



64 Years of Dedicated Service to L.A. County Retirees

# RELAC newsletter

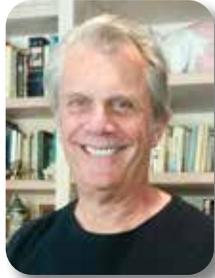
Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

www.relac.org • e-mail: admin@relac.org • (800) 537-3522

July/Aug., 2022 Vol 57-4

## President's Message

by Brian Berger



Last evening I noticed that it was almost 8 p.m. and still light outside. What a treat to have the extra daylight hours of summer back in our lives. From the notes, calls and messages RELAC gets from so many of you, a lot of us are taking advantage of these extra daylight hours with more time for safe walking, biking, and enjoying other outside activities.

On Aug. 10, RELAC is scheduling a live Recognition Luncheon and on Sept. 23 there will be a RELAC Dodgers night. I know, RELAC has a lot of things that continue to go on every day, but these two are especially exciting because they will be LIVE, and for many of us, that means we will actually get to see one another. You will get more information as dates get closer.

I mentioned earlier that there is a lot going on at RELAC. Take a moment to catch up on all our activities as you go through the newsletter, including events shown in our "What's Happening" column, and the important messages from LACERA and from the Board of Investments. For the time between each newsletter, don't forget how easy it is to keep up with everything by simply going to our website at relac.org and strolling through the many sites.

And finally, a welcome to our many, many new retirees. The last few months, as is true every year, saw a surge in County retirements. We look forward to including those recent retirees who have already chosen, and those who will later choose, to become members of RELAC. They will each have a chance to become involved with our many programs.

Please feel free to offer suggestions. We are always ready to explore new opportunities.



### RELAC is "Three-Peat Champion" in March for Babies Fundraiser

For the third year, RELAC was the top County fundraising team in the March of Dimes' March for Babies.

Shown at the event are RELAC Directors Dave Muir, Linda Hopkins, Don Fandry and Brian Berger, and (second from left) Muir's wife, Marybeth, a RELAC associate member. See story on Page 5.

## RELAC Supports LACERA Lawsuit Against County

The RELAC Board of Directors has voted unanimously to support the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) in its lawsuit against the Board of Supervisors to affirm its independence.

LACERA is seeking a court order to require the Board of Supervisors to comply with provisions in the California Constitution and the County Employees Retirement Law that require the Board of Supervisors to include in the County salary ordinance the employee positions and salaries that are approved by LACERA's Boards of Retirement and Investments.

LACERA maintains that under the County Retirement Law, it is an independent governmental body protected from County interference to assure that LACERA can comply with its fiduciary duty to administer the retirement system solely and exclusively for the benefit of LACERA's members, and that the ability of LACERA to employ competent personnel is critical to its mission to maximize investment income and protect the almost \$74 billion pension fund.

The lawsuit was filed after the Board of Supervisors in 2001 rejected or modified personnel actions approved by LACERA's boards, including creating several new positions and changing the titles and salaries of some existing positions. The County takes the position that the supervisors can veto personnel decisions made by LACERA's boards, and that the County has ultimate authority over the terms and conditions of LACERA employees.

## July 6 is Deadline to File to Become a Candidate for RELAC Board

July 6 is the deadline to file a petition to become a candidate for the RELAC Board of Directors.

Petitions must be signed by a minimum of 15 RELAC members supporting the candidacy and be accompanied by a letter from the candidate accepting the nomination.

If no petitions are received by 3 p.m. on July 6, the current directors whose terms expire this year – Evelyn Gutierrez, Judy Hammond, Dave Muir, and Epifanio "Epi" Peinado – will be automatically elected to three-year terms expiring Dec. 31, 2025. Additionally, RELAC member Nora Jackson will be elected to the fifth open seat as she was the only person who filed a letter of interest to become a candidate. Jackson, a 40-year County employee who was a senior auditor at LACERA when she retired in 2019, was interviewed by the Bylaws/Nominations/Elections Committee, which found her well qualified. The full Board of Directors on May 10 endorsed the four incumbents and Jackson for election.

For further information or to obtain a petition, call the RELAC office at (800) 537-3522.

# News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich

Assistant Executive Officer



Hello, everyone. I hope you are enjoying the start of your summer. Personally, I'm excited for summer and getting outside to do things. We kicked off our summer last weekend with a trip to the Renaissance Faire. I'm looking forward to getting to some Dodgers games, maybe get to a beach to just hang out and relax. One of the best things about being in L.A. are all the fun things we can do in our leisure time.

Perhaps you are one of the nearly 2,300 members who retired during LACERA's retirement season this year and are now receiving your pension—in which case, congratulations! May your retirement be a long, healthy one. Maintaining social connections is one of the most important things you can do in retirement to stay happy, so I congratulate you on your decision to join RELAC to stay in touch with your fellow retirees.

The last couple of months have been exciting ones at LACERA, as we have transitioned our remote staff members back to the office, started our strategic planning process, and are making significant progress on initiatives, like our new case management system, that will improve our internal processes and, ultimately, service to members.

We successfully brought remote employees back to the office in May, implementing a hybrid schedule of two teams that work onsite on alternating weeks. The first team came back to the office during the week of May 2–6 and the second during the week of May 9–13. The two-team approach helps us maintain low density and social distancing in the office, which is especially important as COVID cases are on the rise again as of the end of May/early June. It also helped us provide everyone the right equipment and technical support onsite. (There have been a lot of changes in how we work in the last two years!) It has been great to see our colleagues in person again after so long apart! The hybrid model is also designed to help us attract and retain a full workforce, which leads me to my next topic.

Like most other organizations, LACERA is facing recruitment challenges. At the same time, we are receiving ever-increasing call volumes and requests for appointments, particularly during the March Madness retirement season. (For example, LACERA normally receives around 13,000 calls per month, but during this year's peak, we averaged nearly 20,000 calls per month.) As you can guess, the more requests we get, the longer the wait times become either for telephone service or appointment availability. We are working hard to increase capacity on all fronts.

While we always appreciate hearing from our members, if you're looking to save time, we encourage you to explore some other options for your LACERA business. For general information, you can always go to [lacera.com](http://lacera.com) to see if a particular topic is covered, either using the menu or the search feature. Have a general question? You can e-mail us at [welcome@lacera.com](mailto:welcome@lacera.com). Need a form? Click on the Forms & Publications tile on the [lacera.com](http://lacera.com) homepage.

You can also take advantage of LACERA's self-service options. Need to change your address, beneficiary, or withholding, submit a document, or access your automated deposit receipt? You can do all that by logging in to My LACERA. Have an account-related question? You can send us a secure message via My LACERA. If you do not have a My LACERA account, it's easy to sign up and stay connected with us. Just click on the green button on the upper right of the [lacera.com](http://lacera.com) homepage to get started.

By providing your e-mail, you will also receive important and timely e-mail announcements regarding cost-of-living adjustments, upcoming elections, and any urgent matters. You can even take the extra step toward paperless by opting into digital delivery of your automatic deposit receipts, Spotlight newsletters, and other documents.

In my last article, I mentioned that LACERA's strategic planning process was about to begin. That process is now well underway and progressing smoothly. We have interviewed staff members across our divisions, held meetings with our advisory team (made up of LACERA trustees, executives, and key staff members) and engaged in a strategy lab to consolidate information gained from staff interviews to start setting priorities and goals for LACERA. We are now forming action teams with participants from all levels of the organization to further outline specific objectives and tactics, with set milestones along the way.

We will be seeking your input as we set our priorities, so be on the lookout for the LACERA member survey, which we expect to send out in late June or July. Let us

know what is important to you and where we can improve, so we can better serve you!

Well, that's it for this month's edition. I hope everyone is enjoying their retirement (you've earned it!), and I'll see you next time.

## Investment Board

by Joseph Kelly  
LACERA Board of Investments  
Trustee



The Board installed its new officers at the January 2022 meeting, after adopting a policy by which the most senior trustee for each officer position assumes the position. Herman Santos, David Green and Shawn Kehoe are the chair, vice chair and secretary, respectively, for 2022. I will serve on the Credit and Risk Mitigation Committee and the Real Assets Committee, each as vice chair. I was also elected to the Audit Committee, a joint committee of the Board of Investments and the Retirement Board, and committee members elected me vice chair of the committee at their first meeting.

Trusted Insight, a network of institutional investors, named Jon Grabel, LACERA's chief investment officer, as one of the Top Transformational Leaders of the Last Five Years. Congratulations to Jon! Jon held a wide-ranging discussion with Trusted Insight, in which he speaks to LACERA's investment beliefs, fund performance, the Investment Office's diversity and equity initiative, and the role that private equity plays in performance. You can read this informative interview online at [trustedinsight.com](http://trustedinsight.com).

LACERA is a member of the Council of Institutional Investors (CII), a nonprofit, nonpartisan association of U.S. public, corporate and union employee benefit funds, state and local entities charged with investing public assets, and foundations and endowments. CII held its annual conference in Washington, D.C. in March, the first time an in-person conference was held in two years. I participated virtually and was very impressed with the speakers and topics discussed. Scott Zdrzil, senior investment officer at LACERA, was once again elected to the CII Board of Directors for 2022-23 and was once again elected chair of the Board of Directors. Congratulations to Scott!

It's been a bumpy ride for financial markets in recent months, in the face of inflationary pressures, rising interest rates, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and ongoing disruptions to global supply chains. It's times like these where it is helpful to remember that markets are not always rational in the short term and that LACERA invests with a long-term perspective.

LACERA Pension Fund		March 2022	Total Assets: \$75.2 billion		
Returns	FYTD	3 year:	5 year:	10 year:	
	+ 6.4%	+ 11.8%	10.1%	9.1%	



## RELAC Night at the Dodgers

Dodgers vs. Cardinals  
**Friday, Sept. 23 – 7 p.m.**



You are cordially invited to join RELAC members on Friday, Sept. 23 at Dodger Stadium. The Dodgers will be playing the Cardinals. Following the game, you will view a great fireworks display.

The RELAC discounted price is \$35 per ticket. Reserved seating is in Section 4RS and 6RS. Seating is limited, so reserve your tickets as soon as possible.

Complete the reservation form below and mail it with your check to the RELAC office in Alhambra by Sept. 5. Tickets will be mailed to you the week of Sept. 12.

### Dodgers vs. Cardinals – Reservation Form Friday, Sept. 23 – 7 p.m.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 each

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks payable to RELAC to  
 RELAC, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit #15  
 Alhambra, CA 91803-8802



**Reservation Deadline: Sept. 5.**

**For Office use:**

Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_



## RELAC Joins Tribute to Veterans and Military Families

RELAC Directors Don Fandry, at left, and J.P. Harris visit with Supervisor Kathryn Barger on May 28 at the 24th annual "Tribute to Veterans and Military Families" at the Arcadia County Park. Outstanding community heroes selected by Supervisor Barger, who hosted the event, were recognized during a morning ceremony. A number of agencies were onsite to provide assistance with claims, benefits, and records; offer wellness programs, including COVID-19 vaccines and testing kits; pet adoptions, and veterinary services. Military vehicles and equipment were also on display. Fandry and Harris staffed a RELAC table to recruit new members.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

April – May 2022

**Children & Family Services** – Reneta Baptist, Taira Suzuki

**Harbor-UCLA Medical Center** – Judy Bartolome, Dagmar De Muro

**Health Services** – Tammy Blass, Rosie Bojorquez, Michelle Bryant, Veena Damle, Yolanda Youseff

**LAC+USC Medical Center** – Lonella Garrison

**Mental Health** – Gloria Borja, Frank Duarte, Sandra Shields

**Parks & Recreation** – Gilbert Torrez

**Probation** – Carlethia Murray, Stephen Topsy

**Public Defender** – Michael Malone Crain, Edna Hamilton

**Public Health** – Christine De Guzman, Karen Valencia

**Public Library** – Kay Green, David Mill

**Public Social Services** – Dessola Johnson, Stephan Khanbabian, Mayindi Mokwala, William Thompson

**Public Works** – Alan Husted, Daniel Lafferty, Maria Lopez

**Sheriff** – Jean Copes, Jose Gonzalez, Lajuana Haselrig, Sally Moore

**Superior Court** – Tamara Acuna

**Department Not Designated** – Robin Bracken, Carol Wieder

**New Associate Members** – Arnold B. Bryant, Denise Marie Crain, Roger De Guzman, Bartolomeo De Muro, Leticia Duarte, Veronik Khanbabian, Wendy V. Thompson, Sandra Torrez

### Thanks for New Member Referrals

We would like to thank the eight members who recruited colleagues to join RELAC during April and May. Due to our aging membership, we must remain vigilant in signing up new members to remain a strong organization to protect our hard-earned pension and health benefits. We are the only organization that exclusively serves the interests of Los Angeles County retirees, so help us help you. For membership applications and brochures, call the RELAC office at (800) 537-3522, e-mail [admin@relac.org](mailto:admin@relac.org) or go online at [relac.org](http://relac.org). Be sure to tell the new member to put your name on the application as making the referral.

Our thanks to these RELAC members (shown in bold) for referring new members (shown in italics):

**Rhonda Aven-Haggenmiller**, *Sandra Shields*, Mental Health

**Toni Coleman**, *Edna Hamilton*, Public Defender

**Steve Gross**, *Lajuana Haselrig*, Sheriff

**Van Hibbler**, *Dessola Johnson*, Public Social Services

**Pam Houston**, *Jean Copes*, Sheriff

**Fred Hungerford**, *Kay Green*, Public Library

**Stephen Klein**, *David Mill*, Public Library

**Walter Tubbs**, *Stephen Topsy*, Probation



*William and Ethan Yee*



*Valerie Couray, Devan Cornelio*



*Randall Walters, Endiya Griffin, Janet Walters*

## 2022 Scholarship Awardees Announced

*by Evelyn Gutierrez, Scholarship Committee*

The RELAC Board of Directors is proud to announce the 2022 Scholarship awardees and congratulates: Devan Cornelio, Endiya Griffin, Elliott Hull, Alyssa Wightman and Ethan Yee.

Nominated by their grandparents, who are RELAC members, each student will receive a \$1,000 RELAC scholarship and will be recognized at the Aug. 10 RELAC Annual Recognition Luncheon in Alhambra.

"All scholarship applicants were impressive and clearly focused on their educational goals and future careers," said Linda Hopkins, Scholarship Committee chair. "The RELAC Board extends best wishes to these students and shares in the pride demonstrated by the nominating grandparents."

The 2022 Scholarship Awardees:

Devan Cornelio is the grandson of Valerie Couray, a retiree of the Department of Health Services. Devan has been accepted by UCLA, with climate science as his major. His future goals include a career as an epidemiologist.

Endiya Griffin is the granddaughter of Janet Walters, a retiree of the Department of Health Services. Endiya has been accepted by USC, with a major in education and curriculum development. Her goal is to enhance future educational studies and outcomes.

Elliott Hull is the grandson of Virginia Gagnon, a retiree of the Probation Department. Elliott has been accepted by UC Santa Barbara, with a major in pre-applied mathematics. His career goal is to become an engineer or computer analyst.

Alyssa Wightman is the granddaughter of Mercedes Avila, a retiree of the Department of Children and Family Services. Alyssa has been accepted by Cal State Fullerton with a pre-med major. Her goal is to be a physician's assistant and help save lives.

Ethan Yee is the grandson of William Yee, a retiree of the Public Works Department. Ethan has been accepted by the Georgia Institute of Technology with a major in mechanical engineering. His career goal is to become an excellent engineer.

In its third year of scholarship awards, RELAC is proud to invest in supporting the educational goals of RELAC family members and the future workforce. Additional information and student updates will be provided on the RELAC website and at the RELAC Annual Recognition Luncheon.

Congratulations, Devan, Endiya, Elliott, Alyssa and Ethan.



*Virginia Gagnon  
Elliott Hull*



*Alyssa Wightman, Mercedes Avila*



## What's Happening?

by Evelyn Gutierrez,  
Chair, Special Events Committee



The following information on events or activities may provide you with safe and enjoyable summer outings. RELAC encourages you to remain safe and healthy by visiting the L.A. County Public Health website for updates on COVID-19 protocols. In addition, please call the number provided for each event to confirm event dates and public health requirements.

### Parks at Sunset

L.A. County Parks and Recreation Department invites you to visit your local park and attend a FREE drop-in activity at sunset. For information on participating parks and outdoor activities with family and friends, visit website: [parks.lacounty.gov](http://parks.lacounty.gov).

### Nature Nights

Enjoy learning about your local nature center by attending FREE programs scheduled from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at various nature centers and dates. Enjoy nature hikes, guided tours and Saturday Discovery events, 10 a.m. to noon at select nature centers.

**Deane Dana Nature Center Friendship Park**, 1805 West 9th St., San Pedro, (310) 519-6115

**Eaton Canyon Nature Center**, 1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena, (626) 398-5420

**Placerita Canyon Nature Center**, 19152 Placerita Canyon Rd., Newhall, (661) 259-7721

**San Dimas Canyon Nature Center**, 1628 Sycamore Canyon Rd., San Dimas, (909) 599-7512

**Stoneview Nature Center**, 5950 Stoneview Dr., Culver City, (310) 202-3002

**Vasquez Rocks Nature Center**, 10700 W. Escondido Rd., Agua Dulce, (661) 268-0840

**Whittier Narrows Nature Center**, 1000 S. Durfee Ave., South El Monte, (909) 228-3900

### Beach Bus is Back

If you are heading to Santa Monica beach, the Department of Public Works is providing beach bus services through Sept. 5. Round trip tickets are \$6 for adults and children and a discount rate of \$2 for seniors or persons with disabilities. Catch the bus near your home in Altadena, Castaic/West Ranch, Charter Oak/Duarte, La Crescenta/La Canada Flintridge, Lancaster or Palmdale on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day. You may reserve your trip up to 10 days in advance, but no later than 10 a.m. one day prior to your trip. For reservations, visit Beach Bus Reservations, website: [pw.lacounty.gov](http://pw.lacounty.gov) or call (626) 458-3909.

### Marina del Rey Summer Time

The Marina del Rey Farmers Market returns on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lot 11, 14101 Panay Way, Marina del Rey. Shop for fresh flowers, fruits, vegetables, gourmet food and more. Face masks are recommended.

**BEACH EATS** is a Thursday weekly food truck event at the Marina's Mother's Beach from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. through Oct. 27. Located at Lot 11, 14101 Panay Way, visit the food trucks and enjoy the scenic Marina del Rey harbor. Leashed dogs are welcome. For current information, call (310) 306-9900.

## RELAC is 'March for Babies' Top Fundraiser for 2022

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Community Support Committee

The 2022 March for Babies L.A. County top team as of June 1 is Team RELAC. For three consecutive years, Team RELAC has raised critically needed funds for medical research and medical care for premature babies and their families.

This year's March of Dimes Walk was held at the Grand Park in downtown Los Angeles, with Team RELAC hosting a champion's table, promoting RELAC as a major March of Dimes partner.

### Los Angeles County Top Five Teams:

Team RELAC - \$8,037

Public Social Services - \$4,031

Internal Services - \$2,955

Public Works - \$2,850

Registrar-Recorder - \$2,613

### Team RELAC Top Fundraisers:

Evelyn Gutierrez

Linda Hopkins

Phil Browning

Brian Berger

Dave Muir

March of Dimes officials will present a special MOD 2022 Champions award to Team RELAC at the Aug. 10 RELAC Annual Recognition Luncheon. RELAC sincerely thanks our members for their continued support of this annual March for Babies fundraising event.



### RELAC Members at Management Council Conference

RELAC members Kathy Hanks and Fred Hungerford, and RELAC Director Linda Hopkins were among those attending the Los Angeles County Management Council's spring conference at the Sheraton Cerritos Hotel in Cerritos in May. RELAC directors regularly participate in the Management Council's conferences to support former colleagues and promote RELAC membership. Shown at right is Jackie T. Guevarra, executive director of the County Quality and Productivity Commission.



# Letters To The Editor Write On!

Dear Brian [Berger], I want to personally thank you and the RELAC team for your partnership in recruiting community election workers for the June Primary Election. Your team stepped up to quickly share our message with the RELAC membership via the newsletter and your website. Partners like you play such an important role in our ability to administer elections in Los Angeles County. We look forward to continuing to work with you and the team for the November General Election. Best Regards,  
**Dean C. Logan, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Los Angeles County**

I just finished reading another great newsletter and before I get too busy, thanks to Brian [Berger] and his group of worker bees who keep us retirees informed so well with what's going on with RELAC, LACERA, etc. I want to particularly thank Judy Hammond, who does such a great job on not only the newsletter, but, in particular, her article "Inside LA County" that summarizes key issues and newsworthy events that I would not hear about, living where I do now.

**V. Leigh Nielson, Durango, Colorado**

Any thoughts of RELAC conducting an independent workshop regarding Medicare enrollment? It is soooo confusing! It's like the million dollar question for early 60 year olds!!!! I just wanted to throw that out there as food for thought.

**Marion Figueroa, Pasadena, California**

*[Ed. Note: We have passed on your suggestion to Victoria Pipkin-Lane, who heads the General Membership Committee, and she says she "totally agrees" that it would be a good topic. We are hoping to begin our membership meetings -- which have been on pause for two years due to the pandemic -- soon.]*

Dear Evelyn [Gutierrez] and Board of Directors, I was happy to receive your birthday greeting card, and thank you very much for it and for all you do for us senior members. I am now 93 and past my warranty, but I have a few marbles left and can still eat, walk, talk, and use the facilities. Best regards to all.

**Marion Siu, Los Angeles, California**

Looking forward to seeing the article [on my pets]. Really enjoy the RELAC newsletter. In fact, am sending in my dues today!

**Linda Tarnoff, Newhall, California**

Two of those listed on the In Memoriam in the May-June newsletter were my colleagues: 1) Josefat Banuelos, Health Services Administration (Financial Management) and 2) Helmut Muensch, Ph.D, King-Drew Medical Center (Medical Administration). Both were exceptionally bright and dedicated. They were both real mensches. And thanks for featuring my parents, my brother and me in the Mother's-Father's Day article in the newsletter. Of the six profiled individuals, I know four of them. It is an honor to be grouped with them.

**Barry Hunt, Inglewood, California**

Dear Judy [Hammond], just read through the [May-June] newsletter. (Told my Judy to wait for my breakfast till I was done reading it.) Want to compliment you on continuing to do a fantastic job! You're sooo good!

**Greg Walia, Granada Hills, California**

Just reading your latest RELAC newsletter. Very

## Commemorating LGBTQ Pride Month

by John Schunhoff  
2012 Retiree, Health Services and Public Health Departments

Schunhoff; husband, Ken Tittley



June is LGBTQ "Pride" Month. Last year Joe Kelly, one of many retired LGBTQ retirees of L.A. County, wrote an article for the RELAC newsletter commemorating the month. This year Joe tossed the baton in the air and I caught it. Next year we'll pass it on to someone else.

When I first arrived in L.A. in 1975 and encountered the first "pride parades," they were quite stereotypically, but somewhat correctly, perceived as parades with gay men, some with beards, either dressed in drag or in revealing outfits, with the parade led by "Dykes on Bikes." Although some of the media still focus on these stereotypes, Pride Month includes so many more trans and non-binary persons now.

The education which my parents and teachers gave me in English grammar was such that the developing usage of "they, them, and their" as personal pronouns still grates a bit on my ears, but I know we are going in the right direction as we let people determine which personal pronouns they wish to use.

Unfortunately, it would be easy to complete this short essay by focusing on the negatives, the murders, beatings and other hate crimes directed at LGBTQ individuals, including ones where County agencies are involved in investigating, protecting, or reporting. But, I'm choosing to focus on the positive. Two recent episodes demonstrate this.

My husband (we've been a couple for 45 years, married for 13) and I were recently at a family barbecue, where we spent quite a bit of time talking to an extended family member who teaches third grade in one of the smaller, and certainly one of the more prosperous and progressive, school districts in L.A. County. She told us the story of one of her recent students who was born and initially raised female, then decided he was male, so his family moved from out of state to L.A. County so he could go to third grade as a boy. As he headed for fourth grade, this pupil decided to identify again as a girl. That, understandably, upset the students he/she/they had known in the third grade.

Recently I was trying to exchange subscription tickets for one of the L.A. arts organizations. After waiting online for a long time, I accepted the offer to receive a callback when it was my turn in the queue. By the time I got the call, I was taking a short nap. My husband brought me the phone and told me that the call was from this organization. As I usually do, I asked for the person's name, in case I lost contact. The voice on the phone said, "It's Patti," except this was a very mid-range male-sounding voice. To my chagrin later, I replied again with "WHAT is your name!" The answer was still "Patti." After Patti had successfully and skillfully traded my tickets for the dates and seating section I wanted, I thanked her/him/them for the great service, but still felt a bit foolish for my initial confused reaction.

Not too many years ago, Patti wouldn't have been hired to that position, and the student wouldn't have had the opportunity to explore his/her/their gender identification, and my husband and I didn't have the opportunity to marry. We're making progress, but still have a long way to go.

### RELAC NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Judy Hammond  
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Office Hours  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Monday - Thursday  
Closed Friday,  
Saturday, Sunday &  
Public Holidays

# We're Trippin'

Though COVID lingers, RELAC members' lives are beginning to get back to normal.

## **RICHARD and BARBARA MARCINIAK**

2002 Health Department retirees

### **In Cruise Mode and Making Up for Lost Time**



vacations, COVID-allowing.

We are so delighted to be invited to share with our County friends our return to travel this spring of 2022 after a long COVID interruption of 2½ years. Barbara and I are known as frequent L.A. County retiree travelers, especially river and ocean cruises, usually two cruises per year plus Marriott family

Safe cruising while COVID still surges in its many milder forms is challenging and still carries many risks despite numerous safeguards. So it was that we set out to resume our travels for 2022 with two vaccinations and two boosters after cancelling trips to Hawaii (to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary in 2020) and to celebrate my 80th birthday last September on the Mississippi River and to Europe to take in the Passion Play in 2020 in Oberammergau, Germany.

A criterion for cruises during COVID was to embark and disembark from a U.S. port. Why you ask? For a U.S. citizen to disembark from a U.S. port has less requirements, although valid COVID testing is required prior to ship embarkation. Even more importantly, if you test positive prior to ship departure in a foreign country, the U.S. will require you to be quarantined for 14 days in a hotel prior to re-entry into the U.S.

With these criteria, we booked a 10-day Princess cruise out of San Pedro to Baja California returning to San Pedro. Ports of call were Cabo, La Paz, Loreto and Puerto Vallarta. All great places to visit with a warm culture to enjoy. Cabo is always a delight with dining, shopping, whale watching, four-wheelers in the desert and beach, and horseback riding along the ocean.

Well, would you believe that after 2 ½ years avoiding COVID, I tested positive (just sinus and minor sore throat) on the fifth day. I was immediately quarantined to a balcony stateroom for the balance of the trip for five days, thereby missing visits to Loreto and Puerto Vallarta. And, on the ninth day, Barbara tested positive and was quarantined to her stateroom. Princess Cruise Line provided the best of service in a COVID situation.

With a second booster, as of this writing we were getting ready for a Cunard Queen Elizabeth cruise on June 4 out of Vancouver, Canada to Alaska for 10 days. The Queen Elizabeth is our favorite. We went to the Norwegian fjords and Iceland in 2018 on this ship.

In August we are booked for a month-long trip to Europe for a Normandy cruise out of Paris visiting the World War II D-Day beaches and surrounding areas. Returning to Paris, we travel to Munich for Oktoberfest and meet up with our daughter Sharon and her husband for the Oberammergau Passion Play. This play has been performed every 10 years since 1680 by the inhabitants of the village of Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany. We will then visit Salzburg, Austria and then join another river cruise in Passau, Germany, visiting historic sites along the Danube and ending up in Budapest, Hungary, one of our favorite cities. From Budapest we fly to London for four days and then board the Queen Mary II in Southampton, England, sailing to New York City for our return flight to Los Angeles.

The Queen Mary II is a seven-day cruise across the Atlantic and has wonderful entertainment, lectures, high tea, and international ballroom dance competitions.

Happy Trails to all our County retirees.

## **EPI PEINADO and CHARLENE DIMAS-PEINADO**

2019 Department of Human Resources retiree

### **Celebrating 32nd Anniversary in Portugal and Spain**

Charlene and I planned a trip to Portugal and southwestern Spain to celebrate our 32nd wedding anniversary ... and ... really to venture out to experience its people, history, food and wine. Perhaps, at some level, we were also looking to take on this experience, post-COVID, to try and get back to what is a new-normal. Our families – direct and extended – saw firsthand the effects and heartbreak brought on by COVID. We also felt its effects through Charlene's work and in my project-based work with L.A. County. We felt that 2022 was the year to plan our trip and maintain a heightened awareness for our individual and community health.



This has been the case in our travel to Portugal and Spain ... wearing our mask in commuter travel, keeping distance where possible, and this time of year presents a great way to eat al fresco. While we are not yet done with our travels at the time I write this, we can share with you that our experience in Portugal's Porto, Lisbon, and Faro has been everything we thought it would be – well-preserved historical landmarks, great food, and world-class wines. Most revealing, however, has been the warmth and friendliness of the Portuguese people; their openness and love of country have been a real treat for us. Yes, English is spoken here and whenever our Spanish could simply bridge the linguistic divide, we also relied on "universal" sign language to reach an understanding. And, always sharing an expression of gratitude and thanks was essential to any transaction, so we came to rely upon saying "obrigada/o" often, and to do so with enthusiasm!

*continued on p.11*



## **HARRY and JAN (POLLARD) HUFFORD**

(1985 Chief Administrative Office, 2004 Internal Services Department retirees)

### **April Trip to Scotland and Holland Was a Tough One**

We are back. Tough trip. Lost and recovered my cash (euros, pounds, dollars) purse in Heathrow. Train to and from

Ayer, then train to Inverness. Cruise Loch Ness, then fly to Amsterdam. Jan fell at hotel, doctor, emergency room, OK. Tulips in Holland and long flight home. Jet lag for a week, OK now.



## **J.P. and DIANE HARRIS** 2010 and 2012 Sheriff's Department retirees **April-May Trip to Central Europe**

Our 20-day trip to Central Europe included three days in Prague, followed by a Viking River Cruise on the Danube/Main/Rhine from

Budapest to Amsterdam. Cities visited included Vienna, Melk, Passau, Regensburg, Nuremberg, Bamberg, Wurzburg, Werthheim, Koblenz, Cologne, and Kinderdijk. We are blessed to be County retirees and have the means to enjoy these great adventures. Time waits for no one, so get out there and experience the world.

# Keeping Up With Retirees



*Ed. Note: New RELAC member Rose Mitchell, longtime librarian at the County's Black Resource Center at the AC Bilbrew Library in Willowbrook, retired March 31 after 22 years of service. PBS SoCal published this article about Mitchell, characterizing her as a present-day black visionary. We thank PBS SoCal for giving us permission to reprint it in our newsletter.*

## From Juneteenth to Black History in WWII: How a Librarian Left Behind a Legacy of Cultural Pride in Willowbrook

by Anissa Durham, PBS SoCal

There's a place in the L.A. neighborhood of Willowbrook dedicated to the survival and preservation of black heritage. That place is the Black Resource Center at the AC Bilbrew Library, led by educator and present-day black visionary Rose Mitchell, a longtime librarian with the L.A. County Library. At the center, Mitchell has supported the study of the black experience for nearly 20 years. Set to retire at the end of March, Mitchell has dedicated her life to educating people about the richness of black history. She said her work gave black community members a sense of pride and awareness of who they are.

"Growing up as an African American female, I knew who some people were, but I did not have a grasp on the local leaders and movers and shakers," she said. This curiosity sparked her journey to becoming a prominent black history educator. But Mitchell didn't start her career as a librarian right away. She worked as a probation officer for 12 years, which she says contributed to her desire to help others differently. "I would rather be in an environment where people actually want to come to me ... because, in probation, they only came to you because they were sent to you by a judge. And in the library environment, they came seeking knowledge," she said.

At the Black Resource Center, Mitchell answered questions about black history, provided accessible resources to people of all ages and created programs that taught the next generation the importance of black history. One of Mitchell's proudest accomplishments was being one of the first librarians to celebrate and honor the freedom of enslaved African Americans at the end of the Civil War — also known as Juneteenth. Today, this celebration is a federally recognized holiday, but 20 years ago, she commemorated it with an annual program she started at the center to teach people about new aspects of their culture. "As I continued that event every year, it grew bigger and bigger and more important to teach people about Juneteenth," she said.

Mitchell reflected on other highlights from her decades of service as a librarian, including a program that focused on World War II veterans, specifically black military units like the Tuskegee Airmen, the first black aviators in the U.S. Army Air Corps. The initiative was so successful, it continued annually. "We provide (these programs) to expand their horizons, learning about other black people from around the globe, we try to focus on the diaspora. Not just the United States," she said. Her many educational projects throughout the years deepened her connections with the community. They allowed her to meet and honor everyone from the likes of Yolanda King, Natalie Cole and editors from magazines like Ebony and Jet.

Although the Black Resource Center is geared toward adults, Mitchell said there are lots of books and resources in the children's area available for school age kids to learn about black history. She also



*With husband, Mark*

## CAROL GUNTER MEYER

I had no idea I would spend 40 years of my life as a civil servant, but what a wonderful experience it has been! Having grown up in a small rural community in South Dakota, I always wanted to get out and see the world. During nursing school, I decided to join the Navy, which took me to the Long Beach Naval Hospital. Although the military was a great experience, I decided to get out and work in a busy emergency department (ED). The only "day job" I could find was at Harbor General Harbor, which will always be my "County home." There I had great opportunities in the ED, intensive care unit and cardiac cath lab with the infamous J. Michael Criley. While in the ED, I was asked to consider applying to be an instructor at the Paramedic Training Institute, teaching paramedics from the various fire departments across the County. This was truly my most enjoyable County job and I worked under one of the best mentors, Virginia Price Hastings. The experience led me to a variety of positions and ultimately to the director of the L.A. County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency -- the largest multi-jurisdictional EMS system in the country. EMS gives one a large breath of statewide exposure and due to my EMS legislative advocacy, I was asked by then Department of Health Services Director Bruce Chernoff to become the director of legislative affairs. Working out of 313 N. Figueroa was a challenge among challenges and I learned to appreciate what juggling numerous assignments really meant. Eventually another great mentor, John Schunhoff, asked me to take the position of chief operating officer -- and from there, I retired some 11 years ago.

Retirement is amazing, but still doesn't equate to "not working" for me. My civil engineer husband, Mark Meyer, and I developed our own business, Engineering Health, Inc. Since retirement, I have worked for McCormick Ambulance out of the South Bay, Health Management Associates, Dennehy & Associates and the EMS Administrators' Association of California.

Although the consulting has kept me busy, more importantly, Mark and I get to spend time traveling the world. We have been to all seven continents and believe it or not, our favorite has been Antarctica! Many ask why we would go there. Frankly, we had no real interest until we happened upon a botanical garden docent in Hawaii who travels there with National Geographic Linblad Expeditions. It is truly the most amazing place in the world, primarily due to the glaciers and the penguins. Other travels include New Zealand, Russia, Finland, Nepal (seeing Mt. Everest with one's own eyes), Egypt, Jordan, and many countries of Europe. We are not cruise ship travelers -- we like adventurous trips that require more active participation. In June, we head to Africa -- Tanzania, Kenya and, my dream, Rwanda to see the gorillas.

Mark and I also purchased a condo in Palm Desert right at the beginning of COVID, before prices skyrocketed. It was a great getaway during the pandemic and we have really learned to love the laidback desert life, the Living Desert and sharing time with friends in a new atmosphere. We also have a 42-foot sailboat, and love both day sailing and jaunts to Catalina and Mexico. Family and friends have enjoyed beautiful sails on "TrueBlue" out of Alamitos Bay in Long Beach only a mile from our home.

Finally, and most importantly, we love spending time with family. Both Mark and I have families back in Iowa and South Dakota. My father is 96 this year and still drives to men's coffee, church and the grocery store. He is an inspiration and a testament to good old-fashioned down-on-the farm living. We enjoy time with our two children-- when they have time in their busy lives! Guy Gunter, a chiropractor in Signal Hill, has a wonderful girlfriend, Kerry, also an ED nurse who recently started working at the health center at USC. They have a wonderful chocolate lab, Maverick, who I help walk

## Rose Mitchell cont. from p.8

helped educate little ones on class visits, encouraging them to reflect on their black history and make them feel empowered. "When the elementary age kids would come in and learn, and [would] be interactive in a program of that nature, it becomes a lifelong experience for them," she said. "It also motivates some of the teachers to continue teaching about these events out of Black History [Month] and celebrations."

Mitchell described an activity she held for preschoolers where she shared photos of prominent African Americans without revealing their names. Once the children identified who was in the image, they were encouraged to learn about them. "When elementary school kids learn about people out of their history, who achieve great things, it just encourages them to learn more. And I think that's the impact I've had on younger children," she said. Mitchell didn't always feel so confident in her ability to educate both children and adults about black history, partly because mainstream history classes often don't offer much insight into the depth of black history. "I overcame the hesitancy I had or the insecurities I had about not knowing enough. And then it motivated me to learn more and more," she said.

Mitchell also drew inspiration from Joyce Sumbi — one of the first African American administrators in the L.A. County Library system. She said Sumbi's leadership and encouragement were instrumental to her professional career. Dexter McLeod, founder of the L.A. South Chamber of Commerce, admires Mitchell's influence during her decades serving the Los Angeles community. "We were not looking forward to her day of retirement though she is, which she earned it, and deserves it. But her contributions as far as educating the community and the city ... [are] something we definitely appreciate, but we are definitely going to miss her," McLeod said.

McLeod said Mitchell has created such rich archives that people travel from all over the world to do research and study at the center. He said her friendliness and sincere commitment to the community would be missed. "I've seen her connect with [everyone], from community stakeholders to business leaders, to elected officials to community leaders," McLeod said. "Rose is an awesome person; she is very approachable, she's very knowledgeable, she's very kind in heart."

Mitchell's last day at the Black Resource Center is March 31, 2022, but her legacy will prevail in the community. "I have been honored to be like a catalyst to their learning and their knowledge of black history, culture and issues. I hope that I have been an influence in their lifelong learning," she said. "If I have been a small part of anyone learning and being able to access the knowledge, then I am truly grateful that I have been in this position."

## Carol Meyer cont. from p.8

when they are at work, my first grandma experience -- not exactly what I had in mind! Our daughter, Paige Akers, a customer services specialist in Wisconsin, recently married and she and her husband, Myke, just had our first granddaughter. People rave about being grandparents and I really didn't get it -- until now! Melody Lynn is a little beauty and at less than two months old, she has captured our hearts. I am sure we will be traveling back to the Midwest more often!

I never knew back in 1975 that the County would be my dream job -- it was, and the County has been very good to me.

## Sheriff Retirees Gather in Laughlin

Approximately 1,000 persons attended the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Retiree Roundup in Laughlin, Nevada in April. The annual four-day event was halted in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. Attendees are predominately LASD retirees and spouses who come from all over the country to catch up with lifelong friends and former colleagues.

*Photos are courtesy of the L.A. County Professional Peace Officers Association.*

### Among the attendees this year were:



*Robert Olmsted, Bruce Jacques, Thomas Pavlich*



*Jim Schallert, Barry Fink, Tab Rhodes, Richard Duran, Wayne Quint*



*Artie Thompson, Jim Schallert, Terri Williams, Ralph Williams, Michael Chinery*



*Arleen Gray, Margaret Sanders, Gladys Maddin*



*Mike Salvatore, Bill Tauson, Rafael Estrada*

# ANIMAL HOUSE



**PAM EVERETT**  
*Chief Administrative Office, 1998 Retiree*  
**Sometimes They Choose You**

In 1989 I went to three shelters looking for a tuxedo cat. At the Glendale shelter, when I passed this one grey kitty, she would stick her paw out for me to touch it. I had a friend with me and she, shelter staff and strangers walked by – no paw. I walked by again and out came the paw. She had been brought to the shelter because she was pregnant. I explained to her that I was looking for a male tuxedo cat so she needed to have one. They thought she would have four kittens in two weeks, but she had five a week later, including Sylvester, a male tuxedo cat in the box that I had set up for her. I found homes for the kittens. Kathy House took the two grey ones and named them Pete and Repeat.

Five years later Mickey got on top of me while I was sleeping and was showing me her paw. It was cancer, but it was confined to her one toe, so it was removed. After that she would look at me pathetically and lift her paw. Naturally, I would melt. One day she lifted up the wrong paw and I said, “Wrong paw, Mickey, the game is over.” She never lifted a paw again, but I still knew what she wanted and I always delivered. I loved that cat to death!!! I have had many pets through the years and some have been VERY special and others just great companions. And a few have been a pain in the ---, but once you are committed, that's it.

I now have five cats. All have an interesting story. One whose owner died. One who was a kitten during Supervisor Mike Antonovich's "Pet of the Week" presentation. Two, a brother and sister, were found under a friend's house. The fifth, Fearless, was found in the engine compartment of a County vehicle at the Community and Senior Services office on Sixth Street. They took the car to the Hall of Administration because they could hear her screaming and they put it up on the lift, took off something under the engine of the car and found the kitten, which was about a week old. My friend Ellie, who was driving the car at the time, brought the cat to me and that was three years ago. I didn't start out wanting five cats, they came to me.

**KATHY HOUSE**  
*Chief Executive Office, 2011 Retiree*  
**It's Hard to Teach an Old Dog New Tricks**

Over the years, my husband, Robert, and I adopted four dogs through Animal Care and Control. When they passed through the Hall of Administration on their way to the Board of Supervisors meetings on Tuesdays (for presentation to the public), I fell in love and would call Robert, who always agreed and would drive over to pick them up. Ben and Jerry were our first. Ben lived to be 17 ½. Jerry died of prostate cancer when he was 15. We still have Cookie and Minnie, and Bandit (who Robert found on the street). They are part of our family and provide endless entertainment to us. I'm not proud, but none are trained (although we have had many training sessions). They bark, jump up, and generally still act like puppies. It's hard to teach an old dog new tricks (referring to Robert, LOL).



**VICTORIA PIPKIN-LANE**  
*Board of Supervisors, 2018 Retiree*  
**Rescue Cats Brighten Home During COVID-19**

In 2018 our 17-years young rescue cat started having trouble jumping on the bed and couch so we contacted our local veterinarian. An earlier examination raised the possibility of a tumor on the hip. We made a decision to monitor the cat's mobility. After a few months, our dear Tyger transitioned to kitty heaven. Within a few months, our other rescue cat of 16 years began to show signs of aging. Pumpkin was a constant companion of our granddaughter, Janessa, and her decline was difficult for the entire family to witness. Pumpkin passed on in late 2018. We're a cat family and the loss of both cats left a void in our lives, especially Janessa. She talked frequently of missing her Pumpkin and Tyger, the cats we rescued from the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control. We mourned their loss, but we knew more rescue cats were in our future.

In the summer of 2019, we adopted kittens Yogi, a black and white, and Melon, a domestic short hair also known as a Calico. The SPCA/LA in Hawthorne facilitated the adoption to the delight of Janessa. Yogi was already neutered, but Melon had surgery before she joined the family. When she did come home, it was with a cone on her head. Janessa and Melon became fast friends. She fed the kitty, changed her water and played with her every day.

When COVID-19 raged through the community in 2020, the rescue kittens were a constant source of play and fun. When school shut down due to a COVID-19 positive test of a student, Janessa had Yogi and Melon as companions. They never seemed to tire of one another or run out of games to play. The close relationship between Janessa and Yogi and Melon continues. She will enter second grade in the fall, and we fully expect them to spend many years together.

**MARION FIGUEROA**  
*Human Resources, 2011 Retiree*  
**Building a Nest Egg**

These are photos of Benjamin and my dogs Tamiko, (golden labrador), Georgie (golden retriever) and Bella (now deceased as of April). Tamiko and I trained and became a certified pet assisted therapy team, and volunteer at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena, visiting cancer patients and their families. Tamiko does all the talking, and I do the hand holding. It's the most rewarding job I've ever had. The other pictures are of our chickens. We have four chickens – actually three chickens, but more about that later -- that are FRIENDS: Monica, a barred Plymouth Rock; Phoebe and Ursula, salmon Faverolles; and Rachel, which we thought was an Easter egger, but found out recently she is actually Raphael – a ROOSTER! So we had to contact the Humane Society to re-home her. We are expecting blue, green and peach colored eggs from our girls in a few weeks!



**LINDA TARNOFF**  
*Board of Supervisors, 2005 Retiree*  
**Consumed, But Wouldn't Have It Any Other Way**

When Ric New and I moved to the ranch in Newhall, we figured horse keeping would be easy. After all, our life experiences as a motion picture stunt coordinator and deputy in the Board of Supervisors respectively would certainly have prepared us for scheduling, acquisitions, and organization. Hah! Twenty years later, we are consumed by feeding, stall/arena cleaning, and who gets what when.

Our lives are governed by Arabian horses Onyx, PT Crusin and Scout; pony Ashley; and two always-demanding basset hounds Tank and Abby. We have a good reason to wake up each morning to go out to the barn to be greeted by the horses' neighs (translation: you are late!). Of course, Tank and Abby follow right behind begging for treats! The evening ritual is the same, and midnight carrots are our special time. We put our complete trust in them, and they in us. Can't imagine life any other way.



Sandwiched between horse and hound keeping, I find time to enjoy walk/jogging, BowFlex max trainer (in front of TV), bicycle riding, hiking in our beautiful hills where we also ride the horses, going to local theater, visiting with friends, garage sales, antique stores, museums, rediscovering restaurants since the lockdown, am in!

**Letters cont. from p.6**

informative. Any possibility you could get me the personal e-mail for Kerry Gottlieb Silverstrom? I've known her since she was in [Supervisor Ed] Edelman's office. Prior to the epidemic, she lived only a mile or so away, and I would see her sometimes at the grocery store. She probably is still a neighbor, but we rely on delivery so much with COVID that I'm rarely at the grocery store. She's been a great colleague for many years and I'd like to congratulate her on her retirement.

**John Schunhoff, Los Angeles, California**

*(Ed. Note: While we don't release members' personal information, we are happy to contact them to relay messages. In this case, Silverstrom promptly responded to Schunhoff.)*

Judy [Hammond], I read the newsletter all the time — love your column — lets us keep up with our County family! Thank you for the invitation to do a profile. I would love to do it! I am very busy with my consulting business, family, gardening, and it goes on. How did we ever work!

**Carol Meyer, Long Beach, California**

**Peinado cont. from p.7**

We are now in Sevilla, Spain and it's great to have a sense of familiarity with its language and culture. It's also a wonderful place to experience a deep sense of history and cultural pride. After enjoying our first night in Sevilla, we have already experienced the warmth of its people and the great culinary offerings. We're excited about the final leg on our trip and are even contemplating a day trip across the Strait of Gibraltar and visit to Morocco. We are going to do our best to make it happen! I'm grateful that Charlene and I share a similar sense of adventure and exploration, and are willing to use all means of travel to get us to enjoy new sights. We've used plane, train, private driver, Uber, bus, and Bird – yes, those electric scooters – to get between and around towns we've visited. And because everything in life has an (unknown) expiration date, we are so grateful for our mobility and are tracking more than 12,000 steps per day. We simply love the direct contact and using our available senses to enjoy the moment and make a find in an antique store or an artist co-op. Or simply taking a break in a family-run toasca, café, or tapas bar. It's all part of the experience; not to mention it helps offset our calorie consumption.

Overall, while we may never get back to the before-COVID-times, we are grateful to have this moment together and to add to our book of memories. For that I say, "Obrigado!"



# Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond  
Newsletter Editor

Not surprisingly, Breathe, the County's new guaranteed income program, drew tens of thousands of applications, including 95,000 received in a single day. Over the next three years, the County will invest \$36 million to get \$1,000 a month directly into the hands of 1,000 randomly selected residents who live in communities heavily impacted by the pandemic and meet income thresholds for the program.

Approval of recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness was hailed by the three supervisors favoring the motion, but dissenting Supervisor Sheila Kuehl said the bulk of the recommendations "amount to little more than moving positions around, transferring and reducing outreach efforts now being done by experienced groups, establishing more layers of responsibility and wasting more time. Sort of like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic and believing it will keep the ship from sinking." Under the proposal, a new agency will be created to provide oversight of all homeless-related efforts. Supervisor Kathryn Barger said the recommendations are needed "to reform the systemic dysfunction within Los Angeles homeless service system at large."

Deaths of homeless people in the County soared by 56% in the year after the start of the pandemic, driven primarily by an increase in overdoses, according to a new study from the Department of Public Health. Between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, there were 1,988 deaths of homeless people, up from 1,271 in the prior 12 months. Of these, 179 died from COVID-19, about a fourth of the increase, while 715 were from overdoses, nearly double the number from the prior year.

Extra security is being provided at Union Station after more than a dozen janitors and workers were verbally and physically attacked by homeless individuals. The transportation hub became a shelter for the homeless, many with mental health issues, during the pandemic. And the Mental Health Department will provide teams of trained mental health professionals on buses and trains to respond to riders in crisis, de-escalate potentially dangerous situations, and connect people with the long-term treatment and support they need.

The Board of Supervisors approved \$28,250,000 (bringing total funding to \$110 million) to allow the Parks and Recreation Department to begin the design phase and construct the first phase of the Puente Hills Regional Park, a 142-acre parkland on the site of the now closed Puente Hills Landfill in the East San Gabriel Valley. It will be the County's first new regional park in more than 25 years. The landfill was once the largest in the U.S.

The Metro Board has adopted its first tree policy, voting to replace every tree cut down for a project with two new trees and to plant more trees along transit corridors.

District Attorney George Gascón has created three community advisory boards, for African Americans, the LGBTQ+ and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, to provide feedback on improvements needed to better serve residents and those who come into contact with his office, and to improve diversity and inclusion within his office.

A 23-year-old man carrying a replica handgun with a knife blade mounted on the barrel ran onstage and tackled comedian Dave Chappelle at the Hollywood Bowl, raising questions about venue safety.

The County has resumed its free weekly food distribution events for families through the end of the year. During the pandemic, the County handed out nearly 15 million pounds of food to families in need.

Supervisor Janice Hahn's associate health deputy, Julia Mockeridge, was among those sharing stories at Rancho Los Amigos Foundation's first Amistad Gala held since 2019. Mockeridge, who previously worked as a physical therapist for COVID recovery at Rancho, last year donated a kidney to a colleague in another department she barely knew, saving his life.

The County Library has opened tool lending programs at five of its libraries, allowing residents to borrow anything from power tools to gardening equipment to bike repair kits at no cost. The inventory includes hammers, wrenches, electrical cords, cookware, sewing machines, gardening tools, power tools, and much more.

Funding totaling \$70 million is included in Metro's new budget to fully electrify the Silver Line bus route from San Pedro to El Monte next year to reduce emissions.

A decades-old \$6 billion plan to widen the 710 Freeway, which would have destroyed homes and neighborhoods in Southeast Los Angeles, causing protests from the residents there, has been dropped. The Metro Board voted to redirect the \$750 million already allocated to projects to improve the lives of the people who live along the freeway.

It has been a year since the Sheriff's Department began its battle to get rid of the illegal marijuana grows in the Antelope Valley – the most extensive drug operation in its history – and anticipates it will be this fall before it can declare victory. The state National Guard Counterdrug Task Force and Department of Fish and Wildlife have joined in the effort. In 2021 there were 750 outdoor cultivation sites identified; this spring an aerial survey found 350. Most sites are

said to be connected to organized crime groups.

Metro has awarded \$9.9 million to continue the operation of call boxes on freeways through 2024, which have seen dwindling use due to cellphones. In 2021 there were 5,500 calls from 1,057 boxes. At its peak, there were 4,500 call boxes and County Supervisor Janice Hahn – whose father, former Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, is credited with the creation of the system in 1962 – is pushing for the replacement of those removed. Metro is also looking into using the call box system to gather traffic data.

Beverly Hills developer Arman Gabae (also known as Gabay) has pleaded guilty to bribing former County employee Thomas Shepos to obtain favorable leases. Shepos, who was in the real estate section of the Chief Executive Office, received about \$1,000 monthly from around 2011 to 2017 and was to be sentenced in June.

Dr. Jonathan Sherin has resigned as head of the Department of Mental Health, effective July 1, due to health reasons. He announced in late April that he had a serious health scare – though did not specify the nature – and needed to "focus properly on my own well-being and the well-being of my family."

The new \$38.5 billion County budget calls for adding 500 new positions, bringing the total workforce to 111,551.

The County has finalized an ordinance that requires single-use plastic food items at restaurants, stores, hospital cafeterias and food trucks in unincorporated areas to be compostable or recyclable, while banning polystyrene products such as coolers, plates and cups.

Former Asst. Sheriff Robin Limon has filed a legal claim against the County, saying she was demoted four ranks after publicly disputing Sheriff Alex Villanueva's claim that he didn't learn for eight months of a jail incident in which a deputy kept his knee on an inmate's head for three minutes. Limon said she showed a videotape of the incident to the sheriff five days after it occurred.

A County Auditor-Controller audit found that the Sheriff's Department did not get proper approval last year to create an emergency helicopter landing pad on Southern California Gas. Co. property above Sheriff Alex Villanueva's home.

The Board of Supervisors, reacting to the potential overturn of Roe v. Wade, is seeking state legislation that would allow the County to provide abortion services to women, regardless of residency.

The family of firefighter Jonathan Flagler, who suffocated after his oxygen tank ran empty while fighting a house fire, plans to file a lawsuit against the County, saying his death was caused when on-scene commanders failed to keep track of the firefighters inside the burning residence, maintain radio contact with those firefighters, and promptly rescue Flagler.

A tentative settlement would pay \$32 million to relatives of 10-year-old Anthony Avalos, who prosecutors say died of child abuse and torture by his mother and boyfriend; the family say lapses by the Department of Children and Family Services resulted in the death. And the father of three Reseda children drowned by their mother has filed a wrongful death lawsuit, accusing social workers of repeatedly ignoring warnings about the danger the woman posed. County Counsel has recommended the Board approve \$445,000 to a Tijuana woman who said her religious beliefs were violated when the Coroner's Office cremated her son without her permission.

A \$6.5 million settlement was approved to the parents of a teen killed when his car was struck during a civilian chase; they alleged gross negligence by a sheriff deputy 911 operator who instructed the hit-and-run victim to follow the car that had hit his vehicle to get the license number. He testified that she repeatedly told him to get the license number so he thought she wanted him to drive faster.



Escobedo



McKenzie



Rossi

## RETIREMENTS

**Mark Volmert**, who served eight years as a deputy to Supervisor Pete Schabarum, leaving County service when Schabarum retired in 1991. **Rose Mitchell**, librarian in the Black Resource Center at the A C Bilibrew Library, with almost 22 years of service. **Kimberly M. McKenzie**, chief executive officer at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, who began her County career as a pediatric critical care nurse at LAC+USC Medical Center in 1986. **Helen L. Love**, LAC+USC Medical Center, with 54 ½ years of service. **Sheila L. Nash**, administrative assistant in Ambulatory Care Network of the Health Services Department, with more than 52 years of service. **Lloyd Pantell**, chief program specialist in the Risk Management branch of the Chief Executive Office, with almost 26 years of service.

## DEATHS

**Robert "Bob" Edmonds**, 83, who retired as undersheriff to Sheriff Sherman Block in 1961 after 32 years with the department. Former Sheriff's Commander **Alan "Al" L. Chancellor**, who retired in March 1999 from the Detective Division after 36 years of service. Sheriff Lt. **Daniel Gillespie**, who retired earlier this year after serving 28 years with the Sheriff's Department. **Jacqueline Leisure**, founding member of the Art Museum Council at the County Museum of Art. **Robert Perkins**, 92, who began his County career in 1957 with the Air Pollution Control District and began working as chief deputy to Supervisor James Hayes in 1974, then later as chief deputy to Supervisors Yvonne Burke and Deane Dana. **Frank DeBalogh**, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's appointee to the Commission for Public Social Services, where he served for 25 years, eight years as chair and four as vice chair. Retired Sheriff's Lt. **Rudolph "Rudy" Berteaux**, who retired from East Los Angeles Station in 1981 after almost 29 years with the department. **Joseph Surgent**, 79, who served as police chief of Sierra Madre for four years after retiring from the Sheriff's Department in 1994 with almost 20 years of service. **Roy White**, 89, who worked as an appraiser for the Assessor's Office for 30 years. **Sergio Escobedo**, 43, a 15-year member of the Fire Department who had been recognized as Dispatcher of the Year, died unexpectedly. **Michael C. Herndon**, 63, who served 25 years as driver to former Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, and the following five years before retirement as head of staff services for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Sheriff's Capt. **Elmer Omohundro Jr.**, who retired from Court Services West in 1990 after almost 32 years of service. World-renown renal pathologist **Dr. Arthur H. Cohen**, 80, who began his career in 1972 at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, where he started the renal pathology division during his 21 years there. **Anita Sullivan**, 68, wife of retired Sheriff Lt. John P. Sullivan, who retired in 2018. Former Sheriff Commander **Charles "Sid" Heal**, one of the department's foremost SWAT tacticians and use of force experts, who retired in 2008 after more than 30 years of service. **Renso Enkoji**, 94, incarcerated at an internment camp in Idaho as a teenager and later obtaining a master's degree in psychology from the University of Utah, teaching evening classes at USC and Cal State Los Angeles during his 28-year career with the Probation Department, retiring in 1983.

## APPOINTMENTS:

**Stephanie Stone**, USN (ret.), named acting director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs following the retirement of Ruth Wong. Stone has worked for Coro Southern California, rising through the ranks to the post of vice president of programs and outreach. She also worked with Goodwill Southern California in the Veteran Employment Program. Several sworn officers with the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation have assumed new leadership roles: **Carlos Villamayor** was promoted to captain, **Jeff Savarese** was promoted to lieutenant, and **Kim Collins**, **Jennifer Martin** and **Edgar Ruelas** became sergeants. **Tanishia G. Wright**, Public Health Department's director of programs at MLK Community Healing and Trauma Prevention Center, is the new director of the D.A.'s Bureau of Victim Services, where she has been tasked with greatly expanding the services provided by the office, overseeing a staff of 78 victim service representatives. **Sheila Kelliher**, a 22-year veteran of the Fire Department, is the first female fire captain to manage the Public Information Office, replacing Battalion Chief **Ron Haralson**, who was recently promoted. **Rachel Rossi**, a former L.A. County deputy public defender in both the Public Defender's Office and the Alternate Public Defender's Office who ran unsuccessfully for district attorney in 2019, named head of the U.S. Justice Department's Office for Access to Justice, a program to ensure poor defendants get legal representation in civil and criminal cases; she is the first former public defender to hold the position.

## HONORS:

The Fire Department awarded its highest honor, the Medal of Valor, to five employees involved in two life-saving incidents: Capt. **Michael Keehmer** and Firefighter **Jorge Gonzalez** for rescuing a sleeping toddler trapped in a burning home; and Capt. **Arnoldo Sandoval**, Firefighter **Jim Sparkman**, and senior equipment mechanic **Rodolfo Saavedra**, who while caught in the crossfire at a fatal shooting at a fire station, intervened to render aid and save fellow team members. Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Chief Information Officer **Aman Bhullar** awarded the High Impact IT Leader at the Los Angeles IT Leadership Forum, which is made up of key government IT executives and industry specialists from throughout the region. County Public Health Director **Barbara Ferrer** was presented the President's Award at the Commission for Women's 37th Annual Women of the Year Commemorative Celebration Luncheon, one of 12 women cited for their work to bring about social and economic change. Harbor-UCLA Medical Center patient safety officer Dr. **Sarah Lopez** has received the "Catalyst" Award from the Academy for Women in Academic Emergency Medicine in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the field of emergency medicine. Former state Assemblyman and L.A. City Councilman **Gordon Hahn**, who served as a field deputy to his brother, former County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, for five years after Hahn suffered a stroke in 1987, was added to the Wall of Honor at the American Merchant Marine Veterans Memorial in San Pedro for his service in the U.S. Merchant Marines during WWII.

## DEPARTURES:

**Heidi Marston**, executive director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, a joint L.A. County-L.A. City body, resigned after upsetting Board members over her unilateral decision to raise the salaries of 196 lowest paid employees while freezing the compensation of the 10 highest paid employees. Dr. **Jonathan Sherin** resigned as Department of Mental Health director due to health reasons.

## ELECTIONS

**Lynda Johnson**, a 35-year County employee who served 20 years as a paralegal in the District Attorney's Office, five years as field deputy to County Supervisor Janice Hahn, and currently field deputy to Sheriff Alex Villanueva, elected the first Filipina American woman on the Cerritos City Council.

## COURTS:

Sheriff's Deputy **Konrad Thieme**, 37, charged with three felony counts for allegedly assaulting a 32-year-old woman last year after answering a disturbance call and then lying about what happened in a report. Some of the incident was captured on his body-worn video. A jury awarded \$850,000 to Sheriff's Deputy **Concepcion Hernandez Garcia**, who said she was sexually harassed by her training officer.



Bhullar



Hahn



Marston



Surgent



White



Stone



Sherin



Kelliher



Lopez



Barry King, Ted Von Minden, incoming Sheriff Sherman Block, outgoing Sheriff Peter Pitchess, Bob Edmonds, and Jerry Harper. Circa 1983



## Retired Undersheriff Edmonds Described as a True Leader

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

Retired Undersheriff Robert Allen Edmonds, 83, described as a true leader who inspired and motivated others to strive for the best, died on April 19.

A RELAC member since his retirement in 1993, Edmonds served 32 years in the Sheriff's Department. "Robert loved the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the men and women who serve," said his wife, Rosalie.

Sheriff Alex Villanueva said Edmonds was "a true leader who inspired and motivated others to strive for the best when serving the community. The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department has suffered a great loss and he will be greatly missed."

Edmonds was recruited by a Lennox Station detective after, as an assistant manager for Safeway, he went to report bad checks received. He became a deputy after graduating from class #87 in 1961 and rose steadily through the ranks as a sergeant, lieutenant, captain, commander, assistant sheriff and, ultimately, undersheriff in 1987. He worked during the Watts Riots, the Cerritos air crash, the 1984 Olympics, and several other large scale incidents. He was known for bolstering the Sheriff's Department Explorer program, operations planning for large-scale disasters and events, as well as overseeing the department's transition from paper logs to the first digitized computer system.

Long-time colleague and friend former Undersheriff Jerry L. Harper delivered the eulogy at Edmond's funeral at Forest Lawn, Cypress.

"Bob Edmonds and I were best of friends for almost 50 years. We worked together at virtually all of our assignments in our 30-year-plus careers with LASD," said Harper. "Sheriff Peter Pitchess thought so much of Bob's leadership skills that he promoted him to assistant sheriff, skipping the rank of division chief. Sheriff Sherman Block valued Bob's judgment and advice so much that he promoted him to undersheriff, a position he held for six years.

"Bob was not a loud and demonstrative type leader. His style was much more contemplative, focused on problem solving, careful but very decisive and hugely persuasive in giving his advice. He never forgot that he was a deputy, had risen through the ranks, and cared about the people of all ranks, both sworn and non-sworn.

"To be successful as a sheriff, or to give meaningful advice to a sheriff, one must realize that the job has two basic and interrelated parts: one is operational and the other is political. Bob had more skill in understanding and advising on those roles and how they should be played out than anyone I ever worked with -- including sheriffs. He would have been a great sheriff. He would have left a legacy that would have had the Sheriff's Department recognized as a top flight law enforcement and corrections agency. He would have had an excellent working relationship with the members of the Board of Supervisors. He would have been well attuned and responsive to the needs of the people in all the different communities in this diverse county."

Born June 25, 1938 in Norris City, Illinois, Edmonds lived in Murrieta. Besides his wife, he leaves daughter Deborah Hadrych, sons Gregory and Douglas Edmonds, sister Jeanene Carifi, brother Bill Edmonds, and grandchildren Steven Hadrych III and Lexi Hadrych. Edmonds suffered from Parkinson's disease for more than 13 years, prompting his family to ask that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Edmonds' name to The Michael J. Fox Foundation and the Parkinson's Foundation.

## Charles "Sid" Heal Praised by Former Colleagues

Former Sheriff Commander Charles "Sid" Heal, who served more than 30 years before his retirement on March 31, 2008, has died.

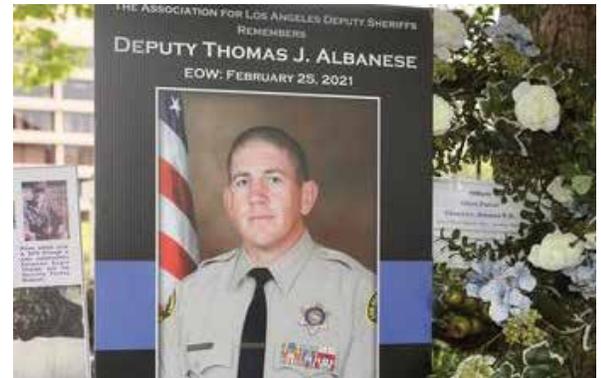
Sheriff Alex Villanueva said Heal was one of the department's foremost SWAT tacticians and use-of-force experts, and a founding member of the less-than-lethal force program. He wrote several books and hundreds of articles on tactical strategies, disaster planning, and less-than-lethal force applications.

Heal graduated from the Sheriff's Academy on Jan. 21, 1977, rising through the ranks and working various patrol stations and specialized assignments before his promotion to commander. He also served in the Marines, including four separate tours of combat.

Among the many posts on the Sheriff's Department Facebook page were these tributes:

"Commander Heal was an amazing person. I had the pleasure to work for him in EOB (Emergency Operations Bureau)." Oli Abad

"An example of what a police officer should strive to be. Sid was a great guy. I'll miss him." Jesse Blandbo  
"LASD SEB (Special Enforcement Bureau) is one of the premier tactical teams in the world for a reason. Incredible career and public servant." Robert Shank



## Fallen Peace Officers Honored

Supervisor Janice Hahn was among those attending this year's memorial honoring L.A. County peace officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. Honored were Sheriff's Deputy Joseph Albanese, Probation Officer Michael Wall, and L.A. Police Officer Jose Anzora. Albanese's name was also added to the National Police Memorial in Washington, D.C. Albanese was killed on Feb. 25, 2021 in a traffic accident while on duty. Wall, a 14-year veteran of the Probation Department, suffered a heart attack on April 30, 2021 after restraining a juvenile offender who had led a mob assault on another youth at Central Juvenile Hall.



# IN MEMORIAM

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

**Alcohol/Drug Pgms. Admin.** - Linda Solberg Kirksey  
**Animal Control** - Clifford E. Jamerson  
**Antelope Valley Rehab. Center** - Charles J. Von Nordheim  
**Assessor** - Daniel E. Andersen, Selma Ball, Fred Becker, Hannie Blaauw, Herbert Y. Hirashima, Frederick L. Lewis, Vivian Novak-Spinks, Ladoris V. Rutherford, Stephen H. Sellers, Richard F. Smith, Janet Ann Urias, Sylvia B. Webb, Roy F. White  
**Auditor-Controller** - William H. Barbour  
**Beaches & Harbors** - Eleanor J. Davis, Howard Alan Lee  
**Board of Supervisors** - Olive M. Blanning, Jule O. Foster  
**Chief Executive Office** - Robert J. Thompson  
**Chief Information Office** - Johnny L. Walker  
**Child Support Services** - John D. Blackman, Maryann S. Cash, Beatrice Fuentes, William Hunt Jr., Josefina N. Sotalbo, Loreatha L. Vernon, Brenda M. Williams  
**Children & Family Services** - Diane Arvizu, Leola Bell, Anthony Bravo, Max J. Briseno, Robert Bostic Burns, Iraida T. Cano, Ernesto A. Chavez, Marva H. Dennard, Melanie Duggan, Lois D. Fagg, Mollie E. Ginyard, Mildred A. Goklish, Sharon Hopwood, Joyce H. Hunt, Ann R. Jacobs, Andy C. Leu, Lillie O. Louis, Rose Pagliei, Sharron L. Pinnell, Jennie C. Proctor, Donovan H. Redin, Charles Taschereau, Neta Whitty  
**Correctional Health** - Roy L. Griffin  
**District Attorney** - Linda C. Braveman, Julia Ann Fallot, Karen S. Nobamoto, Alan S. Rosenfield, Arthur H. Runnels, Roy V. Singzon, Jesuine V. Velez  
**Fire** - Joseph M. Bloom, Robert W. Curtis, Sergio Escobedo, Roy Futter, George A. Goldschmidt, John G. Hartman, Ronald F. Hurd, Dallas H. Johnson, Brian B. Markley, John D. McGuire, Robert C. Mraz, Felicia Muro, Tim K. Podczerviensky, James M. Sanchez, Thomas William Tibbett, Remedios B. Ylanan  
**Flood Control District** - Carl E. Landreth, Darrel Taub  
**Harbor/UCLA Medical Center** - Leticia Argel, Manuel S. Carambas, Ramon B. Diano, Myrtis Lee Douglas, Norma Franco, Malili Fuamatu, Julia J. Hinojos, Sylvia J. Jackson, James Johnson, Sandra F. Mattice, Judy McClour, Elizabeth N. Oramalu, Louella Anette Ramlall, Patricia Rodriguez, Nancy Eileen Walsh, Michael Washington  
**Health Plan Administration** - Emma D. Ford, Michael S. Perez, Pearl Whitfield  
**Health Services Administration** - Blanca E. Avila, Otha B. Blair, Doris Byman, Diana Ching, Sebron C. Foster, Loretta Fox, Thomas T. Fukui, Ramesh C. Gupta, Victor Garnell Johnson, Mildred Jones, Merlyn J. Lockert, Dora Rubio, Ed Yen Yee  
**Internal Services** - Esther Acosta, Simon P. Byous, Vinebaldo D. Darcera, Bolivar De La Torre, Burrell D. Edwards, Ernest Gomez, Anna Margaret Hall, John F. Howard, Robert Jones, Dante B. Laforteza, Crystelle Sayoe Nosaka, Sylvia E. Portillo, Guirguis Rizkalla, Erwin W. Schweizer, Lela Singleton, Helmuth Spille, Joyce M. Webb  
**King-Drew Medical Center** - James E. Brazier, Norma J. De Allen-Hartsfield, Joyce G. King, Ramon Patel, Duane Daniel Pauley, Susie Prymus, Gena Robertson, Ana E. Ulloa, Sterling A. Ward  
**LAC+USC Medical Center** - Maria T. Alejandre, Mary L. Baker, Mattie Mary Banks, Jo Blondel, Juliet B. Casalan-Tan, Judy Dejean, Roy C. Grigsby, Agnes Harrison, Kyung W. Kim, Shirley Laikin, Lillie Mae Landers, Mildred Milgrom, Dyan L. Morey, Charles E. Owens, Iva M. Polentz, Patricia M. Reed-Cunningham, Kathryn M. Rubio  
**LACERA** - Catherine Carl  
**Medical Examiner-Coroner** - Ronald W. Jung  
**Mental Health** - James W. Dockery, Eloise Evans, Weslyn C. Harden, Sterling R. Harris, Louis C. Henry, Rema M. Johnson-Smith, Carrie L. Macon, Carol Ann McGahey, Evelyn Smith, Patricia Taylor-Guerr, E. Barbara Trinchero, Debra K. Waterhouse-J  
**Olive View/UCLA Medical Center** - Anh H. Au, Ruth O. Bernstein, Somsri Bulsombath, Karen Downey-Nappi, Cheryl L. Farnsworth, Gabriel Hernandez, Christine V. Myers, Mary L. Nowland, William Ruiz, Annie Myun Sung, Freddy Yeh  
**Parks and Recreation** - George C. Brown, Elijah P. Charles, Michael C.

Herndon, Marcus L. Simpson, John G. Stafford  
**Pasadena Municipal Court** - Sharon L. Bauer  
**Probation** - Hugh W. Allen, Joseph G. Begler, Wesley C. Careuthers, Thomas M. Carroll, Clinton A. Doherty Jr., Alex Ford, Robert F. Garcia, Jimmy L. Morgan, Norma F. Stage, Carle W. Stewart, Rick B. Williams, Louis S. Zaninovich  
**Public Defender** - Clarisse G. Anderson-Hamblin, Leo Wayne Hargis, Douglas S. Love, Irwin Pransky, Peter M. Williams  
**Public Health Program** - Clarie M. Anderson, Millard A. Campbell, Vinod Goyal, Yolande Hamwi, Mary H. Huerta, Kathleen Thompson Hunt, Ralph Lopez, Angela Murphy, Arthur H. Palmer, Deloris Ann Reed, Olympia Stapakis, Rogelio Stone, Teresa Vega  
**Public Library** - Catherine P. Brown, William B. Cornutt, Margie A. Gignac  
**Public Social Services** - Edna Aranda, Cheri L. Arnold, Refaat S. Attallah, Geraldine L. Bates, Marlene Blake, Frank Bravo, Jacqueline D. Brunston, Ora Dean Buchanan, Jose Calambrogio, James Edward Conklin, Gloria G. Cox, Jeffrey V. Enriquez, Paul M. Feinstein, James Neil Ferree, Rose M. Fisher, David W. Fong, Mary Guitron, Catherine W. Hampton, Noel L. Hochman, Donald J. Hopkins, Shirley R. Jackson, Renee L. Jennings, Joyce Lemieux, Glenna M. Lotspeich, Gabriela Lozano-Tovar, Carlie Luera, Dinh Ly, Anahid Malkasian, Donald E. Mason, Barbara McNeil Smith, Edna J. Moreland, Rolando M. Navarro, Barbara A. Newman, Vincent H. Nguyen, Anita G. Paggao, Julio Pardo, Gene Parrish, Valentina Pogrebetsky, Elaine Pounds, Ingrid P. Rodriguez, Robert A. Roos, Sandra G. Salamon, Margaret J. Sargent, Fred J. Schaumloeffel, Dianne Irene Smith, Julian Stotland, Janice Valejo Thomas, Hung Tran, Ronald M. Vidal, Anthony P. Villa-Lovos, Angie G. Viramontes, Claudia L. Wade, Eric G. Williams, Deborah J. Winkler, June E. Young  
**Public Works** - Kivork Aintablian, Elizabeth J. Beard, Mariza Cardenas, Mark C. Cheung, George W. Dickey, Zvi Eckerling, Paulina G. Gonda, Donald F. Gwaltney, Shaikh M. Haque, Yvonne Irene Hooks, Ronald C. Jefferson, Maxine L. Kasper, Freddie J. McKinley, Tod V. Sager, Joseph Vincent Santoro, Paul E. Sazzmann, Willis H. Shannon, Magdy A. Soliman, Tony H. Tajalli, Thomas R. Thompson  
**Rancho Los Amigos Hospital** - Charles W. Beal, Francis T. Boyle, Mary L. Cunningham, Josephine Hardy, Willie M. Jordan, Kathryn A. McAllister, Patty M. McManus, Earnestine Stephens, Janeit M. Youssef  
**Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk** - Mary E. Cotton, Bruce A. Suttle  
**Sheriff** - Irma Alvarez, Rosetta Bell, John R. Bowman, Christopher M. Bracks, James B. Brown, Dolores C. Chidley, Jerry W. Clark, John Corp, Ronald L. Couch, Darrell R. Creed, Jack Dicus, Jettie L. Dotson, Robert A. Edmonds, John E. Essery, Rodolfo F. Famularcano, Jayne E. Fiander, Robert D. Ford, Daniel J. Gillespie, Henry W. Griffin, William F. Guthrie, James A. Hays, Virgie M. Helms, Leland Norman Hurwitz, Donald Glen Hutchins, Naomi A. Ibarra, Steven P. Jabari, Steven E. Jenkins, Sylvia T. Joseph, Ralph B. Kelsch, John B. Knight, Peggy J. Lincoln, Mark A. Lopez, Timothy H. Matthews, Benjamin B. Medina, Mark T. Milburn, John L. Mitchell, Douglas Montrose, Elmer A. Omohundro Jr., Susan M. Ortizluis, Shirley L. Perez, Angelica Perez Lopez, Peter Joseph Pischl, Ronald Stephen Rocha, Jurrie M. Russell, Wilma J. Samuels, Margarita Sargsyan, Georgia J. Sauer, Lawrence Sharkey, Freddie L. Sherman, Anthony S. Sorgi, Shanon B. Spelic, Rebertha Spires, Larry D. Steward, Terry L. Stone, Debra L. Sullivan, Joseph Roderick Surgent, Clifford B. Thompson, Larry T. Wilder, Donna M. Wiseman, William W. Wood, Richard Yasui  
**Superior Court/County Clerk** - Theresa De Ande, Teresa D. Esparza, Mary Fitten, Isabelle E. Fluhart, Candace Gillett, Stephen R. Gilmore, Shirley Gladue, Mary L. Hill, Clarice I. Lashua, Alex P. Lee, Jo Ann Litwicki, Arlene Miller, Kathleen Nielsen, Gladis M. Pineda, Julia A. Stone, Jeanne D. Strull, Adelia Tipon, Cary Ulwelling, Geraldine Wendt-Maini  
**Treasurer/Tax Collector** - Michael K. Greaves, Alice S. Hsu, Juanita Jackson, Luci Prieto  
**Women's Hospital** - Dora Maria Espinosa  
**Workforce Dev., Aging & Comm. Svc.** - Paul A. Davis, Genell A. Higgins, George J. Ramirez  
**Unidentified County Agency** - John J. Effertz, Barry D. Jacobson, Jerry A. Overstreet



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

Return Service Requested

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



**RELAC Members are Trippin' Again**  
Former Chief Administrative Officer Harry Hufford and his wife, Jan (Pollard), are among RELAC members who have started traveling again, following two years of COVID restrictions. Above: Practicing falconry in Scotland. See story on Page 7.

## Annual Recognition Luncheon Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022

Almanson Court, 700 Almanson St., Alhambra

### Reservation Form 2022 Annual Recognition Luncheon Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022

RELAC Member \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Sliced Top Sirloin \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 ea. Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Baked Garlic Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 ea. Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian Pasta \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 ea. Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to "RELAC"  
and mail to: RELAC, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15,  
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802  
Confirmation and payment deadline:  
Monday, Aug. 1, 2022



Keynote Speaker  
**Marcia Mayeda, Director**  
Animal Care & Control Department  
**Speaking on 'Paws-itive' Benefits of Pets**

- Recognition Awards
- March of Dimes 2022 Team Award
- 2022 Scholarship Awards
- Veterans Salute

\$30 Per Luncheon Ticket – Entrée Choice of  
Sliced Top Sirloin, Baked Garlic Chicken or  
Vegetarian Penne Pasta  
No-Host Social Hour: 11 a.m. – Noon  
Luncheon and Program: Noon – 2:30 p.m.

**IMPORTANT!**  
Are you moving?  
Did you change your  
name, address or  
e-mail address?

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  
E-mail:  
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.