the auspices of the Board of Supervisors Executive Office, is transitioning into a county department.

The Department of Public Social Services launched a social media and community outreach campaign to spread accurate information and bust myths about the CalFresh program (formerly known as Food Stamps) to encourage eligible persons to apply for food assistance to help meet their nutritional needs.

Supervisors have directed the Chief Executive Office to develop a staffing and funding plan for a permanent Probation Oversight Commission, which will oversee the implementation of reforms and encourage public accountability for the Department of Probation.

Supervisors voted to allow a nonprofit organization to hold a weekly farmers market on the Rancho Los Amigos campus in Downey, with proceeds going to help foster youth. Eventually, produce grown by patients in the hospital's own community garden will be sold. Officials said the project is befitting as Rancho Los Amigos operated as an L.A. County Poor Farm in the 1920s. Homeless and destitute residents could work on the farm in exchange for room and board.

Metro is studying a "pay as you use" proposal by Supervisor Janice Hahn to send a bill to drivers using the express lanes without a transponder, instead of issuing them a ticket and big fine.

Under the County's pilot program that lends homeowners \$75,000 to build a backyard house or \$50,000 on a bootleg renovation for up to six units, the loan principal will be reduced each year the unit is occupied by a formerly homeless person and forgiven after 10 years, at which time the homeowners can do whatever they wish with the housing.

Supervisors want to know how many pregnant women and girls are in County correctional facilities and what can be done to improve conditions and support for them.

The number of L.A. County families in the last 10 years who have agreed to take in foster kids has dropped 50 percent, at the same time that the state is requiring the County to reduce its reliance on group homes.

The \$453 million Vermont Corridor Project approved by the Board calls for tearing down three aging government buildings to build new headquarters for the Departments of Mental Health and Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services, retail, housing and a community center.

L.A. County for the third time in the past four years made the Forbes 2018 List of Best Employers, ranking 133 out of 500 large employers.

The arrest of more than 80 Mexican Mafia and subsidiary street gangs in May was aimed at destroying a lucrative drug enterprise operating in L.A. County jails.

An appeals court upheld a deputy's claim that he could not be fired for fraternizing with criminals and obstructing an investigation into alleged drug activities because evidence generated from a wiretap cannot be used in a disciplinary proceeding.

The County is being sued by homeowners who allege a county program that funds energy-efficient improvement programs has financially ruined them because they cannot afford the loans and are at risk of losing their homes.

Operators of the County's 211 hotline accidentally exposed database personal information, including Social Security numbers, addresses and sensitive notes about calls regarding mental health and abuse.

Supervisors approved a \$12 million settlement to the family of a cyclist struck and killed by a patrol car after it was discovered the deputy was sending a personal text message shortly before the accident.

The County has filed an appeal to stop a new state law from taking effect that would require a 14-member commission to redraw supervisorial district boundaries instead of the Board of Supervisors following the U.S. Census.

The Assessor's website allows you to enter an address or assessor's identification number and get a wealth of information about that property, including recent sales in the surrounding area, assessment values and property tax information.

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas recounted an occasion when he teased former Health Department Director Dr. Mitch Katz about a tie he was wearing. "Are you wearing that tie, or is that tie wearing you?" Ridley-Thomas asked. "And he just simply said to me, 'How can I help you, Mr. Supervisor,' ending that conversation."





John Tabor, Jr.



Brian Stiger



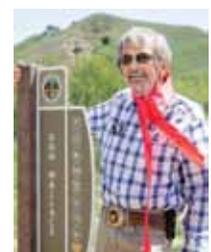
Don Battjes, Jr.



Lourdes Saab



Terrance Powell



Don Wallace

Passages

Compiled by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

RETIREMENTS:

Cecilia Saco, nationally recognized special immigrant juvenile status expert, Department of Children and Family Services, 32 years of service. **Sandra J. Ausman**, with more than 33 years of volunteer service as chief of protocol, becomes chief of protocol emeritus. **Terrance Powell**, director of environmental health, Public Health Department, after more than 30 years of service.

APPOINTMENTS:

Lourdes Saab, who as deputy chief of protocol has managed the day-to-day operations of the Office of Protocol since 2005, named chief of protocol. **Brian Stiger**, former director of Consumer and Business Affairs, named the County's chief legislative representative. Former Senior Deputy County Counsel **Joseph Nicchitta** named interim director of the Consumer and Business Affairs Department at annual salary of \$237,290, while continuing to head the Office of Cannabis Management. **Abbe Land**, long-time community leader and non-profit organization head, is the new executive director of the County's Women and Girls Initiative, formed two years ago to address the disproportionate burdens and disadvantages facing females. Land succeeds **Regina Waugh**, who now works in the Department of Mental Health.

DEATHS:

Lucille Knabe, 97-year-old mother of former Supervisor **Don Knabe** who had returned to California from Idaho last year to be with her son, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. **James Vogts, III**, 75, one of the nine original members of the California Peace Officers Commission, who became a lobbyist for the Professional Peace Officers Association after retiring as a sergeant in the Sheriff's Department. **Don Battjes, Jr.**, 73, chief of operations at the Los Angeles Museum of Art, where he directed the installation of the Urban Light display. **Hal Helsley**, who served three terms on the Regional Planning Commission, beginning in 2000, and the Airport Land Use Commission. Former California Gov. **George Deukmejian**, 89, who worked as a deputy in the L.A. County Counsel's Office early in his career. **John Quincy Tabor, Jr.**, 96, first black lifeguard on L.A. County and city beaches, 1942-47, who later became a chemical engineer whose key projects included Navy A-Bomb and Saturn Lunar Orbiter Propulsion on the Apollo Man on the Moon Project. **Dr. Albert E. Yellin**, 81, chief of vascular surgery for 10 years at LAC+USC Hospital whose proudest career accomplishment was his role in the development of the County's integrated trauma system. **Edward Jennings**, 98, 26-year employee with the County Waterworks Division who served 30 years in the Navy Reserves, achieving the rank of lieutenant commander. **John Henry Sandoz**, 84, former L.A. County Superior Court commissioner and judge.

RECOGNITIONS:

Mohammed Al Rawi, chief information officer for the Department of Parks and Recreation, named one of Government Technology Magazine's Top 25 Doers, Dreamers & Drivers of 2018. **Loni Ezell**, nationally recognized expert in emergency management, named Department of Public Works' 2017 Public Servant of the Year. The **Don Wallace Multi-Use Trail Connector** – which will enable safe passage under the 101 Freeway and connect the Calabasas Cold Creek, Los Virgenes Creek trails, and the Malibu Creek State Park trail systems – dedicated in honor of the 77-year-old former County firefighter and aide to Supervisor Ed Edelman who pushed almost 40 years for its creation.

Retiree Cecilia Saco Honored

New RELAC member Cecilia Saco receives retirement scroll from Supervisor Hilda Solis upon retiring from the Department of Children and Family Services after 32 years. Solis and DCFS executive Brandon Nichols, at left, praised Saco's work in the Special Immigrant Status Unit of DCFS, where she helped undocumented youth who were victims of abuse, neglect and/or abandonment become lawful residents, preventing them from having to return to an abusive environment. The youth are said to be the most vulnerable in the foster care system. Also shown is Saco's husband.



McDermott Receives Coast Guard Service Award

RELAC member Carolyn McDermott was presented in April with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary's 2017 Auxiliarist of the Year award for the Eighth District-Eastern Region, which encompasses Alabama, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia. McDermott, an Auxiliarist since 1996, just completed a two-year term as commander of the Tellico Lake Flotilla in Tennessee, where she now lives. She has earned qualifications in surface and air programs and as an instructor, and writes a newspaper column on safe boating. McDermott worked for the L.A. County Department of Health Services for 29 years, retiring in 1996 as administrative deputy/chief of staff for Personal Health Services.



IN MEMORIAM

This list includes retired employees, both RELAC members and non-members.

Agricultural Comm./Wts. & Measures – Monroe D. Polk, Arthur M. Stuhr

Alcohol/Drug Pgms. Admin. – Martha Ohanesian

Alternate Public Defender – Jaime Lopeztiana

Assessor – Kenneth J. Dunsire, Brian G. Heming, Helen Mahan, Joan A. Monk, Natalio J. Ramirez, Loregado S. Santiago, Sarah F. Sneed, Sande L. Thomas

Auditor-Controller – Morton D. Carson

Beaches and Harbors – Clarence G. Hustler

California Children's Services – Dawn Lang

Chief Executive Office – Donald F. Elliott, Gaylord S. McCool, Kathryn E. Regan

Child Support Services – Robert S. Scott

Children & Family Services – Doris M. Comer, Carol A. Erickson, Ira J. Fields, Mischa Fischer, Mary H. Hervey, Ofelia Hirai, Shirley A. James, Augusto Segebre, Joan H. Smith, Sun-Young Song

Communications – Daniel M. Healy

District Attorney – Theresa Alvarez, Michael J. Delaney, Craig N. Gunnette, Jack N. Nadelle

Engineer/Facilities – Dennis C. Barry

Fire – Thomas S. Benton, Joe B. Day, Thomas W. Detlefsen, Martin Goziker, Rita E. Gutierrez, Bruce A. Mortimer, Dennis J. Pinho, Willard S. Smith, Herbert N. Sobul, Kirtis J. Strawn, George R. Taylor, Richard D. Wichmann

Harbor/UCLA Medical Center – Purliner Criner, Maria Vergara Endrinal, Ernestine D. Green, Raquel D. Gonzalez, Gloria V. Hope, Nicomedes R. Ortega, Olive Tritch, Helen M. Wagner, Carmen O. Weist

Health Services Administration – Mario R. Bravo, Jose M. Castillo, Willie M. De Loach, Etta L. Flaherty, Angela Marquez, Richard E. Medlock, Janie E. Murphy, B S. Seibert, Earnestine Winston

Internal Services – Arthur B. Arsola, Joe Chavez, Sammy R. Corrales, Jesse G. Davis, Albert Dean, Nobbie Edwards, Hung-Jen Ko, Raymond A. Mckiernan, Robert H. Torres, Edward J. Twiss, Lovita M. Wagner, Seebon Wong

King/Drew Medical Center – Ezra C. Davidson Jr., Constance R. Doyle, Rubystine Grant, Lyra S. Gillette, Conner J. Jones, Rickey P. Matthews, Lillie B. Raymond

LAC+USC Medical Center – Ward Archer, Joyce E. Bermejo, Clifford R. Burtoft, Peggy J. Caldwell, Stanley A. Grant, Earnest E. Jones, Rizalina De La Paz, Gwendolyn M. Gibson, Richard M. Godley, Julia Hooper, Rose V. Kassardjian, Frances Lopez, Clifford T. Mc Gowan, Sammie L. Morgan, Lucy Munoz, Aurea Pablo, Barbara Quintas, Diana Ray-Manley, George P. Richards, Patricia K. Saffell, Socorro V. Soto, Theresa L. Soto, Edward Wong

Mechanical – Julius Parker, George E. Thorne

Medical Examiner/Coroner – Sharon I. Schnittker

Mental Health – Rene S. Pierra, Inez E. Redd, Karen J. Saywitz, Mary S. Sutton, Jean M. Thomason

Municipal Court – Victor J. Barich (Downey), Clara Gallegos (Compton)

Museum of Natural History – William W. Crain

Olive View/UCLA Hospital – Lois A. Broberg, Christina M. Curry, Louise A. Inga, Deborah Marshall, Viswanatham Piratla, Gil S. Santilla, Irene H. Schram, Julie Strzelec, Virginia L. Zirkle

Parks & Recreation – Robert Adair Jr., Barbara J. Johnson, Albert C. Klauda, Aurelio V. Rodriguez, John Szuba

Probation – Gloria J. Adams, Jerald Andrews, Bette Y. Brown, Alvin J. Cobb, Carlene Cole, Helen Delgado, Dent G. Hamilton, Jonathan A. Holter, Albert J. May, Israel K. Morohunfolu, John F. Morse, Bea Moyer, William Nichols, John E. Obanor, James L. Perry, Arvid M. Petterson, Milton B. Torn, Emma D. Walsh

Public Defender – Judith French, Linda G. Hackney

Public Health Program – Henry Atkins, Jose M. Dumlaio, Richard A. Guldin, Clifford Gutting, Melba W. Jackson, Elizabeth Q. Laws, Zelma R. Thompson

Public Library – Jean L. Cady, Ronald Moreno, Dorthy J. Nichols, Sharon L. Wagner

Public Safety – James Moore

Public Social Services – Crescencio A. Abad, Shirley Amberson, Katherine H. Banks, David L. Brick, Gloria P. Brooks, Thelma M. Brown, Kathryn Bryant, Joyce M. Coppage, Kim Craig, Ofelia Dominicis, Eleanor L. Drew, Catherine M. Ellis, Betty A. Frazier, Walter F. Fuller, Valencia G. Galloway, Carole R. Gary, Maxine Hamilton, Betty J. Harvey, Joyce R. Johnson, Joshua Mellow, Go Noda, Hilda Perdomo, Mike R. Rojo, Margaret A. Rostedt, Faith A. Shelmon, Madge E. Shields, Bernice O. Sutherland, Betty Taylor, Oanh T. Tran, Eleanor C. Wilkerson, Esther Wolf, Geraldine Young

Public Works – George Y. Amimoto, Joseph C. Arena, Glen L. Bausch, Ramon S. Beltran, Daniel A. Brito, David J. Darvis, Thomas J. Irvine, Florentino Laguna, Chor K. Leung, John T. Mangun, Sarah Manning, Donald J. Meehan, Glenn G. Nelson, Gerson A. Persselin, Kenneth J. Phillips, William J. Stonecypher, Rolf I. Thorvaldson

Rancho Los Amigos Hospital – Dorothy M. Crocker, Cristeta L. Dimalanta, Carol L. Hill, Norabell Kreuter, Frank Liang, Ronald McClurkin, Norris A. Willoughby

Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk – Norma L. Decuir, Malcolm R. Dillon

Sheriff – Donald L. Armstrong, Richard L. Bavouset, Lillie M. Blount, Lawrence D. Brademeyer, John E. Day, Theodore A. Dayian, Richard W. Dougherty, John W. Fain, Barbara A. Fennell, John A. Ferguson, Harold R. Frank, Gene C. Gast, David J. Gilmour, Robert L. Gonzales, Leonard K. Herendeen, Joseph G. Herzer, Michael J. Jackson, Joel A. Lesnick, Harvey A. Ludwig, Linda J. Mahakian, Robert D. Mangohig, Donald H. Matheson, Michael P. McCravy, Kazuyuki W. Noda, Franklin R. Parsons, Roger F. Pfrommer, John H. Ryon, Henry Salazar, William J. Sanders, Arvie L. Sherman, Larry B. Simons, Madelyn S. Smith, William W. Stocz, Barbara J. Vetter, James E. Vogts III, Robert G. Waldron, Lila L. Willett, Reginald T. Yamato

So. Coast Air Quality Mgmt. Dist. – Roberts A. Lippner

Superior Court/County Clerk – Theresa A. Anderson, Anna Baio, Carolyn Edwards, M J. Jones, Dolores H. Kimble, Nellie Kwong, C. D. Mooney, Margaret Tolen, Alma C. Torres, Dixie L. Wyborney

Treasurer & Tax Collector – Kenneth Blue

Workforce Dev., Aging & Comm. Svcs. – Domingo Delgado, Sheila M. Hazlett, James H. Woods

Department Not Designated – Linda L. Dionne, John E. Doner, Jettie M. Edwards, Marcia L. Figueroa, Edward J. Jennings, Joan O. Laufman, Judy Moore, Andrew T. Mortland, Jane Patterson, Laura Petterson



RETIRED EMPLOYEES
of LOS ANGELES COUNTY
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General Membership Meeting

Mary K. Rodriguez, Chair, Program Committee



Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018

Ayres Hall

Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia

9 a.m. - Complimentary Refreshments

10 a.m. - Meeting Begins

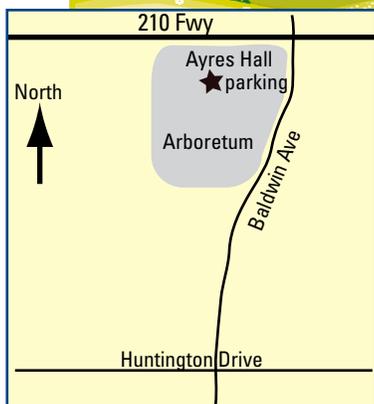
Our keynote speaker will be:

Gabriela Hernandez
Kaiser Health Educator
"Hypertension"

~ DOOR PRIZES ~

Please bring your RELAC membership card.

At the end of the program, members are welcome to tour the
Arboretum at no cost.



DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From Route 210 Freeway. Going either east or west, exit at Baldwin Avenue. Proceed south on Baldwin Avenue one-fourth mile. Turn right into the first driveway and park in front of Ayres Hall.

From Huntington Drive. Go north on Baldwin Avenue 1¼ mile. Turn left at the traffic signal and enter the parking lot. Ayres Hall is located just off the northerly portion of the lot.

IMPORTANT!
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newsletter, correct it
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RELAC
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Unit 15 Alhambra, CA
91803-8802 or
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(626) 308-0532
Fax: (626) 308-2901
Email:
admin@relac.org
website:
www.relac.org

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