

# RELAC newsletter Celebrating 50 Years of Dedicated Service to L.A. County Retirees

Nov/Dec 2011 Vol 46-6

## President's Message

by Bill de la Garza





With the holiday season approaching it is time to realize that the calendar year of 2011 is ending and it's a good time to reflect on what we have done as well as where we are going. First and foremost I would like to thank your RELAC Board of Directors for their hard work and efforts in making 2011 another banner year for RELAC. This special group of volunteers are the ones who are responsible for making RELAC an outstanding association, dedicated to serving all retirees of Los Angeles County. Our main mission and goal has always been and will continue to be "To enhance and protect our pension and medical plans."

Having RELAC endorsed candidates as retired members on the LACERA Retirement and Investment Boards has been an asset to RELAC and all Los Angeles County Retirees. Remember that they are the ones who are responsible for overseeing and making important decisions regarding your pension, medical and investment plans. All three retired representatives on the LACERA Boards are active RELAC Board Members. They are the RELAC team of Bill de la Garza, Diane Sandoval and Ed Morris. With your help they have recently been elected to serve another three year term.

I'm pleased to report that RELAC has recently negotiated a new ten year lease for our office facility in Alhambra. We negotiated a good price and are happy that the facility meets all of our office needs.

RELAC will continue to publish our bi-monthly Newsletter which is rated as the best newsletter of all retiree organizations in California. We will continue to keep our members informed with all important matters concerning County, State and Federal legislation by means of our Newsletter, Website and E-mail Advisor. Just as important we will continue to provide our members with informative local and regional meetings, and with various enjoyable recreational activities. Both the meetings and the recreation give you the opportunity to visit with your old and present County friends and co-workers.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and office staff, may I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As customary, and until next time, I leave you with this thought:

"Christmas waves a magic wand over the world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."

#### BULLETIN

The results of the well – contested election for seats on the RELAC Board of Directors are in. Elected to three year terms beginning January 1, 2012 are:

Mary Lou Bangar, Ray Guyovich, Ed Morris, Greg Walia, J.P. Harris



## Inside the Newsletter

Would you like to have your RELAC Newsletter sent to you by means of e-mail? Find out how by turning to page 5.

The RELAC Annual Installation Luncheon has been re-named. It's now the **Annual Awards and Recognition Luncheon**. The food is just as good and the speaker, County CEO Bill Fujioka, is first class. The details and the registration form are on page 3.

Signatures are being collected to put some highly undesirable initiatives on the ballot. Why they are opposed is explained on page 2.

On the back page can be found your invitation to RELAC's Annual Holiday Membership Meeting. Come and join the festivities.

# Anti-pension Initiative Petitions Circulating. Do Not Sign!

In the September/October issue of the RELAC Newsletter we reported on three proposed ballot initiatives which bear upon public employee retirement benefits and on which the RELAC Board has taken a position in opposition. Since then the three initiatives have been cleared to collect signatures on petitions to place the initiatives on the the ballot. All three would be harmful to the interests of Los Angeles County retirees and their beneficiaries. It is recommended that you do not sign these petitions and that you urge that your friends, family and former colleagues refuse to sign them. The best bet to defeat these initiatives is to deny them the signatures they need to qualify for placement on the ballot.

Following are brief reminders concerning what the three initiatives are intended to do along with the pertinent parts of their titles assigned by the California Attorney General:

Requires Minimum Investment by Public Pension or Retirement Systems in California Businesses. The requirement for investment in California businesses is 85% of all assets. Retirement funds would be prevented from investing with the optimum balance of returns and risks, and from optimally diversifying their portfolios. The result could be substantial harm to both retirees and taxpayers. (The deadline for signature collection is January 12, 2012.)

Increases Income Taxes on Teachers, Nurses, Police Officers, Firefighters and Other Public Employees. This initiative would add a 15% tax on pensions over \$15,000 per year, and would add a 25% tax on pensions over \$150,000. These taxes would apply only to the state retirement systems, CalPERS and STRS, but its adoption by the voters would almost certainly inspire moves to apply such taxes to other public agencies including LACERA, and to add taxes on pensions below \$100,000 per year. (Deadline for signature collection is February 3, 2011.)

Reduces Pension Benefits for Public Employees. Actually this complex initiative would do much more. It sets an unrealistically high standard for what it calls retirement fund solvency. If the standard is not met it would enforce severe restrictions on the management of funds. A well-managed system such as LACERA would be deprived of the authority to effectively manage its responsibilities. Retirees would be directly and immediately affected by the provision that when the system is less than 100% fully funded cost of living increases due to retirees would be cut in half. This is what the initiative calls the diet-COLA. (Deadline for signature collection is February 10, 2012.)

Which is the least desirable of the three initiatives? None would be good for public employees and retirees. The third of the three listed above would have the most immediate and direct effect on L.A. County. It's important to defeat all three.

## Investments Board

by Diane Sandoval Retiree Representative, LACERA Board of Investments

It's difficult to believe the holidays are just around the corner. Are you ready for the holidays? I'm not – each year I tell myself that I'll be better prepared. Now I'll get to the business at hand – my article. As I sit here writing my article needless to say I once again am troubled with the continued uncertainty that exists with the financial markets. However, I know that this economic malaise will pass.



Hopefully it will be sooner than later. However with the ongoing crisis in Europe and with the US deeply in debt the end in my opinion is not near at hand. We're in for tough times ahead.

The good news is LACERA being a long term investor with assets that are diversified among a myriad of asset classes will weather the storm. During my 35+ years working at LACERA (close to 40 years of Los Angeles County service) I witnessed good times and bad times. LACERA never missed mailing out those benefit payments to retirees at the end of each month. Paying the promised benefits has been and always will be LACERA's top priority.

LACERA's fiscal year began on July 1, 2011 – since fiscal year end (June 30, 2011) it's been a rough start. In my last article, I mentioned LACERA's \$39.3 billion portfolio had generated an estimated gross return of 20.4% for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. As of August 31, 2011, LACERA's portfolio generated a (4.2%) gross return and had a market value of \$37.3 billion. Yes that investment return is negative. All I can say is "What a difference a few months make!" Scotty, beam me up and return me to earth when the economy is fixed!

So I have to ask. How lucky are we? Plenty Lucky! Los Angeles County retirees have nothing to worry about – LACERA remains a strong well run System and is able to meet its financial responsibilities now and in the future.

As a result of this continued economic downturn be prepared for the attacks that will be launched against government workers. Despite the fact that our portfolios have shrunk approximately 60-70%, pension costs are paid through investment earnings. Additionally government retirees contribute to the economy. We're consumers, travelers, and pay our fair share of taxes. So the next time your neighbor complains about government workers remind him/her that you earned your retirement by working hard to provide a service to the citizens of Los Angeles County and by contributing your hard earned money to help pay for the benefit you are currently receiving.

Thank you for your continued support and for taking time to read my articles. Until we meet again in 2012, enjoy the holidays! EAT, SHOP UNTIL YOU DROP AND STAY HEALTHY!!



January 19, 2012 Almansor Court - Alhambra, CA

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKER: WILLIAM FUJIOKA

County Chief Executive Officer
Also featured will be the uplifting voices of
THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (TSA) CHORUS

THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT COLOR GUARD WILL PRESENT THE FLAGS

All members and their spouses and guests are invited to RELAC's Annual Awards Luncheon, being held Thursday, January 19, 2012 - Almansor Court, 700 South Almansor Street, Alhambra, CA Meal costs are being subsidized 50% by RELAC

Choice of entrees – Roulade of Chicken or Prime Rib of Beef with salad and dessert \$15.00 per luncheon ticket - tax and tip included

No Host Cocktail Hour 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Luncheon and Program 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Free Parking

## Come make new friends - Have a good time!

Annual Recognition	n and Award	ds Lun	RESERVATION FORM scheon • January 19, 2012 • Alm	ansor Court, Alhambra, (
Member				
Spouse				
City				Zip
		(At	ttach additional sheets if necessary)	
A. ROULADE OF CHICKEN			B. PRIME RIB OF BEEF	
/lember/Spouse	\$15.00/ea =	\$	Member/Spouse	\$15.00/ea = \$
Guest(s)	\$15.00/ea =			
	TOTAL A	\$		TOTAL B \$
			TOTAL ENCLOSED \$	

Make check/money order payable to "RELAC" and mail to:
RELAC
1000 So. Fremont Ave., Unit 15
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

**NO LATER THAN JANUARY 12, 2012** 

We regret we are unable to refund payments on cancellations received after January 15, 2012

### **REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

by Diane Sandoval Chair, Regional Support Committee

Last month our Committee held its last meeting of the year to discuss and decide on next year's regional meeting schedule. The Committee appreciates your support and attendance at our regional meetings. This being my final article for the year, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members for their support and dedication in serving you, our members.

At the present time I can not give you specific meeting venues or dates; however we've identified three locations as follows:

#### Lancaster/Palmdale Meeting

The Committee is in the process of finding a location to hold a meeting sometime in early March. Our previous location (Elks Lodge) is under new management and has significantly increased their rental fees. Consequently the Elks Lodge is no longer a site RELAC will consider. The Committee has reached out to Supervisor Antonovich's office for help in finding a site for our meeting in the spring.

Don't hesitate to call the RELAC Office if you know of a location that accommodates approximately 80-100 persons for lunch at a reasonable cost. We look forward to hearing your suggestions."

#### Las Vegas Luncheon Meeting

The Committee once again selected the month of May for our 2012 meeting in Las Vegas. You may recall this year's Las Vegas Meeting was held on May 19 at The Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino. Since this year's meeting was well attended the Committee decided to hold it in May once again. At the present time the Committee is negotiating with two hotels. I am confident RELAC will reach a decision later this month, but too late to provide specifics in this newsletter.

#### Palm Springs/Rancho Mirage

The Committee has decided to return to the Palm Springs area in the fall. Originally we were planning a meeting in the spring but changed plans. As you know spring is at the height of the season; consequently the committee was unable to locate a site at a reasonable cost. The Committee's top priority in 2012 will be to secure a site for our meeting.

I leave you with a final message - STAY TUNED FOR SPECIFICS IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE. RELAC will also post 2012 regional meeting sites and dates on our website as soon as contracts are signed and finalized. Enjoy the Holidays and best wishes for a Prosperous and Happy New Year!

## Welcome New Members



#### August & September 2011

Chief Executive Office Salama, Maurice F.

**Child Support Services** Arriola, Marisa

**Children & Family Services** 

Bogar, Cassandra

**Fire Department** 

Schriver, Alvin T.

**Health Services** 

Boykin, Robert Charira, Aaron Flores, Ana Y. Pinkney, Laura M. Uy, Cesar I.

**Internal Services** 

Carlton, Jack S. Gamble, Brenda

King Medical Center Brown, Viesta

**LAC/USC Medical Center** Zenzola, Pete J.

**Public Library** 

Butterworth, Linda M. Rodriguez, Barbara M.

**Public Social Services** 

Hernandez, Margaret Jennings, Linda M. Mitsunaga, Ken Rawls, Willie

**Public Works** 

Baker, Frankie L. Fix, Kenneth O. Sidwell, John M.

Real Estate

DiGregorio, Frank

#### Sheriff

Scauzillo, Paul Taylor, Peggy L.J.

**Superior Court** 

Solano, Ruben

Treasurer & Tax Collector LeMelle, Ola

**Department Not Designated** Standish, Dalia T.

**New Affiliate Member LACERA** 

Casey, Julianne

#### **New Associate Members**

Arriola, George Baker, Oliver W. Boykin, Olga Carlton, Carolyn Charira, Gloria DiGregoria, Jeanne Fix, Pamela G. Gamble, Anthony Hernandez, Antonio C. Holden, Harlan Jennings, Ned R. LeMelle, Roy Rodriguez, Robert R. Salama, Jeanette Schriver, Margaret Sidwell, Josephine Standish, Richard L. Uy, Ana Zenzola, Anna L.

Join S.T.I.R. (Sisters Together in Retirement) on our 2ND REUNION CRUISE **Sailing May 15,2012** on Norwegian Cruise Line's "JEWEL"



Departs from Los Angeles at 4:00 p.m. on May 15, 2012. Destination Canada. Stops in Victoria and Vancouver BC

Ocean View Staterooms \$550.00

Inside Staterooms \$425.00

Rates quoted are based upon availability and double occupancy. All taxes and vacation protection are included in the price. A \$100 per person deposit is due by November 25, 2011. The second deposit of \$250 is due by January 1. 2012. Final payment is due March 1, 2012.

Make checks/money orders payable to TRIO TRAVEL & TOURS. All credit cards are accepted. Mail deposits to Jackie Shaw, 1618 Cyrene Drive, Carson, CA 90746. For more information call Jackie at (310)604-1077. Arrangements for return flights may be made through the travel agent.

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RELAC members now have a choice. Beginning with the January 2012 issue you can have your Newsletter delivered to you electronically by means of e-mail or you can continue to receive the printed version of the Newsletter delivered by the Post Office. It is completely up to you.

By filling out the coupon below and sending it to the RELAC office you can have the January issue e-mailed. If you decide to stay with the printed version for now you can change your mind at any time in the future and request the e-mailed version to begin with a future Newsletter issue. If you opt for e-mail and decide later to switch back to print you can do that at any time.

To assist you in deciding which way to go you can request that RELAC send you one issue in both the printed and the e-mailed versions. That option is provided in the coupon. If you simply decide to stay with the printed Newsletter then you need not send in the coupon.

#### **REQUEST FOR E-MAILED NEWSLETTER**

Name	
E-mail Ado	dress
Check on	e:
-	Beginning with the next issue send me each issue of the RELAC Newsletter via e-mail.
-	Send me the next issue of the RELAC Newsletter both via e-mail and in the printed version for the purpose of comparison.
Mail to:	RELAC 1000 So. Fremont Ave., Unit 15 Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

# BIG YEAR IN 2011 FOR RECREATION

by Mary K. Rodriguez Chair, Recreation Committee

Hello Everyone!

When I was young my mother would remark that as we get older time flies by exceptionally fast. At that time looking forward a month or a year seemed an

eternity. How things change! 2011 has gone rather quickly, fall has arrived and the Holiday Season is fast approaching.

It has been a busy year. The RELAC Day at Hollywood Park was held on June 9, 2011 and once again, it was well attended. A total 119 RELAC members and guests were in attendance. It was a beautiful day and we were in the Ascot Terrace area which is a great location. The buffet lunch was very good as usual and everyone seemed to have a good time. We even had a few winners. Not me – but maybe next year or the year after.

On July 4, 2011 more than 160 of us enjoyed a fun evening at Dodger Stadium. Our Dodgers didn't do so well that evening but the fireworks show following the game was really great. It was a very pleasant evening. Hopefully, our team will do a lot better next season.

Good news! This year we were able to return to Santa Anita Park. Last year the track had to be upgraded and we were cancelled out. Our RELAC Day this year was held on Thursday, October 6, 2011 and 128 of us attended. As in years past, our members were assigned to the Sierra Vista section which provides a great view of the finish line. The food was great and all seemed to enjoy the day.

A special thank you goes to Ed Clifton, Coordinator of the RV Club, and to Gil Sandoval, RELAC Golf Director Due to the tireless efforts of Ed and Gil, our RV members and our RELAC golfers thoroughly enjoy these events. Thank you both so very much.

At present our committee is planning events for 2012. We would really appreciate your input and ideas as to what you would like to see for additional activities. Some members have asked for a Casino Day. We went to the San Manuel Indian Casino last year but participation was down. Would you like to try again? Please give us your requests.

THANK YOU -- to each and every one of you who attend these events. Your support is greatly appreciated. Without your interest and attendance we would not be able to provide these fun activities.

I also want to thank the Recreation Committee for their time and effort necessary to make these events successful. Thanks to Alice Prouty, Vice-Chair, Ed Clifton, Don Fandry, Marianne Reich and Gil Sandoval.

2011 has been a good year. We are looking forward to seeing you in 2012. Have a great Holiday Season!



# PENSION REFORM BACK ON THE BURNER IN SACRAMENTO

by Dave Muir Legislation Committee Chair

Assembly Bill No. 340, now pending in the state Legislature, contained several specific pension reform measures that would have applied to LACERA and other county retirement systems. On September 7, 2011, the bill was amended to delete all of its provisions and to insert the following:

"It is the intent of the Legislature to convene a conference committee to craft responsible, comprehensive legislation to reform state and local pension systems in a manner that reflects both the legitimate needs of public employees and the fiscal circumstances of state and local governments."

Four days later, on September 11, 2011, the Los Angeles Times reported that Governor Brown is "expected to propose a new pension plan for public employees that could directly pit labor against business." As of this writing, the Governor's proposal has not yet been released.

The "conference committee" mentioned in AB 340 will be a special purpose committee of the Legislature composed of members of both the Assembly and the Senate. The committee is expected to hold public hearings on various pension reform proposals. RELAC will closely monitor the conference committee proceedings and report on further developments in the Newsletter. Between Newsletter issues updated reports will appear on the the RELAC Website, www.relac.org.



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RELAC Members

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Membership is subject to eligibility. All new accounts will be verified through ChexCystems and are subject to credit approval. Real Estate Loans are subject to credit approval. Due to current real estate and economic conditions, loan requests that exceed 80% of the property's value will require additional review and may incur higher costs. Loan funding is subject to membership eligibility and credit approval.

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#### **RELAC NEWSLETTER**

Vol 46 - Nov/Dec 2011 Number 6

Retired Employees of Los Angeles County 1000 S. Fremont Ave. Unit 15, Alhambra, CA 91803-8802 (626) 308-0532 (800) 537-3522 Fax (626) 308-2901 E-mail: admin@relac.org

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George Hernandez
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Dave E. Kalinger

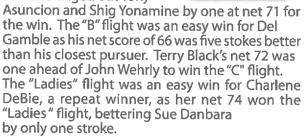
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website:
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# Golf News By Gil Sandoval RELAC Golf Director

#### Lakewood Golf Tournament Oct. 3, 2011

The weather was very favorable at Lakewood as 45 players enjoyed a slight breeze. The "A" flight was very close as Mike Barreras edged out Tony



A blind draw Partner Best Ball competition has been added to our competition at Diamond Bar in December. We will be matching up a 19 and under player to a 20 or higher handicap player to even out the competition.

#### Lakewood Results:

# "A" Flight Winner (19 and under) 1st Mike Barreras (71) 2nd Tony Asuncion (72)\* 3rd Shig Yonamine (72) "B" Flight (20-27 Handicaps)

1<sup>st</sup> Del Gamble (66) 2<sup>nd</sup> Mas Hamasu (71) 3<sup>rd</sup> Don DeBok (72)

"C" Flight (28 up Handicap)
1st Terry Black (72)

2<sup>nd</sup> John Wehrly (73) 3<sup>rd</sup> Frank Barajas (75)

**Ladies** 

1st Charlene DeBie (74) 2nd Sue Danbara (75)

3<sup>rd</sup> Lil Hamasu (81)

\*Winner in a card off.

## Closest to the Pin on Par 3's Men

# 3-Ralph Hamada # 5-Shig Yonamine

# 12-Jim Noyes

#17-Jerome Clayton
Women

# 3 –Lil Hamasu # 5 –Chris Core

#12 –No Winner

#17 -No Winner

NEXT TOURNAMENT – Monday, Dec. 5, 2011 Diamond Bar Golf Course 8:00 a.m. start Entry Deadline: Nov. 17, 2011

# RELAC Golf Entry Form

Diamond Bar Golf Course 22751 E. Golden Springs Dr. Diamond Bar, CA 91765



#### Monday, December 5, 2011 8:00 am start

Please Print

Address	
	Zip
Phone	
Fees: \$32.00	PER GOLFER - CART EXTRA
golfers. <u>Addresses of</u> If possible, we would	in a foursome with below all golfers MUST be included prefer an starting time.
2. Name	
City	Zip
Phone	
3. Name	
Address	
City	Zip
Phone	
1. Name	
	Zip
hone	

Entry Deadline November 17, 2011 ALL CHECKS MUST BE IN RELAC OFFICE

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

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

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# Members Spotlight



# Members' Milestones

A Very Happy Belated Birthday to **Dale Gregory** upon the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday! He and his wife Ladora have four



granddaughters and three great grandkids. That keeps them very busy – that, and the bad weather in North Dakota. We were told that, if anyone wants to see some interesting films, just Google "Minot ND 2011 flooding" on your computer. Dale has been ill with cancer which is now in remission and Ladora has indicated that cards, pictures, notes, letters or updates from old friends at Public Works are welcome and would be much appreciated. E-mail to diger2@srt.com.

Congratulations to **Judy and Murray DePillars** who are celebrating their 54<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on November 23, 2011! Murray has been retired from the Mechanical Department for 25 years and they currently live in Kahului Maui, Hawaii. Best Wishes from the RELAC family!

## See's Candies Discount Continues



Some holiday traditions are just too good to abandon! 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 preboxed 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!

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, 2011 through October 31, 2012.

#### **NEWS FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS**

Recently we reached out to our members who are now enjoying their retirement years outside of the United States. To date we have received two responses – one from Canada and one from Peru. We would like to share some of their thoughts with you:

Leslie Lupien who retired from the Department of Public Social Services and now resides in Brossard, QC, Canada writes:

My wife Denise and I have lived in the Montreal, Canada area since December 1992 shortly after my retirement from a position as Administrative Assistant in DPSS. I became a Canadian citizen a few years ago. Denise, as a native French Canadian, was always a Canadian citizen.

LACERA members may be especially interested in Canadian health care. First, I ask that they disregard the slanderous reports in some American publications about Canadian Medicare. The Wall Street Journal, for one example, described the Canadian health care system as similar to those in Cuba and North Korea. Nonsense! All Canadian citizens and residents are eligible for Medicare. They also have access, at least in Quebec province, to care under a parallel private system. When I needed cataract surgery, I had the choice of immediate treatment by paying \$2,000 for each eye or free treatment if I waited a few months. I chose to wait and have never regretted it. The Medicare-performed surgery was a complete success. I have found the quality of Medicare here generally good. It does have problems, including long waits for some non-emergency services and lack of coverage for some. Denise and I have avoided these problems by using the parallel private system. We can do this without financial hardship because of our coverage by LACERA-sponsored Blue Cross I which pays 80% on every claim.

Denise enjoys aspects of the unique French Canadian culture here in Quebec province. I cannot because I tried hard and failed to master conversational French. (Fortunately, staffs in all public facilities in the Montreal area speak English.) My only cultural outlet is through the English-speaking Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Society. I have sold stories to the two major Canadian science fiction magazines.

Based on my experience, I would describe the environment here as generally civil and tolerant. Gay marriage is permitted in all of Canada. We have a number of gay and lesbian couples in our housing development that fit in without difficulty.

To close I must mention the great disadvantage of living here; the long and brutal winters. How Denise and I yearn for the mild winter days of Los Angeles!

Juana Pina-Torres who retired from the Department of Health Services and now resides in Lima, Peru sends a special invitation to RELAC members:

Hi from Lima, Peru. I am a little late because I had a little health problem. Thanks to the Lord, I am O.K. I would like to invite everyone to visit Peru. You are welcome at my home. Lima is a very nice place. Thanks to everyone who works so hard for all us RELAC members.



# RV Outing Notes by Ed Clifton Coordinator of RV Club

Nineteen rigs were in attendance at our September outing in Chula Vista. Great weather and good people combined to make it another very enjoyable getaway. Our Wagon Masters, Leon and Dian Stegall, along with their assistants, Jim and Betty Butner, did a great job to eliminate the various problems that always seem to rear their ugly head. Oh, did I mention all the good food!! That always helps to make the little problems seem not so problematic. Our potluck on Tuesday night was a big hit. Sometimes it seems like all we do is eat. But isn't it grand!!! For our "Ladies Night Out" we went to the Galley at the Marina Restaurant which is, for most of us anyway, within walking distance of the campground. This time we chose to be seated in the patio area and had a lovely view of the marina and all the various boats that were moored there.

Our Annual Christmas Party will once again be held at the Hokkaido Seafood Buffet, 3030 Cherry Avenue, Long Beach, CA on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. A letter will be sent from RELAC with further details. Although Sara Campbell is no longer with us, we will continue the tradition of gifts for her CASA kids. Please bring an unwrapped gift - for infant through teenager. Also, don't forget to bring your gift for our "cut throat" gift exchange in a gift bag (not wrapped).

Our January 2012 outing will be held at the Pechanga RV Resort in Temecula, CA on January 23, 24, 25, 2012. The early day (if you choose) will be January 22, 2012. Coupon follows:

#### R.V. CAMPOUT RESERVATION

CAMPGROUND: PECHANGA RV RESORT

45000 Pechanga Pkwy, Temecula, CA 92592

(877) 997-8386

DATES: January 23, 24,25, 2012 (Early day January 22, 2012)

Names:			
Address:	(Last)	(Retiree)	(Spouse)
City:	(No.)	(Street)	
Telephone: (	)	(State)	(Zip)

**DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2011** 

Cost: \$99.00 for three days; \$32.00 extra for early day.
Please pay Wagon Master for additional day.

Make checks payable to Don Egbert, the Wagon Master, and mail to:

Don Egbert 31920 Trail Road Agua Dulce, CA 91390 Phone: 661-251-0755

Motor Home	Trailer	Lenath	

#### News From LACERA

by Janice Golden Assistant Executive Officer

# STAR Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Benefit

I'm often asked why only certain members are eligible to receive the STAR COLA benefit on January 1. If you are not receiving a Supplemental Targeted Adjustment for Retirees (STAR) benefit – you might consider that a good



thing! The STAR benefit is designed to ease the effects of inflation for retirees whose retirement allowance has lost more than 20 percent of its purchasing power since retirement. If you aren't eligible for the STAR benefit that means your regular April COLA is helping you keep pace with inflation – at least to a certain extent.

The STAR benefit is applicable only to contributory members (Plans A-D). However, the COLA Accumulation explained below is applicable to all Plan members.

## How Do Retirees Accrue a 20 Percent COLA Accumulation?

Think of the COLA Accumulation as a COLA savings account you are putting aside for rainy days. Each time you receive an April 1 COLA increase, you may also be adding to your COLA savings account, depending on the percentage difference in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the past year (December-December). You only add to your COLA savings account when the change in the CPI exceeds your maximum allowable COLA. When that occurs, the excess percentage between the CPI change and the COLA you received is added to your "COLA Accumulation" bank.

As an example, let's say Lucy Lacera, a Plan D member, retired in July of 2000. Let's also say that according to the CPI, inflation rose by four percent over the 12-month period from December 31, 1999 to December 31, 2000. On April 1, 2001, Lucy received a two percent COLA, because that is the maximum allowable amount for Plan D members. In addition, the excess two percent between the CPI change (4 percent) and the COLA Lucy received (2 percent) was "deposited" into her "COLA" bank.



#### The History of Veterans Day

Veterans Day gives Americans the opportunity to celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of all U.S. veterans. However, most Americans confuse this holiday with Memorial Day, reports the Department of Veterans Affairs.

What's more some Americans don't know why we commemorate our veterans on November 11. It's imperative that all Americans know the history of Veterans Day so that we can honor our former service members properly.

#### A Brief History of Veterans Day

Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I veterans.

In 1954, after having been through World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress – at the urging of the veterans service organizations – amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans". With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

In 1968, the Uniform Holiday Bill ensured three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. Under this bill, Veterans Day moved to the last Monday of October. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971.

Finally on September 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11 beginning in 1978. Since then, the Veterans Day holiday has been observed on November 11.

#### **Celebrating the Veterans Day Holiday**

If the November 11 holiday falls on a non-workday – Saturday or Sunday – the holiday is observed by

the federal government on Monday (if the holiday falls on Sunday) or Friday (if the holiday falls on Saturday). State and local government closings are determined locally, and non-government businesses can close or remain open as they see fit, regardless of federal, state or local government operation determinations.

United States Senate Resolution 143, which was passed on August 4, 2001, designed the week of November 11 through November 17, 2001, as "National Veterans Awareness Week." The resolution calls for educational efforts directed at elementary and secondary school students concerning the contributions and sacrifices of veterans.

#### The difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day

Memorial Day honors service members who died in service to their county or as a result of injuries incurred during battle. Deceased veterans are also remembered on Veterans Day but the day is set aside to thank and honor living veterans who served honorably in the military – in wartime or peacetime.

Source: Military.com; contributed by George Hernandez

#### **Military Tribute Days**

Knott's Berry Farm annual tribute to our military, past and present, starts November 1, 2011. Free admission for veterans, or current military personnel, and one guest with proper ID presented at turnstile (DD214), Veteran's Administration Hospital ID or active military ID. Plus, purchase up to six additional tickets for just \$17 each. Ends Thanksgiving Day.

#### WHERE ARE RELAC MEMBERS HIDING?

Thank you RELAC members. You have been very helpful in finding lost members and we are getting there. However, there are still a few lost members we are trying to locate. In most cases, we believe these members have moved and have not given us their forwarding addresses. If you are in contact with any of the following lost RELAC members, please ask them to call us at (800) 537-3522 or e-mail us at admin@relac.org.

Jacqueline Abell Eileen Kelly Clarian Martin Margueritte Anderson Mary Batiste Marc Padre **Blanche Parks** John Benfield Louise Payne Marian Beverly **Ruby Porter** Joan Carney **Betty Sorenson** Jeanne Davenport James Walton Paul Evans

RELAC DOES NOT RECEIVE REPORTS OF ADDRESS CHANGES MADE TO LACERA SO BE SURE TO LET US KNOW IF YOU MOVE!



## **VISA CARDS**



#### www.SouthlandCU.org • 800.426.1917

# Good Times at RELAC's Annual Picnic at Santa Fe Dam



The raffle grand prize winner, Mary Proctor, on the right with RELAC Vice President and raffle conductor, Diane Sandoval. Mary who retired from Health Services, won a Keurig Coffee Maker



Picnickers dancing up a storm on a great day for a picnic

# For Sale

CEMETERY LOTS – Two plots, Oakdale Memorial Park, Glendora, CA, Garden of Devotion Lawn, Spaces 3 and 4. Asking \$5,210 for both (Park offers similar spaces for \$5,200 each). Will pay transfer fee of \$210. Contact William at (323) 465-0555.

CEMETERY LOTS - Three plots, Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, CA, Garden of Benediction, Lot 211, Spaces 2-4. Asking \$3,500 each or \$10,000 for all three. Contact Treva at (928) 667-7111.

CEMETERY LOTS - Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, CA, four plots, Garden of Rest and two plots, Masonic Memorial Lawn. Asking \$4,000 each or best offer. Call (760) 952-1962.

2003 FORD TRUCK F-450 4X2 CREW CHASSIS, SUPER DUTY POWER STROKE V8 LARIAT TURBO DIESEL - \$31,000. Super condition, 10,240 miles, 5-speed diesel automatic TR, 6.0 liter engine, leather seats, crew cab, custom lined 8' bed w/storage cabinets, dual rear wheels, running boards, custom tailgate, Resse 16k 5th wheel hitch mounted in bed. Call (909) 239-9502.

2000 HITCHHIKER II 31, CKTGBW 5™ WHEEL TRAILER BY NU-WA -\$17,000. Very good condition, 10,240 miles, Color: sienna, 3 hydraulic glide outs, includes hundreds of \$\$\$'s of RV extras like flushing hoses, water filters, RV cleaning supplies, basic off-road tools, folding camping table plus other camping equipment. Call (909) 239-9502.

CHINA CABINET - Lighted with glass shelves, solid cherry wood, superb craftsmanship, like new, in two sections for stacking. Beveled glass in upper door and view panels. Lower section has lockable storage cabinets plus felt lining for silverware. Overall size when stacked 72" wide x 17.6" high. Original cost \$2,700. Will sell for \$850. Call (310) 326-0893. 

#### LACERA continued from p. 9

It takes a long period of time for a retiree's COLA Accumulation to reach a 20 percent level. One reason is because in some years, there is no excess COLA to add to the Accumulation. For example, if inflation is two percent, the member gets his or her maximum two percent COLA and there is no excess to add to the COLA bank. Also, during times where there is deflation or only slight inflation (say 0.5 percent), members could still receive their maximum COLA amount by "withdrawing" from their COLA Accumulation.

#### Visit lacera.com to Learn More

To learn more about STAR COLA and view the COLA Accumulation chart, visit LACERA's website at lacera.com and enter "2011 COLA Accumulation" in the search box.

#### Western Touring With Great

626-578-1161 • 800-344-7090

RELAC DISCOUNT APPLIES!

# Departures: January 29, 2012

Price Per Person: Double: \$259.00 - Single: \$309.00

#### **Tour Price Includes**

- \* Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- \* One Night Hotel Accommodation
- \* 3 Meals: 1 Continental Breakfast, Lunch at Madonna Inn Dinner at McLintocks \* Guided Tour of Arroyo Grande
- \* Guided Tour of the Pismo Beach Monarch Butterfly Groves \* All Taxes and Baggage Handling \* Driver's Gratuity



February 6, 2012

We're bringing Branson to Mesquite, Nevada and you don't want to miss the fun!

\$449.00 Double – Per Person \$559.00 Single - Per Person

- Tour Price Includes -

\* Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation \* 3 Nights Hotel - CasaBlanca Resort & Casino

\* Welcome Reception, \* 3 Live Branson Shows, \* 2 Afternoon Shows, \* Fun & Fitness Classes, \* Western Dance Classes, \* Fashion Show, \* Shopping Shuttle, \* 3 Breakfast Buffets, \* St. George Live Historic Tour \* Tax & Baggage \* Driver Gratuity



### Pacific Coast **Panorama**



9-Day Cruise - Motorcoach - Rail Island Princess • Coast Starlight Departs May 11, 2012

#### LOS ANGELES - SAN FRANCISCO VICTORIA - VACOUVER - JEATTLE

#### **Tour Price Includes**

- 5-Night Cruise Island Princess (all meals and entertainment aboard ship)
- Two Night Seattle Hotel Accommodations
  - One Way Amtrak Seattle/Los Angeles
- Seattle City Tour Dinner at Seattle Space Needle · Pike's Market
  - Port Charges and Government Fees
  - Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
  - · All Transfers Tax & Baggage Handling



Double Per Person FROM \$1899.00

# RELAC Members to Vote on Bylaws Amendments

(Continued)

by Ed Morris Chair, Bylaws, Nominations, Elections Committee

A number of proposed amendments to the RELAC Bylaws were published in the September/October issue of the Newsletter.

Additional proposed amendments appear below. All of the proposed amendments will be voted on by those members in attendance at the General Membership Meeting to be held on December 5, 2011 at the Diamond Bar Center. Following are the additional proposed amendments:

Article VI, Section 2 - Other Nominations

**Current Bylaw reads:** (c) Prior to the the annual election, the Newsletter shall print election information of up to 150 words on all candidates if received by July 31. Notice of this provision and of the due date for submission shall be published in advance in the Newsletter. Any statement submitted with more than 150 words shall have the excess words stricken from the end of the statement.

**Proposed Amendment:** This entire paragraph as underlined is deleted and is replaced by new paragraph (d) in Section 3 below.

Article VI, Section 3 - Election Procedures

**Proposed Amendment:** The entire paragraph as underlined below is added to Article VI, Section 3.

(d) All candidates may submit a statement to be included with the ballot of up to 150 words outlining their qualifications. The statement must be received in the RELAC office by 4:00 p.m. on August 14 or 4:00 p.m. on the next business day if the office is closed on August 14. Statements received after this deadline will not be considered. Notice of this provision and of the due date for submission shall be provided to each person who receives a nomination petition form and will be published in advance in the Newsletter. Any statement submitted with more than 150 words shall have the excess words stricken from the end of the statement.

**Current Bylaw reads:** (d) If voting is by ballot, ballots will be distributed to all members in the September/October issue of the Newsletter. The same issue will contain information on all candidates if received in accordance with established procedures.

**Proposed Amendment:** Delete underlined wording above. New wording underlined below:

(e) If voting is by ballot, ballots will be distributed by first class mail to all members. The same mailing will contain information on all candidates if received in accordance with established procedures.

Previously published amendments to be voted on at the December 5 General Membership Meeting to be held in Diamond Bar can be found on page 13 of the September/October RELAC Newsletter and on the RELAC Website, www.relac.org.





Hi folks at RELAC! Thank you for my RELAC membership card. Now I am officially one of you and can prove it! Whoopee! The bonus gift letter opener will serve me well. THANK YOU AGAIN! I must say you are doing a great job helping people like me – a spouse of someone long gone (1984). I am a retired minister so call me "Magi" (Maggie uses too much ink). Even Disney only put three fingers on Mickey; saved time and ink.

Magi Craycroft La Mesa, CA

I have finally made the 95 year old mark and I still remember the great associations I had while serving on the Board of Directors. All of the RELAC Board Members and office staff work hard to keep benefits available. My only trouble is being so far away and not able to work and help set up activities. I for one appreciate all the great work you do. Keep it up!

Jack Gillespie Sacramento, CA

Thank you RELAC, and the Outreach Committee in particular, for the Birthday Card you sent upon the occasion of my 94<sup>th</sup> Birthday. With appreciation, **Delia Loya** 

San Dimas, CA

Just a line to thank you for the beautiful Birthday Card. It was very kind and thoughtful of you to remember an old lady's birthday. I enjoyed working for L.A. County and I am now enjoying my retirement years. Again, thank you for the lovely card.

Alice Nishikawa Los Angeles, CA

I wish to thank you for my Birthday Card. I sure did enjoy receiving it. I was 92 years old. I thank God. He has been good to me. I really enjoy reading the Newsletter. It lets me know what's going on and keeps me up to date on our health plans. Unfortunately I will not be able to get the See's Candy because there is not a store here in Kansas City, MO. Thank you again for everything. With love.

Mae Dee Reed Kansas City, MO

## **IN MEMORIAM**

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

Agricultural Comm/Wts & Measures

Neally, Wesley L.

Alcohol/Drug Pgms. Admin.

Starks, Calvin L.\*

**Animal Control** 

Jones, Robert

Assessor

Cron, Beverly A.\*

Ghess, Claudia\*

Mabry, Bertha M.\*

Rothkoff, Melvin

Schmitt, Elaine\*

Schneiderman, Alan I.\*

**Beaches & Harbors** 

Schiff, Edith D.\*

**Chief Information Office** 

McGrue, Estella

**Child Support Services** 

Akins, Mary E.

Scott, Mary

**Children & Family Services** 

Desamero, Rosita A.

Hokkanen, Karen A.\*

McLand, Gerhard M.\*

Riggins, Margaret A.

Rosete, Anita P.

Thomas, Floretta

Collections

Barr, Clinal E.

Community & Sr. Citizens Svcs

Jenkins, Roy

**County Counsel** 

Gregory, Nicholas A.

Layos, Amado L.

**District Attorney** 

Gregg, Howard R.\*

**Engineer/Facilities** 

Edson, Bruce W.\*

Fox, Francis J.

Kasper, Paul C.\*

Fire

Becker, James R.

Condos, Nick G.\*

Muir, Brian L.

Puckett, James M.\*

Robertson Jr., J.

Scottini, Robert P.\*

Flood Control

Perrin, Robert E.

Forester & Fire Warden

Dunn, James R.

Harbor/UCLA Medical Center

Cain, Eunice T.

Carsten, Carol A.\*

Doler, Othell E.

Dickey, Edward

Kelly, Maureen A.

Marshall, James R.\*

Pese, Aualuma

Ruiz, Jennie J.

Spells, Addie M.\*

Yancey, Henry M.

**Health Services** 

Beh, Mary\*

Holloway, John R.\*

Locklear, Jesse M.\*

Talbert, Robert J.\*

Watts, Catherine F.\*

**Health Services Administration** 

Aghbashian, Alma A.\*

Bolton, William H.

Barot, Sergio

Belasco, Aureo \*

Danson, Harry S.

Garces, Alice\*

Matthews, Ronald S.

Mc Grath, Nora\*

Okamoto, Chiyoko J.

Ragsdale, Clyde M.\*

Register, Evelyn R.

Salazar, Anthony

Shigaki, Diana K.

Sommers, Beatrice A.\*

Wheeler, Robert V.

**Internal Services** 

Aubery, James

Crawford, Harvey L.\*

Grigsby, Johnny P.

King/Drew Medical Center

Malbrue, Carrie

Knox, Arnita

Poindexter, Cecil

Taylor, Joyce L.\*

Watson, Bridie\*

Williams, Graeme A.

LAC + USC Medical Center

Barela, Jose E.

Barrera, Celia A.\*

Barrow, Fred L.

Cross, Earline

Henderson, Verna M.

Hogg, Goldie \*

Nickson, Vertia B.

Noel, Orene J.

Phillips, Frances

Prewitt, Odell\*

Richard, Robert M.

Rios, Herminia C.\*

Sanders, Minnie Pearl\*

Suggs, Eleanor

Mechanical

Bracamonte, Raul V.

Buckhalter, Woodrow W.

Hassan, M.

Peoples, William R.

Wood, Andrew C.

**Medical Examiner-Coroner** 

Shuster Jr., Walter L.

Ynfante, Rose M.

Mental Health

Blount, John

Dunning, Edward\*

Edmondson, Alpha J.

Glaw, Betty J.\*

KleinMarcia S.

Moredock, Nancy

**Municipal Court** 

Lewin, Wilma\* (Inglewood)

**Museum of Art** 

Muhammad, Wali

Olive View Hospital

Jarvis, Dorothy A.

Kioumehr, Farhad Moore, Rhiunia \*

**Parks & Recreation** 

Haller, Melville L.\*

Ooley, Warren\*

Tacata, Eduardo F

Schmidt, Eugene J.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

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

#### **Probation**

Coomes, Donna Hamilton, Donald Hampton, Robert T.\* Humdy, Nora J. Munger, Jack R.\* Patrick, Christopher\* Smith, V. C. Stover, Leroy\* Tobin, George L.\* Yudkoff, Eleanor K.

#### **Public Health Program**

Davidson, Reid W. Eckman, Harold P.\* Heller, Jean\* La Macchia, John M. Lisbin, Arthur B.\* Smith, Bonnie E. Zapf, Martha\*

#### **Public Library**

Gentry, Mary M. Sparks, Lena B.\*

#### **Public Social Services**

Agron, Norman E.\* Booker, Linnea\* Bracey, Donna Cristino, George M. Croz, Norma B.\* Davidson, Geraldine\* Cuervo, Yolanda Gaines, Delores\* Deutsch, Rhoda C. Egan, Anne E. Esquef, Francisca B.\* Henley, Jeanne Hanna, Helmy G.\* Hays-Semien, Doris Hernandez, Ozzie Herring, Ruth M Lavigne, Frank O. Lockney, Robert E.\* MacDonald, Doris J.\* Miranda, Rafael Proctor, Sulamith S. Rodriguez, Beatrice E.\* Shockley, Madison T.\* Spooner, Barbara \*

#### **Public Works**

Anderson, James G. Civitello, Raymond M. Jenkins, Gary Lopez, Lydia P. Meras, Manuel N. Rodriguez, Raymond J. Taylor, Kenneth\* Villegas, Armando G.

#### **Rancho Los Amigos Hospital**

Guzman, Brigid\* Javier, Zenaida R.\* Joseph, Erma C.\* Mc Cown, John I. Silva, Norma C.\* Smith, Joyce P.\* Williams, Richard D.

#### Regional Planning

Lackner, Rudy R.

#### Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk

Andersen, Lilamay B.\* Belfi, Elios Dunn, Dolly R. Juloya Sr., Demetrio G. Wong, Wing S.

#### Road

Beaner, Vernon E.\* Gentry, William P.\* Sobrino, Joseph\*

#### Sheriff

Beechler, Dick F. Davis, Lawrence W.\* Demasi, Richard A. Eddleman, Joseph R.\* Ernstrom, Norma E. Flick, Dennis J.\* Fryer, Thomas L.\* Gambino, Charles A. Gwaltney, Gilbert D. Hall, Ida R. Jamieson Jr., Robert H.\* Jones, Kenneth W.\* Knudson, Douglas M. Keiser, Frank A.\* Lilly, Eugene\* Majchrzak, Frank J.

Moreno, Eugene M. Musulin, Marleen D. Solevilla, Jose L. Stephens, Robert B.\* Stephens, Carolyn L. Villines, Leroy D.\* Wise, Herschel B.\*

#### So. Coast Air Quality Mgmt.

George, Ralph E.\*

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

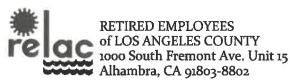
Bernhardt, A. J.\* Garcia, Aurora I. Gunn, Robert Hawkins, Clarence R. Hummel, Edward J.\* Kazner, Mary A. Spann, Constance E. Saunders, Milton E. Selar. Estelle\* Testa, Eugene B. Webster, Harry M.

#### Women's Hospital

Childers, Maxene A.\* Padilla, Julia I. Pierce, Louise Randolph, Mildred S.\* Varela, Victoria C.

#### **Department Not Designated**

Coleman, Mabel M Danvers, Leroy C. Harris, Eula M. Hagthrop, Robert E. McCaslin, Edward W.\*



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# General Membership Me

Mary K. Rodriguez, Chair, Program Committee



Monday, December 5, 2011

Diamond Bar Center 1600 South Grand Avenue Diamond Bar, CA 91765

9:00 a.m. - Complimentary Refreshments A SPECIAL GIFT FOR ALL ATTENDEES

10:00 a.m. - HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES BEGIN Featuring Caroling by Citrus College Women's Ensemble

Please bring your RELAC Membership Card





From the eastbound Pomona (60) freeway or the northbound Orange [57] freeway

- Exit Grand Avenue
- ~ Turn right onto Grand Avenue
- Turn left at Diamond Bar Center

From the westbound Pomona (60) freeway or the southbound Orange [57] freeway - Exit Grand Avenue

- Turn left onto Grand Avenue
- Turn left at Diamond Bar Center

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



Diamond Bar Center

1600 S. Grand Avenue 💠 Diamond Bar 💠 California 💠 91765-4178 💠 (909) 839-7070



#### 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.