



RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

Jan/Feb 2017 Vol 52-1

President's Message

by Dave Muir

As we launch into the new year, I want to start my message with a sincere wish to all of our members for a healthy and happy 2017. RELAC remains well-positioned to continue to serve and protect you. Our finances are in excellent shape, with a sizable war chest that can be used to fight any threats to our benefits.

As I've been writing about, attacks against public pension funds continue. There is a lot of media focus on public pensions right now, probably for good reason in light of the fact that many pension funds throughout the nation are poorly funded, which translates into reduced services for taxpayers. We are fortunate to be members of a pension fund that enjoys an excellent reputation in the national public pension community. We owe this to the excellent administration and investment programs of LACERA, and the commitment of the Board of Supervisors to keep benefit formulas within reason, unlike what has happened in state government and in many municipalities.

Many of you may have read the articles about public pension funds that have appeared recently in the Los Angeles Times. The article on Nov. 18, 2016 was titled: "Despite L.A.'s boasts of pension reform, the cost to taxpayers has never been higher." The Times reported that the city's retirement benefits now eat up 20% of the city's general fund revenue. I responded to the article with an e-mail to the Times pointing out that L.A. County's payments for retirement benefits are only 8.8% of the County's total expenditures. That relatively small amount allows the County to employ and retain world-class, loyal employees.

Here is my e-mail: "The County Board of Supervisors is to be congratulated for holding the line on pensions and even reducing pension formulas over the years. In 2015, the County's payment for retirement and other pension benefits were only 8.8% of total County expenditures."

I understand the next article in the Times' series on pensions will deal with the County. It will probably focus on the retiree health care program -- the one area that opens the County to criticism. L.A. County does not prefund the retiree health care program, but rather follows a policy of pay-as-you-go. The County only pays the insurance premium due each month. Because of this, the retiree health care program currently has a \$28 billion unfunded liability. The County currently has a plan to prefund the program. If it carries out this plan, the percentage of funds going to pay for the pensions and health care benefits combined could reach a level similar to the city's 20%.

Thanks to all our readers for your membership in RELAC, your PENSION AND HEALTH CARE WATCHDOG. And the very best wishes for a great year in 2017.



RELAC Board Elects Officers for 2017

Dave Muir, president of RELAC since 2014, will again lead the organization in 2017.

The RELAC Board of Directors elected Muir, who has been a director since 2011, to serve another term as president. Muir was chief counsel for LACERA when he retired in 2009.

"I'm honored that the Board is allowing me to serve a fourth year as president," said Muir. "And a special thanks to Greg Walia, RELAC vice president. I could not do the job without his able assistance."

Walia was re-elected to his fourth term as vice president and will also serve as treasurer, replacing Diane Sandoval, who had been treasurer for the past three years but did not seek another term. Walia joined the Board in 2003 and served as president in 2009 and 2010. He was personnel officer for the Public Works Department when he retired in 2000.

Mary K. Rodriguez, secretary since 2012, was tapped for a new one-year term in that position. She retired as a LACERA manager in 1996 and has been a RELAC director since 2007.

Bill de la Garza rounds out the Executive Committee as immediate past president. De la Garza, who was deputy director of the Department of Parks and Recreation when he retired in 1991, joined RELAC in 1999 and served five years as president (2001-02 and 2011-13).



Investments Board

by Diane Sandoval
Retiree Representative,
LACERA Board of Investments



Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

As I sat in front of my computer thinking about my article, I realized I've never mentioned the investment fees LACERA pays its investment managers.

First of all I want to assure you the Board of Investments and investment staff recognize the importance of hiring the best of the best while keeping a sharp focus on negotiating the lowest fees possible. It's a balancing act making sure LACERA's investment managers are among the top performers in their respective asset class while keeping investment fees reasonable and fair to both parties.

According to a schedule in the financial section of LACERA's annual audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 and 2015, LACERA paid \$183,761,000 in investment management fees to manage a \$47.8 billion portfolio. I know it sounds like a lot of money, but **in my opinion**, given the size and complexity of LACERA's portfolio, I believe the fees paid are comparable to fees paid by other public pension funds.

According to the latest staff memorandum dated Oct. 28, 2016, the **estimated** total market value of the portfolio as of Sept. 30, 2016 was \$48.9 billion, an increase of \$300 million as of July 31, 2016, when it was **estimated** to be \$48.6 billion. The **estimated** total portfolio return for the fiscal year (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017) was 3.8%. (No comment - to say more may jinx the upward trend to date.)

The Board of Investments was scheduled to meet on Dec. 14, 2016 to make a decision on whether or not to lower the investment return assumption. Unfortunately, Dec. 14 is past the newsletter deadline, so you will have to wait until my next article. This decision is not an easy one, even though LACERA has time on its corner, being a long-term advisor and having a diverse basket of assets in its portfolio. I almost forgot to mention that LACERA's actuary, Milliman, has been attending the past several meetings to educate the Board on the implications of its decision.

Whatever decision is made, please be assured that the Board and staff recognize the importance of protecting the financial stability of the fund in order to pay the promised benefits to all its members.

As always, thank you for your support. Please remember the comments made in the articles I write are my own and do not necessarily represent the opinions of my colleagues on the Board of Investments.

SEE'S CANDIES DISCOUNT FOR RELAC MEMBERS

As in the past, See's Candies will honor your RELAC membership card to confirm eligibility for special discount rates for their products. These discounts apply to pre-boxed candies of milk chocolates, dark chocolates, soft centers, assorted and nuts and chews in one pound or larger quantities. Significant discounts also apply to their fancy gift-boxed candies and specialties, which make great gifts for the kids!

Simply call (800) 877-7337, tell the See's representative you are a RELAC member, where you live, and ask for the location of the quantity order shop nearest your home. Be prepared to show your RELAC membership card at time of purchase. RELAC's discount eligibility is confirmed through Oct. 31, 2017.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

October- November 2016

District Attorney Office – Gloria Hattje, Alfonso Medina

Coroner – Ramona Sanchez

Fire – Gregory Lee

Health Services – Robbie Gregory-Hancox, Sara Valdez

LAC+USC Medical Center – Rosemary Allen, Ethel Dilworth, Janet Saito

Probation – Dennis Adams, Ernest Perez

Public Health – Kamal Azeez

Public Social Services – Leticha Armeria

Public Work – Ocie Ransfer, Frank Umina

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk – Raymond Q. Oliande

Regional Planning – James Hartl

Sheriff – Edward Barstow, Onne Garcia

Superior Court – Alice Oksman

Department Not Designated – James Harris, Jesus Jaime

New Affiliate (Working) Members – Karen Gray

New Associate Members – Elena Barstow, Haydee Garcia, Mary Beth Hartl, Carmen Jaime, Jill Lee, Leonor Umina, Henry F Valdez



Thanks for New Member Referrals

Our appreciation to RELAC members who recruited new members in October and November.

Thanks to (RELAC members shown in bold, new members in italics):

Geraldine (Gerri) Kariya, *James Hartl*, former director of Regional Planning. **Ted Lopez**, *Ramona Sanchez* of Coroner. **Margarita Espinosa**, *Leticha Armeria* of Public Social Services. RELAC Board Director **Simon Russin**, *Kamal Azeez* of Public Health.

During the first 10 months of 2016, we recruited 223 new members, but lost 685, mainly due to death. That is why we need your help in signing up new members. For membership applications and brochures, call (800) 537-3522, e-mail admin@relac.org or go online at www.relac.org. Remind the new members you recruit to put your name on their applications so we can thank you for the referrals. And let us know if you have any ideas to build membership. Keep RELAC strong; help us grow.



SUPREME COURT CASE ON PUBLIC PENSION CUTS NOT APPLICABLE TO RETIREES

by Dave Muir, President

The headline of the lead article on page one of the Oct. 20, 2016 edition of the Los Angeles Times may worry many of our members: **“Justices may weigh public pension cuts.”**

Not to worry. The case involves the Marin County pension system. The issue is whether Marin County can stop including in final compensation the additional pay received by sheriff deputies for various on-call duties and for electing not to participate in the county’s health insurance program. **The case does not involve retiree pensions.**

Just Saying:

Quote of the Day

“Do not let what you cannot do, interfere with what you can do.”

John Wooden

(Submitted by Bill de la Garza, RELAC Board Member)

RELAC Director Harris Appointed to Sheriff Oversight Commission

RELAC Director J.P. Harris has been appointed to the County’s new Civilian Oversight Commission, aimed at boosting transparency and increasing trust between communities and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.



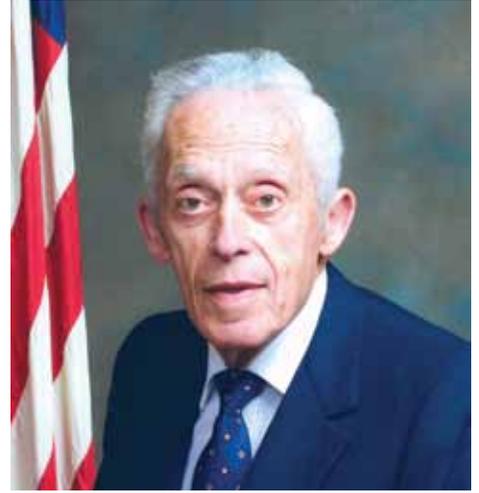
Harris, nominated by Supervisor Don Knabe, was one of nine commissioners named by the Board of Supervisors to serve on the panel. Harris served 35 years in the Sheriff’s Department and was a lieutenant when he retired in 2010. He has been a member of the RELAC Board of Directors since 2012.

Former RELAC Director Sol Fingold Dies

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

Former RELAC Board Member Sol Fingold, 91, has died. Fingold, a member of the Board of Directors from 1998 to 2009, died in November.

The Beverly Hills resident was supervisor of the Museum of Art’s electrical facility when he retired in 1993 after 26 years of County service. He was active in the Employees Union Local 660 while working, serving 10-11 years on the union board and three years as treasurer.



“Sol was most admired for his dedication to improving the lives of California’s senior citizens,” said RELAC Board President Dave Muir.

Fingold represented RELAC at the Congress of California Seniors Convention, and was a member of the Los Angeles County Committee for Older Adults and the Area’s Agency on Aging. He was elected to the California Senior Legislature, a volunteer group whose primary mission is to gather ideas for state and federal legislation to benefit seniors. He was most proud of his key role in the 2008 passage of a law that requires hospitals to publically report their infection rates, which was vigorously opposed by the hospital industry as being too burdensome.

RELAC Director Simon Russin, who knew Fingold for more than 40 years and served with him on the Local 660 Board, called Fingold “tenacious.” “Sol was a bulldog and would not give up on something, especially if he thought it was right. He would not compromise.” He recalled that Fingold discovered asbestos in the Art Museum during his duties as an electrician and reported it to OSHA, which resulted in the building being closed while the County remediated the problem. “It probably cost the County several million dollars,” said Russin.

Fingold, a World War II veteran who served three years in the Army, was preceded in death by his wife, Sylvia.

VALENTINE DRAWING

Attention All RELAC Members!!!

It’s that time of year again. In a gesture of our appreciation for your continued support, all members are eligible for a special Valentine drawing of 40 prizes - \$25 each. To participate, complete the coupon below and mail it to the RELAC Office, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15, Alhambra, CA 91803-8802. Coupons must be received no later than Feb. 6, 2017.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please Print Clearly

News From LACERA

JJ Popowich

It's the beginning of December as I sit down to write this month's article. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. By the time you read this article, we will be celebrating the holidays and getting ready for the New Year. I hope that you have had a happy and joyous holiday season.

The New Year is a great time to announce a new service choice LACERA will be offering for members to correspond with LACERA staff. We currently provide three full service options for members to choose from which include the following: visit the Member Services Center, call the Member Services or Retiree Health Care Call Centers, or interact with LACERA by mail. We have also provided limited, general question-and-answer support through e-mail at welcome@lacera.com. Unfortunately, e-mail is not a secure form of communication so we have been unable to offer full service support for our members who prefer electronic communication.

The good news is we now have a solution for those members who prefer to interact electronically. In November we launched our newest service choice option, the Secure Message Center. This new service choice will allow members to interact with retirement benefit specialists electronically in a secure environment. In order to access this new service choice just sign into My LACERA and click on the Secure Message option to send requests and questions electronically. Retirement benefit specialists in Member Services and Retiree Health Care will be able to respond to members electronically with full and complete answers to their questions and requests. Once a response is posted, the member is sent an e-mail notifying there is a message waiting for them in the Secure Message Center.

The beginning of the year is when I like to take care of some general housekeeping and share some annual reminders. First is the annual reminder that we mail the 2015 1099-R form around Jan. 30. Please allow five to 10 business days for the mail to reach you. The 1099-R forms will also be available to you on our Member Only section of lacera.com – My LACERA. It does take us a week or so to get all the 1099-R forms imaged, but usually by mid-February you can log into My LACERA and print a copy if you need one. This is often quicker than calling and asking us for a copy – of course, you can still do that any time.

This is also a good time of year to look over your information and make sure everything is up to date. LACERA allows you to change your address, direct deposit, tax withholding instructions, and submit beneficiary updates online. If you've moved or are planning to move – make sure you update your address with LACERA. Keeping your address current with LACERA ensures there are no untimely interruptions in your benefits. I also encourage everyone to look at their beneficiary designations and make sure they are up to date and reflect your wishes. While not all beneficiary designations can be changed once you retire, it is still very important that you keep us informed of any address or phone number changes for your beneficiaries.

Well, that's it for this month. Until we chat again, I wish each of you the best health, happiness, and as much fun as you can get as you enjoy your retirement.



ENJOYING RELAC'S ANNUAL PICNIC

Photos by Linda Hopkins





Letters To The Editor

Write On!

Thank you for including me in the "Keeping Up With Retirees" section of the newsletter. I enjoyed it. I also very much enjoyed reading the profile of former County Counsel Ray Fortner and finding out what he's been up to. Keep up the good work!

Pete Schabarum, Indian Wells, Calif.

I read RELAC (newsletter) for my now blind husband, retired B.C. William J. Sutton, L.A. County Fire Department. Was delighted to read that Pete Schabarum is still active. Some 40 years ago as a green-card divorcee, I bought a home: 3358 Eastbury, Covina. Sometime later Covina incorporated us into the city. My house, on the corner of Rowland and Eastbury, was given a new address on Rowland. Property tax time came, two tax bills. I paid the one for Eastbury and then received threats of foreclosure, fines for the Rowland address. Scared out of my wits. Would I lose my home? Would I be deported? Neither Covina nor the County would help. Desperate, I wrote Pete Schabarum. He resolved the problem. I have never forgotten the debt I owe him! Thanks! May he continue to enjoy a long and busy life!

Barbara Prisbe-Sutton, Oceanside, Calif.

Surprised to read about Supervisor Pete Schabarum in the November/December newsletter; that he is still very much alive. I thought he had passed on to the United Kingdom, as a blond secretary once referred to the pearly gates of Saint Peter. I was a County employee in the Assessor's Office of Phillip Watson. I remember him with his name on County office buildings, when Pete Schabarum was a County supervisor along with Kenneth Hahn and Ed Edelman, who just passed away. Occasionally I would ride the elevator with them. I have been to "his park" in Rowland Heights. I spent time babysitting my granddaughter, Danielle, in the park when she was 2 or 3 years old. She is now an engineering freshman at the University of San Diego. Time does fly away. Time weaves ribbons of memory to sweeten life when youth is through – and it has for Supervisor Pete Schabarum.

Rogelio Pena, Montebello, Calif.

"Inside LA County" has been an incredible addition to the RELAC Newsletter. It covers a great deal of information (organization/structure, operations, Board politics, personal news/updates) really effectively. After being retired for 10 years, I actually feel I know more now about the "big picture" of what is going on than I did as an employee. I generally read "Inside LA County" first, then go back through the rest of the newsletter. Thanks for the great work. I want to thank you again for including me among the people you have invited to write retirement articles and for sending me a few extra copies of the RELAC Newsletter. My daughter and son were both very happy to get copies!

Constance Perett, La Verne, Calif.

My husband, John N. Roth, received your RELAC newsletter for many years. John passed away Oct. 9, 2016 at the age of 91. He was an engineering geologist in the Department of Public Works. He retired on Feb. 1, 1987 with 25 years of service. I am including his obituary if you care to use any of the information. Thank you.

Gloria Roth, Sherman Oaks, Calif.

The picnic was delightful as ever! I love Jenifer Gates.

Dottie Ecker, La Canada Flintridge, Calif.

Thank you for the valuable information in the newsletter, and I really love receiving the pocket calendar, which I find very helpful. Keep up the good work!

Shirley Jordan, Gardena, Calif.

Thanks much for the pocket calendar. I use it every day for my part-time home business - making and selling greeting cards. With much appreciation,

Edie Baker, Downey, Calif.

It came in today's mail, the one gift I happily anticipate every year and the one I carry with me 365 days a year. For sure, I use my pocket calendar for much more than doctor and dentist appointments. So thank you, thank you, thank you!

Kathleen Rivit, Covina, Calif.

I feel truly blessed to have reached the age of 91. Thank you very much for noting. My late husband, Clayton, worked with the County Health Department for 33 years. Two mottos to remember: Take one day at a time and look on the better side. Remember me again when September 2017 rolls around.

Louise Stensbol, La Habra, Calif.

My thanks to you for the 2017-18 pocket secretary and for all that you do throughout the year.

Shirley L. Smith-Ennen, Lake Elsinore, Calif.

Thank you Mary and Outreach Committee for the birthday card. You are always so nice to send the cards. I had a great birthday. I am working on 97 now. I hope you can read this. I can hardly write anymore. I love butterflies - they mean new life.

Alberta Rich, California, Missouri

Thank you for the pocket calendar. I use it all the time and it keeps me on the ball. I still volunteer locally, but I am too old to travel to Los Angeles. I truly do appreciate my generous retirement benefits. Take care.

Lini Bennett, Fallbrook, Calif.

Hello one and all! Thank you so much for the pretty pocket calendar. I look forward to a new one each year to replace the old and tired and much-used old one of the year before. It is so handy and arrived just in time for me to enter all my new future appointments. Thanks, too, for the birthday remembrance. I was 93 last May. I miss my Jim, who worked in the Mechanical Department for 25+ years – a good man. He passed away in 2009.

Pauline Wihlborg, Tujunga, Calif.

RV Outing Notes

Ed Clifton
Coordinator of RV Club



Eight rigs enjoyed our October outing at the Shadow Hills RV Resort in Indio. The weather for once was very enjoyable. Usually we run into some really hot weather, but not this time. In fact, a few times we even had to put on sweaters and long pants to ward off the chilly weather. Too bad we couldn't save some of it for our outing next year.

For our Monday evening hors d'oeuvres, our wagonmasters (Gilbert and Eloise Cardiel) invited us to use and see their new home in Indio's Sun City. Very nice. Our Tuesday evening potluck had, as usual, a good assortment of tasty dishes to enjoy. On Wednesday afternoon Alfonso Medina again had his fabulous margarita machine in action and a lot of tasty drinks were enjoyed by everyone who attended. So Al and Diana, hats off to you. For our "everyone's night out" we enjoyed some Mexican food at one of the local restaurants in town. During the day those who didn't visit the local casinos could usually be found just visiting or playing cards in the clubhouse.

Our next outing is Jan. 15 - 18 at the Pechanga RV Resort in Temecula, with the 15th being the early day. The rest of our outings for 2017 are as follows:

March 19 - 22 - Banning Stagecoach KOA (early day: 19th).

May 21 - 24 - Flying Flags RV Resort in Buellton (early day: 21st).

Sept. 17 - 20 - Chula Vista RV Resort in Chula Vista (early day: 17th).

Oct. 22 - 25 - Emerald Desert RV Resort in Palm Desert (early day: 22nd).

The coupons will be available on the website www.relac.org or through the RELAC office.

If you have any questions, contact me at (562)428-3360 (leave a message) or Jeanne Klauk at (562)896-8904.

Thanks RELAC for Remembering

Louise Davis, daughter of Jeanette Kalanter, a RELAC member, called to thank us for the many Christmas and birthday cards we sent to her mother, who has now passed on. She wanted us to know that the cards brought so much joy and happiness to her mom. Now that she herself is elderly, she knows how much it means to be remembered.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

by Diane Sandoval
Regional Support/Special Events Committee

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! Hard to believe 2016 is behind us - it passed like a blink of an eye. We hope you will be able to attend all our events this year.

ANNUAL RECOGNITION LUNCHEON – JAN. 26, 2017

As in past years our first event is our **Annual Recognition Luncheon on Jan. 26, 2017** at Almansor Court in Alhambra. This year we are honored to have the fire chief of Los Angeles County, Daryl Osby, as our keynote speaker. We hope Chief Osby shares with us how he selected such a dangerous and demanding career. **Thank you first responders!**

In addition to a being honored with such a prestigious speaker, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Color Guard will present the flags, and the melodious voices of the TSA Chorus will lead us in song honoring our great country.

We must not forget to mention as in the past we will enjoy a scrumptious lunch while reconnecting with old friends and being entertained by the TSA Chorus. **LOOK FOR THE RESERVATION FORM ON PAGE 12** and make sure you send it in along with your check payable to RELAC no later than Jan. 17.

For those who prefer a vegetarian entrée, please annotate your preference on the reservation form.

PALMDALE/LANCASTER LUNCHEON MEETING - APRIL 6, 2017

We don't have a speaker yet, but we do have the most important ingredients to holding a meeting - location and caterer! The meeting will be held at the Palmdale Moose Lodge and we will enjoy a delicious lunch catered by Three Roses Catering. RELAC promises a delicious buffet lunch and has held the cost to \$20 (same as last year). As in the past, **YES** we will have door prizes!!!!

Please plan to join us and renew old friendships. Please submit your reservation form along with a check payable to RELAC no later than March 30.

As for the rest of the year, the committee will definitely have our picnic in October at the Santa Fe Dam in Irwindale. No specific date determined. We are considering a meeting in Huntington Beach sometime during the summer months (love the beach in July/August).

As always, we are open to suggestions. Contact our office with your suggestions. We look forward to another busy year serving you - our members!!

LANCASTER REGIONAL LUNCHEON MEETING

Thursday, April 6, 2017
Palmdale Moose Lodge
3101 East Avenue Q
Palmdale, CA 93550

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Cost of Luncheon - \$20 per person x _____ = \$ _____
(Tickets to be picked up at door)

Doors open at 11 a.m. - Program begins at 11:30 a.m.
Make check/money order payable to "RELAC" and mail to:

RELAC, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15, Alhambra, CA 91803-89802
Reservation Deadline - March 30, 2017

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9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday - Thursday

Closed Friday,

Saturday, Sunday &

Public Holidays

Golf News

By Gil Sandoval
RELAC Golf Director



Alondra Golf Tournament - Dec. 5, 2016

My thanks to all the players that support our tournaments. We had a small turnout as many of our players were traveling. We need to have more participants in order to keep getting the preferred starting times. So, please talk to your fellow retired friends and ask them to join us for the fun and exercise.

Rick Richter easily left behind Don Hughes and Gil Sandoval to win the "A" flight with a net 66. Don Hughes took second place with a net 72. Gil Sandoval repeated his third place finish from last month at net 75.

In the "B" flight it was an easy win for Robert Prince as he had the low score of the day with a net 65. In second place at net 70 was John Wehrly as he beat Al Kelly, who also had a net 70, in a card off to take third place.

The "C" flight was a much closer race as Richard Duran, with a net 72, edged out Tom Tobin, who brought in a net 73 as he took second place. Not far back was Bob Curran at net 75 to place third.

The ladies flight was close also as Kay Barents won with a net 78. Charlene DeBie and her daughter Cari tied at net 80, with Charlene taking second in a card off.

The next tournament is at Los Amigos Golf Course in Downey on Jan. 23 at our normal 8 a.m. start.

Please note that the golf entry form can be obtained at the RELAC website: www.relac.org (click on activities – Golf). If you cannot download it from a computer, please call the RELAC office and staff will be happy to mail it to you.

Alondra Results:

"A" Flight Winners (19 and under)

1 st Rick Richter	(66)
2 nd Don Hughes	(72)
3 rd Gil Sandoval	(75)

"B" Flight (20-27 Handicaps)

1 st Robert Prince	(65)
2 nd John Wehrly	(70)*
3 rd Al Kelly	(70)

"C" Flight (28-up Handicaps)

1 st Richard Duran	(72)
2 nd Tom Tobin	(73)
3 rd Bob Curran	(75)

Women's Flight

1 st Kay Barents	(78)
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2nd Charlene DeBie (80)*

3rd Cari DeBie (80)

*Winner in a card off

Closest to the Pin on Par 3's

Men

4 – Fred Whiting

8 – Ken Swan

#12 – Harlan DeBie

#14 – Don Hughes

Women

#4 – Cari DeBie

#8 #12 #14– No Winner

NEXT TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, JAN. 23, 2017

Los Amigos Golf Course, 8 a.m. Start

Entry Deadline – Jan. 5, 2017

Letters continued from p.5

Thank you so much for the new calendar. I use them lots and appreciate all that you do.

Lorraine Wessman, Puyallup, Wash.

Thank you for the new pocket calendar! Love the tulips on the cover and will always have the information I need nearby. Loved working for the L.A. County court system; retired and celebrated my 87th birthday last July. Keep up the good work you do for us. Sincerely,

Diane Woolever, Laguna Woods, Calif.

Thank you RELAC very much for the 2017-18 pocket calendar. It comes in handy every year. Have a very happy 2017!

Faye Schwartz, Los Angeles, Calif.

Thank you so much for the lovely new pocket calendar and for keeping me connected. Living 3,000 miles away prevents me from participating in any activities other than reading the newsletter, which is much appreciated. Best wishes to all at RELAC.

Sylvia Khan, Port Jefferson, New Jersey

Thank you for the 18-month pocket calendar. I rely on it for my appointments, B-dates, vacation, day trips and just everything. It is very useful. It is better than the calendar in my cell phone and faster to retrieve.

Olga Lederer, Covina, Calif.

Thank you so much for the calendar. It is the perfect size to keep by the phone and it has the right paper that can be written on with a pencil. It is amazing how pleased I am to receive this! RELAC does a great job!

Bob Jordan, Cardiff, Calif.

Dear Dave Muir, et al: Thank you for the calendar and I love the new format of the newsletter. Life is good in Oregon, but I love reading about everyone. Thanks for all you do. Sending my dues gratefully.

Maureen Sicotte, Springfield, Oregon

Keeping Up With Retirees

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



Margaret Donnellan Todd relaxing at lunch in Kona.



MARGARET DONNELLAN TODD

I was first hired by Los Angeles County in 1978, my first full-time professional librarian position. I gained an incredible amount of experience, but after eight years it was clear that the talented managers and administrators who I worked for were not going to retire anytime soon, so I left the County. I worked for cities for 15 years, including 12 years as library director for Whittier. When the position of County librarian came open, I knew how challenging that job could be and did not apply. When the position was recruited a second time, with urging from my family and my former boss, I applied and was hired in May 2001. I retired 14 years later.

I remember that Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen told the department heads at the first meeting I attended that insanity was one of the requirements for the recruitment of a county department head. I discovered he was right... but I loved the job. With an amazing staff and strong support from the Board of Supervisors, we transformed library service. Now new County Librarian Skye Patrick is in the process of creating another major transformation, which is exactly what is needed.

Two weeks after my September 2015 retirement, my husband, Dave, and I moved to Kailua Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii. We had bought a house six months before and thought all the renovations would be done by then. How foolish! We finally moved into our home in November 2015. The pool, which was my retirement gift to myself, was not done until February 2016. I do not miss waking up at 5 a.m. and getting home after 7 p.m. I love not having to monitor my cell phone all the time. For the first time in years, when we had an emergency alert (a hurricane warning), I only had to worry about my family (for the record, the hurricane never came close to Kona).

It has taken me awhile to get accustomed to how courteous drivers are on the Big Island. They very rarely honk their horns -- even when you do something stupid. They frequently stop to let you turn left when there is heavy traffic. At first I thought it was some kind of trick.

What do I miss? The people, of course! My staff and County colleagues were amazing.

We traveled to Ireland, the Scottish Highlands and the English Lake District this past fall, as well as taking trips to Las Vegas and Mammoth. I tutor children at Holualoa school and will eventually get involved with other community activities. I love my pool and swim almost every day. I use our local library, but I never complain about anything and refrain from making suggestions. What the library may lack in resources, they more than make up for it with a warm aloha spirit.

Martin Zimmerman with pal Luna in San Francisco.



MARTIN ZIMMERMAN

My County career spanned over 33 years, beginning in late 1979, but only two departments: the Department of Regional Planning and the Chief Administrative (later Executive) Office (CAO/CEO). I spent my first five years working as a planning assistant preparing coastal land use plans for unincorporated coastal communities. In 1984 I moved to the CAO and worked as an analyst before being promoted to management in the early 1990s. Over the years I headed units of the CAO/CEO dealing with redevelopment policy, unincorporated area services, strategic planning, contracting policy, and special projects, offering me a diverse, exciting and always challenging host of assignments and projects. I retired in March 2013 as an assistant CEO.

As much as I was thoroughly stimulated and fulfilled by my County career, and as much as I overwhelmingly valued, enjoyed, and was inspired by those with whom I worked, my transition to retired life was seamless, and there were no regrets or feelings of not having purpose. While I took my job seriously, I never allowed it to wholly define me. Rather, I was an avid dilettante outside of work my whole life, seeking enrichment in culture, the arts, civic involvement and volunteer work. Since retirement, I have been able to pursue those passions with ever-greater gusto. I attend plays, concerts and lounge acts several times a month, and regularly visit new art exhibits at LACMA, MOCA, and other galleries, while doing my best to keep up with reading, mostly contemporary fiction.

Domestic and international travel has long been a passion, which I always pursued as much as possible, but now, much more so. I used to travel primarily with my partner of over 21 years, James Miranda. After his passing some years ago, I often travel with friends and new relationships. Just as often, I travel alone. I have found the independence and choice of this experience thrilling, and am far more outgoing with locals when alone. Recent international trips have included southern Italy, Colombia, Ecuador, Norway, China, Bulgaria, Romania, and Croatia. My next major trip will be to Iran in April. My local getaways are San Francisco, Palm Springs and San Diego, one of which I visit every several weeks, always with my beautiful and energetic dog, Luna.

The deep fulfillment and purpose I have always derived from volunteer work has continued in my retirement, and I currently divide my volunteer efforts between My Friend's Place, an amazing service center for homeless youth, and the LA LGBT Center legal department, where low- or no-cost legal services are offered on a broad range of legal matters.

While I have not yet found a new long-term partner, I continue to date, keep an open mind, and view my life as whole and blessed, with loving family and friends, and a gratitude and thirst for living life fully.

Judy Mylan with long-time companion Gus.



JUDY MYLAN

I began my County career in 1971 as an intermediate typist clerk. I knew nothing and had no preconceived ideas of what a government job was. At my previous job, I performed many office functions in a business that produced instruments for the automotive, aerospace and motion picture industries. When I gave my two-week notice, many of my co-workers took me aside and told me horror stories of government jobs. Although I was very young and naïve, I never once wavered in my decision, mostly because in that company I was making \$400 per month and the ITC's salary BEGAN at \$507 per month. WOW!

I started in the business office at Harbor General Hospital as the assistant to the secretary of the fiscal officer, later transferring to the Accounting Department as an account clerk I and then accounting technician II. In 1979 I moved on to be an accountant II with Coastal Region and eventually retired at the position of fiscal officer. Coastal Region went through many changes and eventually became Public Health. It was in Public Health that I was permitted to learn and grow, and I attained the title of revenue manager of the department.

I'm very proud of the work I did for Public Health. My accomplishments include: (1) Being the liaison between Environment Health and Accounting in order to develop the annual public health license fees from 1985 until retirement and (2) Instituting consistent rules regarding mileage and travel/training reimbursements, saving the department approximately \$50,000 per year. I was especially proud when the Auditor-Controller requested that I be a part of a group to revise the countywide rules on these reimbursements.

One of my greatest accomplishments is that I began my County career as the assistant to the secretary of the fiscal officer and I retired as a fiscal officer.

Since I retired in 2010, I've traveled with Gus Vandenberg, my significant other for the past 45 years. We've been to Chicago (where I grew up), Angel's Camp, Las Vegas, St. George in Utah, Phoenix, and we also took an Alaskan cruise out of Seattle.

I'm also an avid bowler. I bowl two times per week and carry an average in the 180's. In June of 2016, I entered a statewide tournament and won 12th place in the women's division, in which more than 1,000 women competed.

I have lived in Torrance since 1980, close to the Hollywood Riviera. I'm also near the Sleepy Hollow section of Torrance where the residents display beautiful lights and decorations during the Christmas season. People travel for miles to drive through the lights. I love this location as it is close enough to walk to the beach, but far enough to avoid the traffic and parking problems.

Denis McGrath with wife, Maria, in Ireland.



DENIS MCGRATH

Fifty-two years ago I began my County career in 1964 as a social worker in the Department of Charities, working out of a reconverted grocery store in Bell for the Old Age program. Next door was a greasy spoon where the cockroaches were trained to bus your dishes after you ate. Later I moved to Exposition Park and Children Services and then on to management, first in Public Social Services, then to the Chief Administrative Office and then to the Department of Communications as administrative deputy until it became subsumed in the Facilities Department. Later I went to the Medical-Examiner/Coroner as the administrative deputy and retired in 1991 with 30 years of service, counting my military service in Germany in U.S. Army Intelligence. I can truly say I worked in service areas from the cradle to the grave.

During my career there were many challenges. Often you felt like a gladiator facing the lions waiting for budget approval to get a new sword. I also managed to get an MBA and PhD and taught as an adjunct professor at East Los Angeles Community College and California State University at Los Angeles. I was active in the Management Council and chaired the Education Committee. It was a wonderful opportunity to offer uplifting management topics from skilled professionals. I was also a member of SpeechCrafters, where we honed our public-speaking skills.

In my retirement years I have worked with the San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center for the Disabled, serving three terms as Board president, and several years on the Executive Board of the Association of Regional Center Agencies, which represents California's 21 independent, non-profit regional centers, since one of my daughters (Rachel) is disabled and lives at home with us in Altadena.

My wife, Maria, a retired registered nurse, has been my strong supporter and we celebrated our 46th wedding anniversary in October. She helps to keep me focused on day-to-day issues. We travel periodically. In April we did a mini-tour of Scotland and Ireland. We were treated with haggis in Edinburg. We didn't see the Loch Ness monster, but we tucked into a nearby souvenir shop to get out of the rain. The owner had a small museum with a one-legged female dummy in a faux cave and gave us an impromptu lecture on medieval weaponry. The long swords were balanced but heavy. In Ireland we had hearty country breakfasts and rain, snow, sleet and sunshine. In Belfast there is a marvelous three-story museum dedicated to the Titanic. I kissed the Blarney. There were no leprechauns and pots of gold, but lots of hospitality.

In my spare time I do voluntary book reviews for Netgalley, Librarything, and other independents over a wide range of topics, including murder mysteries, mental health, spy novels, historical adventures, interurban warfare, children's fantasy and science fiction. Most are e-books. There have been some fabulous stories. I look for plot continuity, literary style and creativity. Not everyone has it, but new authors need reviews.

Outgoing Supervisors



Mike Antonovich



Don Knabe

New Supervisors



Janice Hahn



Kathryn Barger

PASSAGES

Compiled by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

RETIREMENTS:

Thomas Higgins, head deputy of the District Attorney's Pomona office. **Gail LeGros**, scheduling deputy, and **Connie Szeibl**, field deputy, for Supervisor Don Knabe. Twin sisters **Elena** and **Anna Cervantes**, long-time executive secretaries in the Chief Executive Office.

RESIGNATIONS:

Gail Farber, who became the first female director of public works in 2008.

DEATHS:

Norman Shaffer, 92, of Las Vegas, one of the first engineers for the L.A. County Air Pollution Control Board, former member of the L.A. County Retirement Board and president of Local 660, which he helped form. Sheriff's Sgt. **Al Lopez**, 47, who died of heart attack while on duty. **Frank Raab**, 95, Gold Circle founder of Music Center. **Diane Kaplan**, 79, 1980 president of the Music Center's Theatre Group Affiliates. Former L.A. Municipal and Superior Court Judge **Vaino Spencer** (1961-1980), 96, who in 1980 became the first African-American to serve on the California Court of Appeals. **Sol Fingold**, former director of RELAC. **Fern Wallace**, 91, member of Music Center's Club 100 and Center Theater Group.

APPOINTMENTS:

Scott Minnix, former director of the General Services Department for City of Houston, Texas, as director of Internal Services Department, at salary of \$262,133. **Terri McDonald**, former assistant sheriff overseeing the custody division, as chief probation officer, at salary of \$316,342. **Sheila Mitchell**, former chief probation officer in Santa Clara County, as chief deputy probation officer over juvenile services, at salary of \$250,000. **Olga Garay-English**, former executive director of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, as interim executive director of the John Anson Ford Theatre. Attorney **Brian Williams**, executive director of the Sheriff's Department Civilian Oversight Commission. **Joel Sappell**, acting director of countywide communications, replacing David Sommers, who resigned; **Lennie LaGuire** is acting assistant director. **Gary Gero**, County's first chief sustainability officer. **Cindy Chen**, chief of staff to Supervisor Hilda Solis. **Dorinne Jordan**, chief of staff to Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. **Nick Ippolito**, former assistant chief of staff for Supervisor Don Knabe, is Supervisor Janice Hahn's chief of staff. Former L.A. Times photographer **Bryan Chan** as chief photographer in photo section of the Board of Supervisors Executive Office. **Miguel Santana**, 47, former chief deputy to Supervisor Gloria Molina and deputy chief executive officer under Bill Fujioka, leaves position of chief administrative officer of City of Los Angeles to head the L.A. County Fair Association at salary of base \$485,000 with opportunity to receive 10 percent bonus.



Cindy Chen



Bryan Chan



Terri McDonald



Dorinne Jordan



Gail Farber



Vaino Spencer



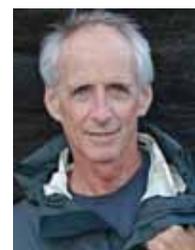
Nick Ippolito



Miguel Santana



Norman Shaffer



Joel Sappell



Gary Gero



Scott Minnix



FOR SALE

TRAVEL TRAILER FOR SALE \$12,000 – 18-foot HI-LO all-metal pop-up. Trailer raises/lowers via an electro-hydraulic pump and can be stored in your garage if you have 7 ½ feet of overhead clearance. It has a little over 1,000 miles and comes with extras, including an electric trailer mover (Tesco Tote). Non-smoker. Must sell due to illness. Two Honda generators are not included in the price of the trailer, but can be purchased. Call Jim, DA retiree and LASD reserve deputy, for more information at (562) 941-4514.

CEMETERY PLOTS - Rose Hills Memorial Park, Calif. Graves 3 and 4, Lot 1790, Garden of Reflections. Asking \$3,000 for both. Will pay half the transfer and endowment fees. Call Paul at (530) 621-3212 or (714) 943-9185 (cell).

LOS ANGELES COUNTY RETIRED MARSHALS 2017 LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

ALL LUNCHEONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 12 NOON

Jan. 4 Lazy Dog Restaurant
8800 Apollo Way, Downey

Feb. 1 Damon's
317 N. Brand Ave., Glendale

March 1 Marino's Italian Restaurant
17126 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower

April 5 Villa Tepeyac Mexican Restaurant
2200 E. Garvey Blvd., West Covina

May 3 San Antonio Winery
737 Lamar St., Los Angeles

June 7 Elephant Bar
12002 Lakewood Blvd., Downey

July 5 Matt Denny's
145 E. Huntington Dr., Arcadia

Aug. 2 El Pescador Mexican Restaurant
1125 West Covina Pkwy., West Covina

Sept. 6 Black Bear Cafe
7005 Knott Ave., Buena Park

Oct. 4 Marino's Italian Restaurant
17126 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower

Nov. 1 Yang Chow Chinese Restaurant
3777 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena

Dec. 6 Villa Tepeyac Mexican Restaurant
2200 E. Garvey Blvd., West Covina

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Blarney Castle - Ireland

Photo Courtesy of C&A006

Destination	Dates	Relac Price
Railroading through Mexico's Copper Canyon <i>Chihuahua - Divisadero - Barrancas - Copper Canyon, including 2 First Class Train Journeys - El Fuerte - Temores - Creel - Casa Grandes</i>	April 21, 2017 or Sep 8, 2017 8 Day Tour Code: 170421MFT	\$2099 <i>(Land Only)</i>
Jekyll Island, Savannah & Charleston <i>Jekyll Island - The Golden Isles - Fort McAllister - Historic Savannah - Tybee Island - Hilton Head - Beaufort - Charleston</i>	April 23, 2017 7 Day Tour Code: 170423MFT	\$1999 <i>(Land Only)</i>
Taste of Ireland <i>Dublin - Blarney Castle - Killarney - Ring of Kerry - Skellig Experience - Cliffs of Moher - Bunratty Castle</i>	May 8, 2017 or Sep 7, 2017 5 Day Tour Code: 170508CIE	\$1250 <i>(Land Only)</i>
Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island <i>Halifax - Charlottetown - Baddeck</i>	June 17, 2017 8 Day Tour Code: 170617GAT	\$1599 <i>(Land Only)</i>
America's Heritage <i>Washington DC - Arlington Cemetery - DC Memorials - National Museum of the Marine Corps - US Naval Academy - Historic Gettysburg - Mount Vernon - Jamestown Settlement - Colonial Williamsburg</i>	Sep 15, 2017 7 Day Tour Code: 170915MFT	\$1749 <i>(Land Only)</i>
New England & Canada Autumn Cruising <i>New York - Day at Sea - Halifax, Nova Scotia - Saint John, New Brunswick - Bar Harbor, Maine - Portland, Maine - Day at Sea</i>	Sep 22, 2017 9 Day Tour Code: 170922MFT	starting at \$1599 <i>(Inside)</i> <i>(Cruise Only)</i>

Guaranteed departure rates above (twin occupancy) reflect booking discount for RELAC members. Prices subject to availability. Each tour features different air gateway, certain taxes, fees and meals may be additional, full terms provided prior to deposit.

CA Seller of Travel #1019830-40 January 2017

All members and their spouses and guests are invited to RELAC's

Annual Recognition Luncheon

THURSDAY, JAN. 26, 2017

Almansor Court, , 700 S. Almansor St., Alhambra

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: CHIEF DARYL L. OSBY

Los Angeles County Fire Department

Also featured will be the uplifting voices of the
Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Chorus
The County Sheriff's Department Color Guard will present the Flags



Meal costs are being subsidized approximately 25% by RELAC.
Choice of pancetta oven-roasted chicken or prime rib of beef with salad and dessert
\$20 per luncheon ticket - tax and tip included

No-Host Cocktail Hour 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon
Luncheon and Program 12 noon - 3 p.m.
Free Parking

Come make new friends – Have a good time!

RESERVATION FORM
Annual Recognition Luncheon

Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017
Almansor Court, Alhambra

Member _____

Spouse/Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Guest(s) _____

(Attach additional sheets if necessary)

A. OVEN-ROASTED CHICKEN

Member/Spouse _____ \$20/ea. = \$ _____

Guest(s) _____ \$20/ea. = \$ _____

TOTAL A \$ _____

B. PRIME RIB OF BEEF

Member/Spouse _____ \$20/ea. = \$ _____

Guest(s) _____ \$20/ea. = \$ _____

TOTAL B \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make check/money order payable to "RELAC" and mail to:
RELAC

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

NO LATER THAN JAN. 17, 2017

We regret we are unable to refund payments on cancellations received after Jan. 19, 2017

Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond
Newsletter Editor



Not only will there be two new women county supervisors, but for the first time a woman will be leading the Probation Department, and there will be a woman as second in-command. The Board of Supervisors has named former Assistant Sheriff Terri McDonald as the new chief probation officer and Sheila Mitchell as assistant chief probation officer. A third female, Katheryn Beigh, has been named as probation camp director at Camp Kilpatrick. The Probation Department, which has had several leadership changes in recent years, is in the midst of restructuring its juvenile facilities to better rehabilitate youthful offenders. The U.S. Department of Justice in 2015 ended six years of special oversight of the Probation Department's 19 probation camps after requiring reforms to improve the conditions for the young offenders and prevent abuses. Problems, however, have persisted.

Another notch for female leadership: Olga Garay-English is the new interim director of the John Anson Ford Theatre, which has been extensively renovated. David Ford, chair of the Board of Directors, said Garay-English will "help us fulfill a vision of the theater that lifts up the achievement of L.A.-based artists while increasing engagement of nationally and internationally recognized performers."

The Lifeguard Division of the Fire Department can breathe a little easier now with the vote by the Board of Supervisors to stabilize its budget by making the County general fund responsible for 70 percent of the division's operating cost. The Fire District will pay the remainder. The unit's budget had been relatively unstable since it was moved from the Beaches and Harbors Department.

The County is working with the L.A. County Fair Association to review its lease agreement, approved in 1995, after state and County auditors said the association would be paying \$1 million more annually if its rent calculation included gross revenue generated by a hotel and wholly owned companies on the Fairplex property.

It has been publicly revealed that County supervisors conducted a secret public corruption investigation into real estate dealings, a multimillion emergency communications project and other county business two years ago after Chief Executive Officer Bill Fujioka retired. The outside consultant hired by the Board presented his results to the District Attorney's Office, but the D.A. felt there was no basis for a criminal investigation. Fujioka has denied any wrongdoing and said the probe was orchestrated by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, with whom he had a rocky relationship. Former Chief Deputy CEO Brence Culp, who was demoted after Fujioka retired, told investigators that Fujioka frequently "finessed transactions" and she "turned a blind eye" toward his "finessing" and "lack of candor with the Board."

County Counsel Mary Wickham filed a complaint with the State Bar against former County Counsel Mark Saladino, alleging he had improperly disclosed confidential information in his wrongful termination lawsuit against the County. Saladino – who has contended he was demoted due to his close relationship with Fujioka -- denied the information was confidential. He said Wickham's complaint was retaliation for filing the lawsuit and meant to undermine the suit by questioning his integrity, reputation and ethics.

The Coroner's Office mistakenly cremated a 26-year-old man after his remains were confused with those of a man with the same name. A technician failed to check the case number.

Construction is expected to begin in 2018 on the County-owned property across from Disney Concert Hall that will include a four-star hotel, residential tower and restaurant/retail complex. The Board of Supervisors approved the updated development and financing agreement for the long-awaited \$950 million project, which was designed by Frank Gehry.

Former Sheriff Lee Baca lost his bid to have his obstruction of justice trial moved to another County after the judge said the County was so large and the population so diverse that it weighed heavily "against a presumption of prejudice." Baca's trial began in December.

Some had speculated that the County's Public Information Office would be moving from the Chief Executive Office to the Board of Supervisors Executive Office, but CEO Sachi Hamai says that is not the case. The speculation was fueled when the Executive Office posted a job bulletin for a deputy executive officer for public information. Hamai says that position is needed to assist with all the requests for public records, as well as overseeing the customer service center.

The Public Health Department has launched a bilingual text program aimed at Latinos aged 18-29, providing weekly tips on such topics as family planning, nutrition, stress and abuse. Recent studies show 97 percent of Americans of reproductive age own a cell phone, 72 percent looked online for health information within the past year, and Latinos are the highest text users of all ethnicities in the U.S. Sixty percent of births in L.A. County are to Latinos – and 57 percent are unplanned.

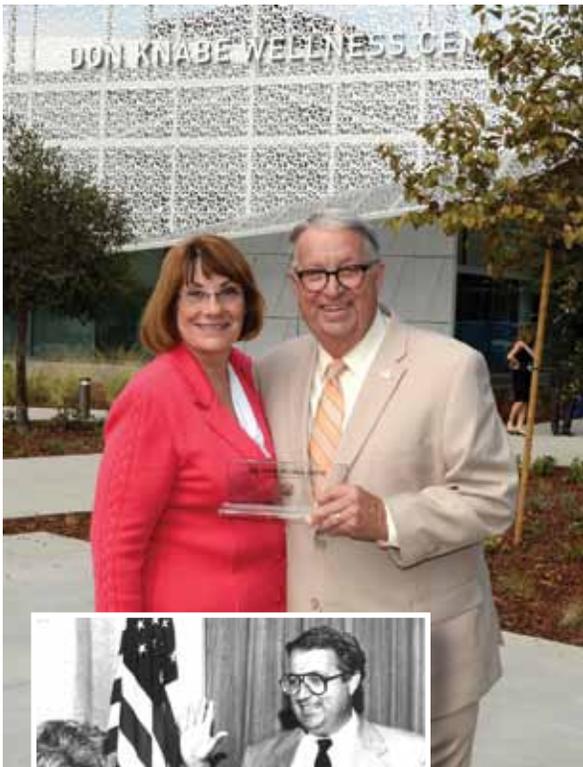
The County has renamed the East Rancho Dominguez Park tennis courts in Compton in honor of tennis world champions Venus and Serena Williams, who learned to play tennis there in the early 1990s.

The County Public Library has launched three MakMo vehicles to visit libraries, parks and community centers, featuring technology-based learning that includes 3D printers, scanners, robotics, electronic circuitry and creative arts.

The Board of Supervisors is lobbying to get legendary filmmaker George Lucas to build his planned museum at Exposition Park in Los Angeles, which is also home to the County Natural History Museum. Lucas plans to invest \$1.5 billion for the construction, collection and endowment of a museum either in Los Angeles or San Francisco. Natural History Museum President and Director Dr. Lori Bettison-Varga said the Lucas Museum "would take Exposition Park to a new level as a local and national destination."

The Live Oak Library in Arcadia will receive a new home after 70 years, thanks to \$9 million provided by Supervisor Mike Antonovich before his retirement. The library will more than double its size and will feature state-of-the-art amenities.

Gary Gero has been hired as the County's first chief sustainability officer, charged with building a more environmentally friendly County, both on big-picture issues and day-to-day applications. He is responsible for coordinating projects by the County departments and the Sustainability Council, as well as getting the County's 88 cities involved.



Then and Now: Don Knabe being sworn in as a county supervisor; and with wife, Julie, in front of the new Don Knabe Wellness Center at Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center in Downey.

Don Knabe Praises County Workers

by Don Knabe
Los Angeles County Supervisor, 1996-2016

(Don Knabe was first elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in November 1996, 15 years after first going to work for the County as a staff member for Supervisor Deane Dana. He retired in December 2016, ineligible to seek re-election due to term limits. Knabe says he has no immediate plans other than to spend more time with his family. We welcome him as a new member of RELAC.)

A job like supervisor in the largest County in America does not get done by one person.

I have been blessed with incredible staff and I would like to thank them for all they do each and every day to meet the needs of our 2 million residents. I also want to recognize our departments and our County employees. Sometimes we in government take a lot of flak and criticism. But the gridlock in Washington is not what happens here. It can't. People need our help and you are there for them. To those of you who are really in the trenches, I salute you and the amazing work you do.

Those we serve very often have no one else. That is why they come to the County. Sometimes people face some really tough stuff in their lives. They need help to get a roof over their head. Or food for their children. Or maybe they get sick and have no insurance. When there are no more options, that's where we step in. And we help them get the services they need to get back on track. I have met so many incredible people who just needed a hand up. I have met families, victims, survivors – amazingly brave people.

They have taught me that the job of a public servant is not to judge a desperate mother or a girl walking the streets. But rather to do everything we can to wrap our arms, and our services, around those who need us most. And our County family has always been there to support them. From our public safety teams who put their lives on the line every day, to our social workers, to DPSS case workers, nurses, doctors – all of our departments. You do remarkable work to serve the most vulnerable in our County.

I am grateful for the colleagues with whom I have served over the years. While we haven't always agreed on the route to get there, I've always believed that our mission was the same – to help those most in need get on a path to a better life. It has been the honor of my life to serve the 10 million people of L.A. County.

As the great UCLA coach John Wooden once said, "You cannot live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you." That is the type of work we do here at the County - and what I know motivate our 100,000 employees. They don't call us to thank us - they call us because they desperately need us.

Thank you for support, your friendship and your ongoing commitment to me and the entire Fourth District over the last 35 years. May God bless each of you, and continue to bless the United States of America.

Reflections:

Working for CAO Harry Hufford:

I attended the University of Harry Hufford. Working for the CAO was like earning a bachelor's degree; you learned very quickly that everything had to be perfect. Because we worked directly for the Board of Supervisors and their constituents, our assignments had to be beyond reproach. You held your breath when you turned an assignment into Harry Hufford until you received it back with a positive okay. Harry was so particular, as well as his staff, we had a running joke which went something like this: "Harry sent this back for more work, there was an upside-down period on it."

Pat Guin,
CAO Analyst
Retired March 1996



Retirement is...

Retirement is my time in finding pleasure for traveling, being with family, reconnecting with old County friends at RELAC meetings, and serving as a Board director for RELAC.

Alice Prouty, Retired March 2008
Personnel Analyst, Internal Services Department



IN MEMORIAM

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

Agricultural Comm. /Wts. & Meas. – Robert G. Howell
Aids Program - Cheyenne Chambers
Antelope Valley Rehab Center – Dean E. Metcalf
Assessor – Bernadine Butler, Juliet C. Koszut, Frank R. Dominguez
Auditor - Controller - Juliet C. Koszut, Lilian M. Lowes
Beaches & Harbors - Betty De Satnik
Chief Executive Office - Donald H. Campbell
Chief Information Office - Sarah L. Galloway, Harrison S. May
Child Support Services - Wilfredo C. Cariaga
Children & Family Services - Ron F. Bastone, Willie J. Dale, Reginald M. Gale, Sue A. Harris, Cora M. Martin, Edward L. Martineau, Harold J. Miller, Esther Ortiz, Margarita Plata, Dick Reed, Mary L. Richardson, Lawrence Strauss, Glynndean Suggs, Amy L. Sweet, Roy J. Weinberger
Community Health - Noboru Tanigawa
Community & Senior Services - William R. McKown
County Counsel - Chester H. Zager
Data Processing - Virginia G. Weber
District Attorney - Joseph L. Barilla, Paul J. Geragos, Ruth E. Hereford, Gerda S. Kirby, Wendy J. Moss, Rose Rand, Harriet D. Sherman
Engineer - Lawrence C. Behney, James E. Henderson
Engineer Facility - Leonardo Batris
Fire - Robert D. Bjorklund, Greysen E. Cooley, John A. Harm, Stephen E. Hudson, Curtis F. Jones, Deborah A. Lawrence, Patrick J. Leddy, Robert L. Lockett Jr., George H. Mc Intosh, Charles Minert, Fred O. Morgan, Hugh D. Neville, Thomas C. Pimm, David F. Reed, Russell D. Van De Mark, Carolyn M. Wilson, David J. Wilson
Flood Control - John N. Roth
Harbor/UCLA Medical Center - Josephine Booker, Jose Buraga, Olga Hubiak, Gregoria Menes, Eleanore Peralta, Joan M. Williams
Health Services Administration - Alvin Brewer, Paula M. Broussard, Stella L. Brown, Ruth Compton, Gloria V. Engel, Enid U. Fairweather, Eileen D. Griffin, Fred C. Laguna, Ralph W. Schreiber
Internal Services – Angelo N. Colacchio, John Kanda, Theresa Landry, Ronald W. Moeckel, Rosalie E. Muro, Dorothy L. Scott, Ernestine Smith
Juvenile Court Health Service – Cyril Hinds
King/Drew Medical Center – Everardo Cervantes
LACERA – Pamela S. Gomez, Kiyoko Wald
LAC+USC Medical Center – Amelia Aragon, Jaime P. Bulatao, E.H. Johnson, Carmen Lugo, Theresa Moran, Joyce M. Notto, Arnold Santiago, Gloria J. Scott, Roma A. Snavely, Matilde A. Syendera, Dona Warner, Johnnie C. Watson, Clidell Wiggins
Los Angeles Reports – Richard E. Erwin II
Mechanical – Conrad S. Calderon, Dale E. Thuman, Roy G. Whitaker
Mental Health – Patricia L. Bass, Umoren Eduok, Marian Garrett, Vicki S. Granucci, George L. Mallory, John N. Mc Fee, Wyomia Michael, Arrie Moore, Emma R. Patton, Roger Schock, Donna Sultan
Municipal Court – Barbara L. Cristino (Long Beach), Kathryn G. Fletcher (Pomona), Carol J. Kukuk (Inglewood), Beverly E. Nixon (Alhambra), Martin Sendrow (Malibu)
Museum of Art – Morton J. Golden, Solomon Fingold

Museum of Natural History – Myra D. Chalfant
Olive View/UCLA Hospital – Beverly F. Brown, Beverly E. Houdyshelt, Laura M. Saxon, Gloria A. Townsend, Perla M. Varas, Lura M. Wilkey
Parks & Recreation – Richard H. Carrillo, Donald G. Petschow, Jevto Vucetich
Probation – Margarette Bolden, Velma L. Carr, Olive L. Clark, Florencio Contreras Jr., James A. Gomez, Shirley J. Gray, Kermit Henderson, Vernon D. James, Michael A. June, Douglas B. Kirby, Elaine I. Lundblade, Christine Reeves, Yukiko Tanaka, Joan B. Willis
Public Defender – Karen B. Amarawansa, William B. Clark
Public Health Program – Alvia A. Hearne, Robert M. Merrigan, Maria R. Solis, Marquita M. Talamantes, Lucy Ybarra
Public Library – Kathleen L. Fleming, Eupha J. Hedblom, Michael L. Masliah, Thelma M. Murray, Betty J. Smith
Public Social Services – Robert O. Allen, Gene K. Arnold, She-Jung Auyang, Anita L. Bailey, Celia B. Bell, Pearl R. Billips, Colima Brown, June H. Brown, Easter I. Burns, Cora R. Bynum, Patricia Chamberlain, Michele M. East, Sallie A. Edwards, Manuela Garcia, Herand Ghazarian, Maudry M. Gordon, Jim V. Hamilton, Peggy Jackson, Eleanor Jacoby, Leslie L. Lupien, Lynn G. Mc Cullah, Meredith A. Nelson, Alice S. Ochiai, Kayumanggi N. Ongchangco, Pablo M. Ortiz, Armando Ramirez, Doris T. Randolph, Jean H. Richard, Jerome Rosenthal, Gilbert R. Sainz, Carol Scott, Robert C. Snider, Beatrice Stoner, Yvonne J. Swanson, Lillie M. Taylor, Georgia L. Thompson, Judith Walsh, Shirley Woodhouse, Marjorie E. Yerkes
Public Works – Joseph N. Anderson, Flora E. Caranto, Horace Cates Jr., Marvin L. Foster, David J. Gabay, Michael R. Gleason, John H. Kaufman, Gary A. Meyette, Proceso B. Palos, Patricia E. Sauer, Danny L. Sonnier
Rancho Los Amigos Hospital – Lodis Adams, Ernest Camarillo, Helen G. Gonzales, Selena M. Lawyer, Guy Maletta Jr., Ida B. Mitchell, Lillian L. Mitchell, Linda L. Snipes, Lavern Stewart, Lucille A. Vogt, Jarvis W. Wheeler
Regional Planning – Marion Lenoir
Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk – Bayani F. Cruz, Diane M. Finks
Sheriff – Lawrence B. Albers, Joann Anderson, Leon V. Anderson Sr., Walter G. Bookamer, John E. Bowdoin, Consuelo Calderon, Clifton E. Cargile, Ben A. Castro, Susan L. Couse, Rosemary A. Cummings, Guy C. Danley, Robert W. Dawson, Marian C. Delgado, Raymond R. Esquerra, Jeffrey E. Fine, Maria B. Flores, Christine Mae Garcia, Bob D. Helton, Sylvia Holmes, Roger K. Hom, Kenneth D. Mays, Marsh A. Middleton Jr., Patrick E. Morgan, Robert J. Morris, Steven J. Prewett, Joseph M. Seeger, Richard L. Seeley, Kenneth A. Siper, Lyle S. Smith, Michael D. Sparks, Thomas D. Spellman, David W. Zink
So. Calif Air Pollution Contr. Dist. – Norman R. Shaffer
So. Coast Air Quality Mgmt. – Earle J. Walton
Superior Court/County Clerk – William Croce, Frances L. Dion, Shellie E. Gilmore, Theresa F. Hudson, Anh T. Luu, Helena Pottorff, Kenneth A. Siper, Isabelle C. Sokoloff, Ronald M. Vernon, Harold S. Vites, Yoshiko Yokomizo
Treasurer & Tax Collector – Ella M. Anderson
Women's Hospital – Lester T. Hibbard
Department Not Designated – Clara M. Barksdale, Linda Maloney, Dorothy B. Miller, Le Roy J. Puckett, Virginia G. Weber



RETIRED EMPLOYEES
of LOS ANGELES COUNTY
1000 South Fremont Ave. Unit 15
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

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General Membership Meeting

Mary K. Rodriguez, Chair, Program Committee



Thursday, March 30, 2017

Cerritos Park East Community Center

13234 East 166th St., Cerritos, Calif. 90703
(1/4 mile east of Shoemaker Avenue)
Phone (562) 407-2611

9 a.m. – Complimentary Refreshments
10 a.m. – Meeting Begins
Featured Speaker:
Tressa Thompson
Senior Driver Ombudsman with DMV
“Seniors and Safe Driving”

Come learn about the resources DMV provides.

Retiree Information

DOOR PRIZES

Please bring your RELAC membership card



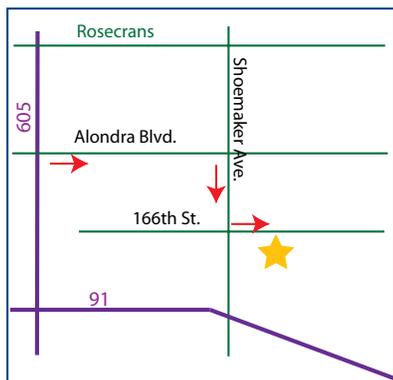
IMPORTANT!

*Are you moving?
Did you change your
name, address or
e-mail address?*

Cut out the address
portion of this
newsletter, correct it
and mail to:

RELAC
1000 S. Fremont Ave.,
Unit 15 Alhambra, CA
91803-8802 or
Phone:
(800) 537-3522
(626) 308-0532
Fax: (626) 308-2901
Email:
admin@relac.org
website:
www.relac.org

Note: It is important
that you mail this
to RELAC or contact
RELAC by phone as
we **DO NOT** receive
your address change
from LACERA.



DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From the 605 San Gabriel Fwy. going either north or south – exit at Alondra Boulevard. Proceed east to Shoemaker Avenue; take Shoemaker Avenue to 166th Street; turn left on 166th Street. The Community Center is on the right. Park on the east side of the building.