



RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

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

Nov/Dec 2017 Vol 52-6

President's Message

by Dave Muir

LACERA BY THE NUMBERS

I thought our readers might find interesting some of the statistics regarding LACERA. They give one a sense of the huge size of the organization.

LACERA's Membership

I know that many of our readers are members of Retirement Plan A. Over the years, the Board of Supervisors created additional tiers, each time reducing benefits. Currently, new employees are enrolled in general member Plan G or safety member Plan C. As of June 30, 2016 (the last actuarial evaluation), there were 95,444 active employees. Only 250 were Plan A members.

As of June 30, 2016, there were 61,914 retirees and beneficiaries with an average benefit of \$3,974 per month. About half (31,427) are Plan A members. Retirement allowances paid by LACERA total approximately \$235 million PER MONTH!

LACERA's Huge Investment Fund

As of Aug. 31 of this year, the funds being invested by LACERA totaled \$53.3 billion. LACERA's investment office does a great job in achieving excellent results for LACERA's members. This huge fund is well diversified into the following asset classes:

	<u>Percent</u>
U. S. Equity	24.2
Non-U.S. Equity	25.0
Private Equity	9.1
Fixed Income	23.5
Real Estate	11.7
Commodities	2.2
Hedge Funds	2.7
Cash	1.5
TOTAL:	100

The net calendar year investment return through August 2017 was 8.8%.

Funded Status

LACERA was essentially fully funded from 1995, when the County issued pension obligation bonds, until the financial crisis began in 2002. Progress has been made in recovering the resulting losses and the funding level as of June 30, 2016 was 79.4%.

This is the last edition of the newsletter for the 2017 calendar year. I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our readers my very best wishes for the holidays and a happy and prosperous new year.



Great Discounts on Tickets and Services Available Nationwide for RELAC Members

RELAC members now have access to great discounts nationwide on tickets and services – including theme parks, movie theaters, sporting events, concerts, plays, hotels, car rentals, and more.

RELAC has contracted with Recreation Connection, created in 1995 to provide organizations of all sizes with a complete and comprehensive discount ticket and services program, to make the new benefit available to members.

"This is a terrific benefit to our members. A pat on the back to RELAC Directors Greg Walia and Linda C. Hopkins for making this happen," said President Dave Muir.

Muir said RELAC is particularly pleased that the discounts are available nationwide, benefitting our many members who live outside the Los Angeles area. And the service is being provided without cost to RELAC.

To get information on specific discounts and to order tickets online, go to RELAC's website at www.relac.org and click on the link in the special announcement. No password is necessary, but you will need to enter "RELAC" on the ticket order form.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the benefit of purchasing from Recreation Connection?

Exclusive product offers and special discounts are offered that are not available to the general public.

continued on p.7

Enrollment Open for RELAC Insurance Benefits, Closes Nov. 17

RELAC members have until Nov. 17 to add or make changes to their insurance or supplemental benefits offered under RELAC's sponsored group plan.

All members will receive their annual open enrollment package in the mail from Pacific Group Agencies, our plan administrator. If you do not wish to change anything, take no action.

If, however, you wish to change or add any of these insurance or supplemental benefits, now is your once-a-year opportunity. Read carefully the information contained in the booklet. Except for those parts pertaining specifically to insurance, you do not need to fill out the RELAC membership application.

If you have any questions, contact Pacific Group Agency directly at (800) 511-9065.

Investments Board

by Diane Sandoval
Retiree Representative,
LACERA Board of Investments



Before I give you an update on the latest news about the LACERA portfolio, I would like to thank you for your support during my 12 years as your LACERA Board of Investments retiree representative. It has been a privilege to represent you.

Now for the good news. According to a memorandum from Milliman, LACERA's actuary, the plan's funded status has improved and is **estimated** to increase from 79.4% as of June 20, 2016 to 80.3% as of June 30, 2017. Albeit the increase is small, however, it is good news.

More good news: Jon Gabel, LACERA chief investment officer, reported LACERA's total fund as of Aug. 31, 2017 was approximately \$53.3 billion. The **estimated** portfolio return as of Aug. 31, 2017 was 1.8%. LACERA's portfolio is forecasted to generate positive returns in September. My successor, Dave Muir, will report on the progress of the fund in our next newsletter.

Once again, thank you for your past support. Enjoy your holidays and best wishes for a prosperous and healthy 2018!

Just Saying:

Quote of the Day

"In three words I can sum up everything I have learned about life; it goes on."

Robert Frost

(Submitted by RELAC Board Member Bill de la Garza)



See's Candies Offers Sweet Deals to RELAC Members

See's Candies offers sweet deals to RELAC members, providing special holiday discount rates on its products. The 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.

To take advantage of the discounts, 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.

Retirement Board

by Les Robbins
Retiree Representative-Elect
LACERA Board of Retirement



It is amazing just how quickly this year has gone by as we are now in the final two months of the calendar year. I am often asked about the next year's COLA and whether I have any idea what it will be, depending, of course, on what retirement plan you are in and what the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has been doing. Our staff at LACERA tracks this information and does a very good job of keeping our board aware of this information. We now have data through August and the cumulative INCREASE in the CPI was a little above 2.5%. We calculate this data for the calendar year, Jan.1 through Dec. 31, and it is based on the number in a tri-county area consisting of Los Angeles-Orange-and Riverside Counties.

Another issue of major importance at LACERA has been the monitoring of what has been going on in Washington, D.C., with respect to the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Most of us know by now that NOTHING substantial has taken place insofar as either repealing or replacing it. While nothing of any substance has actually been done, there has been a great deal of talk and bickering over this issue, however. Both sides of the political aisle have dug in with respect to their positions and I don't think anyone really knows what the future holds. I don't think that the last chapter of this book has been written yet, however, so I would just say hold on to your hats on this issue.

If you are wondering why we should even care, given the fact that L.A. County retirees have such great retiree health insurance, I just want to remind everyone, once again, that health care doesn't operate in this country in a vacuum. It is a very complex world and the overall marketplace of health care is one that is far reaching. Just because we have ours doesn't mean that it is immune to some of the major changes that are being discussed in Washington. Furthermore, here in California we have another drama playing out. This is the issue of single payer insurance, which if it ever became law in California would have a very profound impact on everyone in the L.A. County family, both active and retired. While the prospects of single player actually happening are slim, very slim, there is always a chance that something could develop down the road. Both the issue of single payer and repeal and/or replacement of the ACA are issues that LACERA will continue to monitor very closely.

Some LACERA news that should be of importance to all our members is the fact that CEO Gregg Rademacher announced his retirement effective the end of September, so by the time you read this article, Gregg will be gone. After the first of the year, when both I and J.P. Harris are seated on the board, we will start the search for a new CEO. In the interim, Assistant CEO Rob Hill will take over the reins, along with a new member of the upper level management staff at LACERA, James Brekk. James has been our division chief in charge of systems for a number of years now and is a very capable person to step into the vacant assistant CEO spot created by Rob's promotion to CEO. 2018 is certainly shaping up to be another interesting and challenging year at LACERA.

90+ and Still Going Strong



Among members attending RELAC's recent general membership meeting at the Knollwood Country Club in Granada Hills were these three spry retirees: Lillian Levine, 96; Ella Larson, 92; and Sam Schultz, 93. DMV senior driver ombudsman Tressa Thompson discussed "Seniors and Safe Driving."

Photos by Brian Berger



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

August - September 2017

Children & Family Services – Betty Malloy, Stacey Savelle

Fire – Caren M. Elliott, Jon Jones, Mark Lancaster, David Niadzialek, Magdalena Ordonez, Kurt Schaefer

Health Services – Karyn Ellis, Henry Green, Christine Rufolo, Will Wade, Kenneth K. Welsh

LACERA – Kar Hing Sum

LAC+USC Medical Center – Misik Lee

Olive View Medical Center – Cecelia Begay, Donna Catino

Probation – Jocelyn Kersh, Anthony O’Shea, Edna Strong

Public Defender – Mildred Hill

Public Health – Lurlene Joyce, Michelle Walter

Public Library – Evelyn Fullmore

Public Social Services – Mildred Bodwell, Kathleen Hurley, John Murrell, Lorrie Stewart, Rosalind Taylor

Public Work – Anthony Brown

Rancho Los Amigo Med. Center -- Milagros Street

Sheriff – Christina Asley, Ronald Chenier, Eugenia Lopez, Kevin Mckee, Brian Torsney Jr.

Superior Court – Christie Vella-Kramer, Patricia Villalobos-Perez, Carolyn Sholley

Department Not Designated – Ching Ching Chao, Herbert Libow

New Associate Members – Richard Bodwell, Rebecca Brown, Gordon D. Catino, Connie Chiang, Kristen Curdani, Beverly Jones, Douglas Kersh, Jama M. Lancaster, Hanmoo Lee, Mary O’Shea, Valerie Schaefer, Jeff Shein, Lorraine Torsney, Joyce Wade, William M. Walter Jr.

Balloon release at funeral services for Steve Duron.
Photo by Jason H. Williams



Steve Duron Praised by Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors adjourned in the memory of RELAC Director Steve Duron, who died Aug. 4 at age 67 of a liver disease. Duron retired from the Parks and Recreation Department – where he began volunteering at age 16 – as regional operations manager in 2012 after 44 years of service. Supervisors Chair Mark Ridley-Thomas praised Duron for his dedication and exemplary service and said he was an “exceptional individual.” “(He) just simply left his mark in a very passionate, public-service oriented manner,” said Ridley-Thomas. Duron is survived by his wife, Marianne; sons Ethan, James and Jason; and daughter, Laura. Duron began serving on the RELAC Board in January 2014.



Rita Kojo Resigns RELAC Administrative Staff Position

Rita Kojo, who has been a member of RELAC’s administrative staff for more than 11 years, resigned her position Sept. 21 due to family responsibilities.

“I have family responsibilities that require me to spend more time with them. My elderly mother, who I feel blessed to have had this long, lives in

an assisted living facility and I oversee her care and see her often. And my beautiful daughter, Kaydi, demands a lot of love and special care. At times I have to choose between the two of them and can do it no longer,” she said.

Kojo began working for the County Engineer in 1967 just days after graduating from high school. She worked for several years in the Sanitation, Survey and Aviation Divisions before leaving to take care of her daughter, who has multiple disabilities. Five years later she returned to the workforce, working for McGraw Hill Publishing for 19 years before joining the RELAC staff in 2006.

She said she has enjoyed working for RELAC. “The members and families I help over the phone have brought joy and sometimes tears to my heart,” she said.

Thanks for New Member Referrals

We would like to thank the six members and one non-member who recruited colleagues to join RELAC during August and September. We continue to lose more members than we recruit as our membership ages, so we appreciate your assistance with recruitment. 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.

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

Alice Ayala, *Carolyn Sholley*, Superior Court
Joyce Breslin, *Mildred Bodwell*, Child Support Services

Ladeth T. Espiritu, *Milagros Street*, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center

Barry Hunt, *Christine Rufolo*, Health Services
Eptissam Michael, *Kathleen Hurley*, Public Social Services

Brian B. Torsney Sr., *Brian B. Torsney, Jr.*, Sheriff

In addition, we wish to thank non-member **Jerry Holt** for his referral of *Ronald Chenier*, Sheriff.



Letters To The Editor

Write On!

Thanks to everyone who works so hard to keep the retirees informed. You are very much appreciated for all you do. Keep up the good work!

Gloria Easley, Rialto, California

I enjoyed the article on Mike Lewis. He is a good writer with a clever mind. I always enjoy time spent with him because he has lots of tales to tell and does so in interesting ways. You have done an excellent job with the RELAC newsletter. I look forward to reading it these days, never before.

Tom Hibbard, Loma Linda, California

It is always comforting to see familiar faces and names. I am glad to see Brian Berger in the Sept./Oct. 2017 issue of the RELAC newsletter; now a member of the RELAC Board of Directors. Having worked under him for seven years, 1970 to 1977, I am confident he will protect our interests. Brian most likely won't remember me, but I worked for him in the Assessor's Office in the Hall of Administration on Temple Street when Ted Ellis, Rod Bush, Jack Davis and Philip Watson were in office. Brian was Jack Davis' "First Officer," as they would say in the U.S. Navy. And Brian had Jane Hurd to assist him. I wonder where she is now. She moved to the Department of Health Services and later to private health services. She openly said she had a good mentor in Brian. We were in the Systems and Work Measurement Group under Ted Ellis, mostly from the aerospace industry, who found a haven in the County government when the aerospace industry floundered in the 1970s. I will throw out some more names to refresh Brian's memory – Tecla Mickoseff, the blonde from Potstown, Pennsylvania; Constantin de Garder, a Russian who grew up in Paris, France during WW II; Jim Christian, who became a minister later; Bill Nitsche; Abdel Ader Khattab and Nabil Yacoub from Cairo, Egypt and Ray Reddy from India. There was another young woman whose name I can't recall and a young guy who died in a crash when landing on a commercial plane in San Diego. Ted Ellis and Bill Nitsche are gone. The others, I don't know. Good to know you are still around, Brian. I wish you the best on the Board. P.S., I changed my nickname to Roger since I left the County in 1982 (the Anglo-Saxon equivalent of Rogelio, my real name) to work for the U.S. Air Force as a civilian engineer monitoring the production of warplanes at Northrop Grumman, Rockwell International and Mc Donnell Douglas.

Rod (Roger) Pena, Montebello, California

Thank you so much for the birthday card. It was so thoughtful of you to take the time to do so. I received it on Saturday after my 100-year party. I feel so blessed. I got a card from Texas and Canada as well.

Rose Becerra, Los Angeles, California

I recently learned that retired Superior Court folks were amazed by what I have been doing. My article had a huge impact on them. Thanks for letting me "brag!!!!"

Jim Matthews, Hawthorne, California

(Ed. Note: Jim Matthews was featured in a recent "Keeping Up With Retirees" article. He has been active volunteering with the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in Los Angeles since retirement and is now also doing part-time work with the Los Angeles County educational boat trip program, teaching students and adults about the ocean and what's in it; frequently rides his bike along the beach, and enjoys the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.)

First, let me say how fortunate the readers of the RELAC newsletter are to have such a fine editor running the paper! Thanks for running the article I wrote regarding the special day I met Ronnie and Nancy

Reagan while on a surveying trip for the County Engineering Department back in 1964. I liked the layout and pictures. It looked great. I wonder if you ever get any response from readers, just wondering if anyone I worked with was still out there! We're on the road again. Tomorrow we are touring the Little Big Horn battle site.

Dick Gilfoy, Battle Ground, Washington

Please address the issues (relating to Medigap supplement insurance changes) raised in the attached (newspaper) article in the next RELAC newsletter. Thank you.

Carol Stanley, Oxnard, California

(Ed. Note: Thank you for your suggestion. We have included an article on this subject in this edition.)

Each RELAC newsletter I receive, the first thing I look for is Judy Hammond's column. She keeps us retired folk very up-to-date as to what is happening inside our County government and I really appreciate the work she does to keep us all informed in plain straight-forward language and not government gobbledegook. Keep it up, Judy.

Bill Yaney, San Pedro, California



Hall of Justice Haunted?

Some people believe the Hall of Justice is haunted. After all, it once housed the morgue. During renovations, construction workers said they heard the jangling keys of a phantom jailer. Others were rattled when windows shut tight the night before were found wide open in the morning. Even today, some think they have heard ghost sounds when alone in the building.

(From the District Attorney's Office Newsletter, October edition)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:



Susan Bukowski

Department of Animal Care and Control

Each year, with the help of dedicated volunteers, the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) places thousands of animals into new homes. Volunteers are vital to animal socialization, pet adoption events, kitten and puppy fostering, customer service, dog walking and other care center needs.

DACC, the largest animal control agency in the United States, seeks community involvement and support for all seven (Agoura, Baldwin Park, Carson, Castaic, Downey, Lancaster and Palmdale) of its animal care centers. If you have a love for animals and approximately two hours a week, consider becoming an animal care center volunteer.

Becoming a volunteer in one of the care centers may just be one of the most rewarding things you will do. To learn more about DACC and joining the volunteer team, please visit: www.animalcare.lacounty.gov.

Medigap Insurance Policies: No Impact on LACERA- Administered Group Health Plans

Recently in the news it was announced that there will be changes to the Medigap insurance policies in 2020. The proposed changes apply to Medigap insurance policies sold by private insurance companies and do *not* impact your LACERA-administered group health plans. Your benefits remain unchanged.

If you have questions about Medigap, please contact:

Medicare: (800) 633-4227; www.medicare.gov.
State Health Insurance Assistance Program:
(800) 434-0222; www.aging.ca.gov/hicap.

If you have questions about your LACERA-administered group health plans, please contact LACERA's Retiree Health Care Division at (800) 786-6464 (press 1). You may also log in to your My LACERA account by visiting lacera.com and clicking the logo at the bottom right of the page.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

by Diane Sandoval, Chair
Regional Support/Special Events Committee

By the time you read this article our annual picnic will be in the past. Summer will be over and the holidays will be here in a blink of an eye. To those of you who attended the picnic – thank you. To those of you who were unable to attend, you missed a day packed with delicious food, entertainment and relaxation.

ANNUAL RECOGNITION LUNCHEON – JAN. 17, 2018

Our next event is the long-awaited Annual Recognition Luncheon at the Almansor Court, 700 S. Almansor St., Alhambra on **Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018**. RELAC members, their spouses and guests are invited. Sheriff Jim McDonnell, our keynote speaker, served for 29 years at the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) before being sworn in as the 32nd sheriff of Los Angeles County on Dec. 1, 2014.

The program also includes the inspired singing of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Chorus and presentation of the flags by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Color Guard.

Cost of the luncheon is \$25 per person. Menu: choice of chicken marsala (boneless chicken breast lightly floured with spices, sautéed with fresh garlic, marsala wine, butter and wild mushrooms) or roast aged prime of beef (English cut), served with au jus and creamed horseradish. All entrees include: garden green salad with choice of two dressings, chef's selection of rice or potatoes, fresh vegetables, sourdough rolls and butter, coffee and decaf, hot or iced tea. There is a vegetarian option – contact the RELAC office to place your order.

Please plan to attend; send in your checks payable to RELAC along with the reservation coupon on page 11. **Reservation cut-off date is Jan. 9, 2018.**

A REMINDER – TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE THE DAY OF THE EVENT.

I would like to thank my committee members for their support and dedication in assisting me with planning our events in 2017. Please accept my sincerest wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

Toys Needed

by Evelyn Gutierrez
Community Support Committee

RELAC members and their families are invited to join our Community Support Toy Loan Project. In support of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) Toy Loan Program, your donation of a toy will provide children with the opportunity to borrow toys from a local Toy Loan Center. With over 50 centers, toys are loaned to children in an effort to teach them responsibility, honesty, courtesy and integrity.

Following the loan of a toy, a child who returns the toy in the same condition that it was loaned and on time, demonstrates a code of honor that earns them the ability to select a toy they can keep forever.

If you have a toy to donate, please contact the DPSS Toy Loan Program staff at toyloan@dpss.lacounty.gov for information on Toy Loan Center locations and toy drop-off locations near you.

Thank you for helping our children develop a sense of responsibility and the ability to earn a new toy.



Golf News

by Gil Sandoval
RELAC Golf Director

Lakewood – Oct. 18, 2017

Unfortunately the Lakewood tournament was scheduled beyond the newsletter deadline. As a result, the tournament results will be posted on the RELAC website -- relac.org -- under the activities link.

We had 28 players scheduled to play at Lakewood and we would like to invite more ladies to join us for our golf outings, so I encourage you to come out and have fun!

Since this is the last newsletter of the year, Diane and I wish to extend to all of you the blessings of the holiday season. May you stay healthy, happy and enjoy your families at the upcoming celebrations of this time of the year.

I ask that you keep John Wehrly in your prayers as he had a serious heart attack just before our last tournament and passed on Oct. 4. We extend our prayers and condolence to his family. May God welcome his soul!

The next tournament is at Knollwood Golf Course on Dec. 4. Entrees must be received by Nov. 16. NOTE: Only ONE GUEST per member.

Enclose a check for the number of golfers @ \$32 each. Make checks payable to RELAC and mail entry to RELAC, 1000 S. Fremont Ave. #15, Alhambra. CA 91803-8802.



RV Outing Notes

Jeanne Klauk,
Assistant Coordinator
and Mike Reyes
RV Coordinator



This September brought us once again to Chula Vista. The weather was pleasant, and the park is really beautiful. This outing was attended by: Al and Diana Medina (our wagon masters), Ron and Betsy Morgon, Norm and Chickee Nelson, Bob and Linda Reyes, Dave and Darlene Sorensen, Dave and Jan Coleman, Max Georgi and Dulce, Paul Ladefoged and Stinne, Mike Reyes (Veronica's brother was having health complications, so she stayed home), Max and Marianne Valdivia, Peter and Beverly Loomis (WELCOME to our new members), Ed Clifton, Joe and Helen Quintana, Dorie Fregeau, and me. We also had visitors: Fred Weinberg joined us, as did Linda Gutierrez and Margo Martinez. Also there were some cousins of the Reyes brothers.

We started the outing with an impromptu 14th birthday party for my dog, Johanna. We had beer and snacks (she did NOT get any beer, though). Monday evening we had our hors d'oeuvres - another nice spread. The Medinas, and assorted kitchen help, fixed great breakfasts on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. We pot-lucked on Tuesday night. Jan and Dave Coleman started off the mornings in water aerobics, while we cheered them on as we drank coffee! On Tuesday afternoon we were treated to another of the Medinas' Margarita Parties -- a really fun time, with lots of snacks, too!

RELAC donated two gas cards for our outing, and they were won by the Medinas and the Morgons. Thank you, RELAC! Max Valdivia won the 50-50 drawing.

In October we will be at Emerald Desert in Indio. Come join us Jan. 15, 2018 at Pechanga!! Coupons will be on the website, or you can call Mike at (909) 357-0145 or me at (562) 896-8904).

FOR SALE

CEMETERY PLOTS – Three plots, Green Hills Cemetery, Rancho Palos Verdes, California. Prime location (Sunnyside Area). Asking \$15,000 each. Call Linda at (562) 708-4305.

CEMETERY PLOTS - Two lots, Rose Hills, \$7,250 or best offer, including transfer fee. Lots No. 7534, Graves 1 & 2. Beautiful area. Garden of Commemoration II. Call Bobbie Anderson at (213) 300-7739.

TIMESHARE - Two units at Lawrence Welk Resort, Villas on the Green, Escondido, California, locked in one-bedroom, \$20,000. Call Pompeo or Merlinda de Leon at (626) 912-2073 home or (808) 358-1061 cell.

GREAT WESTERN TOURS™
1-626-578-1161
3814 E Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107 • CST #1019830-40

California Coastal
Ruby Princess
March 10-17, 2018
Starting at \$749

Los Angeles - San Francisco - Monterey -
San Diego - Ensenada

Call Today for Other Category Pricing

Rates above reflect booking discount for Relac members. Prices are subject to availability and are per person, double occupancy, category IF; taxes of \$135 addition. Call for more information or to reserve your spot!

626-578-1161 / CA Seller of Travel #1019830-40
November 2017

Discounts continued from p.1

Do I have to buy my tickets online?

Purchasing tickets online saves you time and money, but if you would prefer to order your tickets via FAX or mail, you may do so.

Is there walk-up service locations where I can purchase tickets?

Several walk-up service locations are available for ticket purchases in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

Can I purchase tickets for family or friends?

Absolutely.

Are ticket prices guaranteed?

Prices, availability and offers are subject to change as Recreation Connection cannot control when its corporate retail partners change their prices or product offerings.

Will I be receiving e-tickets or hard/paper tickets?

E-tickets are available for the majority of ticket offerings, but some require that the actual hard/paper tickets be mailed (via UPS). E-tickets are valid for redemption by the individual ticket holder. Although some tickets may be name specific with the purchaser's name, the tickets may be gifted to another individual and will be honored accordingly.

What are the payment choices?

Visa, MasterCard and Discover Card are accepted.

Is there a service fee?

There is a minimal processing fee on e-tickets. Ticket orders requiring shipment via UPS include a minimal processing fee along with a shipping/handling fee.

Are tickets refundable?

No. Tickets are non-refundable and cannot be exchanged.

What if I receive the wrong ticket?

If this happens, contact Recreation Connection immediately. It will do its best to rectify the situation in a timely manner.

When will my ticket order be processed?

Some ticket orders may require manual processing to enable membership verification. Orders received during normal business hours Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and weekends/holidays 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Pacific Time) will be processed and mailed the same business day. E-tickets are processed and sent to the e-mail address provided within one hour after the order is received during normal business hours. E-ticket orders received after these hours will be processed the next business day, within one hour of office opening. Members should check their spam and/or junk mail folders as these types of documents may be sorted into these folders.

How long does shipping usually take?

You may select from the following shipping options: UPS Ground: up to seven days depending on location. UPS Next Day (except Saturdays). UPS Next Day (Saturday Delivery).

What is the customer service number?

(818) 240-7400.

News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich Assistant Executive Officer



Years ago when I took over writing this article on behalf of LACERA I made a choice to approach it as if I were sitting down and having a conversation with our retirees. I wanted to share information with you in a genuine and folksy manner – the same way I like to communicate with my peers and the LACERA staff. The goal has always been to establish a connection with each of you on a somewhat personal level because I view LACERA – both members and staff – as one big extended family. If you think about it, our time together lasts decades – just like a real family.

So, I don't mind sharing with you that it's Oct. 1 as I write this edition's article and I'm in a very reflective mood. Our world is going through a very trying time with the series of natural disasters we've experienced, the continuing political turmoil our country is going through, and the man-made tragedies like what occurred in Las Vegas last night. In addition, there's change everywhere you look – including LACERA.

Throughout it all, it reminded me how lucky I am to be working for such a wonderful organization like LACERA where every day I get to come to work with great staff who are all focused on fulfilling the "noble" mission of taking care of each and every LACERA member and meeting our promises to each of you.

As I reflect on the natural disasters that have been occurring this summer, I am heartened by the response of our staff. Several of our member-supporting divisions like Benefits, Systems, and Member Services immediately sprang into action to identify LACERA members who may be in the impacted areas of Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Mexico. We placed a special notice on each member's account so our staff could immediately identify them as being in an impacted area, allowing them to ensure any impacted member's requests are escalated and treated with the priority needed during times of crisis.

I've also been reflecting on the changes that have been going on here at LACERA. Chief Executive Officer Gregg Rademacher retired Oct. 1, after serving the last 11 years of his 26-year LACERA career in the CEO role.

Leadership doesn't come from one's title – it comes from one's character, commitment, and integrity. Gregg was a true leader who helped develop many of LACERA's leadership staff over his career. He was committed to continually moving LACERA forward. During his tenure at LACERA he worked to help modernize LACERA's information systems so we could have a state-of-the-art proprietary member services system that allows us to continually adapt to changing regulatory environments, evolving plans, and continually focus on providing new services. Under his guidance we launched the member portal and worked to bring self-service to members.

Gregg was driven by his focus of taking care of members. Under his guidance, LACERA created the Member Services Division so LACERA would have a group of service professionals dedicated to providing world-class service to members. He was instrumental in the development of our Quality Assurance Division to ensure everything we did was of the highest quality possible. He was also responsible for guiding LACERA through an ever-changing regulatory environment that led to the creation of two new plan tiers (Plan G and Safety Plan C) and at least two economic downturns. Today LACERA is as strong as it has ever been, with over \$53 billion in assets and an 80% funding ratio. Our staff are better trained and prepared to fulfill our mission than ever before.

While Gregg has gone on to realize the dream we all work for – retirement --- we are fortunate the Board of Retirement has appointed Robert Hill as our interim CEO. Rob has been with LACERA since 1994, has held leadership roles in almost every division within LACERA, and has been in the assistant executive officer role since 2001. Under his steady guidance, LACERA will continue its journey without missing a beat.

The Japanese poet Saigyō once wrote, "Every single thing changes and is changing always in this world. Yet with the same light the moon goes on shining." Like the moon, LACERA is a constant. LACERA is 400 dedicated professionals who are all committed to maintaining our position as a premiere pension system. So, yes, the world goes through some things and change is continual – but what doesn't change is our commitment to you. LACERA will be here for you, continuing to fulfill its mission to produce, protect and provide the promised benefits now and in the future.

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

Keeping Up With Retirees

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



Mary K. Rodriguez with daughter, Tara Ann; grandson, Conner, and son, Sean.

MARY K. RODRIGUEZ

I was born in New York, raised on Staten Island, and the oldest of six children of parents who emigrated from Ireland. In the early 1960s I came to Los Angeles for six months -- and, as you can see, I am still here.



I began my County career early in 1962 as a clerk in the Banking Division of the Treasurer and Tax Collector. For many years I cashed L.A. County payroll checks, and there I met so many wonderful people, some still friends today. Thirteen years later, I transferred to LACERA and in March 1995 I retired as a manager with 34 years total County service.

My former boss, Ed Morris, who was president at the time, asked me in 2005 to become involved in RELAC. I was a bit reluctant, but wanted to help other retirees and this seemed to be a good way to do so. It was a great decision! I have thoroughly enjoyed my 12+ years with the organization. I started out as an office employee, then had the great honor in 2006 of being elected to the Board of Directors, with my first term beginning in January 2007. I serve as secretary and am involved in several committees, including chairing the Recreation and Program committees. Being part of the Outreach Committee is particularly rewarding as we send personalized birthday and Christmas/holiday cards to members 90 years and older -- we have almost 900. We receive many thank you notes, often stating they are so happy to be remembered as they have no family and have lost most of their friends.

I enjoy traveling extensively with my long-time friend and fellow RELAC Board member Alice Prouty. I particularly love going to Maui, Hawaii -- where my daughter, Tara Ann, lived for 14 years before moving back home six months ago to be closer to family (she brought her dog and cat...oh boy) -- and to Mazatlán and Cancun, Mexico. I have always wanted to visit Australia -- that is on my travel bucket list. Cruising is also great!

Besides traveling, I read all the time, especially mysteries. I am a great fan of "Murder, She Wrote" and "Columbo." I have hundreds of books, which are to be donated to a County library in RELAC's name. I live in Alhambra and enjoy spending as much quality time as possible with my family: my son, Sean, his wife, Kimberly, grandchildren Cailen and Conner, and daughter. Their usual question to me is "Where are you off to next?"

I love working with RELAC, helping our members, and God willing, I hope to continue to be a part of this organization for years to come. Thank you all for your support!

STEVE COOLEY

I joined the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office on Aug. 6, 1973, as a senior law clerk. That was just 10 days after I had taken the California bar exam and a couple of months after graduating from USC Law School. That was the beginning of what would be a four-decade career with the District Attorney's Office.

During those four decades, I had 13 separate assignments, all of which I found interesting and exciting, and an opportunity to work with good people -- clerical staff, district attorney investigators, other prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, court personnel, and, of course, law enforcement officers.

In 1999 I decided to run for district attorney. The primary election campaign took 15 months, and I won the primary in March 2000. I then engaged in a general election campaign against then-sitting, two-term incumbent District Attorney Gil Garcetti. Although vastly outspent, I won the election with 64 percent of the vote. I was sworn in as the 41st district attorney on Dec. 4, 2000, and completed my third term on the first Monday in December 2012. That was the date of my retirement. I had attended RELAC meetings prior to retiring and subsequently joined RELAC.

Within a month of retirement, I founded my own law firm, Steve Cooley & Associates, Inc., located online at stevecooley.com. It is essentially a problem-solving firm with an emphasis on assisting individuals who have been victims of some sort of criminal or civil wrongdoing.

A highlight for me since retiring is writing a book entitled "Blue Lives Matter -- In the Line of Duty." The non-fiction book, to be published in early November, describes the murders of law enforcement officers in Los Angeles County. Each chapter draws upon actual court records, District Attorney files and anecdotal input from numerous individuals involved in those tragic cases. I collaborated with co-author Bob Schirn, who just celebrated 50 years with the District Attorney's Office, having retired several years ago but continuing to assist in maintaining the archives for the office. Bob is widely recognized as the District Attorney's Office's unofficial historian. This project could not have been accomplished without the assistance of my long-time executive secretary, now retired, Cathy Musick Hawks. Cathy is also a member of RELAC. Anyone interested in the book can check out website BlueLivesMatterBook.com.

I am active in the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County, LA 5 Rotary, International Footprint Association, Cal State LA's President's Council, various bar associations and attorney groups; and continue to support several charities, including the California Narcotic Officers Association's Survivors Memorial Fund and Desert Refuge for Peace Officers.

In terms of family, I couldn't be happier. My wife, Jana, and I celebrated our 42nd anniversary earlier this year. My daughter, Shannon, is a deputy district attorney assigned to the Hardcore Gang Division and is viewed by others more objective than me as a real star. My son, Michael, runs his own production company, Ronin Media House, which provides video content services to law enforcement agencies, law firms, and other entities, primarily for purposes of their websites. And, I am the proud and doting grandfather of three grandchildren. That experience has added a wonderful dimension both during my time as a County employee and in retirement. After living in the same home in Toluca Lake for 35 years, Jana and I moved to the South Bay in 2010 to be closer to our children and grandchildren.

Steve and Jana Cooley



RON HANSEN

In April of 1967 at the age of 24, I was hired by Gloria Sapp to work as an intake worker in the Department of Public Social Services Metro South District. My job was to serve disabled adults living in the communities surrounding the district office. In those days social workers made 'home call' visits to each person in their caseload. While the people I helped were very poor and afflicted by severe disabilities and illness, their grace and humanity under such circumstances became a core reference in my County service over the next 36 years.

My career was an incredible journey through the County's world of health and human services. I worked in three County departments: DPSS, Health Services and the Board of Supervisors (Third District). Overall, I held 14 separate positions in places throughout the County. At each location I worked with people who became my friends and family on the job.

My career covered a myriad of assignments and projects. The more notable achievements included: developing the DPSS Community Resource Information Bank, which created an information base for today's 211 L. A., the County's community information and referral program; organizing the L. A. County Health Planning Council for DHS, and crafting the Board-approved "Unified System for a Healthy Los Angeles," which provided the framework for the subsequent creation of the L.A. Care Health Plan; and advocating for County partnerships with community health clinics to expand local access to health services as part of a federal Medicaid project under the auspices of the Board of Supervisors.

I would love to give a shout-out to many of those I worked with in the County, but there are two people I must mention. One is Bob Gates, who gave me the opportunity to pursue my full potential in County service, and who stuck with me when I came to doubt my ability to do so. The second is Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who gave me his trust and the freedom to be myself in helping him serve the public's needs for health and mental health services.

I retired from County service in 2005, but never fully let go of the mission of public service. After retiring, I did some consulting in health services. I was recruited by L.A. Health Action of the California Endowment to study the health needs of the County's homeless population, and later did a stint as the interim director of L.A. Health Action.

With regard to more personal interests and needs, for me, it's family. My wife, Vicky, had a successful County career, finishing up as secretary to the assistant presiding judge of the Superior Court. She is an active member of the L. A. Garden Club, and we enjoy camping jaunts with friends in our RV club. Our daughter, Emily, is working as an eligibility worker in Panorama City, and our son, Leif, is working toward a college certificate in cinema and television.

We live in Eagle Rock, and lately I've been drafting alternative designs for a remodel of our home. As an avid golfer, I served for a time as president of the Brookside Golf Club near the Rose Bowl. More recently, I've been organizing the art works of my dad, Eric Hansen, who did paintings and drawings his entire life. He worked for Disney Studios in the early days on such projects as Snow White, Pinocchio, and Fantasia.

Ron and Vicky Hansen



CHRISTINE RUFOLO

I started my County career in November 1968. I had completed a year of service in VISTA, Volunteers in Service to America, in the Los Angeles area, and decided not to return to my birthplace Staten Island, New York. I was immediately hired by the Department of Public Social Services as a social worker, but after only a few months was reclassified as an eligibility worker when the department implemented new federal guidelines.

As more changes ensued, I decided to transfer to Department of Hospitals, LAC+USC Medical Center as a patient financial services worker: similar job, but with more opportunity for advancement. However, within the year I laterally transferred to the Volunteer Services Division, moving into what was familiar to me, working with community and volunteers. Then in 1978 I was invited by Administrator Pete McDermott to come to Olive View Medical Center to rejuvenate its volunteer program. I took this new challenge since Olive View had to move to Van Nuys after the earthquake.

In 1982 I became Public Health Programs volunteer director, which included grassroots volunteer recruitment as well as management of over 26 public health centers, working with advisory councils, community organizations, and health center staff to accomplish this goal. When Public Health reorganized, I was transferred back to Hospitals, thereby decentralizing management of health center volunteer programs. I was reassigned to Harbor-UCLA Medical Center as the volunteer director, and stayed there about seven years, constantly looking to transfer out of the South Bay. This was a very trying time for me since my son was young and I lived in the San Fernando Valley. Eventually, I did transfer to the Department of Health Services human resources to coordinate mandatory programs initiated by the Board of Supervisors, and to facilitate their implementation in each DHS department/division. On the list for assistant staff analyst, I promoted to the DHS Quality Improvement Program, working there until my retirement in 2009.

I am grateful that I stayed in Plan A, and that I had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful County employees in the various departments as well as the Department of Health Services during my career. Many continue to be my good friends today. Although the position of volunteer director today may be still underutilized throughout the County, the underlying philosophy remains firm -- government cannot do it alone! It requires the support of like-minded individuals to get the job done.

Retirement was an easy transition for me. I added additional overseas travels to my New York family visits. These include an Alaskan cruise, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Israel, Australia and New Zealand, Croatia and Montenegro; selected cities in Cambodia, Thailand, Slovenia, Italy, Romania, Holland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Hungary, Brussels, and Luxembourg. Since my son now lives in Alexandria, Virginia and is employed by Peace Corps International, I also stopped there on my way to visit my 98-year-old mother (who died in September) every six months. In August I traveled to Vancouver and the Canadian Rockies, including Lake Louise.

I continue to work as a "troubleshooter" during elections and participate with volunteer/professional organizations as needed, including the Pasadena Showcase House. I serve as vice president of finance for the CARES Auxiliary at LAC+USC Medical Center, volunteer during the summer at the Music Center with the "Dance Downtown" Active Arts Volunteer Program, and participate in the Laurel Grove Neighborhood Association. There are a few aches and pains...but generally life is (very) good.





Bobby Cagle



William Kehoe



Jill Serrano



Nancy Aspaturian



Gwen Andrizzi

PASSAGES:

Compiled by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

APPOINTMENTS:

Bobby Cagle, director of the Division of Family and Children Services in Georgia's Department of Human Services, named to head the Department of Children and Family Services on 3-2 vote, at \$300,000 annual salary, effective Dec. 1. Brandon Nichols has led the department since the retirement of Philip Browning in January. **Dennis Slavin**, chief deputy director, becomes acting director of Regional Planning, upon retirement of Richard Bruckner. **William Kehoe**, chief information officer of King County, Washington since 2010, selected as new chief information officer in the Chief Executive Office, effective Nov. 1, at salary of \$248,348. **Deborah Allen**, deputy director of public health, replaces **Wesley Ford**, who is now working on substance abuse treatment programs for the Department of Health Services. Allen, who will make \$196,000, was director of the Bureau of Child, Adolescent and Family Health at the Boston Public Health Commission. **Jill Serrano**, who was chief financial officer for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, is the new assistant sheriff over administrative and technology services, at salary of \$220,369. **Nancy Aspaturian**, who began her legal career with the Public Defender's Office and was most recently training director and supervising attorney for the Children's Law Center of California, replaces retiring Sheila Gold as justice deputy for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. **Robert R. Hill** is interim chief executive officer of the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association.

DEATHS:

Etsuko "Etchie" Mura, 73, retired (1996) assistant graphic arts coordinator, Chief Administrative Office. **Ito Cannella**, 89, member of the Sybil Brand Commission. Retired Sheriff's Lt. **William Sieber**, Capt. **Donald R. Foxen** (1985) and Sgt. **James L. Montgomery Jr.** (1976). **Eric Bourdon**, retired assistant director of Beaches and Harbor (1992).

BIRTHS:

Melissa Sobel gave birth in August to Naomi Christine; first grandchild for **Gwen Andrizzi**, retired executive assistant to Chief Administrative/Executive Officers Bill Fujioka, David Janssen, and Sally Reed.

DEPARTURES:

Dr. Mitchell Katz, head of the County's Health Agency, will leave at the end of the year to become chief executive of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corp. **Donna Bojarsky**, who served 20 years, including as chair, leaves the Human Relations Commission. **Sean Rogan**, executive director of the Community Development Commission/Housing Authority, dismissed by Board of Supervisors on unanimous vote in closed session.

RETIREMENTS:

Gregg Rademacher, chief executive officer of Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association. **Sheila Gold**, justice deputy to Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and formerly an attorney with the Public Defender's Office and Alternate Public Defender's Office.

IN COURT:

Former deputy probation officer **Oscar David Calderon Jr.** 33, sentenced to 364 days in jail after pleading guilty to inappropriately touching two girls at Camp Scudder in Santa Clarita. Former Internal Services Department power plant engineer **Yuri Garabekyan** has been charged with felony conflict of interest and bribery for allegedly manipulating county bidding procedures while at Pitchess Cogeneration Plant in Castaic in an attempt to have contracts awarded to a friend's company. Three former executives for the nonprofit Chicana Service Action Center – **Sophia Esparza**, **Silvia Gutierrez** and **Thomas Baiz** -- pleaded guilty to embezzling and misappropriating millions of dollars in public funds and agreed to pay more than \$10 million in restitution to the Los Angeles County Departments of Public Social Services and Community Senior Services, and the City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department. **Michael Lorenzo Tompkins**, a fourth employee, pleaded no contest to embezzlement earlier this year.



Brandon Nichols



Dr. Mitchell Katz



Robert R. Hill



Sean Rogan

RELAC NEWSLETTER

Vol 52 - Nov/Dec 2017

Number 6

Retired Employees
of Los Angeles County
1000 S. Fremont Ave.
Unit 15, Alhambra, CA
91803-8802

(626) 308-0532
(800) 537-3522
Fax (626) 308-2901

E-mail: admin@relac.org
website:
www.relac.org

Board of Directors

President

Dave L. Muir

Vice President

Greg Walia

Secretary

Mary K. Rodriguez

Treasurer

Greg Walia

Past President

Bill de la Garza

Members

Brian Berger
Donald Fandry
Evelyn Gutierrez
Judy Hammond
J. P. Harris
Linda C. Hopkins
Dyanne Nelson
Alice Prouty
Les Robbins
Diane Sandoval

Editor: Judy Hammond
Copyright © 2017 by
RELAC. This information
presented in your RELAC
Newsletter is believed to
be from reliable sources.
However, no responsibility
is assumed by RELAC or
the writers for inaccuracies
in the articles as published.

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

RELAC

Annual Recognition Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17, 2018
Almanson Court, 700 S. Almanson St., Alhambra



Keynote Speaker:
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF JIM MC DONNELL

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 chicken marsala or roast prime of beef with salad and dessert

\$25 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
Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018
Almanson Court, Alhambra

Member _____

Spouse/Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Guest(s) _____

(Attach additional sheets if necessary)

A. Oven-Roasted Chicken

B. Prime Rib of Beef

Member/Spouse _____ \$25/ea. = \$ _____ Member/Spouse _____ \$25/ea. = \$ _____

Guest(s) _____ \$25/ea. = \$ _____ Guest(s) _____ \$25/ea. = \$ _____

TOTAL A \$ _____

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. 9, 2018

We regret we are unable to refund payments on cancellations
received after Jan. 11, 2018

Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond
Newsletter Editor



Update on Board initiative to reduce contract employees: The Probation Department was asked to come up with a plan to reduce or eliminate its use of employment service temporaries for clerical positions and replace them with permanent employees. The Department of Health Services is hiring 79 respiratory care workers instead of contracting for them. Residency programs are being established at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitative Center in Downey and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, with the hope that many of the residents will stay with the County, reducing the reliance on contract physicians.

The Board of Supervisors wants more candidates for top positions to reflect the diversity of the workforce, including racial, ethnic, gender, disability and LGBTQ identification, both in recruitment and internal succession efforts.

Dr. Mitchell Katz, hired seven years ago, has succeeded where his predecessors have not. He is leaving the County as head of the Health Agency and director of health services at the end of the year amid rave reviews by the Board of Supervisors and employees. Katz, who said he loved his job, is leaving to return to his native New York to care for his elderly parents and become chief executive of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corp.

A new program allows volunteers, friends and neighbors to receive mileage to drive older and disabled adults on County-approved trips like medical appointments and trips to the grocery store.

The director of mental health has created five new highly specialized clinical leadership positions: chief of psychiatry, psychology, nursing, social services and peer services. The \$1 million cost is to be absorbed within the department.

Supervisors want more control over appointments to the Quality and Productivity Commission so will now select 10 of the 17 members instead of just five.

Former Undersheriff Paul Tanaka lost his bid for a new trial when a federal appeals court denied his contention that he was unfairly convicted of obstructing justice. Tanaka is serving a five-year term.

The Sheriff's Department was ordered by the state Supreme Court to release data from millions of vehicle license plate images it has captured from cameras on police cars and street poles. Two groups said they wanted to analyze the data to determine if police were disproportionately capturing license plates in particular neighborhoods.

The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission is being increased to six members, after being reduced in 2013 to three members from nine. Officials said they weren't able to discuss issues between meetings, since the Brown Act prohibits a majority of the members of a government body to meet privately to discuss any matter under its jurisdiction.

Supervisors agreed to pay \$3.9 million to settle a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by a former youth inmate at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar who suffered severe brain damage during a 2013 fight with another youth, rendering him a quadriplegic requiring round-the-clock care. The suit claimed probation officers beat and taunted him because he was charged with a sex-related crime, and disclosed the offense to other youths in hopes to incite a fight or physical attack.

Legislation to put a ballot measure on the state ballot to enlarge the L.A. County Board of Supervisors to seven members passed the state Senate after a provision was removed that would have required an elected county

executive. The measure will be heard in the Assembly in January.

To protest President Trump's decision to end the program that allows young immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children a temporary reprieve from deportation, the Board of Supervisors enacted a one-year travel restriction (with some exceptions) for county employees on official business to the nine states that threatened legal action if the program was not ended. Supervisors also elevated immigration to a Board priority – joining justice reform, child protection, health integration, homelessness and environmental oversight.

Larger enclosures are being provided for cats at various County animal shelters through the use of innovative PVC portals that allow them to move freely throughout cages. Another improvement: new dog play yards at the Carson/Gardena shelter.

Public Defender licensed clinical social workers are being provided direct access to detained mentally ill and developmentally disabled inmates, helping to ensure the inmates receive the correct medication, proper interventions, more humane treatment and alternatives to remaining in custody.

Supervisors approved permanently keeping the rainbow colors on the lifeguard tower in Venice Beach in honor of Bill Rosendahl, the first openly gay L.A. city council member.

The Probation Department has committed over \$1 million for arts programming developed by the County Arts Commission for youth under Probation's supervision.

An ordinance is being prepared to require the use of cool roofing materials in unincorporated areas to lower temperatures and reduce energy consumption.

Columbus Day no more. Supervisors have renamed the official County holiday, celebrated on the second Monday of each October, as Indigenous Peoples Day. Oct. 12 will be known as Italian American Heritage Day.

For the first time, the LA Opera presented an opera at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion that was simulcast to a big screen at Exposition Park for more than 1,000 community members.

The County is reviewing its golf operations after Supervisor Sheila Kuehl said she was told some courses were not paying their County rent and water bills. The Parks and Recreation Department operates the largest municipal golf system in the nation.

A new pilot program allows 300 low-level nonviolent offenders to enroll for housing, addiction treatment and other services instead of being taken to court or jail.

RETIREMENT NOTES

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

Supervisor Kathryn Barger presents retirement scroll to Richard Bruckner, director of regional planning.

Bruckner Joining the "Fairist" of Them All

Richard Bruckner may have retired as director of the Regional Planning Department, but he didn't go far. He is the latest of executives to be raided by Miguel Santana, new president and CEO of the Fairplex in Pomona. Santana, former chief deputy to Supervisor Gloria Molina and a deputy chief executive officer under County CEO Bill Fujioka, left his position as chief administrative officer of L.A. City to join the Fairplex in January of this year. He quickly recruited Lucas Rivera, vice president of Grand Park, as vice president, and Cielo Castro, deputy to Supervisor Hilda Solis, as chief of staff. It was unclear at press time what role Bruckner will play at Fairplex. He was highly praised by County supervisors upon his recent retirement. Supervisor Sheila Kuehl called Bruckner's departure "a great loss for the County," citing his understanding, intellect and innovation. "Your legacy is clearly established," said Supervisor Chair Mark Ridley-Thomas. "You're highly regarded as a pragmatic and wise professional, one who rolled up his sleeves from Day One and sought to tackle the very difficult issues involving regional planning."



Sherry Gold receives retirement scroll from her boss, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl.



She's Pure Gold, Say Colleagues

Sherry Gold, who retired recently after 40 years of service, said she didn't even know what a justice deputy for a County supervisor was three years ago when she got a call from Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office saying that the supervisor was looking to fill the spot. "I didn't want to show my ignorance and I didn't want to admit it, but I had no idea what a justice deputy was. And I had no idea what they did. So I just said I don't know anyone for the job." When informed that the supervisor was calling her for the job, she laughed "and I think I even blushed. And I said I love my job (as an

alternate public defender). I'm planning on retiring soon. I have the best boss, the best assignment, great people to work with." But Kuehl prevailed, and says now that in "in all modesty" she believed Gold discovered "there was even a more wonderful job that she could have." It didn't take long for Gold to understand the power of a Board deputy. "She joined us with quite an agenda, and from her first day (and I'm sure late into the night) set out to make it a reality – vowing to end solitary confinement for juveniles, establishing a Civilian Oversight Commission, and reforming the money bail system," said Kuehl.

"I would say, in spite of her strong, strong advocacy and pushing the hell out of everybody, including the edge of the envelope, she is one of the most beloved people, certainly in my office," said the supervisor. "Sherry exemplifies everything we hope a senior policy deputy and a human being who cares about people will do. Her strong beliefs, ethics, and heart brought a level of care into the County that is not easily matched. She is truly a

CEO Rademacher Retires at LACERA



Gregg Rademacher, chief executive officer of the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association since 2006, retired Oct. 1. Assistant Executive Officer Robert R. Hill, who joined LACERA in 1994, is serving as interim CEO.

LACERA, an independent governmental entity separate and distinct from the County, administers and manages the retirement fund for the County of Los Angeles and outside districts. It is one of the largest county retirement systems in America. It also administers the retiree health care benefits program, which is subsidized by the County.

Rademacher joined LACERA in 1991, was appointed as assistant executive officer in 1996, and as CEO has been instrumental in leading the organization through numerous significant strategic initiatives that modernized all facets of its operations.

Membership grew more than 23 percent during his CEO tenure. "His commitment to our members enabled LACERA to improve its member service during this time of growth," said Board of Retirement Chair Shawn Kehoe.

Board of Investments Chair David Green added: "Under Mr. Rademacher's steady stewardship through the ups and downs of the financial markets, LACERA's assets grew from \$32 billion in 2006 to over \$53 billion today, helping ensure benefits today and tomorrow."

RELAC President Dave Muir, as LACERA's former chief counsel, worked closely with Rademacher. "I was amazed at his many significant accomplishments and enjoyed our time together," Muir said.

Rademacher, who has been a frequent speaker and guest at RELAC events, said he deeply appreciated the opportunity to have served LACERA and its members the past 26 years. And he is optimistic about its future: "The organization is well-positioned for continued success."

Gold continued

beloved member of our team and I am honored to have worked alongside her."

Gold was equally complimentary of the supervisor. "In all honesty, I want to say I took this job because of my respect, admiration and awe for Sheila Kuehl and my love for the word justice. Supervisor Kuehl believes in second and third chances. She is the smartest, funniest, most articulate and caring woman/person that I know."

HONOR, COURAGE AND SACRIFICE

by Sgt. Robert E. McHaney
Chevalier of the Legion of Honor
WW II 75th Infantry, 289th Combat Team



During War II, I was assigned to the 415th mpeg (Military Police Escort Guard), the 75th Infantry, 289th Combat Team and the 26th Infantry Division. I fought in Africa, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. I wrote this piece to reveal to the world the raw courage and terror that all our veterans had to face throughout the birth of our nation. It is an untold story that has died in the pages of time. Scattered lonely graves with a white cross bravely standing at attention cry out desperately, only to fall on deaf ears. The cry is not for themselves, but for a comrade that they had to leave behind. Weeping hearts hold back the tears while standing over a loved one. A dried and shriveled rose lays forlornly at their feet while the sun high in the heavens peers down through a broken wall of clouds. While death stands patiently by, a boy is born not too far from the graveyard that he might have to occupy, while saving his country from a vicious oppressor. A rhapsody of life and death that has played a sorrowful melody over the greatest nation on Earth.

We marched out of the mighty snow-capped mountains, we marched out of the vast prairies that were covered in green swaying grass, we marched out of the bustling cities and we marched out of the rural farms in response to our country's call.

We came from a people of many colors and creeds, whose desire for freedom drove them across great oceans where brave men believe in the fundamental truths that are so carefully woven into the undying fabric of the stars and stripes.

For over 200 years these truths have been challenged, our shores invaded. We have worn a uniform of buckskin and fur, of wool, both blue and gray. Olive drab, khaki and camouflage have covered our bloody bodies. Throughout the history of our country, we have never laid down our arms, without first fighting to the last shell.

We marched in the shadows of a make-shift flag at Bunker Hill; we were smashed by cannon at Gettysburg; we were buried in the trenches of France, then dropped in the bloody waters of Normandy. We were washed upon the sands of Iwo Jima, frozen in the snows of Korea and left in the jungles of Vietnam. We battled in the blinding sands of Iraq and we attacked deep into the shadows of Afghanistan. Though we were exhausted and battered, we fought to the last shell.

When our fighting ship, its hull twisted and burning slowly, sinks into the sea, its mighty guns will still be pointing at her enemy, for she had fought to the last shell.

With flack bursting in air, and his wings punctured, he fell swiftly from the war-torn skies. With his bomb bay and guns empty, and as the roar of engines accelerate, he knew in his dying heart that he had fought to the last shell.

Then when death folds his leathery wings and the heroic dead are put to rest side-by-side, comrade to comrade, a lonely rifle with bayonet will be thrust into the sacred ground. It will hold a battle-scarred helmet up to the heavens, declaring that he had fought to the last shell.

When facing his enemy, many thoughts race through the minds of our fighting forces: Will I live through this one more battle? Will I be the last to die? Does it hurt to die? I am so tired of killing! During the heat of battle, at times death would be a welcome visitor. The dead look so calm and peaceful. Fear has left their hearts. But I am my own destiny and my comrades are watching. I will fight but never surrender!

Today these words live in the hearts of those who watched their families march off to war. They never live a day without a loving thought for those who made the greatest sacrifice that a warrior can bestow when defending our country. Every fighting man, and women who fought beside them, also carries tears of sorrow as their souls cry out in agony over the loss of a very close friend. Memories of long ago will never ever be forgotten, while a mother holds that precious dream close to her grieving heart.

When the roar of cannon and bombs subside and the beating of drums fade with time forgotten, we will still be standing proudly in the early morning mist, proclaiming

that on this earth the bravest men and women lie peacefully. Then when a lonely sentinel stands a post on a distant shore, on an icy ridge silhouetted against darkening skies or a great eastern desert ablaze with the sun, listen to the mournful cry of the wind. You will hear a ghost of the forgotten past whisper "We were there, we fought to the last shell."

Beneath the pale moonlight there lies a lonely piece of hallowed ground, its surface supporting uncoupled rows of cold white markers. Inscribed on the surface of these stones is a name, rank and date. There is never enough room to tell of the courage, sacrifices and gallantry that these warriors endured. For beneath those stone markers lie the forgotten ghosts of men and women whom made that great sacrifice so that freedom may continue to ring forever.

When the burning chariot completes its journey across the evening skies and the moon quietly takes its place, each stone on that sacred ground will begin to glimmer under the moon's soft melt. In the embrace of the dark purple night those isolated gravestones will begin to pulsate with the frantic rhythm of a frenzied heart. A heart that awakens to the echo of a bugle's call and the drums beating to quarters. Echoes from a war gone by that stirs the soul into a kaleidoscope of lost memories. These memories must never be forgotten and instilled into the minds and hearts of the living - so that the roar of cannon will never repeat itself again and will become lost in the scarred-up arms of the distant history.

There beneath each stone lies a heroic ghost who fought to the last shell, making the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There are no cowards on the great fields of battle and when the drums and bugles fall silent, a voice will rise over the clouds of war proclaiming: "They were intrepid; their cause was great. They gave more than just their lives. They gave the born and unborn a heritage that will live forever under the undaunted threads of the stars and stripes that wave so proudly over the greatest nation on Earth."

In Memory: Robert McHaney

(Ed. Note: RELAC member Robert E. McHaney submitted the following article for publication in the newsletter, but sadly died shortly afterwards so did not get to see it in print. A 25-year employee of the Sheriff's Department who retired 40 years ago, McHaney was 93 and lived in Reno, Nevada at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Roberta Ann, three sons, eight grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. McHaney was drafted into the Army in 1942 during World War II and fought in Europe and Africa, receiving three bronze stars and the French Medal of Honor. McHaney said he wrote this article to honor veterans of foreign wars. We proudly share the article with you in honor of McHaney and our other veteran members, thanking them for their service and sacrifices.)

Veterans Day: Nov. 11

IN MEMORIAM

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

Alternate Public Defender – Joan W. Green
Animal Control – Armando Gamont
Antelope Valley Rehab. Center – John A. Hanze, Norma G. Matchett
Assessor – Marjorie T. Hines, Stanley A. Hoffman, Antonio A. Inocentes
Auditor-Controller – Lillian M. Lowes, Lena A. Weiss
Beaches and Harbors – Eric Bourdon, Edith R. Johnson
Board of Supervisors – Joy L. Reid
Chief Executive Office – John T. Chamberlain, Christopher S. Hurrey, Etsuko J. Mura
Child Support Services – Diane E. Reed
Children & Family Services – Patricia A. Behman, Elzena D. Coleman, Elizabeth V. Collins, Jeanne P. Crose, Marcia A. De Land, Julian J. Dominguez, Hazel L. Jones, Roosevelt Scott
Communications – Evelyn Frinell
Community Health – Florence R. Hanson
District Attorney – Kellogg Chan, R. Z. Corrado, Priscilla M. Costello, Elliott Fisher, Rosalie L. Morton, Michael Pargament
Engineer – John R. Anderson IV
Engineer-Facilities – Gordon H. Marion
Fire – William J. Boehme, Paul H. Carmichael, Steven K. Christensen, James R. Courtney, Arthur M. Juday, Frank H. Larson, Edward M. Meehan, Janet B. Rasmussen, Carl F. Salih, Franklyn P. Spendley, James F. Westerman, Charles R. Williams
Harbor/UCLA Medical Center – Josephine B. Abaya, Barbara Babatunde, Olga H. Eredia, Laszlo Gyermek, Silvia C. Hayes, Marian M. Jacobs, Barbara Worth
Health Services Administration – Betty J. Champion, Hoey De Visser, Dominga A. Estrada, Filemon C. Ila, Delia S. Loya, Eric P. Muntz, Sidney Russak, Paul Wilkinson, Fredricka Williams, Katherine M. Wilson
Internal Services – Lonnie J. Bartlett, Beverly A. Bates, Jess Bernal, Patricia A. Daniels, Edgar Fukutaki, Mary A. Johnson, Ralph Morales, Frank S. Pitts, Shoukry G. Saad
King/Drew Medical Center – Yolanda K. Canstra, Mattie L. Jackson, Jeffrie D. Miller, Virginia M. Pasion, Sally I. Schuetz, Velma Williams
LAC+USC Medical Center – Bilkees B. Ali, Lorraine Allen, Muhammad S. Antar, Stephen Wayne Branham, Maggie Carter, Eileen Coleman, Fred Dang, Eleanor M. Diehl, Carolyn Gee, Gloria Huerta, Betty J. Lyons, Raouf S. Mansour, Helen Nakano, Norman Nicholson, Shirley D. Sewell, Parlean Sheriff, Odie Sullivan, Thomas Turner, Milagros C. Ward, Daisy L. Wilson, Martha M. Wilson, Eva A. Zaldivar
Long Beach General Hospital – Elsie W. Earl
Mechanical – Martin Logan, William F. Lowell, Don McGrew, A. J. Millush, John D. Morris
Mental Health – Michael E. Burr, Robert Caraway, Kathryn G. Dudley, Harold W. Harden, Gloria O. Jackson, Rosemarie Libow, Bobbie D. Naulls, Harold R. Schuman
Municipal Court – Leona A. Hyams (East L.A.), Joan P. Stewart (Downey)
Museum of Natural History – Fred S. Truxal, John W. Wright

Olive View/UCLA Hospital – Verna Carter, Amelia L. De Francia, Willie A. Mann, Thomasine E. O'Neill, Antonio L. Rivera, Sylvia Sweeney
Parks & Recreation – James Barber, Wade L. Berry, Marvin E. Bowen Jr., Rudolpho D. Contreras, Steven L. Duron, Gary L. Eaton, Jesse Olivas, Victor L. Stratman
Probation – Francine D. Couch, Arthur K. Ellis, Robert C. Giles, Edward L. Jackson, Floyd J. Jeter, Laura M. Johnson, Hannah Krescent, Alberteen E. Lambert, Mary G. Morales, Sandra Q. Morgan, William W. Robinson, Melvin D. Schweitzer, Alfonso D. Tamayo, Flo A. Weber, Arnold A. Widener, Welford M. Willis Jr.
Public Defender – Richard J. Fox, Stephen E. Grow, James B. Johnson, Victor Kawasaki, Kevin M. Key
Public Health Program – Gloria Acevedo, Spencer Barr, Curtis Melton, Hany K. Messiha, Joseph Ridenour, Gertrude H. Williams, Chong C. Yi
Public Safety – Matthew McCosar Jr.
Public Library – John Y. Doami, Barbara M. Falconer, Elisa S. Gonzalez, Charles B. Kaufman, Orelida F. McGee
Public Social Services – Delila L. Aaker, Joseph W. Bealer, Mardel J. Black, Janet Booker, Shirley Crockett, Michael A. DeBaca, Dorothy E. Fields, Helen Katz Goldberg, Lourdes E. Gonzalez, Russell W. Hafner, John T. Iwaoka, Opal V. Kazarian, Ricky H. Kim, Vicki M. Lee, Linda Lieberman, Joseph L. Love, Rosa O. Melgar, Phyllis D. Nettles, Marion L. Noel, Gladys Pinzon, Roberta Prescod, Francisca H. Rabanal, Alice Rivadeneira, George Schler, Patricia M. Serna, Wanda B. Skowlund, Phyllis M. Smith, Mable B. Turner, Ramon A. Usry Jr., Antonia Vazquez
Public Works – Victor H. Asawa, Gentry Bradley, William E. Glover, Robert R. Gorsuch, Leon Groshon, James D. Harrigan, Takaji Ikeda, Marion L. Leonhart, Barbara L. Oldham, Kenneth R. St. John, Jose D. Villafana, Mutsuo Yoshisato
Rancho Los Amigos Hospital – Betty L. Baker, Esther M. Benson, Elnora Gosey, Edna R. Grant, Talleis D. Johnson, Donald K. Huff, Sharon V. Krukow, Esperanza A. Llerenas, Barbara J. Madden, Burnetta B. Stone, Allan H. Underhill
Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk – Lit K. Wu, Suyeko Yusa
Regional Planning – George Shindo
Sheriff – Mario A. Aguirre, Maurine W. Blakely, Dennis E. Carroll, Jenny Chang, Michael A. Clay, Nancy J. Clevering, Barry F. Dineen, Glenda B. Evangelista, Myron A. Hak, John M. Harris, Lee O. Hutchinson, David E. Judge, Fred L. Koerner, Debora C. Larson, Ralph S. Llamas, Owen H. Manker, Joann P. Nieto, Mark L. Renfrow, Cecilia M. Scandura, William C. Sieber, Theodore A. Wilsing
Superior Court/County Clerk – Beatrice K. Berns, Alfonso Campbell, Paul R. Donegan, Patrick J. Fallon, Cristina M. Gallegos, Barbara A. Jolley, Joanne M. Mizuki, Chrysti Y. Wilson
Treasurer & Tax Collector – Mary L. Hernandez, Joseph Katz
Department Not Designated – Lois I. Burg, Marie R. Finch, Ellenor M. Gesler, Geraldine Hunter



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

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #66
PASADENA, CA

General Membership Meeting

Mary K. Rodriguez, Chair, Program Committee



Monday, Dec. 11, 2017

DIAMOND BAR CENTER
1600 S. Grand Ave.
Diamond Bar

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Provided by the always enjoyable
Hyland Band with vocals by Jennifer Gates

9 a.m. - COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS
10 a.m. - HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES BEGIN

A SPECIAL GIFT FOR ALL ATTENDEES

~ LOTS AND LOTS OF DOOR PRIZES ~
Please bring your RELAC membership card

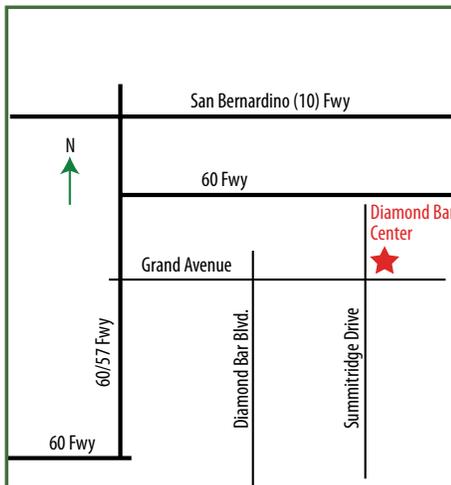


IMPORTANT!
*Are you moving?
Did you change your
name, address or
e-mail address?*

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.



Directions to the Diamond Bar Center

From the eastbound Pomona (60) Freeway
or the southbound Orange (57) Freeway
- Exit Grand Avenue
- Turn right onto Grand Avenue
- Turn left at Diamond Bar Center

From the westbound Pomona (60) Freeway or
the southbound Orange (57) Freeway
Exit Grand Avenue
Turn left onto Grand Avenue
Turn left at Diamond Bar Center

The Center is located in Summitridge Park at the corner
of Grand Avenue and Summitridge Drive. The entrance
driveway to the Center is located on Grand Avenue.