



RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

Mar/Apr 2017 Vol 52-2



President's Message

by Dave Muir

LACERA's Boards of Retirement and Investment concluded a four-day series of all-day meetings in January 2017 to review current operations and plan for the future. This is an annual event, known as the "LACERA Board Offsite Meetings." Day Two of the series was dedicated to the retiree health care program. I'd like to share some of the information from that session.

The program was kicked off with a quote from Bernie Sanders: "The United States has more people living in poverty than at almost any other time in the modern history of our country." That was followed with this startling statistic: The estimated life-time cost of health care in retirement is \$260,000 per person. You can see what a huge challenge it is for LACERA to provide a health care program for almost 50,000 retirees.

The average life expectancy in the U.S. is 79.56 years. Twenty-five percent of the members in our health care program are over the age of 80. Fifty members are 100 years or older!

The total monthly premium cost under LACERA's health care program is a little over \$44 million. LACERA does a great job in keeping premium increases at a minimum and is beating the national averages. How is this possible? LACERA and its health care consultant aggressively negotiate rates every year. The Board of Retirement, with the help of its consultant, reviews the cost of claims on a monthly basis to identify areas of concern and works with the carriers to keep costs in line. And LACERA's popular "Staying Healthy Together" workshops provide education to help retirees stay healthy. If you've never attended one, you're missing out on a very informative and enjoyable event.

I've always been impressed with the great health care program we are so fortunate to enjoy. LACERA is doing a terrific job in managing the costs of the program and making sure we have the very best in health insurance coverage.

In closing, here's a bit of breaking news. The cost-of-living increase that becomes effective in April will be 2%.

Thanks to all our readers for your membership in RELAC, your PENSION AND HEALTH CARE WATCHDOG.

ELECTION OF RELAC DIRECTORS FOR TERMS COMMENCING IN 2018

by Dave Muir, Chair

Bylaws/Nominations/Elections Committee

At the April 4, 2017 business meeting of the Board of Directors, the Bylaws/Nominations/Elections Committee will present a list of all candidates interested in serving on RELAC's Board of Directors. The Board will select a slate of five nominees for the five open director positions. If elected, they will serve three-year terms beginning January 2018.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, you may apply in writing by sending a letter of interest to the RELAC office by March 23, 2017. Your letter should briefly explain your interest and describe the experience and education that enhance your qualifications. The committee will interview you and then add your name to the list of all interested candidates.

Candidates should seriously consider the following desired qualifications when applying for a Board position:

- 1.) Have the time and are willing to commit to attending the monthly Board of Directors business meeting, general membership meetings held on a quarterly basis, and committee meetings scheduled on an as-needed basis. Board and committee members are compensated for expenses incurred.
- 2.) Have the time to serve the members of RELAC by actively participating on one or more committees as follows:
 - Investment Committee (meets four times per year) -- Reviews the investments of RELAC.
 - Bylaws/Nominations/Elections (four times per year) -- Oversees elections and makes changes to bylaws and policies.
 - Legislation (at least two times per year) -- Reviews new legislation, protects and enhances pension and health care benefits.
 - Membership/Recruitment (four to six times per year) -- Develops programs to recruit new members.
 - Recreation and Regional Support/Special Events (four to six times per year) -- Plans and oversees events/activities for all retirees, such as golf tournaments, annual picnic, Dodger baseball nights, Day at the Races events, and RV outings.
 - Newsletter (four to six times per year) -- Continues to improve the operation of the RELAC newsletter.
- 3.) Have the time and are willing to participate in RELAC activities and events.
- 4.) Have a computer available to receive important messages and reports.
- 5.) Enjoy interaction with people.

Any candidate who is not one of the five selected for the slate by the Board, or who missed the deadline for submitting a letter of interest, may file a petition signed by not less than 15 RELAC members. Such petition, along with a letter from the candidate accepting the nomination, must be received in the RELAC office no later than July 6, 2017 at 4 p.m. Petition forms are available at the RELAC office.

THERE SHALL BE NO OTHER METHOD OF NOMINATION (Article VI, RELAC Bylaws).

If there are six or more interested candidates for the five positions, an election will be held in September. Ballots must be returned to a designated CPA firm by Sept. 29. The firm will conduct the count and report the results to RELAC and directly to each candidate. Results will be announced at the next regular general membership meeting and published in the newsletter.

Investments Board

by Diane Sandoval
Retiree Representative,
LACERA Board of Investments

At the Dec. 12, 2016 Board of Investments meeting, Milliman, LACERA's plan actuary, presented their revised retirement benefit actuarial assumptions based on their 2016 Investigation of Experience for Retirement Benefit Assumptions Report, and recommended its adoption.



After a lengthy discussion and listening to presentations by Sachi A. Hamai, Los Angeles County chief executive officer, and Ramon Rubalcava, SEIU Local 721 director of member benefits and employer relations, the Board unanimously voted to adopt Milliman's findings and lower the investment return assumption rate from 7.5% to 7.25%.

This action results in an increase in the future contributions paid into the fund by the plan sponsor, Los Angeles County, totaling approximately \$293 million. Hamai asked the Board to consider phasing in the increase in their contributions over a three-year period.

She reminded those in attendance that the County's primary source of revenue to offset this increase is property taxes, which is constrained by Proposition 13. She further stated this limited source of new revenues also competes with unavoidable cost increases, such as negotiated employee cost-of-living adjustments, health insurance cost increases and their multi-year plan to pre-fund other post employee benefits.

In addition to the above mentioned cost increases, the County continues to face service delivery demands on its budget, which includes funding the homelessness and public safety initiatives, to name a few. Hamai stated that last year alone, budget requests on the County General Fund exceeded revenue sources by \$2 billion.

After considering Hamai's request, the Board voted to phase in the employer contribution increase over a three-year period. This will allow the County to better manage the impact to the County's budget. Given the County's commitment to continue its multi-year plan to pre-fund our medical benefits, in my opinion, her request to phase in the employer contribution increase was the right thing to do. As a County retiree, I am fortunate to have my medical insurance coverage for myself and my husband.

According to the latest staff memorandum dated Jan. 31, 2017, the LACERA portfolio has performed well the first six months of the fiscal year (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017). The **estimated** total market value of the portfolio as of Dec. 31, 2016 was \$49.5 billion, which is an increase from Sept. 30, 2016, when it was **estimated** to be \$48.9 billion. The **estimated** total portfolio return for the same period (July 1, 2016 - Dec. 31, 2016) was 5.7% higher than Sept. 30, 2016, when it was 3.8%. (I will keep my fingers crossed that the market continues to improve and LACERA is able to earn its investment return assumption, which for this year is 7.5%.)

Thank you for your interest and support.

Retirement is...

Retirement is a special gift to treasure and a time to welcome each day with a smile and grateful heart.

Gwen Andrizzi
Executive Assistant to CEO, Chief Executive Office
Retired July 31, 2014.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

December 2016 - January 2017

Assessor – Elizabeth Concepcion

County Counsel – Elizabeth Cortez

Health Services – Airebell Odom, Bebe Reschke, Pearlie Scaever

Human Relations Commission – Theresa Villa McDonell

Library – Kitty Carr

Mental Health – Phyllis Stewart

Probation – Gwendolyn Martin, Sandra Sherrard, Eleuteria Gomez-Smith

Public Defender – Albert Johnson

Public Social Services – Pedro Padilla

Sheriff – Maria Fell, John Hammargren, Shirley Okray, Heron Payne, John Urbanowski

Department Not Designated – Danielle Lovelady, Diane Martinez, Carolyn Brown-Mims, Daniel Miramontez

New Associate Members – Herbert D. Fell, Sylvester Mims, Michael Odom, Miriam Padilla, Patricia L. Ryan, Raymond Sherrard, Denise Urbanowski

Thanks for New Member Referrals

Our continued appreciation to RELAC members who recruited new members in December and January.

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

Stephanie Davis, *Sandra Sherrard*, Probation.
JoAnne Mitchell, *Gwendolyn Martin*, Probation.
Algertha Rivers, *Airebell Odom*, Health Services.
Peter Schabarum, *John Hammargren*, Sheriff.
Sam Stevens, *Eleuteria Gomez-Smith*, Probation.

We recruited 251 new members in 2016, but lost 762, mainly due to deaths. That is why we continue to encourage you to ask former colleagues who are not members of RELAC to join right away. Our membership was 18,939 as of Dec. 31, 2016. 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 Keep RELAC strong, help us grow.

FOR SALE

CINDERELLA SHOES - Forty-eight pairs of Cinderella 2½-inch high heel shoes, Size 2½. Some still new. Others in very, very good condition. Call Jo Starr at (323) 728-1914.



New RELAC Committee Chairs Appointed

RELAC President Dave Muir has named, and the Board of Directors has approved, the new committee chairs for 2017. They are:

Bylaws/Nominations/Elections, Dave Muir; **Budget**, Greg Walia; **Program**, Mary Rodriguez; **Investments**, Simon Russin; **Legislation**, Dave Muir; **Membership/Recruitment**, J.P. Harris; **Newsletter**, Bill de la Garza.

Office Management, Greg Walia; **Outreach**, Alice Prouty; **Recreation**, Mary Rodriguez; **Regional Support/Special Events**, Diane Sandoval; **Website/E-mail Advisor**, Judy Hammond; **Golf**, Gil Sandoval.

RELAC Thanks Hugh McDonald, Jr. for Service

The RELAC Board of Directors has presented a certificate of recognition to Hugh McDonald, Jr. for 20 years of service as RELAC's webmaster.



McDonald helped to create RELAC's first website and served as webmaster until December 2016, when he decided to retire from the position.

"The Board commends and thanks Hugh for his dedication and service," said RELAC President Dave Muir.

McDonald, a RELAC member, retired as a captain in the L.A. County Sheriff's Department in 1994.

WINNERS OF 2017 VALENTINE DRAWING

Each Gets \$25!!!

Gwen Alcayaga, Santa Clara, CA, Mary L. Bass-Pitts, Los Angeles, CA, Florence Beatty, Compton, CA, Elida G. Cantu, Rosemead, CA, Marjorie Commes, Huntington Beach, CA, Marian Cosner, Bend, OR, Donna Crowell, Tucson, AZ, Sharon M. Davis, Hacienda Heights, CA, Bernadette De Medio, Kapolei, HI, Virginia T. De Zell, Pasadena, CA, George W. Dickey, Big Creek, MS, Glenadene Evans, Pasadena, CA, Alice Gonzalez, Temple City, CA, Audrey Isser, West Hollywood, CA, Martha A. Kirksey, Gardena, CA, Dorothy Karssen, Orange City, IA, Ronnie Lockwood, Dallas, OR, Deanna Luttio, Cedar City, UT, Eileen MacMillan, Parker, CO, Emiko O. Matsuno, San Gabriel, CA, Marie L. May, La Verne, CA, Jackie Mc Glinchey, Columbia, MO, Theodore Potter, St. Paul, NE, Kenneth Reed, Henderson, NV, Dorothy Roberts, Las Vegas, NV, Vivian Sanchez, Victorville, CA, Linda Shannon,

Continued on the bottom of next column.

RELAC Annual Report of Assets, Liabilities, Revenue Expense

I. Changes in Assets & Liabilities 2016 vs 2015

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>
Checking Account	27,226.37	70,184.00
Money Market Account	123,651.63	2,291.81
Petty Cash	200.00	200.00
Other Assets	4,180.80	-
Security Deposit	2,590.50	2,590.50
Office Equipment-Less Depreciation	8,839.06	11,722.06
Litigation Reserve	1,002,776.85	991,387.64
Total Assets	1,169,465.21	1,078,376.01

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities	37.50	-
Retained Earnings	1,051,550.54	1,011,889.02
Less Net Income	117,877.17	66,486.99
Total Equity	1,169,465.21	1,078,376.01
Total Liabilities & Equity	1,169,465.21	1,078,376.01

II. Operating Results

REVENUE

Member Dues	420,133.50	401,941.19
Investment Income	10,756.85 (1)	57,314.56 (1)
Miscellaneous Income	35,454.00	17,000.00
Member Events & Misc.	29,255.30	29,808.65
Interest	4,438.51	-
Total Revenue	500,038.16	506,064.40

EXPENSE

Office Expense	99,553.69 (2)	112,538.45 (2)
Personnel & Payroll	84,644.79 (3)	98,781.93 (3)
Board of Directors Meetings & Expenses	10,008.27	13,820.22
Committee Meetings & Expenses	5,776.78	6,156.89
Membership & Conferences	7,643.10	8,383.32
Insurance	2,528.00 (4)	29,739.91 (4)
Membership Meetings	28,194.36	26,261.50
Membership Benefits & Promotions	63,737.60	60,706.35
Elections	-	-
Newsletter	70,746.89	56,374.09
Website	4,680.00	3,600.00
Investment Expense	42.76	23,214.75
Total Expense	377,556.24	439,577.41

Notes:

- 1) Litigation Reserve is invested in a diversified portfolio pursuant to RELAC's Investment Policy approved by the Board of Directors with the assistance of Morgan Stanley, RELAC's investment advisor.
- 2) Office Expenses include bookkeeping and auditing, rent, services and supplies, payroll processing and postage.
- 3) Personnel and payroll includes office manager and two clerical personnel with a four day workweek.
- 4) Insurance includes liability and directors & officers.

Treasurer's Certification: I, Greg Walia, hereby certify that this report was prepared without audit from the books and records of the corporation. An annual audit is performed by a certified outside agency.

Camarillo, CA, Janice Sims, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, Marion Siu, Los Angeles, CA, Clare Sleeter, Olympia, WA, Betty L. Stout, Columbia, MO, Evelyn Su, Hacienda Heights, CA, Samir S. Tanios, North Hollywood, CA, Penny Trujillo, South Pasadena, CA, Blanquita Valenzuela, Beaumont, CA, Guadalupe Valenzuela, Temple City, CA, Charles J. Vega, Azusa, CA, Albert Vita, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, Shirlee A. Webb, Los Angeles, CA, Catherine Wills, Monterey Park, CA

CARSON GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

It was another great turnout at RELAC's general membership meeting in Carson in December. Among those in attendance were Edna Polentino and Eva Stout, who were the lucky winners of \$50 each; Bill Steinleitner, who won a basket of goodies; 91-year-old WWII veteran Robert Hammond; Jack Trull, 93, and Seth Sherman. (Photos by Greg Walia)



News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich
Assistant Executive Officer



I hope everyone had a great New Year!

This is the time of year when LACERA retired members start to call us to find out if there will be an annual COLA increase. It is our most popular question in the beginning of each year, followed by, "When will LACERA be mailing my 1099-R?" The answer this year to the COLA award question is yes. The Board of Retirement approved the COLA amounts for this year at our Feb. 9, 2017 Board of Retirement meeting. The 1099-R forms were mailed out on Jan. 25, 2017.

You may know this already, but the COLA is determined by the increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Los Angeles-Orange County area. The final year-to-date CPI for the 2016 calendar year was an increase of 1.97%. As the COLA benefit rules require, we round to the nearest 0.5%; therefore, the 2017 COLA will be 2%.

Plan A members, and eligible beneficiaries with a COLA bank, may receive up to a 3% COLA award. Based on the Plan A COLA bank accumulation, Plan A members who retired prior to March 31, 1981 will receive the maximum 3% increase; Plan A members who retired between April 1, 1981 and March 31, 1982 will receive a 2.7% increase, and Plan A members who retired after April 1, 1982 to March 31, 2017 will receive a 2% increase.

Members and eligible beneficiaries in Plans B, C, and D, and PEPRSA Safety Plan C and Plan G will receive the maximum COLA increase of 2%.

Plan E members who retired on or after June 4, 2002 will receive up to 2%. The portion of the 2% COLA is based upon a ratio defined as the months of service earned on and after June 4, 2002, divided by the total months of service.

Before I go for this month, I wanted to let everyone know that LACERA will be observing the Cesar Chavez Day holiday this year on Monday, March 27, 2017. Our offices and call centers will be closed on this day. But we'll be open for business as usual on Tuesday, March 28, 2017.

Well, that's about it for this month. Until next time, I hope you enjoy every moment of your retirement. You earned it!





Letters To The Editor

Write On!

To RELAC officers, staff, and volunteers. Thank you for protecting the best interests of County retirees. "I can no other answer make, but thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks" (William Shakespeare).

Cherry Uyeda, Encino, Calif.

Happy New Year, RELAC! Here are my membership fees for the year. Thank you for all the insurance benefits you have given me. Without you fighting for us, we would not be able to enjoy all the benefits we get. Thank you for all you do for the retirees and widows of retirees. It is much appreciated. May you all enjoy a safe year and safe living in the United States in 2017 with a new year and new president.

Gloria Boothe, Wilmington, Calif.

To those of you who knew my husband, Donald Ray Henderson, I was honored and blessed to have been his wife, hunting companion, fishing partner and other half these past 40 years. He was loved by many and I also wanted to express my appreciation for the many letters and cards I received from our friends. My husband has worked at stations 11, 52, 74 and 78 from 4/55 to 11/90. Don passed on 12/24/15. I wanted to express my appreciation for the care you give the widows of your members. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the health benefits and finances I have been very fortunate to receive. My sincere thanks.

Linda Henderson, Caliente, Calif.

Love reading the RELAC newsletter. So much information - particularly like reading "Keeping Up With Retirees" and, of course, Judy's "Inside LA County". Happy holidays to all!

Steven J. Golightly, Director, L.A. County Child Support Services Dept.

As always, your newsletter is the best. I am so glad you featured Martin Zimmerman. When I worked in the CEO, I always knew when he wrote something. To me, he is one of the best writers I have ever read. And after reading his profile, it reminded me what a wonderful writer he is. He is definitely gifted.

Gwen Andrizzi, Rowland Heights, Calif.

Thank you for another outstanding RELAC newsletter. The profiles of my colleagues Judy Mylan and Denis McGrath are especially good. I hope to see you all at the RELAC Luncheon on Jan. 26, 2017. Happy New Year!

Barry Hunt, Inglewood, Calif.

I just read the story about Les Leibson receiving an award in the November/December issue of the newsletter. I worked with Les when I first started with the County and would like to contact him. Please let him know that I would like to be in touch. He would know me as Gloria Sapp. We were social workers together at Metro South II at Adams and Grand in the early 1960s and I eventually advanced to district director.

Gloria Cuevas, Pasadena, Calif.

Just a note to say thank you for keeping us old retirees up to date. I wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year. I had the pleasure of working at RELAC from 1992-1997. Nice to read some of the wonderful people I knew are still working there.

Gloria Zubiate, Phillips Ranch, Calif.

To the Board of Directors. Thank you for the handy pocket calendar. I will put it to good use. And, for the RELAC newsletter, which keeps us County retirees informed on our pensions and health care benefits and other issues. I feel truly blessed for my generous retirement benefits. Keep up the good work! Best wishes to one and all for a healthy and happy New Year! With

much appreciation for all you do,
Linda Campos, Downey, Calif.

I just read the RELAC newsletter e-mailed to me. I appreciate receiving the newsletter via e-mail as I believe it to be a more prudent form of delivery than getting it delivered by my mailman. I read many letters from members thanking RELAC for their pocket calendar; however, I DO NOT use mine. So, I am requesting it not be sent to me. My hope is that RELAC will be spared the expense of providing me this calendar. I don't know if others have made this same request, but I believe others, if asked, will also forego receipt of their pocket calendar. Again, I find the newsletter very informative and truly thank those working for us retirees.

Janice Sadahiro, Santa Ana, Calif.

Dear Dave Muir and Staff: It was so thoughtful of you to remember us with the most useful gift of the annual pocket calendar. Thank you very much. I am so grateful for all the other nice things you do, such as picnics, horse races, etc. Although we don't always say, we do really appreciate your kind thoughtfulness.

Mary Tynan, Redlands, Calif.

I really appreciate the pocket calendar, but I wish it was from January to December of one year. I find it very inconvenient when it is split into two years. Here's hoping!

Trinidad Gomez, Yorba Linda, Calif.

Let me thank you for the beautiful Christmas card and gift. I must say you are one thoughtful group to seniors. We are thought about by RELAC on our birthdays and Christmas every year. Thanks again for thinking about me, or should I say us. Happy holiday greetings from Las Vegas.

Johnnye Milligan, Las Vegas, Nevada

Thank you for the nice Christmas card. You are doing such a wonderful job, not only at Christmas, but all through the year.

Jack Trull, Gardena, Calif.

Thank you Outreach Committee for the beautiful Christmas card and gift.

Grace Pepis, Vista, Calif.

I don't much like becoming 96 years old, but find it is worth it - receiving the nice card from the RELAC Outreach Committee. Being a past old County of L.A. employee and still being on the list is remarkable. Thank you for your kind remembrance.

Ruby Nomura, Los Angeles, Calif.

Really enjoy the two RELAC security credit card

RV Outing Notes

by Jeanne Klauk
Assistant Coordinator
of the RV Club



ALERT: ED CLIFTON has decided to resign from the coordinator job. He has held the job since 1985 and is now ready to let Mike Reyes take over. I will still be the assistant - to assure smooth transition and to help Mike as needed.

Pechanga welcomed us RVers once again. Most of us arrived on Sunday, Jan. 15. The weather was cool in the shade and pleasant in the sun. We got in some good visiting after the task of hooking up was completed. Of course, some campers managed to slip out to the casino to win their fortune. There is a lot of construction on the property, and some of us had difficulty locating the new entrance. I just had to circle around. Max Georgi was totally stuck and the workers had to move barricades and assist him in extraditing his rig from the maze. Signage was very lacking for the park. But, we all managed to locate the new entrance. Monday brought lots of visiting and a few card games in the clubhouse. The evening brought out the whoopie game, which was enjoyed by all. Many people left with treasures they could never imagine receiving. Come join us, and we will introduce you to this cool dice game. Terri and Elroy Morris joined us for the hors d'oeuvres feast this Monday evening, and we hope they join us again soon. So - this was a pretty good-sized group of people - one of our favorite campouts. Attending were: Dennis and Wanda Klodt, Ed Clifton, Bob and Linda Reyes, Mike and Veronica Reyes, Al and Diana Medina, Don and Shirley Egbert, Janet Cerato, Paul Ladefoged and Stinne, Norm and Chickee Nelson, Bill and Janice Hayhurst, Leon and Dian Stegall, Max Georgi and Dulcy, Dave and Darlene Sorenson, Dave and Janice Coleman, Joe and Helen Quintana, Ernie and Cristina Blanchard, Jimmy and Marianne Valdivia, Dorie Fregeau, and me, Jeanne Klauk. Some people missed the cut-off date, but made arrangements at the park and joined us just the same - always welcomed. Ernie and Cristina are new members to our RV group, and it so happens that Ernie and I worked at STARS Center at the same time.

We had visitors, as well!!! Rick and Pat Bedolla visited us on Tuesday. They brought a tray of delicious cookies - homemade, of course. A few of us were able to be the recipients of some homemade jelly, as well. OK, I have to stop here. For many years, Bob Reyes has been providing the group with his very famous habanero, various-fruit jelly. I have been somewhat reticent and very derelict in my duties to report on this well-known, unpublicized fact. I have received habanero-strawberry, pomegranate, blueberry, raspberry, and now lemon jelly. These are the very best hot jellies, and we really didn't want this fact to be out there, as we jealously guard our source. Our Tuesday potluck was one of our best. We had a great array of delicious trays of food. We held our raffle after our dinner and Dave Coleman and Ed Clifton won the two 50-50 drawings.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

by Diane Sandoval, Chair
Regional Support/Special Events Committee

This year has started on a positive note! Approximately 300 members attended our Recognition Luncheon at Almansor Court on Jan. 26, and were entertained by the melodious voices of the TSA Chorus. Their rendition of America the Beautiful has always brought tears to my eyes. I was so disappointed I was unable to be there. That day I was wearing my LACERA trustee hat and attended a LACERA educational offsite meeting.

According to a reliable source (my husband) our featured speaker, Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby, complimented retirees for their dedication and service to the residents of Los Angeles County. He acknowledged RELAC for reaching out to retirees by holding events such as this one to provide a venue to reconnect with old friends and visiting with new friends. In fact, he indicated he feels so strongly about RELAC he intends to join our ranks once he retires. (Mental note - be sure to let him know he can join RELAC even while working.)

While the entire year is still a work in process, I can confirm the date and location of the Palmdale/Lancaster Luncheon Meeting.

Palmdale Regional Luncheon Meeting – April 6, 2017

Interested in attending this event? This is your last chance to send in your reservation form. **The reservation deadline is March 30.** As mentioned in my previous article, the meeting will be held at the Palmdale Moose Lodge, 3101 E. Avenue Q, in Palmdale. I contacted Supervisor Kathryn Barger's regional field office and they are sending a field representative to attend, welcome the group and update you on the latest news and ongoing projects in your community.

Rob Hill, LACERA executive assistant, will be our featured speaker. Although this is a repeat performance for him, LACERA is an ever-changing dynamic organization. Consequently, I know his presentation will cover new and continued challenges which face public pension funds. The cost of the luncheon remains the same as last year - \$20 for a delicious buffet luncheon catered by Three Roses Catering. If I still haven't managed to convince you to attend - **there will be door prizes.** Come and visit with your neighbors and catch up with co-workers of years past. Be sure to send in the reservation form located below.

The committee is looking forward to another busy year and looks forward to seeing you at our future events. Stay tuned - be sure to look for our article in the next issue. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you'd like RELAC to come to your area. The committee thanks you for your continued support.

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

RELAC NEWSLETTER

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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



Los Amigos Golf Tournament – Jan. 27, 2017

Our original tournament was rescheduled from Monday, Jan. 23 to Friday the 27th. We had 31 players signed up and lost three in the change, but we were able to get three replacements for them on Friday. Thanks for the support!

The "A" flight was a race as Benny Martinez edged out Mike Haile by one stroke at net 68 for the win. Don Hughes took third place at net 70, so he was only one shot short of Mike.

Jim Meek won the "B" flight with a good net 66. This was Jim's first win since he began to play with RELAC. In second place, playing well at net 68, was John Shannon, who had his best round in a while. Following in third place was Luis Martinez, who brought in a net 70.

The "C" flight was a battle between Terry Black and Richard Duran, with Terry's net 63 edging out Richard by one stroke. These two scores were the lowest for the day. Frank Martinez had a nice net 68 to place third.

The ladies flight was not even close as Kathy Malmfeldt won with a net 67. Cari DeBie and her mother, Charlene, tied. They reversed their positions of last month with net 77's and Cari taking second in a card off.

The next tournament is at La Mirada Golf Course on March 20, 2017 at our normal 8 a.m. start.

Please note that the golf entry form is not always a part of the newsletter. It is available on the RELAC website at www.relac.org under the Calendar of Events tab. If you cannot download it from a computer, please call the RELAC office to have it mailed to you.

LOS AMIGOS RESULTS:

"A" Flight Winners (19 and under)

1 st Benny Martinez	(68)
2 nd Mike Haile	(69)
3 rd Don Hughes	(70)

"B" Flight (20-27 Handicaps)

1 st Jim Meek	(66)
2 nd John Shannon	(68)
3 rd Luis Martinez	(70)

"C" Flight (28 up Handicaps)

1 st Terry Black	(63)
2 nd Richard Duran	(64)
3 rd Frank Martinez	(68)

Women's Flight

1 st Kathy Malmfeldt	(67)
2 nd Cari DeBie	(77)*

3rd Charlene DeBie (77)
*Winner in a card off

Closest to the Pin on Par 3's Men

#3 - Terry Black
#7 - Mike Haile
#12 - John Madrid
#17 - Rex Loughran

Women

#3 - No Winner
#7 - Kathy Malmfeldt
#12 - Kathy Malmfeldt
#17 - No Winner

NEXT TOURNAMENT
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017
La Mirada Golf Course, 8 a.m. start
Entry Deadline - March 2, 2017



Letters (cont. from p.5)

holders. Each time I use a card I think of your kindness. I am doing good; very active in church work as a volunteer. Obtained a B.S. in Christian leadership from Azusa Pacific University. I have not been complacent. I lead a 55+ women's group that meets for lunch monthly, plan outings, organize help and visits to the sick and shut-in. I am also responsible for conducting a church service under my church's convalescent ministry. We visit 17 nursing homes in the Inland Empire. I am assigned two that I visit bi-monthly. Love the people and the ministry. These are the forgotten pioneers in our society. I feel so blessed to serve - keeps me from dwelling on myself. I pray that 2017 will be a year of many blessings for all.

Frances Foster, Rialto, Calif.

Dear Outreach Committee and Ms. Trujillo. Thank you for the beautiful Christmas card. It was unexpected and I suspect it was sent on the occasion of having reached 90 years. In 10 short years, it will be 100.

Catherine Hill, Santee, Calif.

Many thanks for the lovely birthday card. And I do wish you a wonderful New Year 2017.

Gerry Brown, Claremont, Calif.

Thank you so much for the beautiful holiday card. I have been retired since Feb. 29, 1988 and I have been quite busy - turned 90 years old in April and slowing down. Thanks also for the red card holder. It is something I really can use.

Natalie Scotton, Sherman Oaks, Calif

Thank you for the card holder and your very nice card. It was very thoughtful of you. Do have a lovely holiday.

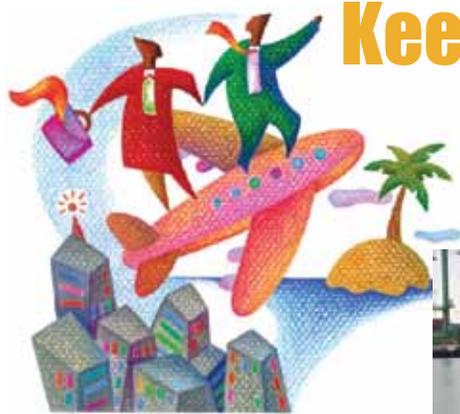
Anne Matayoshi, Redondo Beach, Calif.

Dear Outreach Committee members: Thanking you for all the kind and thoughtful greetings and gifts I have received from you throughout the year. I wish you all a very happy New Year! I remain a very lucky person.

Emma Lopez, Whittier, Calif.

Keeping Up With Retirees

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



JIM MATTHEWS

My Los Angeles County career was all with the Superior Court. I hired on in 1991 as a judicial assistant. The final 13 years of my career were in management. I retired at the end of October 2013 as an administrator I. I am proud of what I accomplished in many different assignments, including four years as an administrator in the Juror Services Division. All of those life experiences continue to serve me well in retirement.

The first year of my retirement I completed training with the American Cetacean Society and the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA). I became a certified volunteer whale watch docent. I staffed boats out of Marina del Rey and Redondo Beach harbors. I had so much fun educating passengers on the marine life off of the Southern California coast. When I was out on weekday boats, I constantly reflected on how lucky I was to be on the ocean and not stuck behind a desk managing employees or dealing with upset customers!

I eventually decided to be land-based for my volunteering. I completed an extensive training program at CMA and have been leading student tours at the aquarium since early 2015. I am proud to say that I received a distinguished achievement award my first year because of the variety of assignments I took on as a volunteer. If you are not familiar with the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, it is a wonderful City of Los Angeles facility located in San Pedro. CMA training programs start each October. If you want to apply or see what the aquarium has to offer, go to its website at www.cabrillosmarineaquarium.org or call (310)548-7562.

In 2016 my CMA training resulted in an offer of part-time employment on educational boat trips called Marine Science Floating Lab. The trips are managed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education, Outdoor Science and Marine Education unit. I went down to volunteer and instead was offered work. Go figure! I get so much joy teaching students from fifth grade through high school about the ocean and what exists in it. My hope is that every student and adult I educate on a boat or at the aquarium takes on stewardship of the ocean to help keep it healthy.

I still consider myself RETIRED, even though I work part time. I have to admit it was hard at first setting an alarm and remembering what days I have boat assignments. But the joy of sharing my knowledge with others makes it easy to get up and be at the dock by 8 a.m.

I'm happily living the good life in Southern California. I continue to do long bike rides along the beach bike path and marvel how there's never a bad weekday there. I truly enjoy being able to ride my bike during the week when the bike path is less crowded. I can't believe what I had to put up with riding on weekends because I worked during the week! I also enjoy the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Walt Disney Concert Hall and take in many live music shows.

So, in closing, I'm grateful for my LACERA pension and the good life I have.

DR. ROBERT TRANQUADA

In 1959 I completed my medicine residency and fellowship in diabetes at the UCLA Medical Center, and accepted a faculty appointment to the USC School of Medicine and as attending physician at the then LA County Hospital. I became director of the Diabetes Clinic, seeing patients on the diabetes ward, teaching students, interns and residents and doing diabetes research. We initiated the Diabetes/Ob Clinic, which cared for an average of more than 100 patients at a time. In 1965 after the Watts Riots, I was asked by Dean Roger Egeberg to participate in the planning, staffing and building of the Watts Clinic – which we opened in 1967, turned over to our Community Council – and it is still operating today.

Then in 1969 as associate professor and chair of the USC Department of Community Medicine and Public Health, I became medical director of the now LAC+USC Medical Center, and associate dean of the Medical School. That year we had 2,100 beds on campus and admitted over 100,000 patients. I saw the inefficiency in our care for emergency patients and in 1970 invited Dr. Gail Anderson to create a Department of Emergency Medicine, one of the first in the nation. In 1974, with formation of the Department of Health Services, I became director of the Central Region, including LAC+USC Medical Center, Rancho Los Amigos, and about a dozen public health and mental health clinics.

From 1976-79 I was associate dean at UCLA and in 1979 chancellor and dean of the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester, Mass. Then in 1986 I was invited back to be dean of USC School of Medicine, during the construction of the Keck University Hospital and creation of private practice plans in the clinical departments, and as a senior attending physician at LAC+USC. In 1991 I became a professor of medicine and public administration in the USC School of Public Administration, retiring in 1997.

During all of that time lots of other stuff happened. In 1968 I was on the founding board of the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, and a member of Pomona College Board of Trustees, chairing that board between 1990 and 1999. In 1983 I was elected to the National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy for the Advancement of Science. I served in 1991 on the Christopher Commission, in 1992-94 as chair of the Task Force for Health Care Access for Los Angeles County, and in 1993-94 on the Managed Care Planning Council, which led to the formation of LA Care (on that board from 1994 to 2007), and initiated the Community Health Councils. I've also been on boards of the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, the Good Hope Medical Foundation, the Huntington Medical Research Institutes, and since 2012 on the board of the new Martin Luther King Community Hospital.

Going on during all of the above was travel over most of the world; fly fishing in Montana, Canada, the Bahamas and Sierras; lots of tennis and golf, and three honorary degrees.

My wife, Jan, and I celebrated our 65th anniversary this year. We're now very happy in a retirement community in Claremont, while board activities continue. I'm gradually phasing out my board responsibilities, and we are in great good luck that our three children (who live in Monrovia, Boston and Long Island) and three grandchildren (who live in Monrovia, Seattle and Washington, D.C.) are all employed! This year we cruised the Panama Canal and traveled to see the kids in the East as well as our annual drive to Montana (where the trout mourn if we don't arrive).

DIANE SANDOVAL

When I began my first day with the County of Los Angeles, little did I know I would stay for almost 40 years!! I reported for work in June 1959 and retired in March of 1999.

My first job was as a switchboard/receptionist with the Farm and Home Advisors. These advisors helped local farmers with issues concerning their livestock. They were experts on cattle, pigs, horses and chickens and visited farmers/ranchers on site. I remember they sometimes came back into the office after their visits and actually had mud on their boots. I was shocked at first, but eventually got used to it. The Home Advisors were involved with the 4-H Program and assisted school-age children prepare their exhibits for competition at the Pomona County Fair. Very cool!

This job prepared me for my next job at the Auditor-Controller's Audit Division, where I was assigned to the secretarial pool. Our division chief, Bill Turkington, introduced me to my first experience as a volunteer. He recruited me to volunteer at the Fiscal Employees Federal Credit Union (recently merged with UNIFY), where I served on the Board of Directors for more than 40 years.

After a few years I transferred to the Retirement Division of the Treasurer's Department. It was there I learned to appreciate the benefit of a defined benefit retirement plan. One of my responsibilities was to actually determine the amount required to fully fund someone's retirement benefit for life. During the years spent in the Retirement Division, I decided to attend night school in order to bridge my position from clerical to accounting.

Once I acquired the necessary qualifications, I transferred to the Home Program, Urban Affairs Department, where I supervised a small staff responsible for maintaining the financial accounting records. From



Diane Sandoval and husband, Gil

there I returned to the Retirement Division and was deeply involved in beginning the long journey building the organizational infrastructure needed to be independent and functional as an independent agency. Back in the day, LACERA depended on the Treasurer's Department for its administrative (i.e., budget, human resources, payroll, information systems) services. When I retired I was LACERA's Accounting Division manager, overseeing a staff of approximately 30 responsible for maintaining the financial records of the fund and issuing its annual financial statements.

Once I retired, it was my passion as a volunteer that kept me engaged both mentally and physically. I was appointed to the RELAC Board of Directors in 1999 the same month I retired, and have served in

a variety of leadership positions since then, including president in 2004-05. In 2006 I began my first term as your retiree representative on the LACERA Board of Investments and am completing my fourth three-year term.

For fun, my husband, Gil, and I love to travel (especially sailing on Viking River Cruise ships). Our last cruise sailed on the Main, Mainz and Rhine Rivers. Our tour began in Prague and ended in Paris. This is one I highly recommend. We also enjoy spending time wine tasting in the Sonoma/Napa area. Close to home, I love to go to the movies (yes, I am a Star Trek fan). Most importantly, I enjoy spending time with my daughter and grandchildren, Logan (age 7) and Amalia (age 6), who live in Modesto. Needless to say, Gil and I make frequent trips to Modesto to support our grandchildren participating in school programs, and celebrating birthdays and the holidays is a must.

In 2003 after living in Montebello for more than 27 years, we made the move to Huntington Beach. What a difference an ocean makes! At night the sky is so clear I can actually see the stars.

ROBERT TRUMAN

*by Evelyn Gutierrez
RELAC Board Member*

Robert B. Truman, a County retiree since 1979, celebrated his 100th birthday on Jan. 28 in Altadena with his beloved family and friends.

Known to everyone as Mr. T, Robert retired after 25 years of public service with L.A. County. As a procurement officer serving the pharmaceutical needs of LAC+USC Medical Center, Mr. T says he enjoyed working with medical staff and medical contract companies and helping people in need.

Surrounded by family and friends, the tribute to Robert featured a special toast by his wife C. Jake, sons Bob and Reg, and a tap dancing "shim sham" performance by Kathy and Darren Wilson. The party even included a special performance by Steve "Elvis" Murphy. RELAC Board Member Evelyn Gutierrez also presented Robert with a special RELAC congratulatory certificate and a RELAC cap for him to wear on his RV trips around the country.

Robert, an ordained minister, continues to serve L.A. County by volunteering at the Norwalk Registrar-Recorder's Office performing marriage ceremonies.

A lover of books, history, pets and people (especially the ladies), Mr. T continues to enjoy traveling across the country in his RV visiting family and friends and acquiring new friends at each stop.

Happy 100th birthday, Mr. T, from your L.A. County family at RELAC.





Ferrer Sathyavagiswaran Solis Bacharach Rogers Ridley-Thomas Mouradian

PASSAGES

Compiled by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

APPOINTMENTS:

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, new chair of the Board of Supervisors; **Supervisor Hilda Solis**, chair pro tem. (Under rules of the Board, the pro tem automatically becomes the new chair during reorganization in December, so Solis will be the chair in 2018.) **Dr. Barbara Ferrer**, chief strategy officer for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and prior to that executive director of the Boston Public Health Commission, as director of public health at salary of \$376,635. **Dr. Christopher Rogers**, chief of forensic medicine for more than a decade, as acting chief medical examiner-coroner at salary of \$342,900, replacing RELAC member **Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran**, who came out of retirement last March to serve in that position while a replacement was being recruited. Sathyavagiswaran continues as a consultant and director of operations. **Rich Llewellyn**, former aide to Supervisor Ed Edelman and District Attorney Gil Garcetti, as interim Los Angeles city administrative officer, replacing Miguel Santana. **Wayne Moore**, LACERA Board of Investments, replacing Kenneth Simril. **Lisa Pinto**, former district director for Congressmen Henry Waxman and Ted Lieu, new children's deputy for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, replacing **Genie Chough**, who transferred to the Department of Children and Family Services. New Supervisor Kathryn Barger kept intact most of the staff members of her former boss, Mike Antonovich. She elevated justice deputy **Anna Mouradian** to serve as her chief of staff (Barger was Antonovich's chief deputy) and tapped **Tony Bell** to continue as assistant chief deputy/communications deputy. Others on staff include **Dave Perry**, transportation deputy; **Fred Leaf**, senior health policy advisor; **Stephanie English**, justice deputy; **Michelle Vega**, family and children's deputy; **Edel Vizcarra**, planning and public works deputy; **Cameron Rankin**, assistant communications deputy; and field deputies **Donna Termeer** (Antelope Valley), **Sussy Nemer** (San Gabriel Valley), **Debra Mendesohn** (East San Gabriel Valley), **Rosalind Wayman** (Santa Clarita Valley), and **Jarrod DeGonia** (San Fernando Valley). Most of the names are new, however, in Supervisor Janice Hahn's office. Though Hahn selected predecessor Don Knabe's Assistant Chief Deputy **Nick Ippolito** to head her office, few of the other Knabe staffers remain. Among those on staff are: **Liz Odendahl**, press deputy; **Angela Driscoll**, public works/metro deputy; **Dana Garcetti-Boldt**, public safety deputy; **Jocelyn Rivera-Olivas**, health/mental health, legislation deputy; **Jessica Ho**, health/mental health/agenda preparation; **Louisa Ollague**, homelessness and housing/budget deputy; **Kelvin Driscoll**, children and human services deputy; **Jayme Wilson**, economic development/Beaches and Harbor deputy; **Mark Baucum**, arts/education/libraries/budget; **Stephanie Yinger**, caseworker; and **Celestina Quebec**, scheduler. Serving in the field offices are: **Erika Velazquez** and **Jenney Eubanks** (Harbor area/Lomita), **Mark Waronek** (South Bay), **Herlinda Chico** (Long Beach/Signal Hill/Avalon, Carson Park, Catalina Island), **Lynda Johnson** and **Matt Johnson** (Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, Paramount, unincorporated Cerritos), **Lauren Yokomizo** (Rowland Heights, Diamond Bar, Hacienda Heights, La Habra Heights), **Ivan Sulic** (Norwalk, Downey, Whittier).

REMOVALS:

Supervisor Janice Hahn is removing many of predecessor Supervisor Don Knabe's appointees, including **Roy Edward Hearrean** from the Economic Development Corp., **Rebecca Turrentine** from the Los Angeles County Board of Education, **Frank Binch**, Emergency Medical Services Commission, and **Jacqueline Bacharach**, Quality and Productivity Commission. The Board of Education is also losing **Katie Braude**, who has been removed by Supervisor Sheila Keuhl.

RETIREMENTS:

Public Defender **Ron Brown**, the first African-American to hold the post. **Philip Browning**, second-longest serving director of the Children and Family Services Department and former head of the Child Support Department. Sheriff's Commander **Henry Romero**. **Anita Vigil**, director of community outreach in the Probation Department. **Glenda Wina**, former press deputy to Supervisor Yvonne Burke who had worked in the Protocol Office in the Chief Executive Office since shortly before Burke's retirement. **Hayden Sohm**, deputy director of the Parks and Recreation Department, in charge of regional facilities. **Connie Douglas**, superintendent of the Peter F. Schabarum Regional Park in Rowland Heights. **Ed Winter**, assistant chief, Medical Examiner-Coroner. **Mark Tajima**, federal legislative policy analyst in Chief Executive Office. **Letty Minjares**, executive assistant to District Attorney Jackie Lacey. Founding member **William Waddell**, retiring from Quality and Productivity Commission.

DEATHS:

Dr. **Ronald M. Reisner**, 87, chief of the dermatology division at UCLA/Harbor Medical Center from 1962-73. **Dr. Lester T. Hibbard**, 97, for whom an annual scholarship is awarded in his honor to the outstanding senior resident at the Women's Hospital at LAC+USC Medical Center. **Jack (John) Bock, Jr.**, 76, life member of the L.A. County Fair Association. **Hoyt Bacon Leisure**, 92, LACMA trustee for more than a decade. **Robert B. Wilson**, 95, Museum of Art board of trustees, 1972-86. **Carolbeth Goldman Korn**, 79, member of the Music Center Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Blue Ribbon Committee for more than 30 years. **Anita Leedom**, 82, retired in 2001 as executive director of LAC+USC Medical Center Auxiliary for Recruitment, Education and Services, and wife of Dr. John Leedom, chief of infectious disease. Former Asst. Sheriff **Marvin Cavanaugh**, retired in 2012 after 41 years, Sheriff's Sgt. **Robert W. Roberts**, retired in 1989 after 19 years of service. Sheriff's Lt. **Kevin C. Hannigan**, 31-year veteran, and Sgt. **Anthony Hackett**, 19-year veteran, both of whom died while serving in the Parks Bureau.



Llewellyn



Bell



Brown



Browning



Turrentine



Wina



Supervisor Janice Hahn and Henry Romero



Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and Philip Browning

Retirement Notes:

Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

Philip Browning, who just retired as director of children and family services, said he decided to retire after taking a trip to Cuba with friends in November 2016 and realizing he was the only person in the group still working. He said he only intended to work at the County for a couple of years, but ended up staying 15 years. Browning, 70, had previously been head of the Child Support and Public Social Services Departments and had worked in the private sector and the military, but none of his previous jobs, he said, prepared him for the demands of the five-year DCFS stint. First on his retirement agenda: a cruise to relax and unwind.

Life is full of surprises. Ask Sheriff's Commander Henry Romero, who recently retired from the department after 34 years. In accepting a retirement scroll from the Board of Supervisors, Romero thanked a number of people, including his late wife "for putting up with me" for 30 years. "Before God took her, during that time, I think I told God what my plans were. He laughed at me, and he said no. And I'm currently remarried. I have a 2-year-old. So, I have life after this. There is quite a lot I'm going to do. I hope that everybody in the department can retire with a smile on their face. I'm happy, not like I want to leave; it's just, it's time."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

RELAC Night at Dodger Stadium in July

Our Recreation Committee is working closely with the L.A. Dodger organization to plan RELAC's annual Night at Dodger Stadium in early July. We will have the date, ticket price and other details in our May/June newsletter. We will also put information on our website at www.relac.org as soon as we finalize the details. In 2016 we had a great turnout and we look forward to another great day of fireworks and Dodger action. Stay tuned for details!!

June 29 General Membership Meeting

We have confirmed that Dr. Harleen Hayreh will be our keynote speaker at our June membership meeting in Arcadia. Dr. Hayreh, a pulmonologist and critical care physician at Kaiser Permanente, will make a presentation on breathing and lung-related issues. We will have more information in the May/June newsletter.

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March 2017

RV Notes from p. 6

Both of them donated the money back to the club; thus increasing our treasury coffers. Since we now have to pay for the clubhouses at most places, this money is much appreciated. Cristina Blanchard, on her very first campout with us, won the gas card, which is excellent as she spent most of her time at the bingo tables and they still had to drive home.

On Wednesday our friends Jesse and Phyllis Murph joined us for a nice visit in the warm sun and filled us in on the happenings in their lives. They camped with us for years, but due to health issues, only come as visitors now. We miss them and are delighted with their visits.

So, Dorie kept her infamous permanent score tally on games won (not in the casino - just cards). The most games NOT won is Wanda Klodt, our hostess! She and Dennis did a great job feeding us our breakfasts - with the help of Linda Reyes, and the cooks, Don Egbert, Mike Reyes, and Bob Reyes (who also makes the best salsa at our campouts, in addition to our jelly). This was Wanda and Dennis' first time hosting a campout and they did a wonderful job. And, we had fresh fruit. One of my favorites! Our next campout is March 19 at Banning KOA. If you miss the deadline, just make arrangements at the park, and bring food for the hors d'oeuvres and potluck, and join us. We will still feed you breakfasts on Tuesday and Wednesday. The rest of this year's campouts are: May 21 at Flying Flags in Buellton, Sept. 17 at Chula Vista RV Park, and Oct. 22 at Emerald Desert in Indio. Please come and join us, we really have a grand time. I never knew anyone before I started camping with the group. Now I have many new friends! Come join us, and you will have a great time too!

(The reservation form is on RELAC's website at www.relac.org. Go to the calendar of events.)

RELAC Annual Recognition Luncheon

Photos by Linda C. Hopkins



Members enjoy fellowship at meeting.



Gloria Brown



Greg Walia and two TSA performers.



Loretta Lopez, Ruth Wong, Evelyn Gutierrez



Bernie Jones, Jason H. Williams and Sarah Houston



Dorie Fregeau and Ed Clifton



Gil Sandoval, Joyce and Domingo Delgado

Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran and Greg Walia

Fire Chief Daryl Osby and Linda C. Hopkins

Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond
Newsletter Editor



The Board of Supervisors has taken a number of actions to improve treatment of residents with mental health and substance abuse problems, saying not only is this the more humane approach but also more effective and less expensive. Among these actions was the establishment of a sobering center, the first of its kind in the County, in Skid Row. The 9,500-square-foot County facility will help those struggling with alcoholism sober up and link them to mental health and substance abuse disorder services. Supervisors have also approved increasing ten-fold a substance abuse program now offered to only a small fraction of inmates, and asked departments to identify ongoing funding to extend treatment to all inmates in need.

And they are urging a change in state law to allow paramedics to take patients with psychiatric needs to mental health urgent care and sobering centers. Though police are allowed to do that now, paramedics are required to take these patients to hospital emergency departments or 9-1-1 receiving units. The Fire Department has just completed a pilot program that allows a nurse practitioner to accompany paramedics so a patient with mental health needs can go to an urgent care center, and plans to expand the program.

The Board also doubled the number of mental evaluation teams in the Sheriff's Department (from 10 to 23). The teams pair deputies with mental health clinicians and respond to calls requiring special handling of mentally ill people who are threatening others or being disruptive. The County was the first in the nation to develop co-response teams as a pilot program in 1993.

To get the Employee Relations Commission operating smoothly again, supervisors have changed the process of selecting commissioners by using a joint committee system agreed to by both management and labor.

Jackie Lacey, L.A. County's first black district attorney and the first district attorney to win reelection without a challenger in 60 years, is coming under intense criticism from members of the black community – including some who are calling for her recall -- because they want her to take a tougher stance in prosecuting police officers who use force against African-Americans. At a town hall meeting to discuss the residents' concerns, she told them she was "just one woman who's trying to follow the law, who's trying to listen, who's trying to do the right thing." She walked out after being booed and taunted by many of those in attendance. "You have been incredibly patronizing and insulting," she told them.

More than 100 County employees in 13 departments were tricked into providing their usernames and passwords in a phishing e-mail attack, potentially exposing personal information of 756,000 individuals. Felony charges were filed against a Nigerian national in the incident. Officials said there was no evidence that confidential information from any member of the public was released because of the breach.

The California Supreme Court sided with the media in ruling that L.A. County had to release invoices from outside attorneys in cases that have been settled. The County had argued the bills were protected by attorney-client privilege so were confidential communications, not public record.

Federal prosecutors said they would refile charges against former Sheriff Lee Baca after a jury deadlocked 11-1 in favor of his acquittal in his conspiracy and obstruction of justice trial, and would add a new charge of making false statements to investigators. "This is an extraordinary decision not everyone thought would happen, but I had faith," Baca said after the jury's decision. Meanwhile, former Undersheriff Paul Tanaka has begun serving his five-year sentence in a minimum security facility in Englewood, Colorado. His appeal of his conviction in the obstruction of justice case isn't expected to be heard until the fall.

Los Angeles County won its bid to get George Lucas to build his \$1 billion Museum of Narrative Art at Exposition Park alongside the Natural History

Museum. San Francisco had also been lobbying for the museum. Groundbreaking is expected by the end of the year, with opening in 2021.

Supervisors, after an angry exchange between supporters of President Trump and pro-immigration activists, approved creation of a new Office of Immigration Affairs to recommend protections and services to residents regardless of their immigration status, and directed that no department collect any data on immigration status if not legally required to do so.

The Sheriff's Department will use drones to assist deputies responding to arson scenes, suspected bombs and hostage situations. Sheriff Jim McDonnell promised they would not be used to surveil residents.

Former Coliseum General Manager Patrick Lynch, accused of accepting bribes from a stadium contractor, was sentenced to three years of probation after pleading guilty to conflict of interest. He also agreed to pay \$385,000, the amount prosecutors said he got in kickbacks.

L.A. County voters will decide March 7 whether to impose a quarter-cent sales tax to pay for homeless services.

The City of El Monte has assumed animal control services for its residents from the County Department of Animal Care and Control. DACC will continue providing emergency and sheltering services.

The Board established a five-year Women and Girls Initiative to identify and address ways in which gender affects county services, employment and participation, saying females face disproportionate disadvantages and burdens. "We ask women to juggle work and family, make their scarce resources go farther, and adapt to systems tailored for men. Now it's time for L.A. County to make the system fair for everyone," said Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. "By asking County departments to apply a 'gender lens' to our programs, services, and jobs, we intend to root out systemic inequality in Los Angeles County" said Supervisor Hilda L. Solis. Supervisors have approved \$1.1 million to hire four staff members for the new governing council for the initiative.

Steven Golightly, director of the Child Support Services Department, serves as coordinator of the Rat Pack, the Tuesday lunch club for department heads.

Just Saying:

Quote of the Day

"Your future depends on many things, but mostly on you."

--Frank Tyger

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

Yvonne Burke: Four Females on Board Could Bring New Priorities for County

by Los Angeles County Office of Countywide Communications

In 1979, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke landed unexpectedly on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors – making history and remaking a governing board known back then as “the five little kings.”

When Burke was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to fill a sudden vacancy, she became the Board’s first woman and first African-American – and was greeted with “plenty of hostility,” she said.

Her constituents accepted her; the powerbrokers did not. “There were some incidents that were not so great,” she recalls now. People made racial slurs behind her back. She said she was pilloried by political opponents, who vowed publicly to run her out of office.

And the county was so unprepared for her presence that the lone private restroom for Board members was off-limits. It was lined with urinals and labeled “MEN”.

“I had to use the general public restroom until they were able to make something available,” she said. That “something” was a closet-sized facility that Burke would share with a growing corps of female county employees.

“I always had to share with staff people,” she said. “And they were kind of pleased, because they got better facilities once women joined the Board.”

It would actually be another 12 years before “women” joined the Board.

Burke lost her seat in a close election in 1980, the year after her appointment. She ran successfully for an open seat in 1992 and joined Gloria Molina, who’d been elected to the Board the year before.

The two women—one black, one Latina—were “different personalities,” Burke said. “But it was good to have another woman on the Board.”

Another woman—or two or three.

In fact, last December when two new Board members—both women—were sworn in, Los Angeles County made history: Four of the five members on its governing board are now female.



Supervisors Hilda Solis, Janice Hahn, Kathryn Barger and Sheila Kuehl

That changing-of-the-guard delights Burke, who has a string of firsts in her political history: She was the first black woman elected to the state Legislature in 1967. And in 1973, she became the first congresswoman to give birth during her term in office. That baby girl, Autumn, was elected two years ago to the California State Assembly.

Burke said that being the “first woman” may be losing its luster. “I don’t think that women, particularly a younger generation of



Supervisors Pete Schabarum, Kenny Hahn, Yvonne Burke, Baxter Ward and Ed Edelman



women, believe it’s that important. They have seen women in positions of power... The attitude that I discerned during this election was, “Well, if a woman doesn’t get elected [president] this time, certainly in a few years one will be.”

It’s the critical mass of women that makes this Board of Supervisors milestone special. “Symbolically it’s great to be able to look and see four women sitting there,” she said. “It means a great deal, when it wasn’t that many years ago there were no women on the Board.”

Each supervisor represents more than 2 million people; more constituents than the populations of some states. “It’s a power position,” said Burke. “A visible, constant reminder of the fact that there are women making major executive decisions. That’s the significant thing.”

Supervisors can serve three consecutive four-year terms, so this supermajority could last a decade or more. And that would bode well for Los Angeles County’s most vulnerable residents, Burke predicted.

“I think there will be a careful look at children and family services, in a way that maybe we haven’t seen before,” she said. “This will be an opportunity for women to emphasize issues that are not always on the top agenda of male representatives.”

“You can’t expect all of the women to think the same,” she said. “But one thing I expect will be similar with all four women is their concern about issues that impact women. And I think that will make a difference.”

Reflections:

I look back with pride on my time and experiences with the County of Los Angeles. I had the opportunity to serve with some great people. I learned much from each one of them.

Charles “Chuck” Leonard
CAO Public Information Officer
Retired January 1990



IN MEMORIAM

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

Agricultural Comm. /Wts. & Meas. – Eugene L. Hight
Aids Program – Lillie C. McLaughlin
Ambulatory Care – Luella Viot
Animal Control – Jaime Meraz
Antelope Valley Rehab Center – Janice L. Jones
Assessor – Brice Amos, Richard E. Freed, Dorothy Moss
Auditor- Controller – Stanley J. Voss
Beaches & Harbors -William E. O'Sullivan
California Children Services – Mary J. Wissmann
Chief Executive Office – Edward Haas, Nina Sloan
Chief Information Office - Rosie L. Somerville
Child Support Services – Dorothy J. Davis, Eula L. Gallerson
Children & Family Services –Thelma Cameron, Fred Cross, Sherwin L. Forte, Gary G. Foss, Vance M. Gillespie, Mary D. Gonzalez, Aye Myint, Lavern Peters, Bessie L. Peterson, Priscilla Popick, Frederick Ross, Mary V. Thomas, Arlene P. Ware
Community Health – Alma Sasse-Gump
Community & Senior Services – Gilbert R. Ramirez
County Counsel – Arthur Wahlstedt, Martin E. Weekes
Data Processing – Elizabeth Dang, Gunther E. Langen
District Attorney – Mary L. Carlstedt
Engineer –Iver C. Boyum, Albert C. Carpenter, George J. Franceschini, Glen K. Godfrey, Ralph E. Pyron
Engineer Facility – Ruben F. Trejo
Fire – Marvin J. Beasley, John G. Bennett, James A. Brown, Edwin A. Cherry, Gary L. Cross, Donald Ray Henderson, James E. Hiatt, Carol J. Jorgensen, Ronald W. King, Roland K. Krumm, Edward R. Mc Fall, William F. O'Brien, Warren D. Voissem
Flood Control – James W. Greenfield
Harbor/UCLA Medical Center – Elaine Baldwin, Lillian M. Dicken, Kareen V. Garjian, Florence A. Gonzales, Leophis Hester, Thomas R. Jordan, Shelley D. Kozakowski, Michael M. Laks, Brenda Lee Lopez, Samuel Mc Intyre, Cecilia D. Mintz, Lavone L. Neely, Doris I. Rector, Valentina V. Terry, Jeanette Wilson
Health Services Administration - Claude W. Fields, Lenore Jacobs, John W. Ray, Lavanna L. Ross, Claudine Sanders, Evelyn H. Shopp, Bettie L. Woodworth
Internal Services – Velma D. Brown, Larry J. Comeaux, Norma Cooper, William M. Edwards, Martin Franco, Robert J. Hungerford, Ronald Harrington, Michael R. Jackson, Robert J. Lisowski, Jack L. Macphetridge, Seng B. Pouw, Luis S. Sierra, Arthur R. Tarango, Ken Wellcome, Gordon R. Wohlers
Juvenile Court Health Service – Beverly R. Holt
King/Drew Medical Center –Ethel J. Barnes, Mildred A. Chavira, Edgar A. Gastil, Lois E. Hector, Emma L. Lockhart, Velma Oden, Joann Roberson, Irene Watkins, Glenda F. White
LAC+USC Medical Center – Dennis W. Anderson, Robert D. Daugherty, Sofia M. Castellanos, Michael J. Doakes, Steve W. Fraijo, Edna H. Lankford, Jarvis Y. Lin, Imogene B. Mathis, Norma I. Matlock, Jimmy Moody, Yee H. Ngan, Trinh Phan, Amelia Ramirez, Ernes Rivera, Glynn A. Ross, Flora Simpson, Robert L. Swezey, Rogelio Trujillo, Alberta J. White
Long Beach General Hospital – Estelle Friedman
Los Angeles Reports - Louise A. Eaheart
Mechanical – Ferd O. Wright
Mental Health – Valeriano Carola, Walter D. Hofmann, Emmanuel A. Prepetit
Military & Veterans Affairs – Andrew L. Farmer, George Simendich

Municipal Court - Francis J. Stack (Rio Hondo), Mary A. Winnie (Los Angeles)
Museum of Natural History – James H. Mc Lean
Olive View/UCLA Hospital – Wellesley R. Kime, Mary A. Lillenberg, Lynda A. Lines, Frances Loh, Ernestine A. Martin, Anita A. Rusho
Parks & Recreation – Thomas M. Hartley, William D. Maupin, Louis Payne Sr., Edwin N. Petterson, Guadalupe Ruiz Jr.
Probation – Anthony M. Campos, Dulcie L. Chitman, Marilyn M. James, Kurt J. Kocourek, Lee B. Milner, Myra L. Mullen, Michael F. Outhouse, Deluvina Robledo, Patricia T. Sonoqui, Otis M. Stark, Jovita P. Tagle, Arthur E. Vanderveer
Public Defender – Christopher G. Apostol
Public Health Program – Michael H. Bernstein, Cora R. Dial, Esther C. Moo, Helen L. Nitti, Iris Sirkin
Public Library – Anita M. Kingsley, Andrea J. Kish, Marian L. Kurzweil, Brian J. Trygstad
Public Social Services – Ann V. Clark, Phyllis J. Colby, Paul Dellanno, Robert Dolphin, Phyllis C. Fischer, Francisco Gomez, Robert W. Gordon, Fenwyck C. Herbert, Tarez V. Holland, Richard J. Jensen, Frances L. Jones, Mildred R. Keith, Joann I. Kurtz, Barbara A. Lousteau, Yolanda Orellana, Jennie Perkinson, Oscar C. Pompa, Socorro Rivero, Merle S. Rosete, Roberto T. Santos, Louise D. Stoughton, Janet Summerville, Dung T. Ta, George K. Takahashi, Dorothy Thal, Beverly D. Thomas, Nancy V. Vu, Robert S. Webb, Karen Willis, Elsie H. Wormley, William Yakimowich, Ruth Zonis
Public Works – Paul R. Boudreau, Donald W. Brown, Charles E. Campbell, Norman E. Clemens, Salvatore Cosentino, Laurence L. Cram, William B. Duthie, Donald J. Stockton, Otis Taylor, Charles J. Templin, Indelesio Torres, Robert S. Torres, Hendricus B. Van Gerven
Rancho Los Amigos Hospital – Georgia Agras, Edward B. Anthony, Elisabeth Bowman, Oscar F. Cade Sr., Vercelle Everage, Estelle C. Hemminger, Maeola Lane, Maria D. Lara, Iris Parker, Rosemary Peterson, Lourdes Ravelo, Gabriel Sentesy, Betty J. Stocker, Streeter B. Turner, Ronald H. Valentine, Margie K. Williams
Regional Planning – Delores J. Love
Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk – Aiko D. Hanami, Doris A. King, Louise H. Klerks, Margaret H. Madison, Earline Moore, Mary J. O'Bannon-Burk, Danilo P. Ramirez, Regalado A. Tiangco
Road – Albert A. Matthews
Sheriff – Johnnie M. Allen, Leo E. Benavidez, Irene Bettis, Benjamin D. Bowen, Vivian F. Callier, Mildred M. Campbell, Robert D. Campbell, Michael J. Connor, Robert M. Critchlow, William H. Downton, Julia M. Easley, Rodney L. Hibben, Rochelle M. Lawrence, Jacob W. Maltsberger, Polachira I. Mathai, Paul A. Medina, David M. Meenk, John C. Merrill, George W. Nemince, Roberta N. Overton, Garald L. Parker, Roger L. Peterson, Joseph Pope, Robert W. Roberts, Jennifer E. Robinson, Gerald W. Rubly, Terry R. Sanford, Frances M. Smith, Jean Uyeno, Henry M. West, Richard E. West
So. Coast Air Quality Mgmt. – Julian Foon
Superior Court/County Clerk – Ruth Albers, Laura E. Eley, Alfredo Flores, Barbara A. Huckins, Charles Johnson, Anita Johnston, Barry D. Kohn, Anne Pietz, Darlene S. Torregano, Lou E. Wade
Treasurer & Tax Collector – Ermia J. Greer, Lyle R. Peck
Women's Hospital – Juanita Bowdre
Department Not Designated – Larry A. Grissom, Marjorie L. Priestley



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

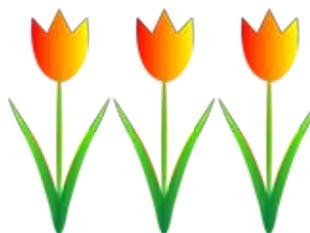
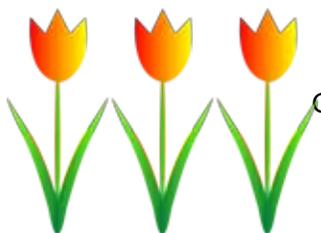
9 a.m. – Complimentary Refreshments
10 a.m. – Meeting Begins
Featured Speaker:
Tressa Thompson
Senior Driver Ombudsman with DMV
“Seniors and Safe Driving”

Come learn about the resources DMV provides.

Retiree Information

➤ **DOOR PRIZES** ➤

Please bring your RELAC Membership Card

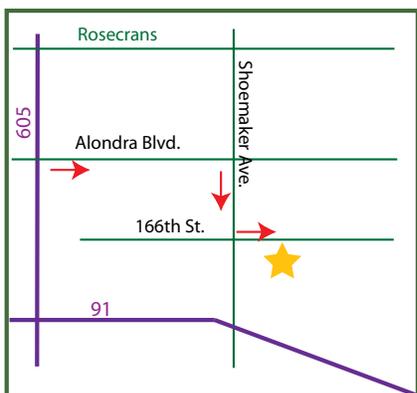


IMPORTANT!
*Are you moving?
Did you change your
name, address or
e-mail address?*

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.

