

F. A Cnewsletter

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

May/June 2008 Vol 43-3



RELAC Supports Election of Proven High Quality Trustees to LACERA Boards

The time for electing retiree representatives to the Board of Retirement and the Board of Investments is nearly here. Again it is crucial that we elect experienced, knowledgeable and assertive persons to defend our benefits against ongoing attacks from the enemies of public sector retirement benefits. And we need such persons to ensure that the Los Angeles County system remains strong and that retirees are treated fairly.

For the above reasons RELAC is urging that retirees vote to re-elect the endorsed candidates, Diane Sandoval, Bill de la Garza and Ed Morris. They have proved that they are dedicated to protecting the benefits we have and to achieving what we need. They have demonstrated their commitment to representing the interests of all retirees



Diane Sandoval

For the retiree seat (Eighth Member) on the Board of Investments RELAC strongly urges the re-election of DIANE SANDOVAL. Diane's highest priority while serving on the Board of Investments has been to ensure the fund's continuing ability to pay our retirement benefits. In these difficult times for the U.S. economy and for securities markets it is especially critical that the person who represents us on this Board has demonstrated

knowledge of the system and of money management.

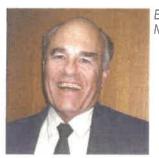
Diane is highly qualified. She had long service in LACERA's financial operations and rose to the position of Manager of the Accounting Division. She has completed courses related to retirement funds management at the University of Pennsylvania and at Stanford University. She has been elected to the LACERÁ Audit Committee. Diane should be reelected to the serve on the Board of Investments



de la Garza

For the retiree seat (Eighth Member) on the Board of Retirement we enthusiastically supports the reelection of Bill de la Garza. He has demonstrated outstanding leadership in enhancing and protecting our pension and medical plans. . He played a key role in achieving the establishment of the position of Alternate Retiree Member so that retirees would always be represented on the Board of Retirement. Bill also played significant roles in getting the retiree dealth benefit increased from \$750 to \$5000 and in promoting legislation that requires retiree organizations like RELAC are given the opportunity to give input on proposals which would effect retirees. Bill promises to carry on the fight for increasing the survivor benefit for LACERA members who retired prior to 2002. Retiree interests

are best served by electing Bill to the Board of Retirement



Ed Morris

For election to the position of Alternate Retiree Representative on the Board of Retirement, RELAC gives its unqualified support to Ed Morris. Ed is the first person to serve in the position of Alternate Retiree Member. When the retiree representative cannot attend a Board meeting Ed steps in to ensure that retirees have a voice on whatever issues are under consideration. His goals and priorities are like Bill de la Ğarza's; with both of them serving, retirees can be assured of consistent and effective representation. Ed is committed to the achievement of the increase of the survivor benefit from 60% to 65% for all retirees.

Ed has inside knowledge of LACERA, having served on the staff for 35 years and having been the Chief of the LACERA Services Division. His leadership abilities have led to his election to three terms as the RELAC President and to his election to the LACERA Audit Committee. Ed is the clearly the right choice for Alternate Retiree Member.

Re-elect your RELAC team of Diane, Bill and Ed. And urge your retired friends to do the same.





Looking Back

Dear Friends,

In an effort to help me decide a topic for my Retirement Board article this month, I reviewed my May/June article from 2005. The first sentence of the article started by stating, "2005 has been a bad year for California active and retired public employees who belong to a defined benefit plan." The article went on to describe how a conservative Assemblyman from Northridge, Keith Richman, had recruited the support of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to champion his proposed initiative that would change our public retirement system from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan. Due to strong opposition from a unified coalition of public employees that included policeman, fireman, doctors, nurses, school teachers, retiree organizations, public utility workers and employee unions, their initiative as originally proposed failed. This was considered a major victory for California public employees.

Threats to our Pension and Medical plans

Before having the opportunity to savor our victory over the Schwarzenegger initiatives, proposals that threaten major reductions and changes in our pension and medical plans have become priority issues in our State, County, and Local Governments. As I mentioned in our last issue, an article in the Daily News stated that "Los Angeles County's cost for retiree health care have nearly tripled in the past decade, soaring from \$100 million in 1997-98 to about \$366 million this year. State, County, City, School and Special Districts are experiencing similar problems, some far worse than others. The Governor's Post-Employment Benefits Commission and many other public administrators recommended "pre-funding" as a workable method for the purpose of reducing the unfunded liability in retiree health and pension plans. lagree with pre-funding and lam pleased to report that Los Angeles County already has a plan. However, pre-funding should not be considered a panacea or a total answer. It will be necessary to initiate other methods and adjustments in order to maintain the quality of our health care and pension plans.

Leave you with some Good News

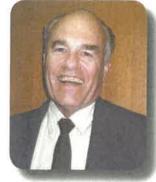
It is not my intent to cause you worries or anxieties regarding our county pension and medical plans that are administered by LACERA. My intent, supported by RELAC, is to provide you with information that will keep you informed. Let me start by saying that Los Angeles County and LACERA are very well managed and do an excellent job in funding and administering your benefits. In our last newsletter issue I provided you with some information that I feel is worth repeating. A short time after reading his Commission's report findings the Governor was quoted saying, "Lowering health and pension benefits paid to employees who are already retired is illegal, according to pension experts, while modifications to benefits offered to current employees require

President's Message

by Ed Morris

RELAC Activities

The 50th anniversary year has already been a busy one for members and we still have eight months to go. On June 19 is our



next General Membership Meeting at Cerritos Park East Community Center, Horse Races at Hollywood Park on June 12, Dodger night on July 12 with the fireworks at Dodger Stadium, another General Membership Meeting in August or September, and an RV Outing in September. And if you hurry and get your reservation in by May 5, you may join the bus trip to Agua Caliente casino. Please be sure to read the articles for more information.

Las Vegas Regional Meeting

Our 4th Regional luncheon meeting in Las Vegas was a success as 185 members enjoyed the speaker, Frank Jaaka, speaking about "Move for a Healthy Life". The food was good and all prizes given to the winners were great.

Enjoy the Summer



Retirement continued

agreement from unions during the collective-bargaining process." The Governor also stated, "California governments must keep their promises to the hardworking men and women who have served the public, without harming funding for important government programs or shifting the burden of these obligation to our children."

Wishing you and your family a wonderful summer. As customary I leave you with this thought:

"The right to know is like the right to live. It is fundamental and unconditional in its assumption that knowledge, like life, is a desirable thing."

SENATOR FEINSTEIN ACTS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS

by George Hernandez Member, Board of Directors

Dear fellow members. At times we have doubts as to what we can do to make changes in our government. Below is a letter from United States Senator Dianne Feinstein to one of RELAC's members who requested her support in repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset Provision (GPO). These are laws which unfairly reduce earned Social Security benefits to persons who receive pensions from governmental employers. The Senator has introduced legislation to restore full benefits to such persons.

Our member, Carol Brininger, retired at age 58 to care for her husband who is suffering from Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's and seizures. She is now 73 years old and began receiving Social Security benefits at age 62. Because she is a retired public employee, the offset was applied to her benefits. She receives only \$75 per month from Social Security.

Thirty five states have expressed support for repealing this unfair reduction to public employees' Social Security pensions. We need your help in making this repeal a reality. Please take the time **now** to write your U.S. Senators and Representatives to take action in this worthy cause. Suggested wording for a support letter will be found below, following Senator Feinstein's letter.

SENATOR FEINSTEIN'S REPLY:

Dear Ms. Brininger:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) provisions currently mandated under Title II of the Social Security Act. I appreciate the time you took to write on this important issue and welcome the opportunity to respond.

I believe that the Federal Government should not discourage people from pursuing careers in public service. That is why I have reintroduced the "Social Security Fairness Act" (S. 206) in the 110th Congress. By eliminating the WEP and GPO provisions of the Social Security Act, this bill would allow government pensioners and private sector retirees to earn the same percentage of their average career monthly earnings, rather than the unfair 40% of earnings government pensioners receive under current law.

Investments Board

by Diane Sandoval
Retiree Representative,
LACERA Board of Investments



I don't know about you but each day when I turn on the radio, TV or open a newspaper I am grateful that I decided to work for the County of Los Angeles and hung in there for almost 40

years. Over my career I silently endured my friends and neighbors bragging about the huge bonuses they received at the end of the year while I continued to receive a salary that trailed the prevailing salary of those employed in private companies.

I must admit I was often tempted to leave LA County and find employment elsewhere. You may ask what motivated me to hang in there and stay with LA County. The answer: it was my good fortune to begin working for the Retirement System. There I learned the value of being a participant in a defined benefit plan and concluded that in the long run I would eventually enjoy financial security by staying in the System until I reached retirement age.

I also experienced first hand the dedication and commitment the Board Members and Staff exhibited to ensure that the Retirement Fund remains financially strong and well-funded. That dedication and commitment remains today! LACERA's funding ratio as of the latest actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2007 shows it to be 93.8% (funding ratio as of June 30, 2006 was 90.5%).

Good News at Arboretum Meeting

Those of you who attended the RELAC General Membership Meeting at the Arboretum in Arcadia were fortunate to hear LACERA's Chief Investment Officer, Liza Mazzocco, speak. Liza informed those in attendance that the Board of Investments and Staff's objective is to make prudent investment decisions to ensure that over a long-time horizon the Fund will meet or exceed the interest rate assumption (currently 7.75%) and is committed to fully fund the Retirement Fund.

Liza stated LACERA'S highest priority is to pay the benefits that are guaranteed to all participants by State Law. She means us my fellow retirees! Looking at my IRA account decline in value each month I'm thankful I don't depend on my IRA income to pay my bills. I recently read an article in *The Wall Street Journal* reporting that working Americans are delaying their retirements as the falling real-estate and stock markets erode their retirement savings accounts. Fortunately when we made our decision to retire economic conditions were not at the top of our list.

I hope by sharing my perspective and experience while at LACERA will allay any concerns you may have during these uncertain times. As always, I thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you at a future event.

continued on p. 15

RELAC Members

Where will you

Go RVing?

RV Loans





- Loan approval within minutes
- Finance up to 130% of the purchase price
- Repayment terms up to 20 years

Membership is subject to eligibility. All new accounts will be verified through ChexSystems and are subject to credit approval. *APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rate quoted as of 4-1-08 and includes a .25 discount for autopay must be from a Southland Checking or Money Market Account.







BRANCHES

Downey

8545 Florence Ave. Downey, CA 90241-7022

Los Alamitos

10701 Los Alamitos Blvd. Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Los Angeles

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

PHONE

562.862.6831 800.426.1917

QUICKLINE

888.426.1918

FAX

General -- 562.861.4562 Loans-562.596.9865

WEBSITE

www.SouthlandCU.org

Your Money is Secure. Your deposits are insured up to at least \$350,000 (\$500,000 for IRA Accounts). The National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), an agency of the U.S. Government, insures your deposits up to \$100,000 (\$250,000 for IRA Accounts), AND any amount up to an additional \$250,000 is insured by American Share Insurance (ASI), a private insurance company contracted by the Credit Union to increase the safety of your funds.

Members Adopt By-laws Amendments

by George Hernandez, Chair By-laws Committee

On March 11th, at the General Membership Meeting held at the County Arboretum, the members in attendance voted to adopt the amendments to the RELAC By-laws. Which are summarized below:

Article II - Membership - Add Section 6. Defines honorary member status.

Article II - Membership; Section 8 - Dues. Eliminates the waiver of dues for any regular and associate members who reach the age of 80 after December 31, 2008. Regular and associate members currently receiving the exemption, will continue receiving the waiver of dues.

Article II - Membership; Section 9 - Property (renamed Section 9 Dissolution). Refines how RELAC's assets will be distributed in the event RELAC dissolves.

Article IV - Officers; Section I-Officers. This <u>eliminates</u> the office of Second Vice President as an officer of the organization.

This change increases the number of words (from 100 to 150) that an individual running for a RELAC Board position may submit for publication in their candidate statement. Also adds language stipulating that statements with more than 150 words will have the excess words stricken from the end of the statement.

For the full text of these changes see newsletter Jan/Feb 2008 pages 12 and 13. "Proposed By-Laws Changes" or see the RELAC Website, www.relac.org..



REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Co-chairs, Mary K. Rodriguez and Diane Sandoval

LAS VEGAS MEETING

The Las Vegas Luncheon Meeting at the Suncoast Hotel and Casino on March 27, 2008 was attended by approximately 200 members and guests. In addition to our RELAC members living in Nevada and California, we had members that traveled from as far as Oregon and Colorado.

The buffet lunch was excellent and enjoyed by all. The speaker, Mr. Frank Jakka, who is a Screening Professional Health Director was well received. He emphasized the benefits of exercise and good nutrition.

Along with the Luncheon Program, a Comment/ Suggestion sheet was distributed. We received many helpful suggestions including many requests to return to Las Vegas next year. The Committee appreciates your feedback and will seriously consider your suggestions.

We don't know how many of you "Broke the Bank" but we know that everyone enjoyed the event.

LANCASTER REGIONAL LUNCHEON

Our meeting in Lancaster organized by Donna Livermore scheduled for April 17th at the Elks Lodge in Lancaster takes place after our newsletter deadline. However, we are certain that it will be a huge success. You can always count on Donna to plan events that are fun and lively. Donna has scheduled an excellent speaker from the Los Angeles County Fire Department who will provide advice on "How To Be Prepared".

FUTURE REGIONAL MEETINGS

Although no other regional meetings have been scheduled at this time, the Committee is considering Rancho Cucamonga and San Diego as sites to hold future meetings. If any of you who live in cities outside of Los Angeles County have any suggestions for future meeting sites, please contact the RELAC Office.

We look forward to seeing you at our next event. Remember we are here to serve you – please send in your suggestions and comments.

News From LACERA

by Janice Golden Assistant Executive Officer

Retiree Health Care

When you retired, you no doubt enrolled yourself and any eligible dependents in one of the LACERA-administered medical and dental/vision plans.

But what happens if you've had a change in your family since retirement? Did you know you must

enroll your *eligible new dependents* in your LACERA-administered medical and/or dental/vision plans *within 30 days of the date they become eligible family members?* Eligible new dependents include:

- 1) New spouse
- 2) Newly registered domestic partner
- 3) Newborn child
- 4) Newly-acquired legally adopted children and stepchildren

In the event a LACERA member passes away, health care coverage may continue to eligible surviving dependents, including:

- 1) Your surviving spouse who is eligible to continue to receive retirement benefits
- 2) Your domestic partner who is eligible to continue to receive retirement benefits
- 3) Your surviving children (without a surviving spouse/domestic partner). The surviving unmarried natural children, legally adopted children or stepchildren, up to age 19 or until age 22, who are enrolled as full-time students and receiving retirement benefits
- 4) Your surviving children (if there is also a surviving spouse/domestic partner). The surviving unmarried natural children, legally adopted children or stepchildren, up to age 19 or until age 23, if they remain unmarried and enrolled as full-time students
- 5) Your disabled dependent children who satisfy specific requirements

If a surviving spouse or child is not eligible for continuing retirement benefits, but has been continuously covered under the deceased member's health care plan, LACERA will mail a packet to the survivor containing information about continuing health care coverage through COBRA (the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985).

LACERA's Retiree Health Care Division is dedicated to assisting members with their health care inquiries. To enroll a new dependent or for additional information, please call LACERA at 1-800-786-6464 and press 1 to speak to a health care benefits specialist.

Take a Look at Our Website

We are hard at work refreshing and up-dating the RELAC Website. The project is not yet completed, but we have made substantial progress. So if you haven't opened up the Website in the last few weeks, or if you haven't ever dropped in, you are invited to take a look. It's www.relac.org. Please send us your comments including suggestions you may have on further changes you would like to see made, perhaps additional useful information and ways to make it easier to navigate. RELAC's e-mail address is admin@relac.org.



Great Day at the Arboretum

For those members who were not able to attend the March General Membership Meeting that was held at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia, you missed out on a wonderful time. The Arboretum allowed our membership to tour the gardens at no cost and provided a private guided tour. It was a beautiful sunny day, the plants and flowers were in bloom and the peacocks were putting on a spectacular show. The gardens have special areas to visit, such as the Grace Kallam Perennial Garden, the Meyberg Waterfall, Roots and Shoots Children's Discovery mode, Queen Ann Cottage, Typical Greenhouse, Korean Garden and many other attractions. All is not lost for our members who were not able to attend because on the third Tuesday of every month the Arboretum holds a fee free day for all visitors. Mark your calendars and set a date for a delightful experience. For general information, call 626-821-3222 for hours of operation and special events to be held.

For a report on the content of the meeting's program see Diane Sandoval's Board of Investments column on page 3.



New Members FEBUARY & MARCH 2008

Children & Family Services

McCandless, Jean R. Wallace, Doris

Mental Health

Lerma, Dorothy M.

Probation

Davis, Earl M. Johnson, Charles L. Rumble, Carol Jacques

Sheriff

Seitz, Jeffery H.

Department Not DesignatedAlvarez, Barbara C.

Affiliate Members

(Active County Employees)

Assessor

Mathias, Raub J Oliver, Bonnie L.

RELAC NEWSLETTER

Vol 43 - May/June 2008 Number 3 Retired Employees of Los Angeles County 1000 S. Fremont Ave. Unit 15, Alhambra, CA 91803-8802 (626) 308-0532 (800) 537-3522 Fax (626) 308-2901 E-mail: admin@relac.org

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1st Vice President
Greg Walia
2nd Vice President
Ida Leon Ramos
Secretary
Mary Lou Bangar
Treasurer/ Past
President
Diane Sandoval

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Bill de la Garza
Domingo Delgado
Sol Fingold
John F. Fleming
Martin Golds
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9:00am - Noon &
1:00pm - 4:00pm
Monday - Thursday
Friday: 9:00am - Noon
Closed Saturday,
Sunday &
Public Holidays



LAS VEGAS INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

MARCH 26, 2008

by Gil Sandoval RELAC Golf Director

We had twenty players who braved the warm desert wind at the Angel Park Palms Golf Course. All who participated had a good time. We had 14 of the 20 players take part in the Skins competition with



Nancy Signer coming out the big winners, taking three of the skins in the "B" flight. The total number of skins was 14. Jimmy Newman had the best round of golf shooting a scratch 79.

"A" Flight – Jimmy Newman - Net 67 "B" Flight – Phil Sandoval – Net 68 Ladies Flight – Jan Frazier – Net 68

Close to Pin on Par 3's

#5 – Jimmy Newman Nancy Signer #8 – McKinley Phillips #12 – Phil Sandoval Lucretia Chicco #17 – Roger DeHann

Following the tournament the participants said that they very much appreciated the opportunity to play golf in Las Vegas.

Due to an unfortunate set of circumstances it was necessary to cancel the tournament scheduled to be played on March 31 at La Mirada Golf Course. The next tournament will be held on June 2 at Los Amigos Golf Course. All golfers are invited to come out and join in the fun.

RELAC Golf Entry Form

Los Amigos Country Club 7295 Quill Drive Downey, CA 90242

Monday, June 2, 2008 8:00 am Start

Please Print

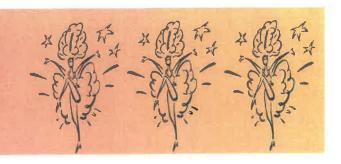
	Zip
Phone	
If possible, place golfers. <u>Address</u> If possible, we w	R GOLFER - CART EXTRA me in a foursome with below liste es of all golfers MUST be included ould prefer an te starting time.
2. Name	
Address	
City	Zip
Phone	
3. Name	
Address	
	Zip
Phone	
4. Name	
City	Zip
Phone	

NOTE: Only ONE GUEST per member. Enclose check for _____ golfers @ \$31 per Golfer. Make checks payable to RELAC Golf. Mail entry to RELAC GOLF, 1000 So. Fremont Ave., #15, Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

Entry Deadline
May 12, 2008
ALL CHECKS MUST BE
IN RELAC OFFICE

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

Members Spotlight





After retiring from the L.A. Co. Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department, I wanted to continue my biological work and interests. The Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in Claremont was the perfect answer. They have a dried plant collection of over one million plants. They specialize in California native plants with over 4,000 planted on 85 acres of land just north of the Claremont Colleges. The garden offers volunteers a vast leeway in volunteer activities. Some are plant research, botany and nature classes, leading plant walks for various groups and listening to various lectures on nature. Anyone is welcome to be a volunteer. Training classes are held for new volunteers in order for them to interact with the public. The garden specializes in teaching school classes of every age about nature and plants. The highlight of every year is the annual wildflower show always held in the spring. In addition to flowers in the garden, staff and volunteers go up to 200 miles and collect wildflowers for the show. This year the show is March 22, 23, and 24. But, if you miss the wildflower show this year, don't feel bad because beautiful blooms are always on display throughout the year. For more information, call (909) 625-8767. The garden is located at 1500 N. College Avenue in Claremont just off Foothill Boulevard.

Monroe D. Polk, Nature Interpreter



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office 2008 Old Timers Gathering

Saturday, August 23, 2008 – Noon

Taix French Restaurant 1911 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles

\$30.00 per person Entrée: Beef Bourguignon OR Fresh Boneless Trout Almondine

> Make check payable to Darlene Jones and mail to: 1801 Masters Drive Banning, CA 92220

Interested in being included in 2008 Old Time's Directory, contact:

Darlene: ladyrnoms@myway.com

(Info and/or flyer will be mailed prior to event)
DEADLINE: August 11, 2008

Notice of Board of Directors Election

by George Hernandez Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee

Just a reminder that five (5) RELAC Board of Director seats are up for election this year. If any RELAC member is interested in being considered for appointment to the Board selected slate of nominees, that member must submit a letter of intent by May 15, 2008 to the RELAC office. A brief letter stating your interest in serving as a Board member and stating your experience and education is needed.

An alternative means of nomination is to file a petition signed by not less than 25 members by July 31. Forms may be obtained from the RELAC office.

Last Call to Order Your Tickets for RELAC Day at Hollywood Park

by Greg Walia Chair, Recreation Committee

Dear Fellow Retirees,



So, let's "race" to a new record on **Thursday, June 12, 2008.** Please mark your calendars. **Good News:** Ticket price remains the same as last year...\$28 per person including admission, program, food, soft drinks and fresh baked cookies (yum...yum) for desert. Oh yes...valet parking is also included!

Please fill out the coupon below as soon as you can and send it with your check at the address shown. Last day to mail your coupon is May 30. We will mail your tickets on June 5.

Stay happy and healthy. I look forward to seeing you on June 12 at Hollywood Park.



It's Time to Order Your Tickets for Fireworks Night at Dodger Stadium by Greg Walia



It is time to think

baseball for the year 2008. The game, between your Los Angeles Dodgers and the Florida Marlins will be on Saturday, July 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Dodger Stadium. The price of the tickets is \$18.00 each. The seats are in the lower reserved section on the third base side. This is the place where the most spectacular fireworks ever will take place! So, don't miss this great event. We ordered only 200 tickets in the lower reserved section, so order your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

BASEBALL TICKETS

Game Starts at 7:00 P.M.
Saturday, July 12, 2008
DODGERS VS. FLORIDA MARLINS

	Hollywood Park		
	Thursday, Jun	e 12, 2008	
Name:			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Telephone ()		
No. of tickets	@ \$28.00 ea.= \$		
	TOTAL \$		
Enclose a check or your total pa RELAC	(no cash please) yable to RELAC and	mail to:	

DEADLINE for ordering tickets: May 30, 2008

1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15 Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

Name
Address
City
Phone ()
No. of Tickets @ \$18.00 ea. =\$
Total Enclosed\$

Thursday, June 12, 2008.

Make checks payable to:

RELAC BASEBALL

Requests for tickets MUST be received by

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

For Office Use:			
Date Rec	Amt \$	_Check #	
	AND THE		





Dear RELAC: What a wonderful surprise to have received the RELAC Valentine Drawing check. Thank you very much! I appreciate all that your staff does to make it nice for us retirees. Keep up the good work! Marie Takano Gardena, CA

Thanks for selecting my name among others for the Valentine Drawing. All members that have not been on our casino trips should join us. We had fun. Thanks to the great staff. I can't wait to go to Fantasy Springs again. I didn't hit the big one, but I didn't do too badly. James Coles Alhambra, CA

Well what a delightful surprise! If I make it to July 17 and become 92, it will warm the cockles of my heart to know I can still get a valentine. Thanks so much. Rita Styles
Winston, OR

Dear Officers and Staff Members. I <u>won</u> for the first time ever! Imagine my delight to see that "heart embossed" on my address sticker. It was truly a wonderful surprise to find that gift. Thank you all. Best wishes. Bernyce Martin Smith Los Angeles, CA

You're the greatest. The Best. Hooray! I love RELAC. Thank you for the \$25.00 Valentine Gift check. It's the best Valentine present I have had in a long, long time. Christina Fuentes
Los Alamitos, CA

Dear RELAC. Thank you! Thank You! Thank You! I hope your Valentine's Day is a happy one like mine. Best wishes from Valentine Day Winner 2008. Eileen Coleman Long Beach, CA

Dear RELAC: Thanx so much for the Valentine present. Enjoy the Newsletter. Keep up the good work. Thanx again.

Bob Lancaster Newhall, CA

Retired Employee of L.A. County thanks to the person who pulled my name out in the drawing for the \$25.00. Thanks, Thanks.

Thomas Orsat Santa Fe Springs, CA

Letters cont. on p. 11

Touring With Great Western 626-578-1161 • 800-344-7090

Don't forget to ask for your RELAC discount

Pacific Coast Fall Rail & Sail PRINCESS CRUISI



Island Princess

Amtrak Coast Starlight

JEATTLE - VANCOUVER - LOS ANGELES7-Day Rail/Cruise Tour Departs Sept. 19, 2008

Tour Price Includes

• One Way Rail LA/Seattle

(bedroom, all meals and wine tasting on board)

- 3 Night Cruise Island Princess (all meals and entertainment aboard ship
- Port Charges and Government Fees Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
 - Two Nights Hotel Accommodations with Two Breakfast
 - Seattle City Tour Tillicum Village Salmon Bake
 - All Transfers Tax & Baggage Handling

Per Person Double Occupancy: Balcony From \$1599.00

Black Hills of South Dakota

Departs
October 4, 2008

9-Day LandTour



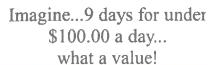
Value Packed Budget Friendly!

\$899.00 Double Per Person Single: \$1099.00



Mt. Rushmore • Deadwood

- Crazy Horse Memorial
 - High Plains Western Heritage Center
 - Custer State Park



August 11: Sierra Mountain Splendor

4 Days - DBL. PP \$639.00 Stay in Mammoth Lakes - Tour Yosemite Valley - Lunch at the Ahwahnee Hotel - Tour Jun Lakes

Aug. 11: California Redwoods & Mount Shasta • 8 Days Dbl. PP \$1359.00 Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens - Skunk Train - Tours of Redwoods Nat'l. Park, Ferndale Victorian Village, Joss House State Park, Shasta Dam, Mt. Shasta Area, Lassen Nat'l. Park and much, much more!

Letters cont. from p.10

WOW! The luck of the Irish after 16 years. Thanks for the check. Chuck Casev

Parker, CO

Dear Sophy Eskander: Thank you and RELAC for my lovely Birthday card. I truly enjoyed receiving it. You lightened my lonely days. Thank you, thank you so much.

Betty Brand

Westlake Village, CA

Dear All: I am very happy with the prize I won. It was a surprise because I'm not a very lucky gambler. I'm expending the money to play lotto, hoping to win again. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Teresa Vega Los Angeles, CA

Hello and Happy New Year! I am very grateful for all of your members for the news from LACERA. Many thanks for your kind wishes for my birthday. I am glad to tell you that I turned 92 years on the 31st of January. I went to the DMV office for my driving license renewal and it was due to expire on 1/21/13! Best wishes for your health, happiness, long life, Amen. T. A. Allaraklia

Long Beach, CA

Thank you. It sure was a surprise when I opened that letter and noticed I won the \$25.00 Valentine's Day drawing. Thank you very much. Want to say hi to all Lancaster Library and Region 1 retirees from a cold and half frozen North Dakotan. On February 20th was our coldest day, temp was 30° below and wind chill was 50°. So far we haven't received very much snow. In a couple months we will complain about the heat. Thanks again. Gerald Griesbach

Oakes, ND

We're gone-but not forgotten! Thank you for the wonderful things you do to bring joy and excitement into the lives of us retirees! A great big thank you for drawing my name to win the Valentine's Day prize of \$25.00; and thanks for sending the pocket planner. RELAC, you make me so happy! God bless you.

Shirley L. Smith-Ennen Lake Elsinore, CA

To RELAC Newsletter & Mr. Golds: Can it be? June marks 30 years of glorious retirement from the Probation Department. Many thanks to Gordy Pedersen and Orey Schrogin for helping me chart my course. Dick Traub

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Letters continued on p. 12



RV Outing Notes



Janell Clifton & Ed Clifton Co-Coordinators of RV Club

Frank Maestas was a very busy wagon master as Diane had a broken foot and was on crutches. They had good helpers such as Georgia Rutherford and Don Egbert and many others, so it was a fun outing. Weather was fantastic. Games of golf and shopping were enjoyed by some, and others came back for the casino with about seven cents in their pockets.

Pretty good pay-out for the slots. But ask the Dibbles how they did?

R.J. Thomas and Joyce Fairman joined us for the first time. We missed Joe and Helen Quintana; she recently had total knee replacement. Earline and Marvin Powell surprised us with a drop in visit. It was good to see them. Where were you?

May campout will be in Buellton at Flying Flags RV Park. Ed and Janell Clifton will be wagon masters. If you would like to join us you could tour Solvang or a winery or eat green pea soup or even go to a ostrich farm. Play a round or two of golf or go to the Firestone Brewery. The flower farms are so pretty up there also. So much to do and so little time.

Don't forget your table service and a snack for our Monday evening get together. Also we will play Bingo. Bring your prizes so you can try and win them back. Book exchange will be on the tables again. We will see you in Chula Vista in Sept. Any questions or suggestions please call us at 562-428-3360.





The RV Club was formed in 1986 under the leadership and direction of John Hayes, a very competent and dedicated leader. The first outing was in 1987 at Lake Elsinore, CA, with approximately twenty members. Our membership has varied in numbers ranging to fifty or more.

We have enjoyed many fun outings together and look forward to many more. We always welcome new members. We still have four founding members in the club, Alfonso and Sara Campbell and Mike and Flora Frazier.

We thank RELAC staff for your continued support through out the Respectfully submitted,

Flora Tryon Frazier

OUR FOCUS IS YOU!

by Mary K. Rodriguez Chair, Outreach Committee



Hi Everyone – Greetings from your Outreach Committee.

I have recently been asked by several RELAC members: "What is the Outreach Committee and what do they do?" This Committee is dedicated to our elite members (over 400 of them) who have reached the golden age of 90 years and older. We regularly send each of our members a birthday card and reach out to them again during the holiday season with a card and small gift.

The Committee is comprised of a small group of individuals all of whom are very devoted to this organization and the retirees that we serve. My name is Mary K. Rodriguez and I have the pleasure of serving as Chair. Diana Trujillo is Vice Chair and Peggy Peck and Sophy Eskander complete the team. We all enjoy reaching out to touch our very special members.

Remember Outreach members - OUR FOCUS IS YOU!!!

Hoping to hear from you, Mary K. Rodriguez

Letter continued from p.11

To whom it may concern: Could you please send me another "Pocket Secretary"? I have misplaced the one you sent me. Keep up the good work. I retired from LAC Child Support Office in Commerce in February 2000. I really miss all of the old gang there. Hello 2 all. I will be 71 on June 17th. Cynthia De Coud

Las Vegas, Nevada

Was I surprised to receive the Valentine check, and it came just before my birthday. Thank you very much. Also would like to thank you for the pocket secretary. Please keep up the good work. Lots of Love. Ora L. Sanders
Los Angeles, CA

Many, many thanks for remembering me. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.
Florence D. Permaul
Oakland, CA

Dear Editor: I love the seasonal graphics that adorn the pages of the newsletter. I cut them out and make stickers for my grandkids' cards. Mariko Kaya Alhambra, CA

Thank you for all you do for us retired from L.A. County. You all make my retirement very brighter. God Bless you all and keep up the excellent work. With great appreciation.

Jose R. Sanchez

Miami, FL

For Sale

ETERNAL VALLEY MEMORIAL PARK, Newhall, CA. 2 cemetery plots, Garden of Devotion. Valued at \$5695 each. Will sell for \$6000 for both or best offer. Goldie 661-259-1508.

2 DAHON CONVERTIBLE 3-SPEED FOLDING BIKES. Hand brakes – mudguards – kickstand – folds and unfolds easily in car trunk, locker, under bus seat, etc. Excellent condition. \$150 each. Call: Laura Pearl (760) 202-6362.

ROSE HILLS MEMORIAL PARK, Whittier, CA. 4 grave plots for sale. Two plots in Garden of Affection, graves 1 and 2, Lot 123, and two plots in Nauvoo Lawn, graves 1 and 2, Lot 1010. Will sell for \$3,000 each with buyer responsible for transfer costs. For information email Lois c/o Bindy at kb6ujr@arrl.net.

FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL PARK – Covina Hills, CA. Four Interment Spaces: two in lot 5057, and two in lot 5329. All four spaces are in the Cherished Memory Section. Each valued at \$2350.00. Will sell for \$1900.00 each or two for \$3500.00. Owner will split transfer and recording fee. Please call Carol at (928)-757-9485 or e-mail carolodessa@frontiernet.net.

#20 CALVADA BLVD. \$136,000. One of the best deals in Pahrump, Nevada. 60 miles west of Las Vegas. Looks site built! The house was built on a slab and exterior stucco. 2 car attached garage. Cute, cozy, clean and central air. Near all the schools, golf course, 2 bedrooms and den (could be 3rd bedroom). New carpets coming. Breakfast nook, living room and dining room and inside laundry. Call Frances for details in the evening. (714) 996-8226.

ROSE HILLS – Four (4) cemetery plots (side-by-side) at Rose Hills located in the Garden of Affection. Cemetery retail \$3,400 per plot, priced to sell for \$2,100 per plot for all 4 plots, or \$8,400. (Seller to pay for transfer fee). Will consider split sale of two plots each at slightly higher price, with buyer to pay for 50% of transfer fee. Contact Clause Marx @ 1-562-438-5551.

RÔSE HILLS, Whittier – One cemetery plot for sale located in the Admiration Terrace Lawn. Grave 1, lot 4436, section 4 valued at \$12 - \$16,000. Will sell for \$10,000 or best offer (Seller to pay for transfer fee). Contact Quan at 626-285-2523.

AGUA CALIENTE CASINO

Rancho Mirage, CA Thursday, May 15, 2008

GAMBLERS' SPECIAL

On May 15, 2008, the RELAC Board of Directors has arranged for a bus trip to Agua Caliente Casino in Rancho Mirage, California. We need a minimum of 50 over the age of 21. The cost is \$30.00 per person and you will receive coffee, donuts and soft drinks on the bus.

We will depart at 8:15 a.m. sharp on May 15. 2008 from RELAC Headquarters at Fremont and Mission Road, Alhambra. Directions and map will be sent to you no later than one week prior to event. After a 2-hour bus ride we will arrive at the casino and you will receive \$10.00 Cash Play, \$5 Match Play, \$5 Gift Coupon, and all-you-can-eat-buffet.

We will depart from the casino to return to Alhambra at 3:30 P.M.

Please fill out the reservation form and return it with your \$30.00 check by May 5, 2008. You must present valid I.D. to the Casino upon arrival.

Name:			
Address:			
(City)	(St.)		(Zip)
Phone #()	D	ate of Birth	v i
			day/mo/yr
Add'l Guests:			
(Birthda	te required	for each atte	endee)
Enclose check for \$3	30.00 per pe	rson payable	e to:
RELAC 1000 So. Fren	nont Ave U	nit 15	
Alhambra, CA			
Deadline for reserva	tions: May 5	5, 2008	
Office Use:			
Date Rec.	_Amt \$	Ck# _	

Travel To China This Fall With RELAC

From its ancient culture, sites, and structures to its modern cosmopolitan transformation. China has something fascinating to offer every traveler.

- This incredible 10 day/ 7 night tour starts from Los Angeles (also San Francisco or New York) on September 26, 2008.
- Next presentation/planning meetings are Saturday, May 17 & June 14, 2008. Call Jeff for more information.
- · 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).
- Tour Presentation Online: http://chinadiscoverytours.com/relac/index. html
- Call Jeff for a FREE 2008 tours catalog!





Your RELAC 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







IN MEMORIAM

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

* denotes RELAC members

Antelope Valley Rehab. Ctr. Terry, Jeanne E.

Art Museum

Williams, Dennis H.*

Assessor

Chilton, Golda E.* Clay, Evelyn M.*

Board of Supervisors Smiley, Frances L.*

Charities

Forbes, Ethel L.*

Children's Services

Brunner, Laura F. Keihle, Owena Lee, Ludean T. Pugsley, Viola A. Schleifer, Patricia L.*

Child Support Services Mowery, Susana

Communications

Leehan, Betty*

Community & Sr. Citizens

Services

Chancellor, Alice M*

County Clerk

Kirk, Rose M.*

County Counsel Valk, Lucile*

Data Processing

Cason, William M. Webb, Edsel B.* Woolery, Shirley O.*

District Attorney

Dascenzi, D. R. Hecht, Richard W.* Owens Jr., Wilbert

Engineer

Andrews, Eric E. Cadwell, Gerald M.*

Facilities Management Esquivel, Jack D. Matthews, Wayne D.*

Walker Sr., Eddie L.

Fire

Crum, Novis D.
Fay, Rimmon C.
Graven, Arthur E.*
Jacobs, L. O.
Jensen, Jack H.*
Littlefield, John B.
Munger, Ralph W.*
Rutz, Robert E.*
Stearns, Marie J.*
Welding, Joseph*
Wiest, Charles E.*

Flood Control

Huerta, Ralph* Magness, Chester*

Harbor/UCLA Medical Center

Dufresne, Helen D.* Hayes, Kathryn E. Potratz, Charles J. Rivers, Dorothy M.

Health Services

Banta, Alice D.*
Davis, Barbara A.*
Finlayson, Mary E.*
Gomez, Maria G.*
Hopkins, Virginia C.*
Karp, Alvin*

Sponholz, Margaret H.* **Health Services Admin.**

Lanceri Jr., Luis Murray, Alfred

Hospitals

Gilbreth, Evelyn C.* Haley, Hazel* Hardisty, Helen A.* Stinson, Dorothy M.*

Internal Services

Johnson, Barbara A. Moulder, Ira D.* Padgett, Ronald S.* Wade, Leroy J.*

Juvenile Court Health Serv. Turner, Deborah

King/Drew Medical Center

Del Rosario, Ernesto Edwards, Sara L. Nzeogu, Delores Ong, Concepcion

LAC + USC Medical Center

Beasley, Cora L.*
Baldenweg, Cheryl L.
Burval, Paul J.*
Huicochea, Bernardo*
Javaras, Catherine*
Johnson, Sara L.*
Maldonado, Lenore*
Ramirez, Antonia
Suarez, Thelma L.
Williams, Freddie J.*

Marshal

Davis, Ethelwyn J.* Kramer, Richard W.* Lewis, Joy L.*

Mechanical

De Bruyn, Adrian C.* Falbo, Donald* Moramarco, Nick* Niles, Thomas J.* Stenback, Leni M.*

Mental Health

Johnson, Ivory Le Page, Dennis C.*

Metro So. CHC Health Center

Best, Geneva

Municipal Court

Benkert, Robert R.* (Los Angeles)
Bonoli, Lucy* (Juvenile Traffic Court)
Carleton, Mary L.* (Los Angeles)
Holton, Margaret M.* (E. Los Angeles)
Kawashima, Masuho* (Los Angeles)
Montgomery, Lois M.* (South Bay)
Sgouros, Thelma B.* (Downey)

Olive View Medical Center

Correll, Mary C.*

Parks & Recreation

Quintanar, Margarito H.

Personnel

Check, Richard K.*

Plant Management

Brooks, Riley L.* Edwards, Patsy R.* Goolsby, Glenn*

Probation

Dwoskin, Sidney I. Gilbert, Leroy D. Kaminsky, Marvin A.* Magid, Jerry F. Niaber, Genevieve Peak, Almelia F. Smith, Shirley M.*

Public Defender

Breslin, Tommy*

Public Health Program Baldenweg, Paul P.

Graves, Dolores M.* Johnson, Beatrice Jones, Virginia R.* Rifa, Mary L.*

Public Library

Larsen, Elsie B.* Levine, Claire Lindsay, Vivienne W.* McKnight, Margaret C.*

Public Social Services

Acosta, Salud T.*
Aruz, Patricia L.*
Ballesteros, Margarita
Coleman, Ethel M.
Doran, Thomas M.
Feliciano, Ofelia
Godward, Sabina T.
Hicks, Norma J.*
Johnson, Christine
Kakavecos, Ruth M.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Manners, Jo M. Moss, Ana I.* Nguyen, Julie Nguyen, Trong Otto, Rosemary I.* Petrello, Mary Raisola, Dolores Ryder, Jeannette J.* Schmidt, Mary M.* Vinson, Barbara J. Weatherby, Helen Webb, Charlyne*

Public Works

Freeman, Eddie H.* Helver, Paul R. Koga, George* Mc Dugald, James M. Petrowski, Norbert Saruwatari, Wadachi* Smith, Bobbie G.

Rancho Los Amigos Hospital

Bluitt, Cleo Marmor, Darlene N. Ramirez, Raul* Vajda, Emilia Wyatt, Frankie L.

Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk Somers, Jerry T.

Road

Bahti, George R.* Bateman, Marion E. Boone, James C.* Tomaier, Joseph C.*

Sheriff

Arand II, Maurice E. Beard, Margaret C. Farrell, Thomas E.* Foster, Carl M.* Guerra, Marie G.* Gustason, John C.* Hotra, Walter V.* Krieg, William F.* Marcotte, Daniel F. Mendez, Ramon D. Mc Nichols, Lodina Mock, Henry P.* O'Dell, Mary R. Sheumaker, Benjamin L.*

So. Coast Air Quality Mgm't. Dist. Ballas, Maurice A.* Poore, Eddie R.*

Superior Court Human Resources Sgouros, Thelma B.

Superior Court Officers

Ewing, Melinda M. Finch, Ruby L. Pendergrass, Wendy S. Tonione, Valentine

Treasurer & Tax Collector

Dantzler, Oleatha Hansen, Henry P.*

Women's Hospital

Gorospe, Josefina T.*

Department Not Designated

Allen, Raymond W. Ankner, Venetia V. Bateman, Joseph R. Berezny, Michael A. Bonilla, Mercedes D. Boyle, Elizabeth J. Carter, Dorothy L. Clark, Clarence Clifford, Philip D. Cochrane, Olivine B. Cohea, Viola P. Delaney Jr., John J. English, Kathleen Fraser, James K. Harkema, Joe A. Jones, Harry A

Kaufman, Anna. King, Donald R. King, Margaret R. Loggins, Wayland A. Lopez, Gilbert S. McGinley, William E. McGinty, Doris McMillan, Helen H. Millar, Teresa L.

Miller, Joan M. Ortiz, William J. Phillips, Anderson* Pitts, Marcella M. Poque, Evelyn T. Rhodes, Don E.

Royal, John F. Sandala, Robert A.

Smalley, Clara Tommeraason, Frances

Turner, Gloria M. Vasquez, Juan S. Verdugo, Leonard D.

Wallace, Kay Waters, Michael F. Wilkins, Joseph V.

Wilson, Gniece

private sector, find they are penalized and held to a different standard when it comes to retirement benefits. This unfair reduction not only makes it more difficult to recruit teachers, police officers and fire fighters, but it penalizes the invaluable public servants who have already given so much. I will do all I can to fight this inequity and will work hard along with

Currently, public employees, whose

salaries are often lower than those in the

my colleagues to get this important legislation passed. Again, thank you for writing. If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact my Washington, D.C. office at

(202) 224-3842. Best regards.

Sincerely Dianne Feinstein United States Senator

Suggested Letter to U.S. Senators and Representatives:

Your Senators c/o US Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Your Representative c/o House of Representatives Washington, DC 20510

It is hard for me to believe that the Social Security Program of this country discriminates against government employees. It denies them the same benefits that their colleagues in the private sector receive. Government employees are being penalized. The Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) need to be eliminated.

I urge you to support the Social Security Fairness Act, S 206 band HR 82, to eliminate these discrepancies and to urge your fellow members of Congress to do the same. Denying a person full benefits that they are entitled to is wrong and needs to be corrected.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely, (Your name)

General Membership Meeting

Greg Walia & Fred Miller, Co Chairs, Program Committee



You Are Invited

CERRITOS PARK EAST

Community Center

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

Thursday, June 19, 2008

10:00 AM – Meeting Starts

FEATURED SPEAKER

Ms. Danielle Blunt is a Certified Financial Planner in the offices of Edward Jones Investments in the La Mirada, Fullerton area. She also teaches at OLLI Institute for older adults and conducts specialty classes for adults. Ms. Blunt's topic will be **Wills and Trusts**.

Rosecrans Shoemaker Ave. 166th St.

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

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.



building.

There will be

Retirement and

and Reports on

Investments Board

recreation activities.

Door prizes & Raffles.

Bring your RELAC

Membership Card.

Come and say hello

to old friends & co-

workers.

CERRITOS

DIRECTIONS: From the 605 San

Gabriel Fwy. going

either North or South,

exit at Alondra Blvd.

Shoemaker Ave., turn

right to 166th St. turn

left on 166th St. The

Community Center is on the right. Park on the East side of the

Proceed East to

Reports on LACERA's

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

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