

RFLAC newsletter

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

March/April 2009 Vol 44-2



President's Message

by Greg Walia

Well folks, it's really official now! I took the oath of office as your President at RELAC's 15th Installation Luncheon on January 22, 2009. Felt great and enjoyed every minute of it. Other

officers installed were: Ida Ramos, Vice President; Ed Morris, Treasurer; and Mary Lou Bangar, Secretary. As fate would have it all four of the new officers were also sworn in for new three year terms as members of the RELAC Board, as was Ray Guyovich.

Gregg Rademacher, Chief Executive Officer, LACERA was our featured speaker and was kind enough to administer the oath of office. A cold, windy and a drizzly day failed to deter almost 400 RELAC members and their guests from attending an enjoyable get-together with friends and current and past co-workers.

Mr. Rademacher's presentation on pension, health and COLA benefits was precise, straight and to the point. He assured the audience that LACERA was committed to deliver the promised benefits to all current and future retirees "till death do us part". (Sounds pretty good to me). He was honest in his assessment that health benefits currently offered to retirees could change down the line depending on the state of the economy and the Board of Supervisors' future actions in this regard. COLA benefits will be granted to retirees in accordance with established provisions. Gregg's presentation was reassuring, realistic and yet cautionary at the same time about our earned benefits. RELAC would continue to closely monitor developments in these areas and advise our members as necessary.

We were thrilled again (as we were last year) to welcome the Transportation Security Authority (TSA) choir with their beautiful rendition of patriotic songs...thank you Ida Ramos for arranging this. Also thanks to the Sheriff's Department for providing the Honor Guard. I also want to thank my colleagues on the Board, John Fleming and Fred Miller, for reciting Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation, respectively.

Las Vegas Regional Meeting

A reminder that RELAC's fifth regional luncheon meeting will be in Las Vegas on Thursday, March 19, 2009 at The Tuscany Suites and Casino. For details on these two events and to make your reservations, please see page 3 of this Newsletter. Lisa Mazzocco, Chief Investment Officer, LACERA will be our featured speaker. I look forward to seeing many of you on March 19th.



Inside the Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE
The date of the General Membership

Meeting has been changed from March 10 to March 31. See the back page for all the details.

Prizes for Recruiting Members Members who recruit new members will be eligible for prizes. Be sure and see p. 13

RELAC in Las Vegas

There is still time to get your reservations in for the Las Vegas Regional Meeting, and to get the special room rate. Details on page 3.

Also Coming Up

A Regional meeting in Lancaster on April 16. It's always an enjoyable occasion. Fill out and send in the registration form on Page 3.

RELAC's golfers will be assembling at the La Mirada course on March 30. The registration form is On page 7.

April 6 through 8 are the dates of the next **RV Campout** and the place is Mt. Valley. Turn to page 9.

The next **Day at the Races** is at Hollywood Park on June 11. Lot's of fun. To reserve your place early see page 5.

Watch the Dodgers play and the Holiday Fireworks on June 30.
All the information is on page 11.

HAPPY EGG HUNT







Let's Continue to Discuss Health Care

Judging by the many responses we received in reference to my article on Health Care in the Jan/Feb 2009 issue, I feel obligated to continue discussing this important subject and to attempt to clear up any misinterpretations concerning my Jan/Feb article. Let me start by saying that I'm very pleased that our members are reading and responding to my articles. We received a very well written article from two of our RELAC members, Irma Strantz and Terry De Wolfe, that very clearly defines the difference between a "single payer" system and "socialized medicine." Their timely response has been printed on Page 4 of this newsletter. I would urge you not only to read their article, but to accept their invitation to attend a Health Care Conference, "The Single Payer Solution" sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Presbyterian Church. Details regarding the conference are listed in their article. Thank you Irma and Terry for calling this to our attention and the work you are doing to educate our readers and all citizens on issues regarding the need for Health Care reform.

Healthcare is a Top Priority

One single issue that we can all agree on is that healthcare in this country must be identified and placed as a top priority. It can no longer take a backseat or a secondary position to the war in Iraq, terrorism, poverty, education or even economic stability. With 65 million people without health insurance, and the continuing triple digit inflation of healthcare costs, we must recognize we are in crises and unless some effective reforms are developed and implemented, even those who presently have good health insurance may see a radical reduction in the quality of their medical plans.

Research Suggestions

In my last column (Jan/Feb 2009) I listed some important questions and key elements of reform that need to be studied and reviewed. Should you need a copy of these questions, please call the RELAC office at (800) 537-3522 or (626) 308-0532. For those of you who have computers, I would recommend that you google the Massachusetts Healthcare Plan, the first state to adopt a system of universal health coverage for all of its residents. The plan is not utopia, but 97.4% of Massachusetts residents had coverage and the gap continues to close. Most Massachusetts residents are pleased with the plan. The internet also provides good information on the Single Payer Health Care Plan.

I am not an expert or authority in the field of Health Care. My objective is to provide information to our retired members so that they can study related issues that will assist them in making good decisions. If you have any questions or need information on your personal LACERA Medical plan, please contact LACERA at (800) 786-6464.

Stay healthy, and enjoy your retirement. As customary, I leave you with this thought:

"Income taxes have made more liars out of the American people than golf" Will Rogers

Retiree Reps Assume Leadership Posts on LACERA Boards

Bill de la Garza, the representative of retired LACERA member of the Board of Retirement, has been elected Chairman of the Board. This is a signal achievement for Bill and recognition of his significant contribution as a member of the Board. RELAC is particularly pleased in that Bill is a long-time member of RELAC's Board of Directors and a past president of our organization.

In addition, Diane Sandoval, who represents retirees on the LACERA Board of Investments, has been elected by that Board to the position of Secretary. Like Bill, Diane serves on the RELAC Board of Directors and is a past president of RELAC. Clearly she is providing excellent service to the County retirement system and its retired members.

The RELAC Board of Directors takes special pride in having backed both Bill and Diane for election to their positions as members of their respective LACERA Boards.

Introduction of the Transportation Security Adminstration Chorus

At RELAC's Annual Installation Luncheon on January 22 Vice President Ida Ramos introduced the Transportation Security Administration Chorus which was making its second very well-received appearance at the annual luncheon. Following are excerpts from her remarks.

We are once again honored to have with us Mr. Raul Matute who is a Transportation Security Screening Manager at the Los Angeles International Airport and who directs this extremely talented chorus comprised of security personnel from LAX. They have performed at various events to honor our nation, veterans, and federal employees.

Today's performance is in recognition of all of you in general who, like them, have chosen a career in public service. More specifically they dedicate this to our members who are veterans and who gave a portion of their lives to protect our nation, our freedom and our way of life. As we gather today we would be remiss not to mention and remember our young men and women who are in the service now throughout the world in defense of the freedoms we enjoy

And I cannot miss the opportunity to proudly mention that Ernest Perez, who will be featured in their rendition of America the Beautiful, is my nephew.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

by Diane Sandoval Chair, Regional Support

I am privileged once again to serve as your Regional Support Committee Chair. Each year the goal of the committee is to hold three to four regional meetings outside Los Angeles County. Except for the annual meetings in Las Vegas and Lancaster, the Committee strives to move our meetings around in order to serve members who reside in areas too far to attend our General Membership Meetings.

An important key to our success is to find individuals in areas outside Los Angeles County willing to scout possible locations for us. Our committee is able to take over from there once a site and date is selected. Please contact the RELAC Office to take an active part in planning future meetings in your respective areas.

Las Vegas Event is Almost Here

The first regional meeting of the year will take place in Las Vegas on March 19 at The Tuscany Suites and Casino. The featured speaker will be Liza Mazzocco, LACERA's Chief Investment Officer. Her topic will be The Financial Crisis and Its Impact on the LACERA Fund.

The deadline to reserve your spot is March 13. So fill out the coupon on the right side of this page and get it in to the RELAC office. The cost for the lunch and program is just \$20. If you stay at The Tuscany you will benefit from the special rate we have arranged, just \$75 per night, (plus tax.), single or double occupancy. The rate is available Sunday, March 15 through Thursday, March 19. The Tuscany has agreed to extend the deadline for obtaining special \$75 rate to March 9; call Room Reservations at 877-887-2261 up to 5:00 PM on March 9 and ask for RELAC group rates.

Lancaster Luncheon Meeting

Our second regional meeting is scheduled to be held in Lancaster. Donna Livermore has once again volunteered to organize a meeting at the Lancaster Elks Lodge, 240 East Avenue K, Lancaster on April 16, 2009. Donna does an outstanding job in making sure all who attend a guaranteed an interesting and fun meeting. She has planned a great lunch; plus you'll have the opportunity to visit with friends and co-workers and with lunch you might walk away with a door prize.

Donna has arranged for a local representative from the Sheriff's Department to talk to us about fraud directed to seniors. I for one am anxious to find out ways I can protect myself from anyone waiting to take advantage of me.

In addition to the representative from the Sheriff's Department, someone from LACERA will be there to answer your retirement and medical questions and there will be informative presentations from your representatives on the LACERA Boards of Retirement and Investments.

Send in your registration form by APRIL 3, 2009 with your check for \$16.00 per attendee payable to Donna Livermore.

Remember we are here to serve you – please let us hear from you.

LAS VEGAS LUNCHEON-MEETING THE TUSCANY SUITES & CASINO

SOCIAL HOUR 11:30 AM~~ LUNCHEON 12:00 NOON Deadline is March 13, 2009

Name					
Address					
CityStateZip					
Guest(s)					
# Tickets x \$ 20.00 each = \$ Sorry, I will be unable to attend the meeting but please send me information regarding RELAC					
Mail coupon with your check payable to RELAC 1000 S. Fremont Ave., #15 - Alhambra, CA 91803-8802 (800) 537-3522 ~ (626) 308-0532					



LANCASTER LUNCHEON MEETING

Thursday, April 16, 2009 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lancaster Elks Lodge 240 East Avenue K, Lancaster, CA

Name	
Address	
Guest(s)	
#of tickets	x \$16.00 each = \$

Deadline is April 3, 2009

Mail this form with your check (payable to):
Donna Livermore
1135 Date Palm Drive
Palmdale, CA 93551
More Info: Call Donna (661) 947-4702

Investments Board

by Diane Sandoval
Retiree Representative,
LACERA Board of Investments

Congratulations to our newly elected LACERA Board of Investments officers.

Will Pryor, (re-elected as Chair)
Herman Santos
(elected Vice Chair)
Diane Sandoval
(elected Secretary)
Michael Schneider
(elected Audit Committee Member)

A special congratulation goes to Bill de la Garza, (my friend and colleague on the RELAC Board of Directors) for his election as Chair of the LACERA Board of Retirement. What a feat! I believe this is the first time the retiree representative has been elected Chair of the LACERA Board of Retirement.

At our December Board of Investments meeting, LACERA's actuary, Milliman presented the results of the June 30, 2008 Valuation. Milliman reported that as of June 30 LACERA'S funded status had improved to 94.5% compared to 93.8% a year ago.

According to the report, the active members experienced a 2.6% increase and now total over 94,000 with an overall age of 45.1. The number of retirees increased in size by 1.9% and now totals 52,350. The average benefit payment increased by 4.6% to approximately \$3,150 per month. The average age of retirees increased by approximately two months to 71.1.

The Plan's funded status is expected to decrease next year as a result of potential losses in 2008/2009 fiscal year not reflected in this report. I will report the results of next year's valuation once it's completed and accepted by LACERA's Board of Investments.

At a recent meeting Lisa Mazzocco, LACERA'S Chief Investment Officer, assured the Board that meeting LACERA's liquidity needs is her top priority. In fact, she maintains a six month reserve. What does that mean to us? In other words, Lisa makes sure there will always be enough cash available to cover payment of our monthly pension benefits. We are lucky to have LACERA staff looking out for us. So please sleep at night and don't worry about your pension. LACERA has it covered!

As always thank you for your support. Take care and enjoy your retirement.

Single Payer Health Care is Not Socialized Medicine

by Irma Strantz, Dr.PH and Terry De Wolfe (both writers are RELAC members)

Over a year ago, in RELAC's Sept./Oct. 2007 Newsletter the Canadian health care system was characterized as "socialized medicine." It isn't, of course, and in a letter published in the subsequent (Nov./Dec.) Newsletter, we clarified the issue. Canada has a "single payer" system. There is one insurance company, the government, but the medical care is private. We have such a system here for some disabled and those over 65. It's called Medicare.

We were gratified that Bill de la Garza, writing on health care in the latest (Jan./Feb. 2009) Newsletter, did not confuse "single payer" and "socialized medicine." But, regrettably, he quotes Governor Schwarzenegger doing so when vetoing single payer bill, SB-840. The Governor knows the difference, of course, but he also knows that calling something he opposes "socialized" is a sure way to trigger constituent fear.

Did he veto SB-840 for analytic or for political reasons. We don't know. But we do know he hasn't suggested that we do away with single payer Medicare.

Understanding Health Care Economics Conference (FREE)

Health care economics is not a simple subject. While there is widespread agreement that America's health care delivery system needs to be reformed, there remains controversy as to the shape the reform should take. For those eager to develop a clearer understanding of the issue, help is on the way. Co-sponsored by the Presbyterian Church, the Los Angeles County League of Women Voters, California Alliance for Retired Americans and many other mainstream organizations Health Care for All – San Gabriel Valley is producing a free conference "The Single Payer Solution: an Educational Conference on Health Care in California" on Saturday, May 9, 2009, 9:00 a.m., at Pasadena Presbyterian Church, 585 E. Colorado Blvd. All are invited. Contact Irma Strantz (626-798-8361/istrantz@charter.net) or Terry De Wolfe (626-280-0479/alldewolfe@hotmail.com) to register. Again, all are invited.

Final Quotes

In closing his most recent column, Mr. de la Garza offered a quote from the very witty P.J. O'Rourke: "If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free."

Well, health care is never free, but nowhere is it more expensive that it is here, costing 15.3% of our GDP, with 47 million uninsured, and half of personal bankruptcies resulting from medical expenses. In the rest of the industrialized world (except South Africa) where health care is the kind of "free" O'Rourke is talking about, everybody is covered, medical bill bankruptcy is not an issue and total costs run under 10% of GDP.

In closing, we too offer you a quote - not from a witty political commentator but from the recently elected President of the United States, Barack Obama: "If we want to overcome our economic challenges, we must also finally address our health care challenge."

2009 **RELAC DAY** at Hollywood Park

by Mary K. Rodriguez Chair, Recreation Committee

Dear Retiree

First of all, I wish you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

It's hard to believe another year has gone by. It's that time again for us to enjoy a fun day at Hollywood Park. In recent years we have had record numbers in attendance. Everyone tells us what a good day they enjoyed. So - let's do it again this year.

RELAC Day at Hollywood Park will be on June 11, 2009. Great News! The ticket price remains the same as last year - \$28.00 per person. This price includes admission, a great buffet lunch with fresh baked cookies for dessert and soft drinks. A program and valet parking is also included

Please fill out the coupon below as soon as possible and send it along with your check. The deadline is May 27, 2009. Your tickets will be mailed to you on June 3, 2009.

I'm looking forward to meeting you So, see you then so we can hear "And they're off and running!"

RELAC DAY AT THE RACES



Important Reminder from LACERA and RELAC Take a Close Look

LACERA and RELAC have become aware that information was recently mailed to retired members informing them of a Medicare Supplement Retiree Health Plan designed for SEIU retirees. The mailing looks like an official SEIU mailing and advertises an annual open enrollment period for a retiree health plan. This mailing is actually from the United American Insurance Company.

The benefits explained in the SEIU packet sound and look attractive. We would like to remind you, if you are enrolled in one of the LACERA administered medical plans, to please take time to compare the benefits offered under the SEIU plan to your LACERA administered medical plan prior to making any decisions. To compare LACERA benefits, please visit LACERA's website at www.lacera. com, or contact the LACERA Retiree Health Care Division at 1-800-786-6464, press "1."

Enrolling in a non-LACERA administered Medicare plan may jeopardize your enrollment under the LACERA administered health care program. If you cancel or disenroll from the LACERA group plan, you will lose your County subsidy and will no longer be eligible to receive reimbursement of your Part B Medicare premium. If you later decide to re-enroll in the LACERA administered health care program, late enrollment rules will apply.

Hollywood Park Race Track Thursday, June 11, 2009 Deadline: May 27, 2009					
Name:					
Address:					
City:		State	Zip		
Telephone ()				
No. of tickets	@ \$28.00 Ea =	\$	_		
TOTAL \$ Enclose a check (no cash please) for your total payable to RELAC and mail to: 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15 Alhambra, CA 91803-8802					
For Office Use: Date Rec:	Amt\$	Ch	eck #		

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RELAC **NEWSLETTER**

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Office Hours 9:00am - Noon & 1:00pm - 4:00pm Monday - Thursday Friday: 9:00am - Noon Closed Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays website: www,relac.org Golf News

Santa Anita Golf Course Golf Tournament 2-09-09

- Rained Out!!

by Gil Sandoval RELAC Golf Director

Forty brave souls started before the bad weather set in. We did not get to play more than seven holes, before a large



lightening strike and a hail down pour halted play. We are in the negotiating process to reschedule at a future date at little or no cost to the participants. I want to thank each and everyone of you who came out, especially, Wardell Molina and Darrly Christopher who braved snow bound travel through the Cajon Pass to get to the course.

The next regular tournament is March 30th at the La Mirada Golf Course at 8:00 A.M. Our entry fees have increased to \$32.00 to accommodate the raise in fees to play at the courses. The deadline for entry fees is March 19, 2009

We have some players that come to most of

the tournaments who I want to acknowledge. Yosh Fukumoto who made a hole-in-one at Los Verdes two years ago, comes with his brother Kiyo. Richard Duran's humor makes my job easier. Mike Zabaro, Tony Cancel and Burr Prentice demonstrate what friendship is all about. Shig Yonamine, Jim Lizakowki, Henry Villasenor and his regular Group. Jim Noyes, Ed Acosta, Luis and Benny Martinez, Manuel Diaz, Hideo Anzai, Bob Bogawa, Frank Barajas, Ernie Barrera, Tony Asuncion, George and Steve Sims, Jerry Nottke, Christine Core, Mas and Liz Hamasu, Gene and Sue Danbara, Nancy Signer and Rich MacMahon, Roger DeHaan and all those who play with RELAC. Thank you all.

Golf Entry Form

La Mirada Golf Course 11501 E. Alicante Road La Mirada, CA 90638

Monday, March 30, 2009 Please Print

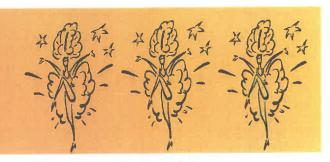
н		
	1. Name	
	Address	
	City	Zip
	Phone	
	If possible, place r golfers. <u>Addresse</u> If possible, we wo	GOLFER - CART EXTRA me in a foursome with below listed s of all golfers MUST be included. ould prefer an e starting time.
	2. Name	
	City	Zip
	Phone	
	3. Name	
	Address	
	City	Zip
	Phone	
	4. Name	
	Address	
	City	Zip
	Phone	
	Enclose check f Golfer. Make c Golf. Mail entr	NE GUEST per member. for golfers @ \$32 per checks payable to RELAC y to RELAC GOLF, 1000 ave., #15, Alhambra, CA

91803-8802

Entry Deadline March 19, 2009 ALL CHECKS MUST BE IN RELAC OFFICE

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

Members Spotlight



L.A.S.D. 28TH ANNUAL RETIREES REUNION

Sun. June 14th – Sat. June 20th, 2009 Inter-Mountain Fairgrounds McArthur, California

Located on Highway 299, approximately 70 miles east of Redding, this beautiful valley between the peaks of Mt. Lassen and Mt. Shasta is a great location to gather together with other Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department retirees from all over the U.S.

Bring your RV, tent or stay in one of the local motels in Fall River Mills. Full hook up camping, showers, laundry and 30/50 amp service at \$15.00 per night. These camping rates are from June 12, 2009 – June 19, 2009.

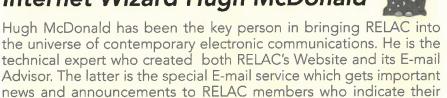
The Reunion registration fee of \$10.00 per person includes one catered dinner and liquid refreshments for five days.

Activities include golf at a championship 18 hole golf course, horseshoes, lawn darts, Bocci ball, card tournaments, potluck dinners, fishing, and sightseeing or, just kick back and relax. Plenty of war stories, tales of then and now, and lie swapping. Newly retired and surviving spouses are especially welcome! Adult participation.

Please RSVP and for additional information contact: Tom Sargent (530) 243-8982 – tsgt907@sbcglobal.net Richard or Judy Smith (626) 444-0687 – retiredstars@earthlink.net

Thanks to RELAC's Internet Wizard Hugh McDonald

desire to receive these messages.



Hugh continues to provide invaluable service by up-dating the Website as requested and in transmitting the desired message to the E-mail Advisor membership. He is notable for his promptness and accuracy in maintaining and operating the two systems.

Hugh's career was in the Sheriff's Department from which he retired in 1994 as a Captain. Among his active duty assignments was to head systems development for the department.

Thanks is due to Hugh for all he does for RELAC. Information about the Website and E-mail Advisor is available on page 9 of this issue of the Newsletter.

OUTREACH

by Mary R. Rodriguez Chair, Outreach Committee

Dear Over-ninety RELAC Members

Your committee team, Diana Trujillo, Peggy Peck, Sophy Eskander, myself and our newest committee member, Alice Prouty, send you Greetings for the NEW YEAR along with our wishes for continued good health and happiness.

I am writing this article on the last day of January and I find it hard to believe that one whole month of 2009 has already flown by.

So many changes are happening all around us. The current state of the economy is challenging to say the least; however, as most of you already know time and persistence are the remedies until things turn around again. Most of you have weathered difficult times in the past and will again

Exciting events are happening. History was made on January 20 when Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States. Great news – LACERA has assured us that our Retirement Fund is safe and that our monthly retirement checks will continue to arrive as usual. How fortunate we L.A. County retires are!

Some of you have written to our committee expressing your appreciation for receiving your Birthday and Holiday cards. Thank you so very much for your comments. We truly enjoy hearing from you. It makes our efforts seem worthwhile.

Your Outreach committee is looking forward to another year of serving you. Remember, "Our Focus is You".

Please let us know if we can assist you in any way. You can do so by sending your correspondence to the RELAC Office, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., #15, Alhambra, CA 91803-8802.

Yes! RELAC is Totally into 21st Century Communications

Our Website Provides the News on an Up-to-the Minute Basis

Of course things happen which are of particular importance to Los Angeles County retirees between the every-other-month issues of the RELAC Newsletter. The Website is dedicated to giving you prompt reports on news that you won't find reported elsewhere. In addition you can find registration forms for activities that were in that Newsletter issue that you forgot to

The address is: www.relac.org. Take a look.

The E-mail Advisor Gets the Word Directly to Your Inbox

There are matters that you would like to have drawn to your attention as soon as possible. That is what the RELAC E-mail Advisor is for. For example, it may be a report on a relevant action of the Board of Retirement or of the California legislature. Or it may be a notice informing you of an upcoming RELAC event in which you may be interested.

Get connected by E-mailing your request to join the RELAC E-mail advisor, along with your name and E-mail address, to:



RV Outing **Notes**

Janell Clifton & Ed Clifton Co-Coordinators of RV Club

Our first camping trip in 2009 was to the Pechanga Casino & R.V. Park. Don & Shirley Egbert were first time

Wagon Masters and they did an outstanding job. We had our business meeting on Tuesday evening after the potluck dinner. All TV's during the day were tuned in to the new President being sworn into office so we had the meeting at a later time. Norman Nelson & Jim Butner won the gas cards donated by RELAC. Fun was had by all and some even came away with a little change in their pockets from the Casino.

Look out Hemet here we come on April 6-7-8th. So much to do there. And as luck would have it a casino just happens to be close by. Wagon Masters will be Richard & Martha Wilkerson. Then in May we will be at Lake Elsinore Marina & R.V.Park. Joe & Helen Quintana as Wagon Masters. Retail therapy, golf courses, fishing, and/or card games, what is your forte. Several hours (days) are spent getting caught up on how everyone is doing. And lucky us another casino close by, so save your pocket change \$\$\$\$\$. HA!

Coupon follows for Lake Elsinore. Monday evening will be shared hors d'oeuvres. Please remember your table service. Any questions or suggestions call us any time at 562-428-3360

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CAMPGROUND:

Lake Elsinore Marina & RV Resort

32700 Riverside Drive Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

DATES:

May 11, 12, 13, 2009

Names:

(Last)

(Retiree)

(Spouse)

Address:

(Street)

City:

(Zip)

Telephone:(

DEADLINE: Thursday April 9, 2009

(State)

Make checks for \$85.00 payable to Joe Quintana and mail to: Wagon Masters:

JOE & HELEN QUINTANA

620 Ranlett Ave.

La Puente, CA 91744

Telephone:

(626) 330-2864

Additional nights through Resort Office \$27.34 per night.

CALL IN ADVANCE 1-800-328-6844

Motor Home

Trailer

Length



Miss all you people. My daughter, Marianne, and foster daughter, Lynda, live in a Condo. My son, Philip, just retired from the L.A. County District Attorney's Office as Chief Clerk after 38 years and lives in L.A. The eye cloth is a must for me! Regards and love to all who remember. I am a member of the GFW Clubs of Baldwin Park, CA.

Alma Aghbashian

Reno, NV

To all my friends at RELAC. Thanks so much for your good wishes Diana. I appreciate RELAC's devotion to all our retirees. Sorry I couldn't attend the yearly Christmas party at St. Sophia's. I am recuperating from eye surgery.

Lorraine Lipman Los Angeles, CA

Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year. I wish you all the best. It's so nice to receive your cards.

Bertilla Callahan Morris, NM 56267

Thank you for my birthday card and celebrating my 95th birthday. For my age, my health is quite good. I have given up my car. Don't drive any more. Also, thank you for the RELAC cloth to clean my eyeglasses. They always need cleaning. My Christmas Greetings for all of you at RELAC. My health is good. My handwriting not so good.

Frances I. Boyle Fremont, CA

Dear Mr. Golds: thanks to Bill de la Garza for his excellent article on universal health care which appeared in the Jan/Feb 2009 issue of the RELAC Newsletter. Bill's write-up is clear, informative and timely. Good communication!

Rex J. Castellaw Mission Viejo, CA

This is the first year I have not received my 2009 Pocket Secretary to date. Maybe it's lost in the mail? If you could send one to me I would appreciate it. I will be 80 years old next month and have been using the pocket secretary for many a year.

Barbara M. Zemke Fort Mohave, CA

A Pocket Secretary has been dispatched to Barbara.

Thank you so much for sending me the 2009 Pocket Secretary. I'm delighted you haven't discontinued sending them out yearly. I have immediately entered all my appointments through April and shall carry it with me in my purse all the time. Many thanks again for the convenient little Pocket Secretary. Wishing all of you a happy and healthful 2009!

Mattie Fuerth Long Beach, CA

Installation Luncheon

Photos by Sol Fingold



LACERA Chief Executive Officer Greg Rademacher, featured speaker at the Annual Installation Luncheon on January 22, brings assembled RELAC members up-to-date on the status of system's retirement funds and the prospects for the future



Serving as Installation Officer...LACERA CEO Rademacher administers the oath of office to RELACs 2009 officers. From left to right the are Ed Morris, Treasurer, Mary Lou Banger, Secretary, Ida Ramos, Vice President, and Greg Walia, President.



Obviously enjoying their lunches and the program at the Installation Luncheon are, left to right, George and Laurie Hernandez and John Fleming.

RELAC Fireworks Night at Dodger Stadiu

by Mary K. Rodriguez Li Chair, Recreation Committee



Hello Everyone!

It's time for RELAC members and their guests to hear "Batter Up – Play Ball". Yes, it is time again to think baseball for 2009.

This year the game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Colorado Rockies will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. It is also the night of a SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS show.

The cost of the tickets will remain the same as last year, \$18.00. The seats are in the lower reserved section on the third base side.

We have reserved only 200 seats so get your ticket order in early to avoid disappointment.

Please fill out the coupon below and send it with your check as soon as you can. The deadline is June 15, 2009.

Your tickets will be mailed on June 22, 2009.

Don't miss the fun event. Hope to see you there!

BASEBALL TICKETS Game Starts at 7:00 P.M. Tuesday, June 30, 2009 DODGERS VS. COLORADO ROCKIES Name Addres City Phone No. of Tickets @ \$18.00 each = \$ Total Enclosed \$

Requests for tickets MUST be received by Monday, June 15, 2009.

Make checks payable to:

RELAC BASEBALL 1000 So. Fremont Ave., #15 Alhambra, CA 91803-8802 Enclose this coupon along with your check

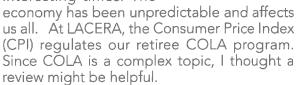


News From LACERA

by Janice Golden Assistant Executive Officer

COLA: What's the difference?

We are living in interesting times. The



COLA: Cost-of-Living Adjustment depending on the retirement plan you were in when you retired, you may be eligible for an annual COLA, effective in April, based on the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as of December 31st of the previous year. The cost of living can go up in times of inflation or it can go down in times of deflation.

If the cost of living in any particular year exceeds the maximum change allowed under the County Employees Retirement Law, any overage is credited to your COLA Accumulation, also called the COLA "bank." The COLA bank is important because members can draw from their COLA bank in times of deflation or in times when inflation is less than the maximum COLA allowed for their plan.

The maximum allowable annual increases per plan are: 3 percent in Plan A, 2 percent in Plans B, C, and D, and 2 percent for Plan E members on service credit earned after June 4, 2002.

Here's a quick example (not a real case) of how the COLA bank works:

HYPOTHETICAL PLAN D RETIREE

COLA Bank = 12% CPI Change = 1%

Maximum Allowable Increase = 2% Withdrawal from COLA Bank to fund remaining portion of maximum increase = 1% New balance of member's COLA Bank = 11% Amount of increase to member's monthly allowance = 2%

In the above hypothetical scenario, this Plan D member has been retired for several years and has amassed a COLA bank of 12 percent. Let's



DECEMBER 2008 & JANUARY 2009

Assessor

Fukasawa, Tamro Community & Senior Services Bickmore, Beverlee

District Attorney McDaniel, Patti A. Fire

Munoz, Gerald P. Health Services Bojorquez, Frances Public Social Services Jackson, Frances M. Sheriff

> Bascus, Laura Dowell, Ron

Dept Not Designated Wickland, Eric

Affiliate Member (Active County Employee)

Children & Family Services Scala, Socorro Letters cont. from p.10

Bill de la Garza: I enjoyed your article in the Jan/Feb 2009 Vol. 44-1 RELAC newsletter regarding socialized medicine. The CRCEA Executive Board was asked to endorse and support a soon to be presented "California Single Payer Universal Health Care Plan" and, much to my relief and pleasure, they turned down the request. I definitely agree with P.J. O'Rourke's statement "If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free." Please be vigilant, conservative and watchful when it comes to socialized medicine.

Jeanne A. Thompson Santa Cruz, CA

Some time ago I received some eye glass cleaners and asked how I could obtain some more and what was the cost. I was advised some one would contact me and let me know. Much to my pleasant surprise I recently received three new ones and wish to thank those responsible for their thoughtfulness. It is much appreciated. The eye glass cleaners are most effective and are best I have ever used. I was an Air Force fighter pilot and had great eyes but time takes its toll. One of the greatest things I ever did was being a fighter pilot during the war and then started working for the County. They were both terrific careers. I want to take the opportunity to thank all those who look out for our best interests; it is most appreciated. Well, nuff said and my very best to all!! And again, thanks to those who were thoughtful enough to send me the cleaners.

Harold (Hal) L. Heilman Woodland Hills, CA



Travel To China This Spring With RELAC

Some seats are still available. Call to confirm yours for this amazing journey.

"It was an amazing tour and an incredible value." – Josephine Starr (from the 5/23/08 RELAC Tour)

- This incredible *10 day/7 night tour starts from Los Angeles (also San Francisco or New York) on May 8, 2009.
- All-inclusive Beijing, Xian, Shanghai,
 & Suzhou all flights, hotels, meals,
 professional English speaking guides,
 ground transportation, transfers, sites,
 and entertainment tickets ^(airport tax,
 China visa, & insurance are separate).
- Call Jeff for tour information.
- Call Jeff for a FREE 2009 tours catalog!

*Including international travel dates.



Contact Jeff Adkins

TF: 866-992-4462 x. 117 D: 310-802-7117 www.chinadiscoverytours.com jeff@chinadiscoverytours.com 20407 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503

China Discovery Tours
Asia travel specialist for
over 20 years









CASOT#1021060-10

PRIZES TO BE AWARDED FOR RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

by Marianne Reich, Chair Membership Recruitment Committee

As indicated in the last newsletter, we will reward RELAC members who recruit new members during calendar year 2009.

Starting immediately please have any one you recruit indicate your name as sponsor when they submit their membership application



to our office. They can put it at the top of the application form, i.e., SPONSOR: Mx. xxxxx. If you recruited someone who joined this year, please call our office and tell us your name and the name of the new member. Remember, we encourage LACERA retirees and any active LACERA member who is within three to five years of retirement to join RELAC

A prize will be given to every RELAC member who recruits five or more members The prize will be a ticket to one of RELAC's fun events which include the following:

Luncheon meetings Day at the races (either Santa Anita or Hollywood Park) Baseball game Annual picnic

In addition a grand prize of \$100 will be given to the member who recruits the most new members. In the event of a tie, the prize will be split.

Reaching Out to Retirees

Since going to print on our Jan/Feb newsletter, RELAC Board Member (and this year's Vice-President) Ida Ramos attended a gathering of retired Department of Health Services and Mental Health managers at the San Antonio Winery on December 4 to help spread the word about the importance of RELAC membership. It was such a fun event and a high turnout thanks to the great coordinative skills of Harvey Kern and Richard Marciniak. Simon Russin (a valued RELAC member) was acknowledged for his efforts in keeping this group informed on LACERA issues. Had some interest by potential new members -- still waiting for the enrollment of George and Belinda Caro! Ida also made a pitch for RELAC membership at the Holiday luncheon for Flood Control retirees held at Quiet Cannon on December 11..Great time was had by all.

I so enjoy meeting you and seeing you at events like our recent installation lunch at the Quiet Cannon and look forward to seeing you at other events. Thank you for spreading the good word about RELAC and remember to let us know of events where LACERA retirees or those near retirement will be. We would like to be there!

Touring With Great Western 626-578-1161 • 800-344-7090 Don't forget to ask for your RELAC discount



JUNE 22: CHICAGO - MY KIND OF TOWN...
5 DAY AIR/MOTORCOACH TOUR

Double Per Person: \$1295.00

Single: \$1455.00

Tour Price Includes:

Roundtrip Air LAX/Chicago • 4-Nights Lodging

- 9 Meals: 4 Deluxe Continental Breakfasts, 4 Dinners, 1 Lunch
- Chicago City Highlights Tour
 Cruise Lake Michigan
- Art Institute of Chicago Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio tour
- Hemingway's Birthplace Sear's Tower Observation Deck
- ·Sightseeing & Admissions per Itinerary
- •Tour Guide Fees Tax & Baggage Handling



Double Per Person: \$829.00

Single: \$1029.00

4 Night Stay - Colorado Springs

Value Packed

Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation * 6 nights lodging

* 10 Meals: 6 Breakfasts and 4 Dinners

* Tour of the Garden of the Gods

* Visit to the United States Air Force Academy, the Royal Gorge & Manitou Springs

* Gaming at Cripple Creek, historic Western Town * Professional

Tour Manager Throughout

* Visit to the United States Air Force Academy

* The Spectacular Royal Gorge * Manitou Springs



Pacific Coast Alaskan Spring Rail -Sail-Jet

7-Day Rail/Cruise/Air Tour Rail to Seattle • Coach to Vancouver • Sail to Ketchikan • Jet to LAX

Departs September 18, 2009

Cruise and Amtrak Standard Bedroom

Category	Stateroom	Double	Per Person
Ι	Inside		\$1399.00
F	Ocean View (Obs	structed)	\$1439.00
BD	Balcony		\$1499.00
Cruis	e and Amtrak I	Deluxe E	Bedroom
Category	Stateroom	Double	Per Person
T	Incida		\$1750.00

Category	Stateroom	Double	Per Person
I	Inside		\$1759.00
F	Ocean View (O	bstructed)	\$1799.00
BD	Balcony		\$1899.00

IN MEMORIAM

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

Assessor

Altman, Alan W.* Mochkatel, Leon*

Auditor Controller

Richardson, Madeline E.*

Board of Supervisors Miyano, Jim*

Beaches & Harbors Smith, S. J.

Cancer Hospital

Horton, Gerald R.

Chief Information Office

Lee. Irene S.

Child Support Services Cinquini, Cecilia

Children's Services

Adu, Volanoia*

Cotton, Sylvia J.

Gallegos, Maria H.

Manzo, Netta

Olson, Roberta A.* Roberts, Carol D.

Simon, Betty

District Attorney

Cohen, Ruth R.

King, June E.* Mitchell, Elvira R.

Spencer, Dottie*

Engineer/Facilities

Barrett, James T*

Kawakita, Saichiro* Meaglia, James J.

Sanchez, Ernie G.*

Fire

Herman, Steven H.

Hopper, Anita J.

Matthews, Travis P.*

Pressler, Robert D.

Harbor/UCLA Medical Center

Deshler, Jean E.

Henry, Doris P.

Konishi, Calvin L.

Stamps, Joan S.*

Health Services Adm.

West, Mary F.

Hospitals

Pasillas, Amelia*

Sendelbach, Dorothy B.*

Snapper, Jeannette*

Internal Services

Pitts, Frances H.*

King/Drew Medical Center

Boonyavatana, Suthizuk

Ganier, Kermit

Mcneese, Shirley A.

LAC + USC Medical Center

Baker, Charles*

Blair, James M.*

Bruce, Lenora*

Jackson, Starlet D.

Perez, Alejandrin M.

Shann, Mary E.*

Tennell Jr., John

Thomas Jr., Clarence A.

Wolf, Jimmy W.

Marshal

Bradbury, Elizabeth G.*

Gompert Jr., Frank*

Mechanical

Porter Andrew*

Shuck, David R.*

Yost, William H.*

Mental Health

Donahue, Donna B.

Mc Glothlin, Marcella S.*

Scherzberg, Maureen

Municipal Court

Duff, Frieoa H.* (Compton)

Linda Gray, Michael

Museum of Natural History

Martinez, Jose R.

Northeast CHC Health Services

Melchor, Mariadelcarm C.

Olive View Hospital

Gryder, Joseph S.*

Gordon, John G.*

Howell, William H.

Lee, Koen S.

Wetherhold, Alice D.*

Parks & Recreation

Knox, Booker T

McKenrick, Wilbur W.*.

Probation

Celiesius, Frank J.*

Galindo, Elida V.

Miller, Edward J.*

Moore, Leevada

Strole, June M.*

Tischler, Irving

Property & Supply

Chamblee, Marietta*

Public Defender

Mathiesen, Stanley A.*

Public Health Program

Heyward, Adam

Ho, Grace*

Irons, Floyd E.

Mattsson, William E.

Porter, John

Putnam, Ann*

Whitney, Iride A.* **Public Social Services**

Anderson, Rebecca S.*

Bell, John A.

Dennis, Joyce*

Jameson, Helen*

Calloway, Malvotte

Dominguez, Jennie P.*

Dorsey, Joyce T.*

Hawkins, Brenda J.*

James, Frances K.

Johnson, Ruth

Mendoza, Emiliana

Ning, Phillip K.*

Prudhome, Cynthia O.

Richardson, Florence L.*

Roberts, Barbara J.

Walsh, Eileen J.*

Whitmore, Venora*

Public Works

Abrahams, Keith H.*

Clarke, John E.

Cole, David E.*

Mace, Marvin R.

Wile, Robert W.* Rancho Los Amigos Hospital

Bryan, Leo

Green, Bernice L.*

Kim, Young S.

Lelong, Hector

Larson, Maria M.

Miller, Annie L.*

Noteboom, Jessie*

Simes, Dolores K.*

Sullivan, Katherine*

Washington, Elnora*

Youmans, Howard O.*

Reg. Recorder/County Clerk

Valdez, Beatriz E. Sheriff

Bodholdt, Ronald D.

Cary, Forrest A.*

Hazel, Donald B.

Martinez, Raul*

Moffett, Jack H.*

Patterson, James A.*

Roane, Dorothy L.

Sisco, Frank J.*

Toomajian, Armon Tracy, James R.*

Tittle, William G.

Vaughan Jr., James T.

Wealer, Edward J.*

IN MEMORIAM

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

* denotes RELAC members

So. Coast Air Qual. Mgmt. Dist. Manfredi, Michael G. Tong, Peter M.*

Superior Court/Co Clerk Grace, Gerald B.* Ibrahim, Nazmi A.

Superior Court Officers
Burge, Carol A.
Catron, Kaherine A.
Guevara, M. Sandra*
Hogan, Maurice R.
Lara, Lance M.
Ordino, Madeline

Women's Hospital Hodgman, Joan E.

Department Not Designated

Abrahams, Earnestine* Aque, Ann Arnowitz, Ben P. Barnett, James K. Berliner, Lee Blair, June L. Boergadine, Varden F. Denetdale, Virginia Di Ioli, Barbara Dominguez, Carlos M. Enriquez, Estanislao Ford, Maggie L. Finnegan, William C. Fischer, Elizabeth F Franklin, John V. Haynes, Fay R. Hernandez, Lucy R. Henry, Leta Helgeson, William A. Kehoe, Andrew J. McKight, Frank M. Mende, Harold Modie, Robert A. Sanchez, Robert Shigeoka, Masao Vidato, Helen L. Wagner, Shelton N. Williams, Montie G. White, Ellison B. Zabel, Myrtle E.



Lacera continued from p.11

assume there was a 1 percent increase in the cost of living based on CPI data. Because this member has a sufficient COLA bank, LACERA would still provide the maximum allowable Plan D COLA of 2 percent by withdrawing 1 percent from the member's COLA bank; this would fund the remaining 1 percent not covered by the CPI. The member's COLA bank would be reduced to 11 percent going forward.

If the CPI change had been 0 percent in this example, this member could still receive a COLA; we'd fund it by decreasing the COLA bank by 2 percent. This would leave a 10 percent bank going forward.

The COLA bank also comes into play to determine if a member receives a STAR COLA benefit.

STAR COLA: Supplemental Targeted Adjustment for Retirees Costof-Living Adjustment

Each year, retirees in the contributory plans may also be eligible to receive a STAR COLA benefit if their COLA bank exceeds 20 percent. When that occurs, the Board of Retirement may provide STAR COLA increases for that group, effective January 1st.

On October 9, 2008, the Board of Retirement approved funding for the 2009 STAR COLA benefits; this affects retirees whose COLA banks exceeded 20 percent as of April 1, 2008. The amount of the STAR COLA benefit is the percentage in the member's COLA bank that exceeds 20 percent. In April 2008, the maximum COLA was provided to retirees because the CPI change had been 4.2% for the year ending December 31, 2007. The overage (1.2% for Plan A and 2.2% for B, C, D, and E) was added to the COLA banks. When the percentage added to a retiree's COLA bank in April of 2008 resulted in the COLA bank increasing beyond 20 percent, those retirees became eligible for a STAR COLA benefit effective January 1, 2009.

STAR COLA benefits for 2009 apply to Plan A retirements that occurred on or before March 31, 1981 and Plans B, C, and D retirements occurring on or before March 31, 1990. (Plan E members are not eligible for STAR COLA benefits.)

Visit lacera.com for more detailed information on COLA and STAR COLA. If you have any questions, please contact our Call Center at 1-800-786-6464 to speak with a Retirement Benefits Specialist.

For Sale

Rose Hills – 5 cemetery plots for sale. Garden of Benediction. Lots 211-4. Tel: 1-928-667-7111 or 1-626-285-9700. Main Street to Chapel up the hill.

Thousand Trails/NACO campground membership. Affordable price of \$5,000. Location: Wilderness Lakes, Temecula, CA 92390. Call B. McKinney at (323) 779-3683.

Forest Lawn, Glendale, CA 1 cemetery plot in Eventide section. \$2000 plus transfer fee. Phone: (909) 795-9423

General Membership Meeting

Greg Walia & Fred Miller, Co Chairs, Program Committee



Tuesday, March 31, 2009 Ayres Hall Los Angeles County Arboretum 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007

~ DOOR PRIZES ~

9:15 a.m. – FREE Coffee and Donuts 10:00 a.m. – Meeting Begins

Featured Speaker: Dr. Dawn Terashita
Medical Epidemiologist
Acute Communicable Disease Control
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

TOPIC: Healthcare Acquired Infection How Treatment May Make You sick

Retiree Information from LACERA & RELAC You will need your RELAC Membership Card. At the end of the program members are welcome to tour the Arboretum at no cost.

A tour tram is available at a small cost. There is a cafeteria.











DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From Rte. 210 Fwy. Going either eastbound or westbound, exit at Baldwin Avenue. Proceed South on Baldwin Avenue ¼ mile. Turn right into the first driveway and park in front of Ayres Hall.

From Huntington Drive go North on Baldwin Avenue 1 ¼ miles. Turn left at the traffic signal and enter the parking lot. Ayers Hall is located just off the Northerly portion of the lot.

IMPORTANT! Are you moving? Did you change your

name?

Cut out the address

portion of this newsletter, correct it and mail to: RELAC 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15 Alhambra, CA 91803-8802 or Phone: (800) 537-3522 (626) 308-0532 Fax: (626) 308-2901 Email: admin@relac.org website: 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.



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

Return Service Requested

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