

RELAC newsletter

Over 50 Years of Dedicated Service to L.A. County Retirees

July/Aug 2012 Vol 47-4

President's Message

by Bill de la Garza



Dear Friends,

Well good friends and fellow retirees, by the time you get this message we will be in July which means that one half of our calendar year is over. As your President, it's time to give you an update on how things are going. Let me start by saying that for L.A. County Retirees things are good. Our pension and medical plans are doing well which is our most important concern. All the negative things and abuses you read or hear about government in the media are simply not applicable to L.A. County. Your LACERA Retirement and Investment Boards are well managed. Although our benefits are guaranteed RELAC must continue to defend against misguided state legislation and ballot propositions which could impose policies on our retirement system which would weaken its financial position and impose hard to bear costs on the County. Public employee pensions remain under attack.

On the lighter side I'm very pleased to report that the first six months for RELAC have been very successful. The success can be attributed to the hard work and leadership of your volunteer Board members. I urge you to read your RELAC Newsletter to understand how much our standing committees accomplish and how they keep you up to date on the services that RELAC provides to its members. In this RELAC Newsletter issue I would like to call your attention to two of our standing committees who have worked very hard to achieve their goals and have kept you informed on their progress. They are our Legislative and Membership Recruitment Committees. Their respective articles can be located on pages 2, 10 and 4. Also, please take a look on your RELAC Website www.relac.org for information on all the special discounted supplemental benefits that are available to our RELAC members and their families.

In closing I don't want to sound like a broken record but once again I would urge you to enjoy your retirement by staying healthy. See your doctor on a regular basis and remind him or her to schedule you for an E.K.G. and a stress test.

As customary, I leave you with this thought:

"I'd rather regret the things I have done, than regret the things I haven't done."
Lucille Ball



Inside the Newsletter

Public Pensions Under Fire

RELAC Vice President and Chair of the Legislation Committee Dave Muir focuses attention on two important fronts in the war against public employee pensions. **On page two** you will find his discussion of the possible consequences of replacing defined benefit plans, in whole or in part, with 401(k) plans. **On page 10** Dave deals with the shaky premises of the Stanford proposal to alter the way public pension funds invest and how the health of the funds would be impacted. And on **page 13** there is additional comment.

RELAC's Annual Picnic is Coming

The date is **Saturday, September 29**. All the details on place, food and fun can be found on **page three**. And the registration form is there as well.

Races at Santa Anita

Fall racing is back. The date is **Thursday, October 4**. Turn to **page 5** to get the full story along with the registration form.

Board Elections Coming Up

Los Angeles retiree members of RELAC who would like to serve as a member of the Board of Directors can find out how to go about becoming a candidate for a Board position. **See page eight**.

Investments Board

by Diane Sandoval
Retiree Representative,
LACERA Board of Investments



This being our July/August issue of the newsletter I decided it would be appropriate for me to wish everyone a Happy New Year! Yes indeed – LACERA begins a new fiscal year July 1, 2012. I remember that a distinguished past retiree representative on the Board of Investments, Norm Johnson, began his presentation at every General Membership Meeting in June with a similar greeting.

Just in case you are interested in LACERA's performance as of April 30, 2012 LACERA's portfolio had a market value of approximately \$38.7 billion. Unfortunately the prior two quarters were a drag on the fiscal year to date returns. The estimated fiscal year to date gross return as of April 30, 2012 was 1.7%, significantly lower than the assumed earnings rate of 7.7%. I will report on the year end results as soon as they are made available.

During the month of March I was fortunate to attend several educational conferences in my capacity as a LACERA trustee. It is comforting to know that I share similar concerns as my counterparts on local and national public fund boards. Our shared priority is to maximize the returns of our respective portfolios without increasing investment risk and giving up liquidity. For LACERA, the annual retiree payroll currently exceeds \$2 billion. That is an awesome amount!

Fortunately, our pension benefits (as I've indicated before) are guaranteed by State Law; therefore the performance of the portfolio does not impact the payment of retirement benefits to retirees. LACERA's first priority is making sure the payroll is issued each month and continues for the lifetime of LACERA retirees. Furthermore, Los Angeles County is required by law to ensure there are sufficient assets to cover the plan's liabilities as determined by the Plan Actuary, *Milliman, Inc.*

It is important to oppose the forces hostile to public employee pensions and their misguided proposals which may weaken our retirement system.

I look forward to seeing you at future events. Enjoy your summer and stay well! Thank you for your continued support.



RELAC Expresses its Strong Opposition to 401(K) Plans

by Dave Muir
Chair, Legislation Committee



In May 2012 RELAC sent letters to each of the five (5) County Supervisors and to the 36 members of the California Legislature that represent residents of the County of Los Angeles, urging them to oppose any pension reform proposal that would require employees to be enrolled in 401(k) plans.

Private industry has, for the most part, closed traditional defined benefit pension plans and now offers only 401(k) plans to provide for their workers' retirement. This has utterly destroyed pension security for workers in the private sector.

The following statistics – widely reported by several sources and undisputed by 401(k) advocates – demonstrate how 401(k) plans have failed workers in the private sector:

84% of Americans are in a state of panic about their retirement security.

The median household headed by a person of age 60-62 with a 401(k) account has saved less than one fourth (1/4) of what is needed to maintain the household's standard of living.

The average 401(k) account balance of workers with 30 years of private sector experience is only \$149,000 to support decades of retirement. Over 60% of all U.S. workers now rely on 401(k) plans as their primary retirement fund, and this percentage increases every year.

In 1991, 50% of workers expected to retire by age 65. Today, only 23% of workers expect to retire by that age.

401(k) plans fail to meet fundamental requirements for a successful primary retirement plan. They fail to provide for sufficient contributions, fail to provide sufficient investment returns, and fail to prevent workers from invading funds for non-retirement purposes. Most importantly, 401(k) plans cannot guarantee that retirees won't outlive their savings. On top of all this, a National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS) study found that it costs 46% less to produce the same benefit in a defined benefit plan than in a 401(k) plan.

Forcing California's public workers to rely on 401(k) plans for their retirement would be a huge mistake. This would harm not only current workers, but retirees as well. With a huge population of impoverished retirees, the nation's consumer-driven economy would be in dire straits, and tax payers would be faced with having to provide more public assistance to those who are unable to get by financially.

RELAC will continue with its efforts to protect retirement benefits for California's public workers.

RELAC ANNUAL PICNIC

THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR \$15.00 INCLUSIVE

SEPTEMBER 29, 2012

10:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Food, Fun, Entertainment
Raffle Drawing

CATERED LUNCH -PICNIC SERVICES

LUNCH SERVED 12:00 NOON

Tri Tip
Chicken Marinara
Hot Dogs
Rice Pilaf
Fresh Garden Salad
Deluxe Fruit Mix
Home-style Potato Salad
Rolls & Butter
Gourmet Cookies
Brownies
All the Soft Drinks &
Beer you can drink

**BRING A
FOLDING CHAIR**
(If you want to sit
closer to the music)

LINE DANCING
with Jennifer & the Hyland Band

BINGO
(Back by Popular Demand)

**DRAWINGS
...AND MORE**

HORSESHOE TOSS

**GREAT
PRIZES**

SANTA FE DAM - Recreational Area #5
15501 E. Arrow Highway, Irwindale
Free Parking

**MEMBERS &
ADULT
GUESTS**

ANNUAL PICNIC REGISTRATION FORM

~ Adults Only ~

Member _____ Guest(s) _____
(additional guests - attach list)

No. of tickets _____ @ \$15.00 ea. = \$ _____ Total

Mail to: RELAC
1000 So. Fremont Ave., Unit 15
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

Info: (626) 308-0532
(800) 537-3522
Email: admin@relac.org

Present RELAC Membership Card at entrance to park. NO admission without advance registration.

RSVP by September 19, 2012

News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich
Assistant Executive Officer

Hello retired employees of Los Angeles County. I'd like to introduce myself to you. My name is John Popowich (though I prefer to go by JJ) and I am the new Assistant Executive Officer at LACERA. As some of you may have heard, Janice Golden retired in March of this year. We're going to miss Janice as she was a central figure here at LACERA for many years and personally one of the best bosses I ever had.



Many of you may be wondering about me, so I'm going to take this opportunity to share a little bit about myself with you. I have been with LACERA for almost 7 years now. I was originally hired to manage our Call Center in 2005. When Janice moved into the Assistant Executive Officer position, I was selected to take over the reins of the Member Services Division. Once again, when Janice retired I was fortunate enough to be chosen to follow in her footsteps and was promoted to AEO.

My customer service management career spans over 20 years in the private sector in a number of industries ranging from telecommunications to financial services. Over the years providing service to my customers, or members in LACERA's case, has become more of a passion than a job for me. It is this passion that attracted me to LACERA in the first place. I felt I had finally found an organization that shared my service values. I am deeply honored to be part of the LACERA family and I look forward to continuing to fulfill our noble mission to produce, protect, and provide the promised benefit.

But that is enough about me. Let's take a moment to talk about some of the exciting things going on here at LACERA. Some of you may already be aware of this, over the years we have been investing quite a bit of time and energy in our My LACERA section of lacera.com. Over the last year and a half we have opened up the ability to maintain your LACERA account online. So far you can update your address and tax withholding choices online. In the near future you will be able to add or change your direct deposit choice online and your beneficiary information as well. I am also very excited to say that we are working on a new login process for My LACERA. Our goal, of course, is to make it easy to use but maintain our high level of security. You will hear more

THE BENEFITS OF RELAC MEMBERSHIP

by Jason H. Williams, Chair
Membership/Recruitment Committee

In the May/June edition of the RELAC Newsletter, I wrote that recruiting new members such as (a) **Affiliate members**, i.e. active LA County employees, and (b) **Retired members** are among RELAC's most important priorities in 2012. Since then, our Membership/Recruitment Committee began implementing a plan to increase our membership by doing the following:

Getting the message out that RELAC's primary mission is to **enhance, maintain and protect retirees' pension and medical benefits**. (See the articles by Dave Muir on pages two and ten as examples of how RELAC fights to protect pension benefits.)

Emphasizing that **Benefits of RELAC Membership** include making available to all members **Supplemental Insurance Benefits, at discounted group rates, which are not available elsewhere. Examples of such insurance are dental, health, vision, pre-paid legal, pet, homeowners/renters, ID theft shield, auto/motorcycle/RV/watercraft and hearing aid insurance.** You can view these supplemental insurance benefits in detail by going to www.relac.org and clicking on Supplementary Benefits.

Spreading the word that **RELAC has fun activities for all members** throughout the year, including golf tournaments for men and women, "Day at the Races" parties at Hollywood Park and Santa Anita Racetracks, an annual members' picnic, casino bus trips, RV outings, LA Dodger 4th of July baseball games and fireworks, regional and local membership meetings, an annual Board recognition luncheon, and local and world-wide travel opportunities through a travel agency!

Disseminating RELAC's Recruitment Flyers to all LA County departments' offices and bulletin boards.

Streamlining the new member application kit.

Making presentations at LA County Management Seminars, conferences, retiree events, and employee association groups to recruit active and retired members.

Our committee's goal for 2012 is 400 new members and you as a RELAC member can help by (1) spreading the word about our organization to both active LA County employees and retirees, and (2) encouraging members to take advantage of the supplemental insurance and other benefits described above, which RELAC makes available to **all** members.



L.A. County CEO Bill Fujioka is seen with RELAC's Membership/Recruitment Committee Chair Jason Williams at the County Management Council meeting in San Diego. Fujioka spoke to the Council members on the State of the County. Williams spoke to the 220 managers present about the benefits of joining RELAC.

CHECKING

Cash Rewards Checking

FREE Checking
that **Pays!**

Earn \$50.00*

when you open a new Cash Rewards Checking with Direct Deposit!

Earn \$10.00*

a month for one year just for using your Southland Debit Card!

Receive up to \$20.00*

a month in ATM fee rebates!

Earn \$5.00*

a year for using Southland eStatements!

Open your Cash Rewards Checking Account today!
Ask a Representative for details!



*Existing Southland Credit Union checking account holders do not qualify for the \$50 promotional offer for direct deposit or ePay/eTransfers. Current account holders may choose to convert their existing checking account to a Cash Rewards Checking Account, you may then qualify for the other rewards available.

\$50 direct deposit/ePay/eTransfer reward will be deposited to the checking account at the end of the month upon receipt of first direct deposit or first payment made. Qualifications must be met every month to qualify for rewards and reimbursement of ATM fees. Qualifications include direct deposit or use of ePay/eTransfer every month and a minimum of 10 debit card purchase transactions posted and cleared per month. Must be enrolled in eStatements for 12 full months to earn the \$5 reward. If these qualifications are not met, rewards and reimbursed fees will not be paid for that month. Reimbursed ATM fees include Southland out-of-network fees and third-party surcharges. Cash rewards begin on the month following account opening.

Limit one cash rewards promotion per account. There is no minimum balance requirement to earn rewards. Offer is subject to change at any time, other terms and conditions may apply. Cash rewards earned are considered interest and will be reported on a 1099 to the IRS.

www.SouthlandCU.org • 800.426.1917

ANOTHER GREAT DAY AT THE RACES -- Santa Anita Park

by Mary K. Rodriguez
Chair, Recreation Committee

Hello everyone.

Great News! It is time to return to Santa Anita Park for another RELAC Day at the Races. This event is always enthusiastically attended by our members. Everyone enjoys the day and has a lot of fun. *Hopefully we can all go home winners!*

We will again be seated in the Sierra Vista Terrace which offers a great view of the track. The date is Thursday, October 4, 2012 and the cost to you is only \$32.00 (even less than last year as RELAC is supplementing the cost for this event). Your ticket includes park admission, valet parking, a racing program and, of course, a great buffet, soft drinks and dessert.

Please fill in the coupon and send your check to RELAC as soon as possible. The deadline to submit your request is Thursday, September 20, 2012. Your tickets will be mailed to you by September 27, 2012.

Our space is limited so don't be left out. Hope to see you there.



RELAC DAY AT THE RACES

Santa Anita Park
Thursday, October 4, 2012

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: (_____) _____

Number of Tickets _____ @ \$32.00 each

Total Amount Enclosed = \$ _____

Enclose a check for your total payable to RELAC and mail to:

RELAC
1000 South Fremont Avenue, #15
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

Must be received by September 20, 2012

For office use:

Received _____ Amount \$ _____ Check No. _____



Welcome New Members April & May 2012

Assessor

Dortch, John

Chief Executive Office

Sullivan, Constance S.

Child/Family Services

Kahalil, Wedad

Pillsbury, Joseph G.

Traylor, Wayne

Valladares, Jose A.

County Counsel

Luby, Judith A.

Trask, Gordon W.

District Attorney

Hale, Brian

Fire

Falcon, Patricia M.

Kollmeyer, Thomas W.

Polhill, Mark

Romanofsky, Cindie

Flood Control

Valdez, David

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Yang, Elaine

Health Services

Brady, Patrick A.

De La O, Lorraine Morales

Gomez, Mary L.

Jones, Ruth A.

Mathis, Teresa C.

Sais, Mackey

Human Resources

Arenas, Helen C.

Internal Service

Larsen, Frances

Mirabella, Thomas R.

Pieper, Gretchen M.

Tillotson, Donna M.

LACERA

Castranova, James J.

Franklin, Amile

LAC+USC Medical Center

Fountain, Vernessa

Horn, Toby M.

Salmeron, Aminda-Gloria

Simeon, Imelda R.

Martin Luther King Med. Ctr.

Bonner, Mavis S.

Mental Health

DeFrank, Sharon

Snibbe, John

Parks & Recreation

Duron, Steve

Probation

Giardina, Alena Cindy

Morton, Vernell

Public Defender

Clark, William B.

Star, Kenneth

Public Health

Artis, Deloris

Bellomo, Samuel

Oh, Yeon

Public Library

Castaneda, Lisa M.

Hungerford, Fred

Lewis, Mary E.

Public Social Services

Butler-Stovall, Diane

Clymer, Georgeanna

Cochrane, Ida

Coronado, Phyllis Rivera

Dinh T, Noi

Hardy, Calvina

Heard, Corene C.

Houston-Warmsley, Barbara

Lillard, Judith R.

Molo, Alyce M.

Paul, Khim S.

Session, Nola

Whipple, Mai T.

Willis, Karen

Wimberly, Delores Yvonne

Public Works

McCarter, Don

Rancho Los Amigos Rehab Ctr.

Figueroa, Brenda B.

Sheriff

Bonsall, Daryl E.

Cardenas, Salvador

Downs, Patrick

Efflandt, Joe

Gonzalez, Steven J.

Gray, Donald

Hale, Adrain A.

Langsten, Jorose

McCurdy, Mason

Paul, Steven

Post, Craig

Price, Robin

Stapleton, Cathy

Svos, Barbara K.

Turner, Robert G.

Superior Court

Eaton, Judy L.

Welch, Colleen

Department Not Designated

Beyoler, James E.

Chang, Kilcha

Lujan, Abedon

Walker, Gloria P.

Quinn, Sharon

Tann, Carmen

New Affiliate Members

Child Support Services

Pierson, Donna

Coroner

Sathyavagiswaran, L.

Internal Services

Chachere, Suzanne

Nunez, Marie

Public Social Services

Perkins, Junius

Rivas, Maria O.

Rodriguez, Elsa

Schmidt, Cynthia

Sheriff

Cook, Fred

New Associate Members

Arenas, Jimmy V.

Bellomo, Pamela A.

Beyoler, Debra

Bonsall, Helen E.

Cardenas, Ingrid

Downs, Danette

Duron, Marianne

Efflandt, Kristi

Franklin, Rosemary

Gray, Melody

Hale, Sondra

Heard, Eddie

Hungerford, Jeanette

Jackson, Laroy

Jones, Darryl P.

Lillard, Eryl F. III

Lujan, Maria

McCarter, Lisa

McDonald, Leonard T.

Mirabella, Nancy

Morton, Fredrick

Paul, Angela R.

Polhill, Michele M.

Post, Olga

Price, Kemi

Sais, Kathleen

Snibbe, Linda

Steven, Charles

Sullivan, Richard

Svos, George A.

Tomin, Harold J.

Trask, Gloria Connor

Traylor, Mary

Turner, Willie

Valdez, Maria-Cristina

Whipple, Colin L.

Yang, James

RELAC NEWSLETTER

Vol 47 - July/Aug 2012

Number 4

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

Board of Directors

President

Bill de la Garza

Vice President

David L. Muir

Secretary

Mary K. Rodriguez

Treasurer

Edward C. Morris

Past President

Greg Walia

Members

Mary Lou Bangar

Donald Fandry

Martin Golds

Raymond R. Guyovich

J. P. Harris

George Hernandez

Alice Prouty

Marianne Reich

Diane Sandoval

Jason H. Williams

Emeritus

Dave E. Kalingar

Editor: Martin Golds
Copyright © 2012 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
9:00am - 4:00pm
Monday - Thursday
Closed Friday, Saturday,
Sunday &
Public Holidays
website:
www.relac.org



Golf News

By Gil Sandoval
RELAC Golf Director



Santa Anita Golf Tournament June 11, 2012

We had great weather as 60 players played in the tournament. Benny Martinez again won the "A" Flight with a net 62. There was a battle for second as Michael Barreras edged out Henry Villaseñor by one stroke.

The "B" flight was a close race as Bob Cornelius won by one stroke edging out Bob Kubo who in turn was one up on Jim Abbott and Ron Harrington with a net 64.

Larry Feemster repeated as the "C" flight winner with a net 61. He was followed by Art Moronez who had a nice net 64 and John Wehrly at net 69.

The "Women's" flight was an easy win For Jan Hadley at net 68 with Nancy Signer in second with a net 70 and Charlene DeBie in 3rd place with a net 72.

LOS AMIGOS RESULTS:

"A" Flight Winner (19 and under)

1 st	Benny Martinez	(62)
2 nd	Michael Barreras	(65)*
3 rd	Henry Villaseñor	(66)*

"B" Flight (20-27 Handicaps)

1 st	Bob Cornelius	(64)
2 nd	Bob Kubo	(65)
3 rd	Jim Abbott	(66)*

"C" Flight (28 up Handicap)

1 st	Larry Feemster	(61)
2 rd	Art Moronez	(64)
3 rd	John Wehrly	(69)

Ladies

1 st	Jan Hadley	(68)
2 nd	Nancy Signer	(70)
3 rd	Charlene DeBie	(72)

**Winner in a card off.*

Closest to the Pin on Par 3's

Men	# 4 - Benny Martinez
	# 8 - Tony Asuncion
	#12 - Doug Biro
	#13 - Harlan DeBie
Women	# 4 - Karen Lichtenberg
	# 8 - No Winner
	#12 - No Winner
	#15 - No Winner

NEXT TOURNAMENT – Monday, Aug. 6, 2012
Los Verdes Golf Course 8:00 a.m. start
Entry Deadline: July 19, 2012



RELAC GOLF ENTRY FORM

Los Verdes Golf Course
7000 West Los Verdes Drive
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Monday, August 6, 2012
8:00 am Start

Please Print

1. Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Fees: \$32.00 PER GOLFER - CART EXTRA

If possible, place me in a foursome with below listed
golfers. Addresses of all golfers MUST be included.
If possible, we would prefer an
Early _____ Late _____ starting time.

2. Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

3. Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

4. Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

NOTE: Only ONE GUEST per member.
Enclose check for _____ golfers @ \$32 per
Golfer. Make checks payable to RELAC. Mail
entry to RELAC, 1000 So. Fremont Ave., #15,
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

Entry Deadline
July 24, 2012
ALL CHECKS MUST BE
IN RELAC OFFICE

For Office Use:

Date Rec. _____ Amt.\$ _____

Lck# _____

Members Say



RELAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

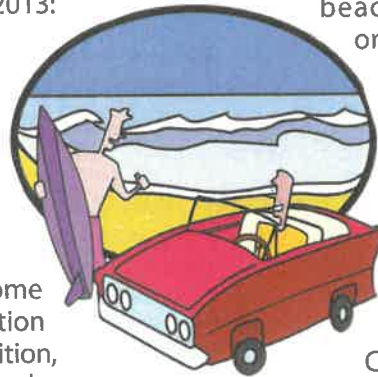
At its business meeting on May 24, 2012, in accordance with the Bylaws, the Board unanimously endorsed the following slate of five candidates to serve three-year terms on the RELAC Board of Directors beginning January 1, 2013:

Don Fandry
Alice Prouty
Mary K. Rodriguez
Diane Sandoval
Jason H. Williams

Regular members of RELAC, i.e. those who are already retired, are welcome to compete as candidates for a Board of Director position by filing a petition signed by not less than twenty-five (25) RELAC members. The signed petition, along with a letter of acceptance by the nominee, must be received by the RELAC office no later than July 31, 2012. Petition forms are available at the RELAC office.

Department of Beaches and Harbors Offers FREE PARKING PASSES to Seniors

ATTENTION SENIORS! To obtain a free daytime beach parking pass (good on non-holiday weekdays only) you must be at least 62 years of age. Here's what you do. Just send a copy of your current driver's license, vehicle registration and current address if different than the one on your driver's license to the Los Angeles County Department of



Beaches and Harbors, Attention Senior Parking Passes, 13837 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292. It takes about two to three weeks to process and receive your pass in the mail. No passes are issued over the counter. You may enjoy your free parking pass when visiting beaches in Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Venice, Playa del Rey, Marina del Rey, Torrance and San Pedro. For more details call (310) 305-9503.



Members' Milestones

Happy 95th Birthday, Gustava Morris! Born on July 26, 1917, she is fondly known as "Madea" and "Mama" to eight children, "Big Mama" to twenty grandchildren, thirty great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild and "Sister Morris" to her church family. Gustava deeply misses her loving husband of nearly 65 years, George Morris, who retired from the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation in 1975 and passed away in 2002. She continues to enjoy large family gatherings, dancing and playing dominoes. Congratulations on 95 years of life!!!

The Morris Family
Los Angeles, CA



L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antonovich is seen with RELAC Board member Don Fandry at the 15th Annual Veterans' Event sponsored by the Supervisor. The event, which took place at Arcadia County Park on May 26 had the theme "Remembering Our Veterans and their Families, Past, Present and Future".

RV Outing Notes

Ed Clifton
Coordinator of RV Club



Veteran's Corner



One Place to Read About Your Benefits

Three words describe our outing to the Lake Elsinore West Marina and RV Resort – HOT, HOT, HOT!! For the first three days the temperature was over ninety five degrees and without much shade it was really hot. Thank goodness for air conditioned rigs; but it was not much fun being stuck inside all day. Once the sun went down we were able to get outside. Ten rigs were in attendance and, on a split vote, we decided not to go back to Lake Elsinore next year as there is not much to do in the surrounding area. Instead we will be going to Chula Vista twice. It is a favorite RV Park for our club with much to see and do. For our ladies night out we went to a local Mexican restaurant. We had to go a little early because it was also graduation night for the local high schools and all the restaurants were booked up. Everything worked out fine though and we all enjoyed some good food.

Thanks to RELAC for the donation of the gas card. It was won by Leon Stegall.

Our next outing will be held at the Chula Vista RV Resort and Marina in Chula Vista on September 10, 11, 12, 2012, with September 9, 2012 as the early day. Coupon follows.

R.V. CAMPOUT RESERVATION

CAMPGROUND: Chula Vista RV Resort and Marina
460 Sandpiper Way
Chula Vista, CA 91910

DATES: Sept. 10, 11, 12, 2012 - Early Day, Sept. 9, 2012

Names: _____
(Last) (Retiree) (Spouse)

Address: _____
(No.) (Street)

City: _____
(State) (Zip)

Telephone: () _____

DEADLINE: AUGUST 4, 2012

Cost: \$135.00 for three days

Make Early Day Reservation through RV Park (\$44.00)

Additional Charge of \$1.00 per day per pet (please pay Bill at Park)

Make checks payable to Bill Hayhurst for \$135 (three nights) and mail to:

Bill Hayhurst
225 Avora Street
Monrovia, CA 91016

Phone: (626) 358-6729

Motor Home _____ Trailer _____ Length _____

To see just how much information is available, visit the "Benefits Library" on the home page and under either the "Federal Benefits" and/or "State/Territory Benefits" tabs or in the "Resource Locator", which everyone has access to, and you will find more than 150 separate benefit fact sheets sorted by Category (e.g. retiring, marriage), or alphabetically listed with information about where to get these benefits. If you still can't find the information you're looking for, try clicking on the hot-links at the bottom of each fact sheet to gain access to numerous Federal and State proponents for the benefit information. And if you still can't find the answers you're looking for, talk with benefits experts by calling the MyArmyBenefits Help Desk toll-free between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time), Monday through Friday, at 1-888-721-ARMY (1-888-721-2769).

You have better things to do with your time than sorting through millions of websites! You need a source you know you can trust. Give MyArmyBenefits a try-it's there for you!

Source: Army Echoes Jan-Apr 2012
Submitted by George Hernandez



Stanford Reports on Retirement Funding Criticized

by Dave Muir
Chair, Legislation Committee

The Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, led by Professor Joe Nation, Ph.D., issued a series of reports arguing that public pension funds are vastly underfunded, much more seriously than the funds themselves report. For example, the latest Stanford Report, dated February 12, 2012, calculates LACERA's funded ratio to be 55.9%. LACERA reports its funded ratio, as of June 30, 2011, to be 80.6%.

LACERA uses an independent actuarial consultant, one of the most respected actuarial firms in the nation, to calculate the plan's funding ratio in accordance with national professional standards. And LACERA hires another equally highly regarded actuarial firm to audit the work of the consulting actuary.

The most significant difference between LACERA's funding calculation and the Stanford calculation involves how fast we think the investment portfolio will grow. In technical terms, we call this the assumed rate of investment return. In performing the June 30, 2011 valuation, LACERA assumed that over the long term, the retirement fund will earn 7.7% on its investments. This assumption is based on LACERA's actual experience. (LACERA will be lowering this assumption to 7.5% over the next two years.) The latest Stanford report recommends using an extremely conservative 5% assumed investment return rate. The County's current contribution to LACERA is about 6% of the County's total expenditures, but if a more conservative 6.2% rate of return was used, the County's contribution to LACERA would increase to 12% of the County's total expenditures. This raises the question: why would someone recommend changing the retirement system funding when it is working well now? In everyday terms, you could easily argue that making an extra monthly mortgage payment on the family home would lower your overall costs, essentially lowering your mortgage borrowing rate. However, would you make that extra payment at the cost of not being able to buy groceries? Extreme conservatism in one area is not always helpful when you step back and look at the big picture.

The January 2012 issue of the Public Retirement Journal, a widely read publication focusing on public pensions in California, had this to say about a previous Stanford report that suggested a 6.2% return rate:

"The [Stanford Report] chooses a 6.2 percent [investment return rate] as an appropriate measure of future fund performance based on overly simplified logic. The 6.2 percent was calculated by using the average returns over a 10-year period of time for a hypothetical investment portfolio of 80 percent Dow Jones domestic stocks and 20 percent fixed income.

"Why is this random number – derived from an overly simplistic portfolio, short-time horizon, shot in the dark – superior to the 7.75 percent number used by [CalPERS]? While it's certainly subject to debate, at least the 7.75 percent figure was reached through a rigorous analysis using a much more sophisticated mix of global investment vehicles, over a longer period of time, with consideration of liabilities and funding needs, performed by a myriad of investment professionals at the state's largest pension funds."

LACERA was created in 1938 and it has done just fine ever since. Pension systems like LACERA save taxpayers money by investing in the public markets. Investment earnings pay for approximately 75% of pension benefits paid out. Public markets, of course, go up in value and go down in value. As recent as 2000, LACERA was 102% funded. However, the Great Recession caused our funding level to fall to a low of 67% in March 2009. Since then the fund has

recovered to 80%. Through all the investment market's gains and losses over the years, the employer and employees have consistently funded their retirement plan.

One cannot overstate the importance for a retirement plan to be funded timely and in the full amount. Los Angeles County is fortunate to have responsible workers and employers making their retirement contributions timely and completely. These contributions are the "seed money" that fuels the investment portfolio. Like our parents often said, save today for tomorrow. Our savings today are multiplied by investing in the global economy, our American investment markets, and in our local community businesses. For every dollar received by a LACERA retiree and spent in our community, we enjoy an economic stimulus! Recent studies estimate each dollar spent has a ripple effect as it trades hands from the retiree to the business for goods and services. Here in Los Angeles County we estimate each dollar sparks a \$2 dollar economic ripple. From this perspective, the retirement plan is providing for the retiree's needs, providing investment capital for businesses to grow, and a positive ripple as the dollar is passed around the community. Of course, the tax man does take a pinch of the dollar each time it trades hands. Yet that pinch is also spent in taking care of the community too.

LACERA retirees can be comforted by the outstanding professional manner in which the LACERA Boards and staff manage the system and its investments. LACERA was recognized by the 2010-2011 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury as a well-run organization that was in good shape and without threat of defaulting on its obligations.

For Sale

CEMETERY COMPANION CRYPT – Forest Lawn, Glendale, CA, Vale of Faith Section, companion crypt for two. Very nice location - Lot 785, Spaces A and B. Valued at \$10,800 (negotiable) including transfer fee. Please call (909) 680-2163.

CEMETERY LOTS – Forest Lawn, Covina Hills, Constant Peace Section – Lot 7765, Spaces 3 and 4. Asking \$4,000, transfer fees included. Contact Raul at (909) 931-1419.

BRUNSWICK POOL TABLE – Standard size, movable sections, very good condition. Complete with pool cues, balls and stools. Asking price \$600. Call Araceli (310) 821-9628.

CEMETERY LOTS – Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills, Enduring Faith Section – Lot 582, Spaces 3 and 4. Asking \$7,000 plus transfer fee. Call John at (805) 658-0834.

Touring With Great Western

626-578-1161 • 800-344-7090

Don't forget to ask for your RELAC discount!

CST# 1016229-40

Kings Canyon and SEQUOIA

Departs September 16, 2012

4-Day Motorcoach Tour

- Tour Price Includes -

- * Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation * Three Nights Hotel Accommodations
- * 3 Breakfasts, * 2 Box Lunches, * 3 Dinners *
- Naturalist Guided Tour of Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks
- * Driver's Gratuity * Tax & Baggage Handling

Double Per Person \$529.00 Single: \$599.00

Black Hills of South Dakota

Mt. Rushmore • Deadwood • Crazy Horse Memorial
High Plains Western Heritage Center
Custer State Park • Tate Geological Museum



9-Day Land Tour

Departs

September 29, 2012

Double Per Person: \$999.00 Single: \$1299.00
Checks only - Credit Cards - add 3%

Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation • 14 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 6 Dinners

- 8 Nights Hotel Accommodations • Admissions and Sightseeing per Itinerary • Professional Tour Manager Throughout •

Taxes and Baggage Handling

MONUMENTS & CANYONS OF THE SOUTHWEST

Grand Canyon • Sedona • Lake Powell
• Monument Valley • Bryce & Zion

Departs:

September 29, 2012

Double Per Person: \$1699.00

Single: \$2139.00

Checks only - Credit Cards - add 3%

Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation

9 Meals: 7 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners • 7 Nights Hotel Accommodations

Admissions and Sightseeing per Itinerary

Professional Tour Manager • Taxes and Baggage Handling

Travel Protection Plan Coverage (Details w/deposit receipt)

New England Fall Colors By Rail & Sail

8 Day Air/Motorcoach Tour

Departs October 2, 2012

Tour Price Includes

- Round Trip Air LAX-Boston
- Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- Seven Nights Hotel Accommodations
- 11 Meals: 6 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 3 Dinners including New England Lobster Dinner
- Boston City Tour
- Three New England Train Excursions:
- Conway Scenic Railway, Essex Steam Train, Cape Cod Central Railroad
- Three New England Cruises:
- Portland's Casco Bay to Diamond Island
- Becky Thatcher Riverboat, Hyannis Harbor
- Airport Transfers
- Tax and Baggage Handling

Tour Prices From: \$2765.00



Mono Lake

Mammoth Lakes

5-Day Motorcoach Tour

Departs October 6, 2012

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- Four Nights Hotel Accommodations
- 5 Meals: 4 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner
- One Way Rail Excursion - Carson City/Virginia City
- Virginia City Trolley - Donner Emigrant Trail Museum

Trail Museum

- Mono Lake Visitors Center

- Guided Tour of Mammoth Lakes

- Lone Pine Film History Museum

.....and more

TOUR PRICE PER PERSON

DOUBLE: \$729.00 per person

SINGLE: \$889.00



5-Days of Holiday Cheer

Departs December 1, 2012

8 Branson Holiday Shows *Call for Details





Dear RELAC family: Just want to say thank you for the wonderful job you do day after day, month after month, year after year. Thanks also for the pocket secretary without which I cannot survive and for the newsletter that is so informative especially in keeping us notified of those who are no longer with us. May God continue to bless and prosper you in all you do. With sincere appreciation,
Clementina Wareham
Port Saint Lucie, FL

Thank you for the newsletter. My health will not let me drive out there anymore but I love to read the newsletter – so full of information.
Barbara Hostvedt
De Witt, IA

Richard W. (Andy) Andrews passed away on April 24, 2012 in Tucson, Arizona. He was a member of RELAC for over 31 years and loved receiving the regular newsletter and pocket secretary every year, especially this year's edition (2012-13). Since we both enjoyed receiving the publication, would it be possible for you to continue to send it to me? We were married over 60 years, so have had a long connection with RELAC.
Evelyn Andrews
Tucson, AZ
Editor's Note: Evelyn, if you continue your membership as a surviving Associate member you will continue to receive the Newsletter and the pocket secretary.

A sincere note of thanks to RELAC and staff for wishing me a Very Happy Birthday on my 94th!!! This was so appreciated.
Freda Katz
Los Angeles, CA

Enclosed are my membership dues. I enjoy being a member and look forward to a long healthy membership. Thanks for all your hard work.
Mary Henry
Diamond Bar, CA

Thank you for the newsletter. I enjoy reading it.
Christine Morris
Peoria, IL

My 95 year old brain cannot remember what I have or have not done. Therefore, although you may have it, I am sending you my new address and telephone number. It seems to me I am living so much longer than all my loved ones and those I worked with and spent vacations with. I can still remember all my years with the Department of Public Social Services, delivering baskets late into Christmas Eve to aid families who had no food, lights, gas or warm blankets. Having had several emergency surgeries, since retiring, I am often grateful for my medical care and Social Security, not to mention my pension!

Nikki Campbell
Incline Village, NV

Thanks for all you do to help us retired people. You are truly a special organization. Love the letter opener; I use it all the time.

Ruth Johnson
San Dimas, CA

Although it is way past Valentine's Day, I want to add my thanks to RELAC for the \$25.00 I won in the drawing. I received it on February 13, 2012 with surprise and delight. I also appreciate being kept abreast of pension reform bills in Dave Muir's Legislation Report.

Celia Elmore
Salem, OR



Endorsement of Simon Russin for Election to LACERA Boards of Retirement & Investments

At our April 26, 2012 Business Meeting, your RELAC Board of Directors officially endorsed **Simon S. Russin** for election to the LACERA Board of Retirement and the LACERA Board of Investments for the position on each Board that represents the general members of the County of Los Angeles. You may wonder why RELAC, a non-profit retiree association, is endorsing a position that represents general members.

Simon has always been a friend of retirees and has demonstrated his leadership in exercising his fiduciary responsibilities to our Los Angeles County Retirement Association. He has been representing our concerns and needs to LACERA's Board of Retirement and Board of Investments for over 30 years. His knowledge, integrity and dedication to the continued success of our retirement and medical plans are manifested in his actions and support of retirees.

Although retired members cannot vote for Simon, you can help him win the upcoming election by contacting your active member friends and letting them know the importance of this election and that a vote for Simon will benefit retirement and medical plans for them and their families for years to come.



LACERA continued from p. 4

about these changes as we release them.

Speaking of account maintenance, I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping LACERA updated with your current address. Part of our responsibility is to protect the promised benefit. One of the ways we do that is by keeping a close eye on returned mail. If LACERA receives too many of your Automatic Deposit Receipts or checks returned to our office, we will place a hold on your benefits until we can get an updated address. This way we can ensure that your benefits are reaching you as intended. So please keep us in mind if you happen to move.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call us anytime at 1-800-786-6464 and one of our Retirement Benefit Specialists will be happy to assist you.

Editor's Note: We warmly welcome JJ Popovich as our LACERA columnist and congratulate him on his recent promotion to LACERA Assistant Executive Officer. In filling Janice Golden's shoes he will also be filling the Newsletter's "News from LACERA" space with valuable information.

Enemies of Public Employee Pensions Gain Traction

The recent elections in Wisconsin, San Diego and San Jose have demonstrated that voter sentiment is running strongly against the retirement benefits which many retired public employees receive. Voters have favored radical measures to curtail benefits. So far the benefits of those who are already retired have not been the targets. But as Dave Muir points out in his articles on the proposed changes from defined benefit to 401(k) plans (page 4) and on the Stanford recommendations to reduce the investment opportunities of retirement funds (page 10) current retirees may be impacted.

At present signatures are being collected in support of a new ballot initiative to require 401(k) plans constitute a significant portion of retirement provisions for new public employees.

Until now the California courts have supported the guaranteed promises which were made to those who are already retired. Clearly there is no cause for alarm. But there is reason for concern if the enemies of our benefits are able to greatly weaken our retirement system. RELAC, in concert with other counties, is taking an active role in opposing those proposals which may harm our benefits.



VEHICLE LOANS

RELAC Members
Join and receive a free gift!"

Vehicle Loans

as low as

2.49%

APR*

- Loan approval within minutes
- New Vehicle Loan Rates as low as 2.49% APR*
- Rate includes a discount of .25% for automatic payments from your Southland Checking
- Repayment terms up to 7 years
- Finance up to 120% of the purchase price with tax, license, and insurance

Southland
CREDIT UNION



Membership is subject to eligibility. All new accounts will be verified through ChexSystems and are subject to credit approval.
*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rate quoted as of 6-1-12 for a 48-month term. Rate includes a .25% discount for autopay from a Southland Checking or Money Market Account. The monthly payment is \$21.91 per \$1,000 at 2.49% for 48 months on new vehicles. Other rates may apply based on your individual credit profile. Loans made subject to credit and vehicle qualification, other fees and conditions may apply. Rates are subject to change without notice.

www.SouthlandCU.org • 800.426.1917

IN MEMORIAM

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

Agricultural Comm./Wts. & Measures

Gonser, Richard L.

Animal Control

Morris, Samuel E.

Assessor

Bullard, Kelion M.

Couch, Mildred L.

Dunlap, Vivian L.

Evans, Herbert C.

Heslop, Lamar F.

Lawrence, Alicia

McKee, James T.

Miller, Phyllis

Wholey, Jeannette H.

Auditor-Controller

Chezem, Geraldine

Building Services

Csiszar, Frank S.

Chief Executive Office

Leland, Clarence C.

Child Support Services

McBride, Verlice

Children & Family Services

Diaz, Mary L.

Elfman, Judith F.

Ghali, Ghali Z.

Hammond, David R.

Soliz, Juan M.

Communications

Van Deusen, Hazel P.

Community Health

Stafford, Frank S.

Community & Senior Services

Boone, Jacqueline A.

County Counsel

Washington, Brenda

Data Processing

Hamilton, Wallon

Troccoli, Virginia

District Attorney

Bowles, Morris O.

Compton, Lynn D.

Levy, Gordon P.

Terry, Adeline

Engineer

Allen, Jack R.

Gill, Ernest

Heywood, Doris L.

Mckinnon, John J.

Seals, Hoyet

Fire

Attila, John C.

Christian, Charles E.

Dyer, Paul B.

Lippert, Leonard S.

Mitchell, Wayne E.

Oddo, Frank W

Thomassen, James H..

Tomlinson, Robert M.

Woodard, Raymond C.

Flood Control

Hall, Omer D.

Harbor/UCLA Medical Center

Edmond, Ninnie L.

Ervin, Raymond D.

Lima, Maria T.

Merchat, Jean T.

Wagner, Susan R.

Health Services

Broadnax, Annise

Cohen, Joan

Feller, Dan

Givings, Charles E.

Gray, John H.

Houston, Ruth L.

Rafin, Felisa G.

Robles, Belem

White, Louise

Williams, Allen C.

Williams, Lee Roy

Human Resources

Nettles, Joyce A.

Internal Services

Bouchat, Juan M.

Johnson, Eric E.

Lambert, Ivy G.

McGee, James C.

Pepitone, Michael J.

King/Drew Medical Center

Bowman, Arthur R.

Howard, Arbutus C.

Shields, Deborah

Stevenson, Essie L.

Zinner, Norman R.

LAC+USC Medical Center

Barna, Ann

Bynum, William H.

Carsel, Jack

Citron, B. P.

Dobson, Margaret

Edwards, Ocie O.

Estrada, John G.

Herrera, Angie

Hoang, Duc V.

Holguin, Delfin C.

Lopez, Carmen R.

Lorber, Arthur

Mueller, Evelyn A.

Okano, Rita M.

Triplett, Stanley A.

Mechanical

Anderson, Charles J.

Holyfield, Samuel V.

Mental Health

Colbert, Elroy

Delong, Rieva D.

Forte, Lee

Indin, Bert M.

Williams, Bobbie J.

Military & Veterans Affairs

Haverluck, Paul M.

Municipal Court

Lalande, Aline M. (Santa Monica)

Nunez, Virginia M. (Santa Monica)

Natural History Museum

Zeadow, Peggy L.

Olive View/UCLA Hospital

Deane, Robert M.

Dvorsky, Amelia

Neubauer, Helen

Oliva, Lee

Rogers, William

Valdivia, Elvira R.

Parks & Recreation

Clanin Jr., Odos

Jones, Richard A.

Kobata, Edward H.

Lepisto, Walter

Marlowe, Robert E.

Ramirez, Ralph J.

Swoboda, John R.

Probation

Amato, Joseph T.

Berkowitz, Martin

Bourdet, Timothy C.

Bowman, Robert J.

Bryson, John S.

Crayton, Marvin A.

Dixon, Fred A.

Dwyer, Patricia

Hill, Minnie

Holliday, Dora

Honzay, Dennis E.

Johnson, Charlotte

Kuestner, George C.

Lachapelle, Gladys A.

Levert, Alonzo E.

Melvin, Beatrice

Paul, Henry L.

Richardson, Almon H.

Smerk, Donald A.

Trickey, Melvin A.

Walsh, John



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, General Membership Committee



Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Ayres Hall

Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007

9:00 a.m. – Complimentary Refreshments
10:00 a.m. – Meeting Begins

Presentation by a Representative from
Kaiser Permanente
Living "Healthy" with Diabetes

Retiree Information from LACERA & RELAC

~ DOOR PRIZES ~

Please bring your RELAC Membership Card
At the end of the program members are welcome to tour the
Arboretum at no cost.

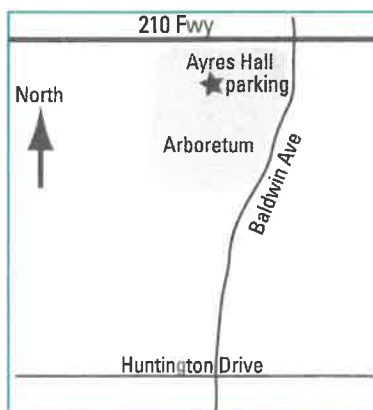


IMPORTANT!
Are you moving?
Did you change your
name?

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 Route 210 Fwy. Going either East or West, exit at Baldwin Avenue. Proceed South on Baldwin Ave. 1/4 mile. Turn right into the first driveway and park in front of Ayers Hall.

From Huntington Drive. Go North on Baldwin Avenue 1 1/4 miles. Turn left at the traffic signal and enter the parking lot. Ayers Hall is located just off the Northerly portion of the lot.