

# RELA Come sletter

A Non-Profit Organization - Incorporated 1958 - Serving 30,000 Members

Member California Retired County Employees Association, Representing 125,000

Retirees.

July / Aug 2005 Vol. 40-4

# President's Message

By Diane Sandoval



By the time you receive this issue of our newsletter, summer will be here. Be safe in your travels and come home

safely. I am enjoying my second ear as your RELAC President, and if elected, look forward to being your representative on the LACERA Investments Board. Donna Livermore and her loyal helpers deserve a big "THANK YOU" for hosting RELAC's Regional Meeting in Lancaster on May 19. I unfortunately was unable to attend. However, I'm told that, thanks to the Hawaiian theme, those who attended were rewarded by being made to feel as though they were transported to the Islands. What a treat! Thanks to Donna, RELAC is able to regularly hold regional meetings in Lancaster. I know hosting a meeting is no small feat and the Board sincerely appreciates you taking time out of your busy schedule to make the Lancaster meetings special.

We continue to look for volunteers who are interested in helping ELAC hold meetings in locations outside Los Angeles County. RELAC needs local residents familiar with the area to plan such an event. Don't be afraid to volunteer, our Regional Support

Committee Chair Alan Chancellor, is ready to provide whatever support is needed to hold such an event. Leave your name and phone number with our Office Manager, Dee Norton, and Alan will return your call.

### ARE DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS STILL UNDER ATTACK?

Yes, unfortunately, the attack against defined benefit plans has not gone away. Both public and private defined benefit plans are at risk. Governor Schwarzenegger intends to try again. No one knows exactly when he will launch his attack, however, I am sure that the threat in a new form will return. We must remain vigilant and be ready to preserve our defined benefit plans. Preserving and maintaining our medical and pension benefits is a top priority for RELAC. We will continue to monitor legislation at the state and federal levels and immediately inform you of any possible threats.

In summary, you will all receive ballots on June 28 and will have the opportunity to select individuals to represent you on the Retirement Board and the Board of Investments. I urge you to vote. Consider your vote carefully! Now more than ever you need qualified and dedicated representatives on those Boards who sincerely have your interests as their top priority. As always, thank you for attention and support. Have a great and safe summer!

## LACERA Elections IF YOU HAVEN'T VOTED YET PLEASE DO IT NOW

By the time you receive this Newsletter you may have already filled out and returned your LACERA ballot. But if you haven't cast your votes for retiree representatives on the Boards of Retirement and Investments, it is vital that you do so!

Your votes are needed to elect two outstanding candidates who have been endorsed by RELAC: Diane Sandoval for the position of retiree representative on the Board of Investments, and Ed Morris for the position of alternate retiree representative on the Board of Retirement.

At no time that we know of has it been more important to elect the people best qualified to provide leadership and strength on the two Boards, and to represent your interests. We all know that the established defined benefit pension plans for public employees in California, including the County of Los Angeles, are under attack.

Diane Sandoval served as Manager of LACERA's Accounting Division and has a thorough understanding of LACERA finances. She is currently RELAC's president and is dedicated to defending our retirement system and preserving our benefits. No other candidate can match her combination of knowledge and commitment.

Continued on page 7

### Retirement Board



By Bill de la Garza
Your Elected Retirement Board Trustee

Dear Friends.

Recently my wife and I received a letter from the Social Security Administration entitled "Important Information". I always read and pay close attention to anything I get from the SSA because my LACERA sponsored Medicare Health Plan is very important to me. The first sentence of the letter stated in bold letters, "Our records show you may be eligible to get extra help paying for your prescription drugs". The letter went on to say, "You must fill out the application, put it in the enclosed envelope, and mail it today". I called the SSA 800 number in hopes of getting more specific information so that I could pass it on to you.

After identifying myself the first question I was asked was "Are you a member of any Medicare supplemental health plan?" When I answered yes, I belong to LACERA Blue Cross III, I was immediately told, "Most likely this SSA plan will not help you. This plan was designed for low income families without any type of health plan." When I asked her for the specifics of the plan she could not give me any information and suggested that if I was still interested to mail in the application.

Well friends, let me reiterate what I have said in the past; if you belong to a LACERA sponsored Medicare Plan such a SCAN, Secure Horizons, Kaiser Senior Advantage, Blue Cross III, etc., consider yourself a happy camper because **you have a great plan**. It's like the SSA lady said, "Government sponsored prescription plans are designed for low income families without any type of medical coverage."

LACERA BOARD ELECTIONS: By the time you read this article you already will have received your LACERA Election ballot. I was very pleased to learn that I am running unopposed for the Retired Member of the Board of Retirement. I am honored to have the opportunity to continue serving as your representative. If you have not already voted, I would urge you to vote for Diane Sandoval for the Board of Investments and Ed Morris for the Alternate position on the Board of Retirement. They are experienced well qualified candidates. Just as important, they are retiree advocates with track records in serving retirees.

Until next time and as customary, I leave you with this thought:

"Let the people know the facts, and the Country will be safe."

Abraham Lincoln

# FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE RELAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS

Take particular note of the General Membership Meetings (shaded) that are held at various locations. You are cordially invited to attend. Details on the location and program for the next General Membership Meeting are provided on the back page of this Newsletter. A great deal of important information will be given. The Business Meetings listed all begin at 9:30 a.m. and are held at the RELAC Office which is located at 1000 So. Fremont Ävenue, Ste. 0101, Alhambra, CA, Telephone Nos. (626) 308-0532 or toll free (800) 537-3522.

### BOARD MEETING June 23, 2005 (4th Thursday) RELAC Office

BOARD MEETING
July 28, 2005 (4th Thursday)
RELAC Office

BOARD MEETING August 25, 2005 (4th Thursday) RELAC Office

# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING September 14, 2005 (2nd Wednesday) Cerritos Park East Community Center 13254 East 166th Street

(Between Shoemaker Ave. and Carmenita Road)
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

#### **BOARD MEETING**

September 22, 2005 (4th Thursday) RELAC Office

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

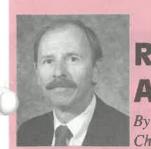
October 27, 2005 (4th Wednesday) RELAC Office

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

November 17, 2005 (3rd Thursday) RELAC Office

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

December 8, 2005 (2nd Tuesday)
Saint Sophia Greek Orthadox Cathedral
1324 South Normandie Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90006
(Corner of Normandie Ave. & Pico Blvd.)



# Regional Activities

By Alan Chancellor Chair, Regional Support

### REPORT ON LANCASTER EVENT, HUNTINGTON BEACH AND TEMECULA COMING UP



RELAC members enjoy Hawaiian Holiday at Lancaster Regional Luncheon (photo by Sol Fingold)

Greetings from your roadshow coordinator and the Regional Support Committee.

On May 19th we enjoyed a fun-filled Hawaiian Holidays luncheonmeeting with 80

PELAC members and guests at the Lancaster Elks Lodge. onna Livermore was once again our gracious hostess, assisted by her core group of volunteers who help organize, decorate, greet and award prizes to the attendees. This is always a highlight of the year for us – they do such a great job, mostly on their own. Please accept the thanks of the Board for all you do. Our thanks also go to whoever sabotaged the CD player. Seems Donna had arranged an ambush for some of the visiting Board members, me included, and planned to get us on stage dancing to hula music in Hula-Hoops. Tragedy averted! Donna, thanks for the fun.

### OTHER REGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE WORKS

### **HUNTINGTON BEACH/ORANGE COUNTY**

We continue to look forward to our Huntington Beach casual morning meeting scheduled for 9:00am-12noon on July 20th at the Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue in HB. There will be interesting speakers and an opportunity meet your Board members and discuss issues or just old mes. This will be a hosted event with coffee and light refreshments provided – no cost to members and their spouses or one guest. Seating is limited so be sure to make your reservation by completing and sending in the below form by July 8th. Don't miss this exciting event.

### **HUNTINGTON BEACH/ORANGE COUNTY**

Wednesday, July 20, 2005 9:00am-12noon

Huntington Beach Central Library 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach

Name	
Address	
Spouse or One	Guest

Deadline is July 8th.

Mail this completed form to RELAC
1000 S. Fremont Avenue, Unit 15

Alhambra, Ca 91803-8802

### **TEMECULA**

We are anxiously looking ahead to our October 12th Temecula luncheon-meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 29345 Rancho California Road in Temecula. Doors will open at 11:30am with lunch served about 12noon. We are scheduling informative speakers and many of your RELAC Board members will be in attendance. We hope you will plan to join us for this excellent event. This is an opportunity to share your retirement concerns and to hear directly from your RELAC Board. It's also a fun time to meet and greet old friends. All of this, and a great lunch too, for just \$16.00 per person. To make your reservation simply fill out the form below and mail with your check of \$16.00 per person to RELAC.

#### **TEMECULA**

Wednesday, October 12, 2005 Doors Open 11:30am – Lunch @ 12noon Embassy Suites Hotel 29345 Rancho California Road, Temecula

Name			
Address			
Guest(s)			
#Tickets	x \$16.00 ea	Total	

Mail this completed form to RELAC 1000 S. Fremont Avenue, Unit 15 Alhambra, Ca 91803-8802

\* Note: You will not receive a ticket in the mail for either the Huntington Beach or Temecula events. Your reservation will be checked at the door.

## Southland

### CREDIT UNION

Bringing Your Dreams To Reality...

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300 N. Los Angeles St., Ste. 2044 Los Angeles, CA 90012

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562.862.6831 800.426.1917

### QUICKLINE

888.426.1918

### **FAX NUMBERS**

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#### **WEB SITE**

www.SouthlandCU.org

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# Arrive In Style...

Dear RELAC Members,

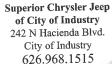
Join Southland Credit Union and participating Credit Union Direct Lending® (CUDL) Dealerships for a 3-Day Sale Event, May 13-15, 2005. Visit a participating CUDL Dealer and save!

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Browning Mazda 18827 Studebaker Rd. Cerritos 562.924.1414



of Carson 1505 E. 223rd St. Carson 310,835,1178

Arrive in style ... join us for our 3-Day Car Sale Event! Bring this advertisement to a participating CUDL dealership and receive a 1.00% annual percentage rate discount at the time of purchase whyou finance with Southland. CUDL Dealers can approve your Southland Vehicle Loan right at the dealership, saving you time and money.

As a RELAC Member, you can join Southland Credit Union. Call a Financial Service Representative at 800.426.1917, visit www.SouthlandCU.org or stop by your local branch for details.

Southland Credit Union would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family good health and financial well-being.

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1.00

**O** nual Pero

Annual Percentage Rate Discount

Bring this coupon to a participating CUDL dealership, purchase a new or used vehicle, finance your Vehicle Loan with Southland Credit Union, and we'll lower your rate by 1.00%APR.

CUDL Dealers: Enter code 100 in comment section when entering loan application for funding in CUDL system to receive reduced rate.

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Vehicle loans are subject to credit approval. Rates as low as 3.99% APR. This low rate includes a rate discount of 0.25% for automatic payments from a Southland CU Checking Account and a 1.00% APR discount with coupon. Your rate may be higher based upon your credit history. Coupon offer valid May 13-22, 2005. Rates quoted as of 4-1-05. Rates, terms, and conditions subject to change without notice. 1.00% APR discount is not available without coupon.

This advertisement was developed by Southland and approved by RELAC in order to defray the cost of the printing and distribution of this newsletter and as a service to RELAC members.











### DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN THREATENS RETIREE HEALTH, STAR COLA BENEFITS

At a Board of Investments meeting in April, LACERA staff presented the results of the June 2004 Actuarial Valuation prepared by LACERA's actuary, Milliman, Inc. According to Milliman's report, LACERA's funding ratio dropped from 87.2% to 82.8%. The System's Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) at June 30, 2004 is 5.6 billion and requires Los Angeles County (County) to make additional payments to LACERA using a 30-year amortization period. The County's contribution rate is increasing from 14.65% to 16.01% effective July 1, 2005.

Remember valuation reports are often described as snapshots of a retirement plan's funded status at a particular point in time. This year's snapshot finds LACERA funded at 82.8%. In other words, the estimated liability due to our members is greater than the value the actuary places on LACERA's assets. LACERA, like almost every other retirement system, has been mpacted by poor investment returns in the early years of this decade. These losses had a significant effect on the funding status of the system.

### SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED?

Yes, we should be concerned but we should not panic. Our pensions are guaranteed by state law; and as I stated earlier, a valuation report is a snapshot in time. Although the system's funded status has decreased it does not mean that the system's financial status is in jeopardy. We will continue to receive our pensions. However, we should be concerned because all defined benefit plans are currently under attack. Please don't be misled by the fact that the Governor recently abandoned his attempt to replace all defined benefit plans with defined contribution plans. He will be back. We must be ready when he strikes again! RELAC will continue to keep a close eye on the issue in order to defend our retirement system.

Now more than ever we need to increase the number of RELAC members. Please contact other retirees who are not members of RELAC and urge them to join us in our fight to preserve our defined benefit plans.

### INTERESTING STATISTICS

The report reflects a 1.7% decrease in the size of the active member population and now totals 87,000. Their average age is 44.9 with over 90% of active members in the open plans (Plans D and E); only 7% of members are covered by one of the closed plans (Plans A, B & C for general members; Plan A or safety members). The number of retirees increased by 2.3% and now totals over 48,000. The average benefit payment showed an increase of approximately 5% totaling \$2,645 per month. The average age of the retired members increased by one month to 70.5.

### RELAC REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND LIVELY CALIFORNIA SENIORS CONVENTION



By John Fleming

On May 23 and May 24, 2005 the Congress of California Seniors met in Sacramento, California for their 28th Annual Convention, and what a Convention it was! Delegates from all over California representing one half a million members choosing as their theme: RAGING AND AGING, and rage they did in a most dignified and orderly manner. The Convention was RELAC's first after joining CCS several months ago. RELAC's Board of Directors authorized me and fellow Board member, Sol Fingold, to attend.

The Convention started out with noted political guest speakers including: John Garamendi, State Insurance Commissioner; Phil Angelides, State Treasurer; Assemblyman Dario Frommer, Majority Floor Leader; Senator Elaine Alquist, Senate Subcommittee on Aging; Bill Lockyer, Attorney General of the State of California; to name a few. All of them spoke on issues concerning the problems currently facing seniors.

Time was also allotted for all the delegates to lobby in the Capitol with their individual legislative representatives. I found this most rewarding for our RELAC members by being able to, once again, touch bases with past friends.

During the second day of attendance, there were more speakers from the California State Commission on Aging and also break-out sessions, e.g., Prescription, Drug Plans and Politics, Technology for the Aging in Place, etc. - all sessions were most informative and topical.

Prior to adjourning the Delegates voted to adopt nine Resolutions, as follows:

Resolution 1: Stop Privatization of Social Security.

Resolution 2: Strengthen the Medicare Modernization Act

of 2003.

Resolution 3: Enact Legislation to Make Drugs Safe and

Affordable in California.

Resolution 4: Support Prescription Drug Ballot Initiative.

Resolution 5: Oppose a Special Election in November,

2005.

Resolution 6: Oppose the Live Within Our Means Act.

Resolution 7: Support for Nurse Staffing Standards in

California.

Resolution 8: Support Single Payer Health Insurance for

California.

Resolution 9: Oppose Proposals to Close Defined Benefits

Retirement Plans.

All the above Resolutions in their entirety can be obtained on the California Congress of Seniors website: www.seniors.org and they solely represent the Congress of California Seniors' positions.

In closing, I would only add my personal view that such an organization can only be of benefit to RELAC and its members by being a vehicle for exchange of information, proposed Legislation updates and political influence. Any such membership can only add to RELAC's significance and prestige as an organization. Sol and I were pleased to have the opportunity to represent you there.



Here's something to prick your Green Thumb – Cactus! On the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. the San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society meets at Los Angeles County Arboretum, Lecture Hall A, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue in Arcadia. Everyone is welcome! There are no restrictions on membership. Members are of all ages and walks of life. All you have to do is have an interest and appreciation of these fascinating plants and show up at the meeting. Introduce yourself to someone you don't know. There are a bunch of interesting people in the club. Monthly programs, usually slide shows, are given by experts in the hobby. Bring in plants that you have questions about or just want to show off. Check out the website w.desertsong.com/sgvcss. And, don't forget your free plant as a first-time guest.

### **REVERSE MORTGAGES**

From RELAC's Outreach Committee by Greg Walia

RELAC members interested in applying for reverse mortgages are strongly advised to gather information before applying.

There are at least two sources that can supply you with this information.

\* AARP: Call (800) 209-8085 and ask for their free copy "Home Made Money". You may also order it online at www.aarp.org/revmort

\* Another good online source is www.reverse.org

To qualify you must be over 62.

### REMINDER: RELAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS PETITION FILING

If you are interested in running for election to the RELAC Board, you as a regular member may file a petition of not less than (25) members' signatures which must be received at the RELAC office not later than July 31. Petition forms may be secured from the RELAC office at 1000 S.

Fremont Ave Unit 15 Alhambra, Ca 91803-8802.

A letter of acceptance from the nominee must accompany the petition.

### **SHORT TRIPS**

Special Events Committee by Raymond R. Guyovich Chair, Special Events Committee



It has come to our attention from several RELAC members that we should provide short bus trips to nearby attractions such as Stateline, Las Vegas, Laughlin, and other places of interest. The Special Events Committee has put together several possibilities of day trips and we would like to know if our members would be interested in this type of activity, and perhaps suggest trips of your choice.

### SUGGESTIONS

Las Vegas – Laughlin – Stateline – San Diego Old Town – California Indian Casinos – Getty Museum	
YOUR PERSONAL SELECTIONS	
2.	
3.	
4	ļ
5	ì
Name: Address:	
Phone: ( )	

### **BEACH GOERS!!!**

ATTENTION SENIORS (62 yrs +). Interested in receiving a free daytime parking pass to visit Los Angeles County beaches M-F except holidays? Here's what you do. Send a photocopy of

your driver's license and your auto registration to Department of Beaches and Harbors, 13837 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292. It takes about two weeks to receive your pass in the mail. No passes are issued over-the-counter. Enjoy your free parking pass when visiting beaches in Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Venice, Playa del Rey, Torrance and White Point in San Pedro. For more details call (310) 305-9523.

# RELAC MEMBER RETIRED TO FASCINATING MERIDA, MEXICO

By John Calman

In a recent issue of the Newsletter we invited members living in far-away and exotic places to tell us about the interesting places to which they have retired. Following is John Calman's excellent contribution. We would welcome additional contributions. – Editor

I have always liked Mexico and when I retired in 1992, I moved to Zacatecas and later settled in Merida which is located near sea level on the Yucatan peninsula in southern Mexico. Merida is the capital of the state of Yucatan and is a busy commercial city, aside from the tourist business. I'm close to many interesting archaeological sites. Of the many to choose from, Chichen Itza and Uxmal are the most visited and the most spectacular. The Mayas of yesteryear build an amazing number of cities and many of the people who live here are at least part Mayan. The Maya language is also spoken as a first language in rural areas, but tends to get lost in Merida. There is a considerable population of English speaking residents year round.

As a little background on the history of my new homeland—A conquistador named Montejo asked for and was granted the privilege of conquering the Mayas of Yucatan in the fifteen hundreds, but they didn't want to be conquered so they gave him a hard time. He died poor, but left the privilege to his son, Montejo Jr., who was able to strike a deal with the Xiu (pronounced "shoe") Clan and get title to what is now Merida. This peculiar conquest ushered in a building boom—a proliferation of Baroque style churches and a number of monasteries and convents, now devoted to other purposes.

Living in Merida is very pleasant with some nice sea breezes. My house is nicely sited for the sea breezes so I don't use any air conditioning. I live in a two story house with the living room and kitchen downstairs, two bedrooms upstairs, and a patio in back on a long, narrow lot and constructed of cement, as are most Mexican houses. It's a real city with some real cultural life, as well as some awful traffic problems. The flip side of the traffic problems is that you can get anyplace in the urban area by bus for 4 and a half pesos (40 cents).

Food, you may want to sample Poc Chuc (marinated slices of pork served with avocado and pickled onions) cochinito pibil or pollo pibil (pork or chicken, also marinated, but with achiote and other spices, baked in a banana leaf with sauce. Good stuff! Downtown restaurants are a bit disappointing but I have a favorite place just outside the downtown area called Langosta Enamorada, or Lobster in Love. They serve mostly seafood and beer, and the customers like the music loud, so be prepared for a little local color.

Life in Merida is very good. If I ever needed medical care, there are plenty of physicians of all specialties available and well qualified. One would have to pay the provider up front and then file a claim with the carrier in the USA (Blue Cross in the case of County retirees).

I find Merida a pretty safe place to live. When I visited here 1995 I found the downtown streets patrolled at night by officers with long wands. I asked one what it was for and he replied "Just for defense" and then gave me a convincing demonstration. So I wrote everyone I knew that you probably wouldn't get mugged in Merida, and 10 years later, I still feel that's a valid observation. Well, that's about it – living in Mexico. I'm looking forward to my next newsletter. Thank you.

### Continued from page 1

Ed Morris was also a Division Manager in LACERA and is currently both RELAC's First Vice-President and Treasurer. He was appointed by the Board of Retirement to the new position of Alternate Retiree Representative on that Board and is now running for election to a full term.

We are proud to announce that the third member of the RELAC team of endorsed candidates, **Bill de la Garza**, is running unopposed and is therefore reelected to his position as retiree representative on the Retirement Board.

With Diane, Ed and Bill in office LACERA will have the strength and leadership needed for these times.

If you haven't voted, please do it now!

# RELAC'S 7TH ANNUAL PICNIC SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2005

11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

SANTA FE DAM – RECREATIONAL AREA #5
15501 E. ARROW HIGHWAY, IRWINDALE

ONE ADULT GUEST PER MEMBER

YOU MUST PRESENT MEMBERSHIP CARD AT ENTRANCE FOR FREE PARKING

THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR - ONLY \$5.00 LUNCH SERVED AT 12:30 P.M.

FREE BEER/SOFT DRINKS - MUSIC - PRIZE DRAWING

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

More details, coupon and menu in September/October Newsletter

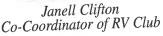
### **SAVE THE DATE!**



٠,	*************************************		
-	ADULTS ONLY REGISTRATION FORM ADULTS ONLY		
	MEMBERS :GUEST:		
	ADDRESS:		
1	NO. OF TICKETS @ \$5.00 EA. +		
)	MAIL TO: RELAC Picnic 1000 So. Fremont Avenue,m Unit1 5		
	Alhambra, CA 91803-8802		
	Present RELAC membership at entrance to park. NO admission without advance registration.		
	DOVD by Eviden Contember 20, 2005		
	RSVP by Friday, September 30, 2005		
	Office Use:  Date: Amt. Rec'd \$ Ck No		

### **RV News**







Ed Clifton Co-Coordinator of RV Club

Buellton and Solvang called and we went. We shopped, went sighting seeing, toured a few wineries, and Firestone Brewery served the best pretzels with a mighty big beer. Some of the golfers found a course or two and all of us found a few cafes. Whew, I'm tired just remembering all the fun we had.

Only 15 rigs made it to the campout and since we had pretty weather, we spent a lot of time outside visiting with our camping family. We were all happy to see Rori and Harvey MacKenzie. Illness had forced them to miss several campouts. Jo and Lucille Fiely were missed when illness forced them to cancel again. Vivian and Jerry Moore will be back with us soon. Vivian has a new lease on life after her heart surgery and they have a new rig on order. Hope to see all missing campers soon. Tom and Alice De Minico made it to the campout after another wrong turn or two. They don't have a camper so motels are their modus operandi.

Following Tuesday's breakfast a business meeting was held and future sites for campouts were discussed. Alfonso and Sara Campbell and Jesse and Phyliss Murph were a great team of wagon masters. It's a fun job but a busy one for a couple of days. Are any of you getting the hint?

Our next campout will be in Chula Vista September 12, 13, 14, 2005. Mike and Flora Frazier will be wagon masters. Coupon follows. Management will not set a price for one day early or one day after. Call park for price if you decide to go in early (1-800-770-2878.)

Will you be there? There will be lots to see and do in the San Diego area. Besides, why do you want to let your rig just sit there all jealous about the other RELAC rigs having a good time five times a year. Hope you are having a great summer.

### **R.V. CAMPOUT RESERVATION**

Chula Vista Resort 460 Sandpiper Way Chula Vista, CA 91910 September 12,13,14, 2005

Names:(Last)	(Retiree)	(Spouse)	
	(State)	(Zip)	
City:			
Telephone: ( )			
DEADL	INE AUGUST 10,	2005	
Make checks for \$93.75 to Mike Frazier and mail to:			
M	ike and Flora Frazie	r	
20	6341 Foxgrove Road	1	
Sun City, CA 92586			
Additional Nights Through the Resort Office at			
(800) 770-2878			
CALL IN ADVANCE			
Motorhome	Trailer	Length	

# URGE ACTIVE COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO VOTE FOR BROOKS AND RUSSIN

Check with your friends and former colleagues who are still active County employees to see if they have voted in the LACERA elections. If they haven't voted, the RELAC Board of Directors asks that you urge them to vote for Brian C. Brooks as their representative on the Board of Retirement and for Simon Russin to represent active employees on the Board of Investments. Brian and Simon have proved themselves to be staunch protectors of the County retirement system and both have been consistently supportive of retiree interests. Their election to LACERA's boards is in the best interest of those who are now retired and for those who will be retired.

### Letters To The Editor



I am now 90-years-old and live in a retirement home called Merrill Gardens. We have a great program of activities coordinated by an activity director. I am legally blind and cannot read the regular print so I find it difficult to keep up with the newsletter that I receive. My main interest is Braille which provides books on tapes that I can enjoy. I walk a mile daily and so far don't need any appliances to get around. The entire staff has been the greatest. I cannot find words to let you know how wonderful you all are. Everyone has helped me with such courtesy that it is a pleasure to call and everyone is always nice and patient with me as I cannot read very well when I call. Many thanks for all the services rendered.

Doris Dye Whittier, CA

Just a brief letter to let those who remember me, know I retired from the Survey Division of the County Engineer in August of '81. Since then I've moved around a fair amount. We (Alice and I) moved North to Oregon where I worked with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and enjoyed the beautiful northwest. After retiring in December of 1996, another move brought us East to North Carolina to be close to family. Alice and I recently celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary. We have much to be thankful for, and I would love to hear from or see some of the guys and gals I worked with in Los Angeles. L.A. County is a fine group to work for. Retirement and benefits surpass any other organization I've worked for. I read your Newsletter faithfully.

John F. McMillan Raleigh, NC

First of all, I wish to thank you and your staff for doing a great job at keeping retirees abreast of the latest information. Also, thanks for the 2005 Pocket Secretary. I'd be lost without it. In the Memoriam section of the newsletter I'm frequently seeing names of people I had close association with during my many years of county service. It's sad that so many are leaving us and who we have lost contact with. I'm turning 80 at the end of May and understand that dues are forgiven when a retiree reaches that age. Again, thank you for all your hard work on our behalf.

> George Brusher Whittier, CA

Thank you for your letter of April 12. I have completed the form for the membership fees and am including the check for \$6.00 for yearly dues. I always enjoy keeping up with all the news from RELAC and LACERA. Thank you for your condolences of our loss of Bill Mason and we will really miss him, he enjoyed life so much and never a negative complaint about anything. We had 59 years of wonderful life together and I will treasure them forever. He was 85 years old and I'm 84 and we were playing golf 4 days a week up until July of 2004. Please note correction on my address.

> Joyce Mason San Marcos, CA

This thank you is a bit late but it needs to be written. The luncheon at the Dairy Creek Golf Course in San Luis Obispo on October 21st was really nice. Hopefully, you will continue to have meetings on the Central Coast so we will be able to attend them and see everyone. My wife and I read your RELAC Newsletter from stem to stern. It is a great newsletter and keeps us up on what is happening. Thank you for working so hard to get us our COLAs, they are so appreciated. We are so grateful for all of your hard work. Have a great day and know you are deeply appreciated.

> James A. Adams Cambria, CA



### **Golf News**



RELAC GOLF ENTRY FORM LOS VERDES GOLF COURSE 7000 West Los Verdes Drive Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

MONDAY AUGUST 1, 2005

#### PLEASE PRINT

(1) NAME_		
ADDRESS		
CITY	ZIP	PHONE
FEES - \$31.0	00 PER GOL	JER- CART EXTRA
If possible,	place me in a	foursome with below
	listed go	
Addresses of	of all golfers N	MUST be included. If
ро	ssible, we wo	uld prefer an
Early	Late	starting time.
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(2) NAME_		
ADDRESS		
CITY	ZIP	
(3) NAME_		
'ADDRESS_		
CITY	ZIP	
1		
(4) NAME_		
ADDRESS		
CITY	ZIP	
NOTE. Only C	NE GUEST p	er member. Enclose chec
forgolfers (	@ \$31 per golf	er. Make Check payable
		to RELAC GOLF, 1000
So.Fremont Av	e, Unit 15, All	nambra, CA. 91803-8802

### ENTRY DEADLINE - JULY 13, 2005 ALL CHECKS MUST BE IN RELAC OFFICE

#### FOR OFFICE USE:

DATE REC\_\_\_\_AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_CHECK NO\_\_\_\_

### Los Amigos GOLF TOURNAMENT

By Ed and Cecile Barrios

Perfect weather greeted sixty-nine players at RELAC's April 5, 2005 golf tournament with great participation by women players. George Sims had a great day with the low gross, first in Flight 'A', and two closest to pins.

See you at Los Verdes on August 1, 2005.

### Flight "A" (0-19 Handicap)

1st Bogawa, Bob (64) 2nd Asuncion, Tony (65)\* 3rd Hamasu, Mas (65)

### Flight "B" (20-25 Handicap)

1st Nottke, Jerry (59) 2nd Anzai, Hideo (60) 3rd Perkins, LC (63)

### Flight "C" (26-36 Handicap)

1st Gaines, Richard (57) 2nd Barajas, Frank (59) 3rd Black, Terry (62)

### Flight "D" (Calloway)

1st Haller, Rick (69) 2nd San Antonio, Don (71) 3rd Smith, Al (72)

### Ladies "All"

1st Danbara, Sue (61) 2nd Hamasu, Lil (68)

#### Closest to the Pin on 3 Pars

Asuncion, Tony on #3 Wilson, Robert on #7 San Antonio, Don on #12 Shannon, John on #17

\*indicates tie broken by lower handicap

### 2005 Golf Tournament Schedule

August 1 Los Verdes

October 3 Lakewood

December 6 Whittier Narrows

### **NEXT TOURNAMENT**

Monday, August 1, 2005

Los Verdes Golf Course

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

#### RELAC NEWSLETTER

Vol 40 - July/August 2005 Number 4 Retired Employees of Los Angeles County 1000 S. Fremont Ave. Unit 15 Alhambra, CA 91803-8802 (626) 308-0532 (800) 537-3522 Fax (626) 308-2901 E-mail: admin@relac.org

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President:
Diane Sandoval
1st Vice President.
Edward C. Morris
2nd Vice President;
Domingo Delgado
Secretary
Mary Lou Bangar
Treasurer
Edward C. Morris
Past President.
Raymond R. Guyovich

### **MEMBERS**

Harriet Baker Alan Chancellor Bill de la Garza Sol Fingold John F. Fleming Martin Golds James A. Harrigan Dave E. Kalinger Fred J. Miller Greg Walia

#### MEMBER EMERITUS Norman S. Johnson

Editor: Martin Golds
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your RELAC Newsletter is
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inaccuracies in the articles
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### OFFICE HOURS

9:00am - Noon & 1:00pm - 4:00pm Monday - Friday Closed Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays



### News From LACERA

By Janice Golden Manager, Member Services Division

If you need to update your address or beneficiary information, it can be done with just a phone call to LACERA.

In a continuing effort to provide our members with excellent service, LACERA has implemented a new Call Center Validation process to assist retired members, survivors, and deferred members with account changes over the phone. Now, when you need to update your address or beneficiary information, it's a simple phone call away. Just phone our Call Center at (800) 786-6464 and speak to one of our retirement benefit specialists.

When calling, please have handy your most recent LACERA direct deposit receipt or the stub portion of your retirement check. Once you've answered a few quick identifying questions, our Call Center staff will consult with you and make the address or beneficiary changes you request. It's that easy!

After we've processed your requested changes, we'll mail you a confirmation so that you have the opportunity to verify the information.

If you would prefer to complete the transaction yourself, please ask us to mail the appropriate form to your home. Or, better still, visit our homepage at www.lacera.com and download the forms yourself. Once on our homepage, simply place your cursor on the Communications tab at the top of the page. The highlighted tab will give you two choices: "Newsletters" or "Brochures & Forms." Click on the "Brochures & Forms" tab, which will take you to that page. From there, scroll down the page to the "Forms" section, click on the form you need, print it out and, once completed, mail it to LACERA.

LACERA is always happy to assist you with your questions and requests. Please give us a call at (800) 786-6464; write to us at LACERA, PO Box 7060, Pasadena, CA 91109-7060; or email us at welcome@lacera.com. However you contact us, we have staff available to assist you.

Golfers' Heaven – Scottsdale, Ariz.
Timeshare close to several
championship golf courses. 1 Bdrm,
floating week. Exchange privileges
with RCI World Wide. Paid

\$12,000. Sell for \$5,000 OBO. Maintenance fee \$400.00 yearly. Call Chuck Burns (928) 753-2810.

*Green Hills Memorial Park* - Rancho Palos Verdes. Twilite Terrace, Plot 319, Spaces A, B, C, and D.- \$2500 per space. Call Shirley at (562) 882-5085.

Roosevelt Memorial Park - Tier A, Lots 5 & 6, Section 2892. Cemetary valued at \$1985 each. Sacrifice both (916) 988-6336 or email pacsana@pacbell.net.

**Leather Couch** – 7 ft. overall, beige, like new. Cost \$1000.00, sell for \$375.00. Call Jill at (562) 430-4665.

Arizona Resort Membership: Make offer. Take over Sunrise Resorts Arizona Campgrounds membership. Dues \$480 per year. E-mail Dan at mxdn@citlink.net or call (928) 768-3153.

Silent Valley RV Park Membership —Banning, CA. Wooded Mountain Park located on road to Idyllwild. All amenities. Full hook-ups, special activities on weekends and holidays. Coast to Coast membership available. Open year round. Need to sell. Membership paid through March 1, 2006. Only cost to buyer will be transfer fee of \$350.00. Call Joann at (626) 338-9278 anytime.

**Rose Hills Memorial Park** - Garden of Affection. 2 lots. \$1,800 for both OBO. Call (951) 659-5757.

Alpha Ideal (recreational vehicle) 2001. Like new – 32 ft. Generator, 2 slide-outs, lots of extras. (453) 865-0258.

**Forest Lawn Mausoleum** - Long Beach, CA – 2 side-by-side, eye level, deluxe crypts. Will sacrifice. Call collect Beatrice (928) 680-0608.

*Treadmill* - Trimline 2200.1. Must see. Excellent condition. Does not fold up. Was \$1,000 – asking \$300. Call Ted (626) 576-0422.

**Rose Hills** - Garden of Rest. Lot 7843, Grave 4. I pay ownership transfer fees \$1600. Please call Glenn (661) 273-3999.

Time share -. Park Plaza, Park City, Utah. 7 Days per year. \$1500 or best offer. Call (626)794-6008.

### **NEW MEMBERS APRIL & MAY 2005**

CA CHILDREN'S SVCS. Lawrence, Elizabeth McClain, Mary Ann S. CHIEF ADM. OFFICE Barnard, Virginia CHILD/FAMILY SVCS. Burns, Robert B. Hertz, Toni Scales, Bonnie DISTRICT ATTORNEY. Leonard, Roderick W. Bobo, Sandra L. Jones, Gwendolyn Skiles, Dorothy M. FIRE DEPT. Kollmeyer, Steven E. HEALTH SERVICES Eddleman-Robinson, Edith Littlejohn, Vera J. Lopez, Ted A. Patterson, Patricia A. Pleticha, Elayne INTERNAL SERVICES DePillars, Gloria KING-DREW MED.CTR. Toole, Bessie K. MENTAL HEALTH Flores-Riffel, Ana J. Malinski, Arthur M. PROBATION Hightower, Eunice Jenkins, Frances Winston, Richard S. **PUBLIC DEFENDER** Hall, Robert E. **PUBLIC WORKS** Anderson, John E. III Kehler, Cecelia A. SHERIFF Baker, Donald Campbell, Barbara A. Case, Jacquelyn M. Ellsworth, Donald E. Encinas, Fred M. Jr. Fowler, Brenda L. Guenther, Jeffrey K. Harwood, Thomas M. -Hawley, Bruce L. Soderberg, Michael E. SUPERIOR COURT Anderson, Lee Ethel Roller, Lynn M. SUP COURT REPTRS. Larsen, Linda L. TREASURER/TAX Anderson, Anthony A. DEPT. NOT DESIGNATED Johnson, Yvonne M. AFFILIATE MEMBERS (Active County Employees) PUBLIC DEFENDER

Kalunian, Robert E.

Rivera, Albino C.

SHERIFF

### Touring With Great Western

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

### Yosemite

### Late Summer Special

Three Day Motorcoach Tour

New Pick -up

Gambling, Scenery, Yosemite, Ahwahnee Hotel Beautiful New Casino in the Sierra Foothills

Departs September 19, 2005

From RELAC Headquarters Orange & Fremont, Alhambra

\* Location! - Tour Price Includes -\* Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation \* Two nights at Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino

\*Lunch at the Ahwahnee Hotel \* Guided Tour of Yosemite Valley \* Squaw Valley Herb Garden \* Driver's Tip \* Tax & Baggage Handling

Double Per Person: \$279.00 Single: \$369.00

Choose Your Branson!!

### Aemphis and Little Rock

6 Day Air/Motorcoach Tour • Departs October 17, 2005 Featuring

Sun Studios - Graceland - Clinton Presidential Museum & Library Rock 'n' Soul Museum and 3 Branson Shows

Double Per Person:\$1499.00 Single:\$1749.00

For the Holidays

6 Day Air/Motorcoach Tour • Departs November 30, 2005 Featuring

6-Days of Holiday Cheer!

7 Branson Shows, Steamboat Arabia, Silver Dollar City Double Per Person: \$1439.00 Single: \$1619.00

### Lewis & Clark's Great Rivers

Of the Northwest Departs March 18, 2006

Featuring a 7 Night Cruise of the

Columbia, Snake and Willamette Rivers Aboard the Queen of the West Sternwheeler

Early Booking Discount! Deposit by July 11, 2005 and receive a \$1999.00 Dbl. Per Person Priced From Only

\$150.00 discount at time of final payment. • Round Trip Airfare LAX/Portland • 7 Night Cruise Aboard the Queen of the West

• Shore Excursions per Itinerary \* All Meals Aboard Ship

• Port Charges & Handling Fees

### IN MEMORIAM

### APRIL/MAY 2005

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

### AGRIC COMM./WTS & M

Armand, Bentley R.

### ASSESSOR

Factora, Roger A. \*
Paul, Albert F. \*
Seymour, Helen J. \*
Silver, Esther \*

### AUDITOR CONTROLLER

Durante, Lucille A. \*

### CHILD SUPP SVCS

Baber, Lucy K. Elliott, Carolyn P.

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dana, Deane ...

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Lesinski, George A. \*

### DATA PROCESSING

Johnson, Willie L. \*

### DPSS

Adlin, Sunny S.
Bratcher, Naomi G.
Cummings, Mary C.
Eales, Helen I.
Gibson, Cynthia B.
Jones, Esther W. \*
Kirk, Elaine
Love, Fannie M. \*
Norris, Coramae
Rico, Geraldine J. \*

### Yoder, Helen S. \* DIETARY

Barrett, Marie \*

### DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Gonzalez, Jess C. \*
Sponheim, Robert M.

### FIRE

Camp, Dorothy M..\* Logan, Roland J. \* Wirick, Raymond D. \*

### FLOOD CONTROL

Dickey, John S. \*
Washington, Samuel J. \*

### GENERAL HOSPITAL

Callander, Ruby A. \*
Larson, Grace M. \*

### HARBOR/UCLA

Coleman, Ruth Evans, Minnie J.

### HEALTH SERVICES

Whitfield, Maxine

### HIGH DESERT HLTH CTR.

Spangler, Linda K.

### HOSPITALS

Geary, Addie B. \*
Gottlieb, Leon S. \*
Ray, Sylvia J. \*

### INTERNAL SVCS

Foster, Johnnie A. \* Tafoya, Alfred V. Tokashiki, George I. \*

### KING/DREW

Howard Jr., William M. Smith, Irma J.

### LAC/USC

Andrews, Vernl Armstrong, Betty J. Habib, Nabil M. Love, Delma R. \* Reime, Evelyn D. \*

### MARTIN LUTHER KING

Jones, Mirlean \*

### MARSHAL

Garrido, Franklin S. \*
Prophet, Hattie P. \*
Wooldridge, Donald \*

### MECHANICAL

Hernandez, Steven T. \*

### MEDICAL CENTER

Elkin, Lola \*

### MIENTAL HEALTH

Romano, Luigi J.

### MUNICIPAL CTS

Jones, Shirley J.

Neilan, Ellen C. (Alhambra)

### METRO SO CHC HLTH CTR

Moore, William G.

### MUSEUM OF ART

Kirsch, Mimi \*

### MUSEUM OF NATURAL

### HISTORY

Lipscomb, Richard

### OLIVE VIEW HEALTH

SERVICES

Obsequio, Eva T. Moore, Marie E.

### PARKS AND RECREATION

McCann, John \*

### PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Barber, James Buchanan, William C. Ellis, Jacques A. \*

Ferren, Grace G. \*

Heer, Barbara R. Herriford, Millie J. \*

Kniff, Donald V.

Leneve, Irma

O' Haire, Mary K.

Porter, Mazree \*

### PUBLIC DEFENDER

Gebhart, Jean L. \*
Noland, Augustus E.

### PUB HLTH PROG

Beatty, Mildred O. Victoria, Jeanee L. Hill, Mary J.

### PUBLIC WORKS

Fukumoto, Iwao \*
Newton, Lawyer
Leek, Robert W. \*

### **PURCHASING & STORES**

Smith, Esther \*

### RANCHO LOS AMIGOS

De Long, Gelvadear Smallwood, Ethel \*

### REG-RECORDER/COUNTY

### CLERK

Figgins, Aquilla:

### IN MEMORIAM

### APRIL/MAY 2005

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

### SHERIFF

Bloom, Arthur \*
Elliott, Marvel B.
Gleason, John J. \*
Grimm, Robert T.
Horton, David R.
Moreno, Gloria R. \*
Slagle, Bettie E. \*

### SUPERIOR COURT/ COUNTY CLERK

Adler, Ruth D. \*
Andrews, Charleene
Aronoff, Rebecca
Franz, John T.
Mc Mahon, William L.
Thomas, Emma L. \*
Tuck, Ramona T.

### TREAS/TAX COLLECTOR

Coplen, John L. \*

### DEPT NOT DESIGNATED

Abler, Dorothy M.
Battersbee, Sabra M.
Briggs, Lois J.
Brodahl, Lawrence J.
Campbell, Donald H.
Collins, Michael R.
Conner, Robert E.
Davison, John E.
Dunlap, Glynn
Ehrhart, William G. \*
Evans, Louis

Fajardo, Damasa G. Fitch, Peggy Gray, Lera L. Griffin, Ellen P. Hudgins, Lucille Hynes, Imogene C. Jaffe, Bess Kelly, Marjorie L. Landers, Otis L. Laub, Darold Levy, Jr., Jesse McDonald, Gertrude M. \* Moen, Dirk P... Nishi, Misuru Oehling, W. J. Quintana, Carlos \* Rodriguez, Julia Russell, Mary A. Sandelman, Ruth B. Sandler, Sarah Schick, Arthur W. Terella, Jessie M. Thomas, Clyde D. Trice, Jacqulyn Tuttle, Rosie Valdivia, E. C. Varner, Kenneth L. Vogel, Violet J. Walker, Mollie R. Williams, Doris C. Willise, Elary J. \* Winters, Ethel L. Zlotnik, Ervin



## WW II Veterans HAROLD (HAL) HEILMAN

I was an Air Force Pilot in WWII and flew the B27 (Martin Marauder) and the B25 (Billy Mitchell). The B25 was the type of Air Craft that took off the Navy Carrier in the movie "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo". Van Johnson played Ted Lawson (who lost his leg in the movie). Ted and I were classmates at L.A. City College taking Aeronautical Engineering. Because of our major we were able to obtain free, our Pilots license. When the war broke out Ted joined the Air Force. I could not because I had a civil defense job from which I later resigned in 1943 and joined the Air Force. I received my Commission and Wings in 1945. Later I was stationed at Yuma, Arizona where I picked up my Co-Pilot, Navigator, Bombardier, and Crew Chief. The day we were to leave for Combat, our flight was cancelled due to the fact the war was over. I stayed in the reserves for awhile, flew a little, designed air fields, and finally Air force Intelligence. I took an early retirement as a Major. After the war I worked for the Department of County Engineer, as Chief Valuation Engineer, and then for the Department of Real Estate Management as Division Chief. During my tenure with the County I had the pleasure of working with people who were highly intelligent, sharp and dedicated to their job. I was indeed very fortunate.

# General Membership Meeting



Fred Miller Chair, Program Committee

### YOU ARE INVITED

### CITY OF CERRITOS PARK EAST SENIOR CENTER

13234 E. 166th Street, Cerritos, California 90703 (1/4 mile east of Shoemaker Avenue)

Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2005

Time: 9:15 a.m. - Free Coffee & Donuts 10:00 a.m. - Meeting Starts

### FEATURED SPEAKER: Kelly Ferrin

Gerontologist, Author, & Speaker
Kelly is a graduate of USC's Leonard Davis School of Gerontology and is a
consultant to the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness.

There will be Reports on LACERA'S Retirement and Investments Boards Reports on Recreation Activities for RELAC Members

Door Prizes & Raffles
Bring your RELAC
Membership Card
Come and say hello to old
friends & co-workers

Alondra Blvd.

Alondra Blvd.

166th Street

Cerritos Park East Community Center
13234 E. 166th Street

Update on Pension & Medical plans
Including status of
Governor's attack on public employee pension systems.



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

**Return Service Requested** 

# 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, Unit 15 Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

01

**Phone:** (800) 537-3522

(CA only)

Phone: 626-308-0532 Fax: 626-308-2901

E-mail:

admin@relac.org

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

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: From the 605 Freeway, going either North or South, exit at Alondra Blvd. Proceed East to Shoemaker Avenue and turn right. Turn left on 166th Street. The Senior Center is on the right. Park on the East side of the building.

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