

# RELACnewsletter

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

Sept./Oct. 2012 Vol 47-5



### President's Message

by Bill de la Garza

Dear Friends,

Well good friends, once again I'd like to start by sharing some good news with you. Those of you who read my byline on a regular basis might think this guy de la Garza is either acting like a politician or looks at the world through rose colored glasses. In this case, I can assure you that you are wrong. While I truly enjoy sharing good news with

you, I would never jeopardize the integrity of my position by sharing with you false or inaccurate information. Now let me attempt to give you a brief picture of the problem and my response.

**Background:** For the past several years the news media and recognized tax reform associations have had a field day in reference to the abuses of government retirement pensions. It started with the abuses in the city of Bell and then spilled over into numerous government agencies. To add to the abuse problems, the media identified public retirement benefits as a major cause of bankruptcy in local governments throughout the country and state.

Cities and counties throughout California have faced a rising tide of pension expenses in recent years that have eaten up a greater share of annual revenue that could be spent on education, fixing streets, parks and recreation, libraries and most important police and fireman. The current recession and the crippled stock market have been major contributors to the problem.

**Good News:** A recent article written by staff writer Rick Orlov, published in the Daily News on July 23, 2012 entitled **Pensions Loom as Budget Buster.** 

"Just a few months ago, the City of Los Angeles was facing a projected \$1 billion deficit and the risk of bankruptcy, in part because of rising pension obligations. It has managed to avoid disaster by laying off workers, cutting services and working on ways to reduce retirement benefits."

"Some municipal governments, such as Los Angeles County, have so far been able to manage the growing costs without being forced to make severe cuts. Los Angeles County officials said they have been dealing with the pension issue for more than three decades, when the County first withdrew from the Social Security system to use its own pension funds. The Los Angeles County Employees Retirement System has assets of more than \$40 billion and is the largest county retirement plan in the United States, and last year, received \$1.4 billion in contributions from its employee members."

David Sommers, Los Angeles County Acting Director of Public Affairs was quoted as saying, "Los Angeles County is considered one of the most cost-effective plans in the nation. It has been reformed four times since 1977, including four benefit rollbacks and increased employee contributions. The state is only now beginning to discuss implementing reforms that the Board of Supervisors started over 30 years ago."

My friends, it is hoped that this article will provide you with a better understanding of how well our retirement system is doing and relieve you of any negative thoughts regarding the future of your pension. RELAC will continue to keep you informed.

As customary, and until next time, I leave you with this thought:

"Better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to speak out and remove all doubt."



#### INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER

#### Honors to Distinguished RELAC Emeriti

The Norman S. Johnson Aquatic Center at Arcadia Park has been re-dedicated to RELAC's late long time leader and retiree advocate **Norm Johnson**. See the full story on page 2. Another significant contributor to RELAC, **Dave Kalinger**, celebrated his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. See page 8.

#### Retiree Legislation

On page 6 Legislative Chair **Dave Muir** provides a run-down on state legislation of importance to California's public sector retirees. Additional information may be found on the RELAC Website: www.relac. org.

#### Valuable Information

RELAC Board Member JP Harris advises on the benefits of an up-to-date Advance Directive for Healthcare on page 9. And on page 12 JJ Popowich, LACERA's Assistant Executive Officer, reports on changes in the tax withholding rules

#### Some Special Events

On Saturday, September 29 is the **RELAC Annual Picnic** at Santa Fe Dam. Get all the details on page 3. And there is a first time **Regional Meeting** scheduled for **Riverside** on October 9. See page 10. Check the back page for information on the next **General Membership Meeting** which will be held at the County Arboretum on September 12.



Abraham Lincoln

### **Aquatic Center Rededicated to Norm Johnson**

by Bill de la Garza RELAC President

August 1, 2012 was an enjoyable and memorable day for those who attended the Grand Opening Ceremonies of the Norman S. Johnson Aquatic Center at Arcadia County Park. Norm, a RELAC member, passed away in 2005 but his legacy will be remembered for years to come. Recent major improvements to the Aquatic Center prompted County Supervisor Michael Antonovich and the Department of Parks and Recreation to have a rededication ceremony in Norm's honor. It would require a large catalog to list the many notable and lasting accomplishments of Norm Johnson. RELAC is pleased to share a few of them with its members:



During his tenure as Director of the Parks and Recreation the department grew from a relatively small parks department serving local neighborhoods in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County to a large multifaceted regional parks system serving all the residents of Los Angeles and neighboring counties. Under his watch it became the largest County Parks and Recreation Department in the United States.

He was the last Los Angeles County department head with civil service status which freed him to

confront elected board members on issues that he felt were necessary and correct. It also enabled him to publicly voice his frustration at the lack of vision and political courage of the County's elected officials.

Norm was a skillful and respected retiree advocate. For twenty years he served as the elected retiree representative on the LACERA Board of Investments. Norm initiated and championed the LACERA Star Cola program. He developed and monitored the required state legislation that allowed LACERA to have two Boards, the Board of Retirement and the Board of Investments. Currently, Los Angeles is the only county retirement system in California with two separate Boards.

He provided the leadership for the development of Whittier Narrows and Bonelli Regional parks and the Castaic Lake Recreation Area.

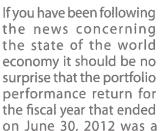
Norm gained national recognition for his endeavors and leadership in conservation management. He was considered by his associates and colleagues as one of the top park and recreation administrators in the country.

Norm was one of the founding fathers of RELAC, served for many years on its Board of Directors and was the first to be awarded Emeritus status. Those of us who had the pleasure of working with him will remember him not only as a talented and skilled manager and administrator, but as a good and caring person who was dedicated to his craft. As a young and entry level employee, he told me, "If you don't enjoy working and helping people, let me know and I will help to find you another job." Whether you were a high ranking executive or an entry level grounds maintenance worker, Norm always treated you with dignity and respect. The retirees of Los Angeles County as well as the citizens of Los Angeles County are the beneficiaries of Norm's vision and work.



### Investments Board

by Diane Sandoval Retiree Representative, LACERA Board of Investments





disappointing 0.3% (gross of manager fees), falling short of the assumed investment return rate of 7.70%.

There is a positive take away for a long term investor such as LACERA; one can take comfort in knowing that the portfolio performance return over a 20 and 25 year period ending June 30 was 8.2% and 8.4% respectively. (Both returns stated are gross of manager fees.) These returns are above the current assumed investment return rate of 7.70% and, in my opinion, should provide assurance that the trust fund when viewed on a long term perspective is well managed and financially sound.

The estimated market value of the portfolio was \$38.1 billion as of June 30, 2012. Please note that it is an estimated market value and is unaudited. The Audited Financial Statements reporting LACERA's financial condition for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2011 will be available in October. Be assured I will report on the fund's financial condition in a future article.

For those of you interested in knowing the asset allocation of the portfolio at fiscal year end, here it is:

Domestic Equity	23.7%
Fixed Income	25.0%
Non-US Equity	26.2%
Real Estate	10.2%
Private Equity	10.3%
Hedge Funds	0.7%
Commodities	2.4%
Cash	1.5%

On a personal note thank you for your continued support and allowing me to represent you on the LACERA Board. Take care and stay active in body and mind.

#### **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

# LINE DANCING with Jennifer & the Hyland Band

### 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)

BINGO

(Back by Popular Demand)

DRAWINGS

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

HORSESHOE TOSS

GREAT

MEMBERS & ADULT GUESTS

### ANNUAL PICNIC REGISTRATION FORM

~ Adults Only ~

Member \_\_\_\_\_ Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_(additional quests – attach list)

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

Mail to: RELAC Info: (626) 308-0532

1000 So. Fremont Ave., Unit 15 (800) 537-3522 Alhambra, CA 91803-8802 Email: admin@relac.org

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

RSVP by September 19, 2012

### 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!



**CREDIT UNION** 



\*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 thirdparty 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

### A Popular Benefit of RELAC Membership

by Jason H. Williams Chair, Membership/Recruitment Committee

In the last two editions of RELAC's Newsletter, I wrote about the efforts by RELAC's Board of Directors to recruit both new active (those still working) and retired members, as well as about the benefits of RELAC membership. For this article, I want to discuss just one of the many benefits to our members: **RELAC's ANNUAL PICNIC!** 



To begin, let's talk basics:

WHAT - RELAC's Annual Picnic.

WHEN - Saturday, September 29, 2012 (10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.).

WHERE - Santa Fe Dam, Recreation Area #5, 15501 E. Arrow Highway, Irwindale, CA.

WHO MAY ATTEND - Active and Retired members and their adult guests. HOW MUCH - \$15.00 per person.

The Annual Picnic is one of RELAC's biggest events of the year and the Regional Support/Special Events Committee, chaired by Diane Sandoval, goes out of its way to make it enjoyable to all our members and their guests! Please note that the Annual Picnic is scheduled on a Saturday, which enables our active members and their guests to attend without members taking time off from work!

The Picnic is very popular and there are <u>many reasons</u> why our members and their guests should attend:



CATERED LUNCH AT 12:00 NOON! - Tri tip, chicken marinara, hot dogs, rice pilaf, fresh garden salad, home-style potato salad and much, much more delicious food, including dessert! All the soft drinks you want!

BINGO! (Back by Popular Demand)
HORSESHOE TOSS!
LINE DANCING!
With Jennifer and the Hyland Band.
GREAT PRIZE DRAWING, and more...!

For members to make arrangements for themselves and their guests to attend, please see the full page Annual Picnic announcement on page 3 of this Newsletter. Please note, you must RSVP by September 19, 2012.

See you and your guests at the Annual Picnic!

**LAST CALL FOR RESERVATIONS!** 

RELAC Day at the Races Santa Anita Park

by Mary K. Rodriguez Chair, Recreation Committee

Hello everyone.

Don't forget to make your reservations for our annual get-together at Santa Anita Park on **October 4, 2012**. This event has always been enthusiastically attended by our members and everyone has a lot of fun. This year will be no exception!

We will again be seated in the Sierra Vista Terrace which offers a great view of the track. The cost is \$32.00 (even less than last year as RELAC is supplementing the cost) and includes admission, valet parking, a racing program and, of course, a great buffet luncheon, soft drinks and dessert.

Please fill out the coupon and send your check ASAP. The reservation deadline is September 20, 2012. Your tickets will be mailed to you by September 27, 2012. Please let us know if you do not receive your tickets by October 2, 2012.

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





Members Marlys Forster and Armand Cruz, along with RELAC Board Members Mary K. Rodriquez and Alice Prouty, enjoy a lovely day at our annual Hollywood Park "Day at the Races" event on June 7, 2012.

#### **RELAC DAY AT THE RACES**

Santa Anita Park Thursday, October 4, 2012

	Name:			
12/7	Address:			
City/State/Zip:	:			
Telephone Nur	nber: (	)		
Number of Tick	ets	@ \$32.00	each	
Total Amount E	Enclosed =	\$		
RELAC 1000 Se	k for your total p outh Fremont Av ora, CA 91803-8	/enue, #15	C and mail to:	
Must be receive	ed by Septemb			
For office use: Received	Amount	\$	_ Check No	

### September & December 2012 General Membership Meetings

by Mary K. Rodriguez Chair, Program Committee

### Los Angeles County Arboretum – September 12, 2012

Please plan to join us at our next General Membership Meeting which will be held on **September 12, 2012** at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA. Refreshments will be served at 9:00 a.m. and the program will begin at 10:00 a.m. A representative from Kaiser Permanente will give us some tips on how to "Live Healthy with Diabetes". Following the program, members are welcome to tour the Arboretum at no cost.

See the back page for more information.

### City of Carson Community Center - December 11, 2012

Please note that this year's "Holiday Meeting" will be held on **December 11, 2012** at the City of Carson Community Center, 801 East Carson Street, Carson, CA. Mark your calendars and prepare yourself for an entertaining holiday celebration. Starting at 9:00 a.m. there will be great refreshments followed by the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Every attendee will receive a special gift and enjoy a festive holiday program. At the conclusion of the entertainment, there will be a grand raffle and numerous gifts will be given away. This meeting is a special treat for our members so please plan to join us!

### **Legislation Report**

by Dave Muir Chair, Legislation Committee

The deadline for passing bills during the 2012 Legislative Session is quickly approaching. Members of the Legislature return to Sacramento from their summer recess on August 5, 2012 and have until August 31, 2012 to pass bills. Last minute legislative action on bills important to retirees will be found on the RELAC Website after August 31.



#### PENSION REFORM LEGISLATION

A "Conference Committee on Public Employee Pensions" was created in the Legislature to study the Governor's 12 Point Pension Proposal and other pension reform proposals that have been discussed. The Conference Committee is tasked with developing pension reform legislation. The Committee may introduce a bill in August that would immediately go to the Assembly and Senate for a vote. The Legislation Committee has been closely monitoring the Conference Committee proceedings. If a bill is introduced, we do not believe there will be any provisions that would reduce benefits of those already retired.

RELAC has sent a letter to all members of the State Legislature from Los Angeles County urging them to reject 401(k) plans as a solution for pension reform. To read our letter and the report that accompanied the letter go to the RELAC Website.

#### **OTHER RETIREMENT LEGISLATION**

The Legislation Committee reviewed 12 bills dealing with county retirement systems that were introduced during the 2012 Session. We supported 3 bills and opposed 3 bills. Here's a quick run down:

SB 1382 is sponsored by the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA) of which RELAC is a member. (1) Under current law, a vacancy of the alternate retired member on the board of retirement is to be filled by appointment by the board from a list of nominees submitted by any organization with a majority of its members being retirees. SB 1382 would require an organization to apply and be approved by the board of retirement as a "recognized retiree organization" before it can nominate a person to fill the vacancy. (2) Authorizes deductions for retiree benefit programs. (3) Requires the retirement systems to cooperate with and assist retiree organizations in distributing communications regarding membership and benefit programs available through the organization. RELAC SUPPORTED THIS BILL. It was passed by the Senate and then amended in the Assembly. It is now back in the Senate for concurrence with the Assembly amendments.

AB 1519 would require board members of LACERA and the other 37 Act county retirement systems to complete a certain amount of continuing education every two years. This bill is sponsored by the State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS) of which LACERA is a member. RELAC SUPPORTED THIS BILL. It was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. It will take effect on January 1, 2013.

AB 2664 would allow LACERA and the other county retirement systems to accept electronic signatures. The bill is sponsored by SACRS at LACERA's request. RELAC SUPPORTED THIS BILL. It was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. It will take effect on January 1, 2013.

AB 2416 would require every California public retirement system that does

not maintain a reserve fund to create such a fund. It would require any excess funds to be placed in the reserve and would prohibit funds in the reserve from being used for the payment of benefits. The objective of this bill is to prevent public retirement systems from using "excess earnings" in any year to grant supplemental benefits including COLAs. If passed, this bill could be challenged in court on the grounds that it violates vested rights. Such a challenge could be avoided if the bill was amended to apply only to new members of the retirement system. RELAC OPPOSED THIS BILL. It has been held in the Assembly Policy for Retirement Matters Committee since March 29, 2012. Passage is doubtful.

SB 1231 would allow the Board of Supervisors to prohibit LACERA and other county retirement systems from providing a supplemental cost-ofliving adjustment (COLA) "to new members" if the system is not fully funded or if granting the supplemental COLA would require additional county contributions or create an unfunded liability. By referring to "new members" the intent is apparently to apply to members joining the system after the bill becomes operative. The bill does not address whether a prohibition against supplemental COLAs would be lifted if the system later became fully funded. RELAC OPPOSED THIS BILL. It has been pending in the Assembly **Policy Committee for Retirement Matters since** March 8, 2012. Passage is doubtful.

SB 1002 would require public records to be produced in searchable form if requested. Under current law, LACERA is able to charge the requestor the cost of converting records if they are not kept in the form requested. This bill would establish restrictions on what could be charged. It was probably introduced in reaction to requests being received from the media seeking retiree information in certain searchable forms which cost a great deal to create. RELAC OPPOSED THIS BILL. It passed in the Senate on May 31, 2012 and is now pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Prospects for passage are unknown.



**CEMETERY LOTS** - Two (2) plots for sale located at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, CA, Garden of Commemoration, Lot 7634, Graves 1 and 2. Asking \$3,800 per plot including transfer fees. Call Bobbie at (213) 300-7739.

#### **RELAC NEWSLETTER**

Vol 47 - Sept/Oct 2012 Number 5

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

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Dave E. Kalinger

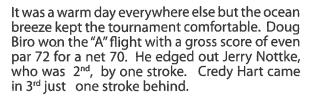
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Sunday &
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website:
www.relac.org

### Golf News

By Gil Sandoval RELAC Golf Director

#### Los Verdes Golf Tournament Aug. 6, 2012



The "B" flight was an easy win for Jim Abbott with the low net of the day of 66. Shig Yonamine with a a net 69 came in 2<sup>nd</sup> one up on Mas Hamasu and Del Gamble.

Bob Kroll won the "C" flight with a net 68. Yokio Yamasaki followed in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at net 71, with Art Moronez in 3<sup>rd</sup> at net 74.

The "Ladies" flight was a dog fight with Charlene DeBie winning at net 70. She was just one up on Lil Hamasu at net 71 for 2<sup>nd</sup> with Debrya Moore, in her first tournament, at net 72 finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **LOS VERDES RESULTS:**

#### "A" Flight Winner (19 and under)

(70)

1st Doug Biro

2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry Nottke (71)

3<sup>rd</sup> Credy Hart (72)

"B" Flight (20-27 Handicaps)

1<sup>st</sup> Jim Abbott (66)

2<sup>nd</sup> Shig Yonamine (69)

3<sup>rd</sup> Mas Hamasu (70)\*

"C" Flight (28 up Handicap)

1<sup>st</sup> Bob Kroll (68)

2<sup>nd</sup> Yokio Yamasaki (71)

3<sup>rd</sup> Art Moronez (74)

#### Ladies

1st Charlene DeBie (70)

2<sup>nd</sup> Lil Hamasu (71)

3<sup>rd</sup> Debrya Moore (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, Oct. 1, 2012

Lakewood Golf Course 8:00 a.m. Start Entry Deadline: Sept. 13, 2012





Lakewood Golf Course 3101 East Carson Street Lakewood, CA 90712

#### Monday, October 1, 2012 8:00 a.m. Start

Please Print

City	Zip
Phone	
. 665. 452.00 . 2	GOLFER - CART EXTRA
lf possible, place golfers, Addresses	me in a foursome with below liste of all golfers MUST be included.
If possible, we wo	uld prefer an estarting time.
Late	starting time.
2. Name	
Address	
City	Zip
Phone	
Address	
City	Zip
Phone	
4. Name	
	Zip

Ave., #15, Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

Entry Deadline

Enclose check for golfers @ \$32 per

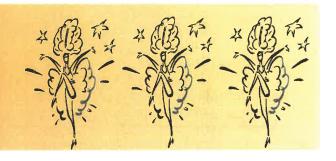
Golfer. Make checks payable to RELAC Golf.

Mail entry to RELAC GOLF, 1000 So. Fremont

Entry Deadline September 13, 2012 ALL CHECKS MUST BE IN RELAC OFFICE

For Office Use:		
Date Rec.	Amt.\$	
Ck#		

# Members Spotlight



An Invitation from Sisters Together in Retirement (STIR)

### Viejas Indian Casino Annual Fund Raiser

Sisters Together in Retirement (STIR), a group of female Probation



Department employees, will be conducting their annual Viejas Casino bus tour on Tuesday, October 23, 2012. The Viejas Casino is located in Alpine, California in the Cleveland National Forest near San Diego. Other retirees, family members and friends are invited to join us. The cost of the trip is \$12.00.

For more information, please call either Wivory Brandle at (323) 296-2370, Katie Cochran at (310) 608-0687 or Helen Walker at (626) 335-6431. Thank you in advance for your interest and we look forward to seeing you.

### **Knott's Berry Farm Celebrates Veterans Day** with Free Admission for Veterans

Knott's Berry Farm continues its tradition of honoring the brave men and women who have served in the U.S. military, both past and present, with free admission during its 23rd Annual Military Tribute. Knott's is the only theme park that has continuously offered free admission to veterans and active military personnel in honor of our nation's Veterans Day holiday.

The FREE-admission offer applies to all U.S. veterans and active military personnel and their spouse (or one guest). Up to six additional tickets may be purchased at Knott's ticket booths for only \$17.00 each. This offer begins on November 1, 2012 and ends on Thanksgiving Day!

U.S. veterans and active military personnel must present military ID or proof of U.S. military service at Knott's ticket booths to receive the complimentary tribute tickets. Veterans or active military personnel must be present; dependent ID's will not be accepted.



ERANS U.S. veterans and active military personnel can also take advantage of a great \$84.00 per night rate at the Knott's Resort Hotel. For reservations call (866) 752-2444; or visit http:// www.knottshotel.com or your local military base.

> For information on operating hours, please call Knott's Information at (714) 220-5200 or (714) 220-5130 on the day you plan to visit or log on to http://www.knotts.com.

### **Dave Kalinger Celebrates** 99th Birthday!



In the photo above, Dave Kalinger, Emeritus Member of the RELAC Board of Directors, is seen at his 99th birthday party. Left to right are RELAC Board Member Mary Lou Bangar, RELAC staff member Pat Koulos, Dave, and RELAC Board Member George Hernandez. Dave served on the RELAC Board for 23 years. For much of his time on the Board he was RELAC's Treasurer, playing an invaluable role in the financial management of the organization. Dave is one of only two persons in the history of RELAC who has been selected for Emeritus Board Member status.



## **RELAC Members**

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

Simply call (800) 877-7337, tell the See's representative you are a RELAC Member, where you live, and ask for the location of the quantity order shop nearest your home. Be prepared to show your RELAC Membership Card at time of purchase. Our organization's discount eligibility is confirmed beginning December 1, 2012 through October 31, 2013.



The Importance of Having an Advance Directive for Health Care by JP Harris, Director

How many of us have heard a horror story about someone being maintained, artificially, with little or no hope of ever recovering? Virtually all of us have heard about someone, or know a family that has suffered through such a tragic event. Despite this fact, few of us take the time to prepare a document that can save our families untold heartache, pain, and financial ruin.

Many people sincerely believe their loved ones know exactly what they want in the event they cannot communicate their own wishes concerning their health care. The sad truth is that most spouses and family members think they know, but actually do not know, as they have never had a specific and direct conversation concerning this most sensitive subject. But even if the conversation has taken place, without a written document that clearly and succinctly states your desires, the likelihood of your wishes being followed is, at best, remote.

I strongly encourage each of you to take the time to prepare an advance directive for health care. Even if you have previously filled out a living will (the first generation of such directives), it is advisable that you revisit it and update to one of the newer advance directives for health care. This is because living wills have proven to be too limiting in scope and can present difficulties in interpreting exactly what can, and should, be done in certain circumstances. A living will alone might be insufficient to address many important health care decisions. In fact, California does not recognize living wills but does recognize advance directives for health care. The most current advance directives will ensure your wishes are carried out in the event you cannot provide the direction yourself.

The preparation begins with a discussion with your family regarding exactly what it is that you want to occur in the event you become disabled and unable to make decisions for yourself. Generalized statements may not end with the results you desire. An advanced directive called "Five Wishes" is available on-line which can provide you an excellent starting point, although it, too, is not without limitations.



# RV Outing Notes

Ed Clifton Coordinator of RV Club



Since our camping club is on summer break between May and September, there is no activity to report on. We leave this time for family vacations (children, grandchildren, etc.).

Our next outing will be at the Chula Vista RV Resort and Marina in Chula Vista, CA on September 10-11-12, 2012 with the early day being September 9, 2012. The coupon was published in the last issue of the newsletter.

Our November outing will be at the Shadow Hills RV Resort in Indio, CA on November 5-6-7, 2012 with November 4, 2012 being the early day. The coupon follows.

It has been brought to my attention that I have not been including my phone number with my articles. So, if you have any questions give me a call at (562) 428-3360. If you have an RV we would love to have you join us. We always have a great time.

	R.V. CA	MPOUT RESERV	ATION	
CAMPGROUND:	SHADOW HILLS RV RESORT 40-655 - Jefferson Street Indio, CA 92203			
DATES:	Nov. 5-6-7, 2012 - Early Day November 4, 2012			
Names:				
Address:	(Last)	(Retiree)	(Spouse)	
City:	(No.)	(Street)		
Telephone: (	)	(State)	(Zip)	

#### **DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2012**

Cost:\$138.00 for three days; \$45.00 extra for early day.
Please pay for early day through Wagonmaster.
Make checks payable to Ron Morgon and mail to:
Ron Morgon
5845 Pageantry Street
Long Beach, CA 90808
(562) 421-8516

Motor Home \_\_\_\_\_Trailer\_\_\_\_Length \_\_\_\_



### Welcome New Members June & July 2012



**Children & Family Services** Banales, Lydia M. **Community & Sr. Services** Allen, Marilyn

**County Counsel** Mikesell, Dan

**District Attorney** Merrick, Marc

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Cape, Amelia P.

**Health Services** 

Biby, Dorothy Brown, Darryl Cadena, Daniel Durfee, Michael Essin, Daniel Gidley, Darlene Magana, Karen Marinovich, Ann Schunhoff, John Shibata, Kathy Taylor, Carolyn Torres, Regina

**Internal Services** 

Herbert, Thomas C. Jackson, Deborah G. Peterson, Vvethel K. Ramos, Sylvia

**LAC+USC Medical Center** Redmond, Jean Santiago, Ricardo Vaden, Carolyn

**Mental Health** 

Braswell, Sylvia P. Burke, Melba McQuade, Kathleen

**Probation** 

Gulley, Deloris Moore, Debrya Wells, Kathaleen

**Public Social Services** Martinez, Esther Vo. Rosie N.

Registrar Recorder/Co.Clerk McFerren, Reginald

Sheriff

Falcon, Evangeline Feathers, Elizabeth Martinez, Alice F. Romero, Joe M.

**Superior Court** 

Liu. Alice C. Tello, Susan

**New Active Members** 

**Chief Executive Office** 

Ahaiwe, Humphrey **Children & Family Services** Wagner, Diane

Registrar Recorder/Co.Clerk Britton, George E.

**Public Defender** 

Marquez, Ruben Palaiologos, Elaine

**Public Health** 

Moore, Debrya

**Public Social Services** Alarcon, Corine Lewis, Sheri

Yang, Shirley

**Public Works** 

Martindale, Herbert L.

Sheriff

Clark, Edward

#### **New Associate Members**

Banales, Joseph Cadena, Roseann Cape, Jose S. Sr. Durfee, Deanne Essin, Cecelia Feathers, Rodger C. Gidley, Jeffrey Herbert, Juliette D. Jackson, Roy Lambert, Nelson Levine, Allan Liu, David C. Marinovich, Larry Martinez, Bob Merrick, Diane Peterson, Michael K. Santiago, Yolanda Tahara, Derrick Taylor, Foster D. Torres, Pablo Vo, Minh Q. Wells, Raymond

### Touring With Great Western 626-578-1161 • 800-344-7090 On't forget to ask for your RELAC discount CST# 1016229-40

5-Days of Holiday Cheer Departs December 1, 2012

8 Branson Holiday Shows

Double Per Person: \$1599.00 Single: \$1799.00

Tour Price Includes

Roundtrip Air Orange County/Branson,MO **Roundtrip Airport Transfers Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation** 4-Nights Hotel Accommodations 3 8 Meals: 4 Breakfasts - 4 Dinners **8 Entertaining Shows** 

Guided Tour of Branson & College of the Ozarks Sightseeing and Admissions Per Itinerary Tax & Baggage Handling(1 Large Case+1Carry-on) V, MC, DIS Credit Cards - Add 3%

### Day Air/Land Tour









January 22, 2013

Double: \$2690.00 per person Single: \$3090.00

Features Include

Rainforest • Tortuguero Park Cruises

Poás Volcano · Arenal Volcano Hot Springs

Cloud Forest • Manuel Antonio

· Carara Reserve, Sarchi **Tour Price Includes** 

• R/TAir LAX/San José • All Transfers • All Meals

· All Excursions • All Accommodations

Fully Escorted

Hotel Tax and Baggage Handling

• Government Taxes & Fees

Complete Travel Protection Insurance

### Highlights of England and Scotland Departs April 20, 2013

11 Day Air/Land Tour **Tour Highlights** 

Scottish Cabaret Dinner Show

Cardiff Castle Banquet York Walking Tour Windsor Castle Beatles Story in Liverpool Gretna Green

#### Double Per Person: \$3999.00

\*\*Call for Single Rate



#### **RELAC Board of Directors Election Results**

Since no regular members of RELAC chose to compete as candidates for a Board of Directors position by filing a petition by the July 31 deadline, the slate of five nominees published in the last issue of the newsletter shall be considered duly elected and will begin serving their three-year terms beginning January 2013. They are:

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

Be assured that these individuals will continue to do an outstanding job serving RELAC members and we heartily welcome them back!



### We are Online

There are various ways that members can be in contact with RELAC electronically. They can choose to receive the Newsletter by means of email. To get up to date and a broader range of information they can go to RELAC's Website at www.relac.org. And they can receive Email Advisor messages which transmit urgent information. In addition members can tell us what they think or request information by sending emails to admin@relac.org.

You can sign up to receive emailed Newsletter and/or to receive the Email Advisor by cutting out, filling out and sending us the accompanying coupon.

#### **Request for Emailed Newsletter** and/or Email Advisor

Name	
Email Addres	S
	end me future issues of the RELAC ter by email until further notice.
S	end me Email Advisor messages.
Mail to:	RELAC 1000 So. Fremont Ave., Unit 15 Alhambra, CA 91803-8802
Or email:	admin@relac.org

admin@relac.org

### **Regional Activities**

by Diane Sandoval Chair, Regional Support-Special Events Committee

Our Committee is excited to invite you to our last meeting of the year at the Riverside Elks Lodge on Tuesday October 9, 2012. The Elks Lodge is located at 6166 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504. The Committee has confirmed that JJ Popowich, LACERA Assistant Executive Officer, is confirmed to be our featured speaker. JJ, as he prefers to be called, recently joined the LACERA Executive staff immediately following Janice Golden's retirement in March of this year.

As JJ wrote in his recent article, he has been with LACERA for almost seven years. He was originally hired to manage the LACERA Call Center and in 2005 was appointed to manage the Member Services Division. His customer service management career spans over 20 years in the private sector in a number of industries ranging from telecommunications to financial services. JJ will cover a wide range of issues related to our pension and medical benefits.

Please plan to attend our luncheon and join us in extending a warm RELAC welcome to JJ. Doors will open at 10:00 a.m.; the meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m., with lunch served at approximately 11:30 a.m. Perhaps you may be fortunate to hold a winning ticket to receive one of our many door prizes awarded to attendees. The cost of the buffet luncheon is only \$7.00 per person. RELAC is supplementing the cost of this event.

For your convenience a reservation form may be found at the end of this article. Space is limited so we encourage you to send in your reservation today. Tickets may be picked up at the door the day of our luncheon. Our Committee looks forward to seeing you in Riverside. Until then, enjoy your summer and thank you for your support.

#### **Reservation Form**

#### RIVERSIDE REGIONAL LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday, October 9, 20112 Riverside Elk's Lodge

6166 Brockton Avenue, F	Riverside, CA 92504
Name(s)	
Address	
City	StateZip
Cost of Luncheion - \$7.00 per person x (Tickets to be picked Doors Open at 10:00 am - Pro	up at the door)
Make check/money order payable to "REL RELAC 1000 So. Freemont Ave., Unit 15	AC" and mail to:
Alhambra, CA 91803-89802	
Reservation Deadline - S	September 25, 2012

### **News From LACERA**

by JJ Popowich Assistant Executive Officer

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer months and staying as cool as possible.

Did you know my chosen career out of high school was to be a journalist or radio announcer? When I was in high school I used to write about local high school

sports and I had a daily show on a small radio station in upstate New York. I even wrote an article or two for the *Burbank Leader* when I first came back to California (I'm a native, born and raised in North Hollywood). Anyway, I thought I'd share with you some of the process I go through when deciding what to write each issue.

The first thing I do is look at any changes that have occurred over the last two months that I think would be of interest to our retired members. The next thing I do is look over the recent Call Center and Public Counter statistics. You may not know this, but each time a member calls or visits LACERA we check off the topics that are discussed. Once a week I get a report that gives me insight into what our members are calling about. We use this for all sorts of planning purposes both in the short and long term. From the statistics I then look over the recent email and letters that we receive. And finally, I check my recent news pile to see if there are any pressing issues that might be of interest. This brings me to this month's topics.

#### **Changes in Tax Withholding Rules**

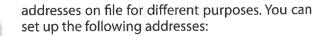
Let's start with some recent changes to the tax withholding rules for members living in the U.S. with a P.O. Box and members living outside of the U.S. with a foreign address. LACERA's tax counsel continuously reviews new publications and notices from the IRS regarding a wide range of tax issues that impact LACERA. This year it was noted that the IRS changed their requirements for individuals who receive periodic pension payments and who live outside of the U.S. The new rules require the individual to provide the payer (LACERA) with a physical "home address with street number" in order to elect to have taxes withheld at a rate that is less than the default rate. The default rate is married with three exemptions.

This change prompted our tax counsel to review the acceptable address requirements for individuals receiving periodic (pension) payments. This review determined that members living in the U.S. with a P.O. Box as their address also should fall into the default withholding rate.

In May we sent letters to all members who had only a P.O. Box or a foreign address on file to let them know about these new changes and that LACERA would have to default them to the married with three exemptions rate unless they provided us a "home address with street number". I'm happy to say that over half the members in this category responded and provided us with a different address. The rest we had to change to the default rate to remain in compliance with IRS regulations.

We do understand that some members have the need to have a P.O. Box instead of a home address so that they can reliably receive their mail. As a teenager I used to live in upstate New York and sometimes mail would "disappear" and I remember family discussions about switching from the rural route delivery to a P.O. Box.

In keeping with our member's needs we are able to have several different



Home Street Address with Street Number: This is our default address. It can only be a physical street address. It cannot be a P.O. Box. This address is restricted to a street address for IRS purposes as well as for retiree healthcare purposes. Certain retiree healthcare plans are only available in specific areas of the country and this address is used to determine eligibility based on location.

Mailing Address: In addition to the default address listed above, you may direct LACERA to send all correspondence to a separate mailing address. This address can be a P.O. Box.

**Automatic Deposit/Check Address:** Member's can also direct LACERA to send their ADR or check to a third different address.

Even members who are not impacted by the IRS withholding rule changes may find these address options helpful. If you wish to change your address you can visit lacera.com and change it online in our *My LACERA* section, download a form from the brochures page, request a form be sent to you, or you may call our Call Center at 1-800-786-6464 and answer a few secure verification questions and we'll change it over the phone.

Before I move off of this topic, I should also let you know that we have revised our "Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments" (Form W4-P). The new form provides what we hope are clear explanations of the tax rules as we understand them and instructions on how to correctly fill out the form in order to elect whatever tax withholding you wish.

Well, I've probably taken up a few columns by this point so it is time to wrap up this month's article. Before I go though, I would like to encourage all retirees who have a computer to check out the My LACERA section of lacera.com. As I mentioned above, you can change your address online. You can also now change your tax withholding election and beginning in August (if all goes according to schedule) you will be able to add or change your direct deposit instructions as well. Finally, next month I will talk about our new login procedures for My LACERA and some new secure verification processes we will use for members calling into our Call Center. Until then, have a great summer and enjoy your retirement!





Thanks so much for remembering my birthday. It made me so happy and made my day so special. I was really ecstatic on my birthday; enjoyed it very much. May God bless you as you continue your good work.

Willie Mae Bailey Inglewood, CA

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Retired Employees of Los Angeles County for your support of the annual Deputy Sheriffs' Reunion held in McArthur, California. You're announcing this event in the RELAC Newsletter and the donation of promotional items distributed to the attendees has helped once again to make this event a great success. This was our 31st year for this event and we hope to have many more. Once again, our sincere and heartfelt thanks for your support in regard to this event and all the other support you provide for the retired employees of Los Angeles County.

The Attendees at Deputy Sheriffs' Reunion

Thank you for remembering my birthday – my 95<sup>th</sup>. Much love and gratitude. Rutilia Atanasoff Fuquay Varina, NC

I am now 90 years old. My birth date is May 12, 1922. I retired from Los Angeles County Communications Department in 1981 with over 25 years of service. Thank you wonderful people for all you do for us retirees.

Velma Blake Seal Beach, CA

The seats at the July 4, 2012 Dodger Game were wonderful and my friends and I had a marvelous time. I did not notice until I looked closely at the ticket, how much they had been discounted. What a very pleasant surprise, for which I also thank you, Mary Rodriguez and the RELAC staff.

Lucy Palermino Los Angeles, CA

Thank you so much for the birthday greetings. It was kind of you. Elias Papachristos Marina Del Rey, CA

#### Health Care Directive continued from p.9

RELAC does not endorse any particular type or form of advance directive for health care. I strongly encourage all of our members to consult with their healthcare provider and discuss what type of directive would be appropriate and acceptable to them. Most physicians will provide you with the form deemed appropriate.

The most important point is this: do not assume your loved ones know what you want. Even if discussed, it is unlikely your wishes will be carried out without an advance directive for health care. Do not leave these most important decisions to chance.

### **VISA CARDS**



### **IN MEMORIAM**

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

Agricultural Comm./Wts.&Measures Ferrell, Donald M.

#### **Assessor**

Brennan, Minnie E. Clay, Yunona A. Garcia, Jennie M. Mulkey, Gene S. Mulqueen, Frank T. Thompson, Eleanor F. Youssef, A-Malek G.

Auditor-Controller Riddle, Mary E.

Beaches & Harbors

Russell, Daniel H. Board of Supervisors

Ragan, Roger Chief Information Office

> Gutierrez, Leonicio L. Newman, Lionel

**Children & Family Services** 

Dizon, Nilda R. Farman, Sattareh F. Feder, Morton McCarthy, Frances A. Mogera, Wilson M. Spicer, Janice A.

Communications

Hilpert, William G. Storar, Dorothy K.

**Community & Senior Services** 

Bowlin, Helen A. Pineda, Juliana G.

County Counsel Hudson, Theresa M.

Sugar, Olive K.

District Attorney

Atkins, Patricia A. Bigornia, Honorato Garrott, Clifton H. Pearson, David B.

Engineer

Cozby, John H. Glenn Jr., Austin

**Fire** 

Boss, George W.
Franklin, William J.
Hanson, Roger C.
Henley, William J.
Mack, John G.
Messner, Ronald J.
Montoya, Kevin T.
Potter, Floyd L.
Rickman, Dana A.
Robertson, Charles F.

Flood Control

Barr, Hubert E. McMillen, William H.

Harbor/UCLA Medical Center

Beshears, Geraldine Carlson, Gladys A. Cunningham, Clinton E. Knapp, Alice M. Rimoin, David L. Wells, Erna L.

**Health Services** 

Cracken M.D., Betsy Dancsecs, Erno M. Fry, Rosa C. Goldberg, Traute G. Jones, Addie M. Krieger, Betty Kordan, Bernard La Moutte, Juan Medina, Leo Niles, Vernon Pearson, Ruby A. Prather, Ruth Rasool, Constance Riggins, Palestine

Internal Services

Baynes, Robert N.
Donatto, Murphy J.
Ferrell, Pearl
Hamilton, J. J.
Hunter, Harold G.
Nims, Jack V.
Rumics, Marie A.
Szewiola, Fred G.
Vadai, Sandor

Robinson, James M.

Zappia, John A.

King/Drew Medical Center

Henry, Lajuana D. Howard, Dorothy L. May, Willie T. McClendon, Dorothy J. Taylor, Carrie L. Wilder, Virginia

LAC+USC Medical Center

Flores, Mariano Garner, Alan R. Gibson, Jeanne Keys, Chester P. Pena, Nydia D. Smith, Recie Wong, James K. Woods, Sylvia Young, Jerry M. **LACERA** 

Burkin, Helen Lynott, Michael E.

**Long Beach General Hospital** 

Campagna, Thomas

Mechanical

Goldman, Robert Marko, Frank C. Tolson, Harold J.

Mental Health

Berkovitz, Irving H. Gelb, Herbert Lewis, Annie L. Olivier, Gilbert N. Singleton, Kittura M. Urquidi, Isaac D.

**Municipal Court** 

Hughes, Richard J. (Long Beach) Ostberg, Elizabeth (Rio Hondo)

Olive View/UCLA Hospital

Bedwell, Maudie Crosdale, Kathleen R. Lerma, Margaret B. Mattoon, Esther Meza, Noemy Morris, Thamar L.

Parks & Recreation

Bellanger, Cheryl Ching, Francis F. Haney, Salem H. Johnson, Royce W. Sarinana, Armand M.

**Probation** 

Azarian, Edward C. Bazarian, Beatrice S. Gonzales, Patricia C. Hayes, Thelma R. Hicks, Calvin, R. Love, Lana R. Quinn, John R. Tanaka, Mary Y.

**Public Defender** 

Cartwright, Miriam F. Klump, William J. Littlefield, Wilbur F.

**Public Health Program** 

Boeding, Raymond R. Garcia, Armando Graves, Robert Kearney, Doreen M. Shoop, Maxine L. Wilbur, Willis M.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

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

#### **Public Library**

Higashi, Jeanne F. Queen, Rose A.

#### **Public Social Services**

Cadish, Mildred Burt, Talmadge W. Caffery, Susan L. Casals, Stella Cunningham, Colleen S. Farmer, Helen J. Gagnon, Geraldine F. Greene, B. O. Harrison, Jacquelyn W. Hodges, Georlene Hunter, Irene R. Jones, Phyllis S. Mc Donald, Alfred S. Mendoza, Sergio Mikhael, Fahmy T. Nance, Betty J. Parnell, Mamie L. Rossi, Cynthia S. Rowell, Carol J. Saluta, Antonio Sims, Leola P. Smith, Richard Steins, Gwendlyn L. Stevens, William E. Tafoya, Margaret Torrence, Eva M. Webb, Gerald R.

#### **Public Works**

Ambler Jr., Frank I.
Bentley, Alan M.
Fisher, Lee O.
Ford, William L.
Haddock, George W.
Kirkwood, Kinney W.
Moramarco, Patricia A.
Vasquez, Frank

#### Rancho Los Amigos Hospital

Affeldt, John E.
Fulton, Kay L.
Laubach, Malcolm I.
Martinez, Henry C.
Montgomery, Ruth A.
Oleta, Maria
Poulson, Gladys E.
Rummler, Antonia
Sales, Ernesto
Spears, Robert L.

### Regional Planning

Young, Willard C.

#### Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk

Kook, Virve H. Mincy, Loretta E.

#### Sheriff

Bougher, Richard L. Brown, Roy F. Bunch, William E. Cannady, Brent W. Crawford, Arthur M. Darnell, Benjamin R. Dawe, Francine O. Figueroa, Raul Gilweit Jr., John E. Goodland Sr., Glen J. Goodman, Erwin Hawkins, Marie L. Herold, William Hunnicutt, Robert T. Kamack, Bennie L. Kenny, Mason R. Kryger, Richard Labue, Thomas V. Lummer, Ronald M. Marchand Jr., Donald E. Mc Carthy, Charles J. McCarroll, Carroll Nelson, Robert E. Petrie, Russell L. Powell, Wayne W. Rebel, Melvin J. Rubio, Mary C. Starks, Alvie L. Swenson, Harold W. Tegtmeier, Marvin G. Wilson, Roger L. Woodruff, Frederick E. Woods, Robert L.

#### So. Coast Air Quality Mgm't. Dist. Polglase, William L.

#### **Superior Court/County Clerk**

Gall, Marie A. Hawkins, Norma D. Jones, Sharen S. Phillips, Susan M.

#### Treasurer & Tax Collector

Amador, Charles M. Bradfield, Margaret R. Broussard, Charles M.

### Department Not Designated

Hobbs, Wesley D. Holtzman, Lloyd D.

# Veteran's Corner

### The Story of Taps

Of all the military bugle calls, none is so easily recognized or more apt to render emotion than the call Taps. The melody is both eloquent and haunting and the history of its origin is interesting and somewhat clouded in controversy.

Taps began as a revision to the signal for Extinguish Lights (Lights Out) a bugle call that was used as the final call of the day and as the name implies, it was a signal to extinguish all fires and lights. Up until the Civil War, the infantry call for Extinguish Lights was the one set down in Silas Casey's (1801-1882) Tactics, which had been borrowed from the French. The music for Taps was adapted by Union General Daniel Butterfield for his brigade in July, 1862.

As the story goes, General Butterfield was not pleased with the call for Extinguish Lights, feeling that the call was too formal to signal the days end, and with the help of the brigade bugler, Oliver Wilcox Norton, wrote Taps to honor his men while in camp at Harrison's Landing, Virginia, following the Seven Days battle. These battles took place during the Peninsular Campaign of 1862. The new call, sounded that night in July, 1862, soon spread to other units of the Union Army and was reportedly also used by the Confederates. Taps was made an official bugle call after the war.

Why the name Taps? The most likely explanation is that the name was borrowed from a drummer's beat. In the beating of a bedtime roll-call three single drum strokes were beat at four-count intervals. This was known as the "Drum Taps" or in common usage of soldiers "The Taps" or "Taps".

It is not clear how or why Taps became associated with funerals. However, its earliest official reference for use at military funeral ceremonies is found in the U.S. Army Infantry Drill Regulations for 1891.

As soon as Taps was sounded that night in July 1862, words were put with the music. The first were "Go To Sleep, Go to Sleep". As the years went on, many more versions were created. There are no official words to the music but many popular verses exist today.

Reference: Tapsbugler.com Submitted by George Hernandez



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

# General Membership Meeting

Mary K. Rodriguez, Chair, Program Committee



### Wednesday, September 12, 2012

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

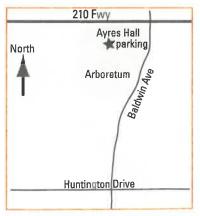
9:00 a.m. – Complimentary Refreshments 10:00 a.m. – Meeting Begins

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

Retiree Information from LACERA & RELAC



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



#### **DRIVING DIRECTIONS:**

From Route 210 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 traffice signal and enter the parking lot. Ayers Hall is located just off the Northerly portion of the lot.



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:

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

www.relac.org