

RELAC Hosts CRCEA Fall Conference

by Evelyn Gutierrez, CRCEA Conference Committee

The CRCEA Fall 2021 Conference hosted by RELAC from Nov. 7-10 was coordinated by Conference Committee co-chairs Dave Muir and Evelyn Gutierrez, and members Brian Berger, Linda Hopkins, J.P. Harris, Les Robbins and Sheila Simpson.

Following an almost two year cancellation of conferences, the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA), a 20-county retiree organization, enthusiastically supported attendance at the 2021 fall conference "reunion" in Long Beach.



Steve Goodling

The conference was called to order by CRCEA President Skip Murphy. The CRCEA theme "New Horizons, Navigating into the Future" was highlighted by Steve Goodling, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, who gave the welcoming address.

The keynote address, "Sacramento Insights & Political Update," was presented by Joe Ackler. Workshops featured presentations on: "Senior Safe Driving" by CHP Officer S. Yarbrough; "Paws-it-ive Companions for Seniors" by Dr. Fumie Yamamoto, DVM, L.A. County Animal Care and Control Department; "Rediscovering Nature" by Dr. Peter Kareiva, president and CEO, Aquarium of the Pacific; "California Water Opportunities and Solutions" by Jason Rollo, Metropolitan Water District; "Healthy Minds" by Tiffany Zhang, AARP regional coordinator; and "Strategic Communication Technology" by Stephanie Todd, L.A. County Internal Services Department Internet Development Division. All workshops received favorable comments.

CRCEA is comprised of 20 county associations working together to enhance advocacy and retirement benefits for retired public servants throughout California. Providing information and networking opportunities is key to supporting organizational mission statements and the achievement of service goals to members. RELAC will share a number of workshop presentations with our membership in future newsletters. Your response and ideas for future articles are welcome.

RELAC wishes to express sincere appreciation for the generous support of our conference sponsors: Platinum Sponsors: Pacific Group Agencies and My Senior Health Plan. Gold Sponsors: Shernoff, Bidart, Echeverria, LLP; Southland Credit Union. Silver Sponsors: L.A. Professional Peace Officers, Association of L.A. Deputy Sheriffs, L.A. County Management Council, L.A. County Library Foundation and the L.A. County African American Employees Association. A special thank you is extended to the Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau for providing media support, promotional items, a special deejay performance at the Aquarium reception and the "Show your Badge" program information on local business discounts available. In addition, RELAC extends a sincere note of appreciation to County Supervisor Janice Hahn for providing transportation service for conference attendees.

The success of the CRCEA "reunion" conference was the result of great teamwork. Buddy Tisnado, Courtyard Hotel events manager and the RELAC Conference Committee are to be congratulated on a purposeful and enjoyable conference. The Spring 2022 CRCEA Conference will be hosted by Orange County. Stay tuned for workshop highlights in our next newsletter and additional information on our RELAC website.



Sheriff Honor Guard



CHP Officer Yarbrough



CRCEA conference opening session



Rhonda Biesemeier



Dr. Yamamoto



Dr. Kareiva



Peter Blasi, MSHP



Carlos Gonzalez, CRCEA Treasurer



Mike Sloan and Steve Pettee



Brian and Gene Berger, Dave Muir



PGA Aquarium Reception



Skip Murphy and penguin



Ilene Barcnas, Orange County



Evelyn Gutierrez and Rachel Strohecker



Elaine Weston and Edith Simonson