



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

# RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

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

## President's Message

by Brian Berger



I want to start with a simple thank you to each of you who donated to support the RELAC team in the April 23rd March of Dimes, March for Babies. Your support made us the top Los Angeles County fundraising team in 2020, 2021 and we're hoping for a three-peat in 2022. Team RELAC Co-Captains Linda Hopkins and Evelyn Gutierrez deserve the credit for keeping us all informed and motivated. I started with this as a reminder of only one of the many RELAC activities/events that continue to take place each year and that can involve many of us to the level that we choose to participate and support. You can read of others, including the scholarship program or the golf tournaments, and more in our newsletter or by visiting us online at relac.org.

This March has been an unusually high month for new County retirees, which resulted in increased requests for information and application forms for those people interested in joining RELAC. We normally see a surge in new members every year around this same retirement period and, again, we want to say thank you to the many of you who recruited and referred those interested to our office. It helps to have the staff back in the office for much more of their workweek than was possible over the past couple pandemic years.

Speaking of our office, the improvements are almost complete. It is nice to see new carpeting, painting, lighting, and the additional cabinet space. Boxes of stuff will no longer be scattered about or hidden under staff desk areas. As mentioned earlier, these upgrades became a benefit of our lease renewal. One very welcome improvement is a new shredder. It sounds like not much of a big deal, but compared to the two-pages-at-a-time old machine, it is simply amazing, to judge by the smiles and words from the office staff.

As a reminder, RELAC was founded in 1958 and our mission continues to be to ensure that the pension and health care benefits earned by Los Angeles County employees are protected while promoting their health, well-being and continued productivity. We are also very active in CRCEA, the California Retired County Employees Association, and are the largest member. CRCEA helps us keep current on activities in Sacramento or elsewhere that might impact County retirees so that we can coordinate any actions required. We are additionally well-connected with LACERA, including having two of our directors on the Board of Retirement. Communication among all of us happens continuously.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our next recognition luncheon, which will be later this year.

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

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Annual Recognition Luncheon**

Wed., Aug. 10  
Almansor Court, 200 Almansor St., Alhambra

July-August newsletter  
will provide luncheon details

Updated information will also be provided on  
our website  
relac.org or contact the RELAC office

## Board Approves Second Year Drawing to Recruit Members

The Board of Directors has decided for the second year to have a cash drawing to reward and encourage members to recruit other retirees to join RELAC. Twenty \$25 prizes will be awarded at the end of the year, with multiple prizes to the same individual allowed.

Members will receive one entry in the drawing for each referral they make in 2022. Additionally, those who recruited members in 2021 and were not one of the winners of the drawing will be automatically entered in the 2022 drawing. If they had recruited more than one member, they will get one entry for each additional referral.

So, get your former colleagues to join and ask them to list your name on the application as making the referral. The easiest way to sign up is to go to RELAC's website at relac.org and fill out an online application. If you would rather send in a printed application, you can download the application from the website or contact the office and an application form will be mailed.

RELAC Board members and staff are not eligible for prizes.

## RELAC Members Needed to be Election Workers in June 7 Primary

Registrar-Recorder Dean Logan invites RELAC members to sign up to become election workers in the June 7 primary.

The County is actively recruiting between 5,000-6,000 residents to assist in the election. "We believe members of the Retired Employees of Los Angeles County (RELAC) would make a great contribution to this effort," Logan said.

Election workers must be registered to vote in California or be a legal permanent resident and provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19. Workers earn \$100 for each day served at the vote center and \$80 for completing training requirements. Assignments range between four to 10 days.

For information, call (800) 815-2666, option 7, or e-mail ElectionWorker@rrcc.lacounty.gov. To apply, go to <https://lavote.gov/home/voting-elections/pollworker-information/become-an-election-worker>.



# News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich, LACERA Assistant Executive Officer



Hello, everyone. A lot has happened since my last article. The Omicron surge has dropped off significantly, as predicted, and life is returning to almost normal in many areas of our lives. Many municipalities are easing mask mandates, so we are able to return to many of our pre-pandemic activities, attend cultural and sporting events, and just feel that we can gather together again safely. I am excited to see us reach this stage and am hopeful that this is finally the light at the end of the tunnel. On a personal note, with yet another COVID variant gaining ground, I will continue to wear my mask when I am out in public, and I encourage others to do so, too.

Unfortunately, not all the news has been good, including the terrible war in Ukraine that has dominated the news and unsettled our collective sense of well-being. We have all watched the unprovoked invasion by Russian forces with horror. Besides shocking scenes of destruction and human suffering, these actions have had a worldwide economic impact. The spike in commodities prices is having ripple effects during a time we were already seeing significant inflation, notably at the gas pump for those of us in California.

However, despite these recent events, the income that you count on from LACERA continues to be secure. In February, LACERA's Board of Retirement approved a 6.5 percent COLA increase, giving each plan the highest allowable COLA increase (3 percent for Plan A; 2 percent for other plans) and banking the rest in the COLA accumulation for future years. Hopefully, the COLA you start receiving in April will help alleviate some of the sticker shock at the gas station and the grocery store, and recent actions announced by the White House will help address gas prices soon.

The pension fund is performing well. Chief Investment Officer Jon Grabel keeps our Board of Investments (BOI) up to date on all fund-related developments. At our last BOI meeting, he addressed the invasion of Ukraine, including LACERA's active monitoring of any direct exposure to Russian-related investments. Our investments team continually analyzes our investments globally, including how those investments may be impacted by current events, whether through direct or indirect exposure. Based on LACERA's analysis, LACERA's exposure to Russian-based companies notably dropped from an estimated \$176 million (or 0.24 percent of our \$74 billion fund) as of Jan. 31, to about \$30 million (or about 0.04 percent of the total fund) as of March 31. That reduction is related to a number of factors, including LACERA's investment partners swiftly moving to reduce exposures. LACERA requires all financial firms we work with to abide by sanctions. This is an evolving situation, and we will continue to act in our members' best interests to fulfill LACERA's mission to pay benefits.

## Member Services Update

By May, not too long after this article goes to print, we may be accepting in-person appointments again for our Member Service Center (MSC) and implementing our long-anticipated plans to return remote staff to the office. (As a friendly reminder, our MSC has moved to a permanent by-appointment only model, which has proven to be a highly efficient way of providing service to you, in addition to being safer for everyone.) We look forward to seeing our members again in person. Going forward, we will be balancing our in-person appointments with our virtual appointments. To make an appointment, visit [lacera.com](http://lacera.com) and click on the Appointments and Workshop Reservations link near the bottom of the page.

To keep our environment as safe as possible, we will continue to follow public health guidelines, which currently include using masks indoors and other safety protocols, and our staff members are required to be vaccinated or undergo regular testing to keep the chances of spreading the virus to a minimum.

Moving forward, we will be retaining all our convenient online options that we developed during the pandemic, such as virtual counseling, webinars, and My LACERA self-service, while we work towards resuming our in-person appointments and member outreach events. We have also installed secure, onsite Wi-Fi to help you conduct business transactions with LACERA onsite and are permanently keeping the drop box outside the MSC for those of you who want to submit documents at our office.

## Another Busy Retirement Season

This has been a very active retirement season so far. Between November and February (the most recent data I have at this time), we had 3,080 retirements versus 3,409 for the same time last year. It is notable that we saw a spike in November and January and a slight tapering off in February. We will share the final numbers in the next newsletter. As the executive officer overseeing our Member Services

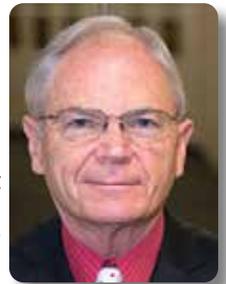
and Benefits divisions, it's very important to me that our members are fully informed during the retirement process and that they make the transition from active to retired with timely payments and uninterrupted health care benefits. I'm extremely proud of our hardworking staff, who have expertly managed the heavy workload despite the unique challenges this season as well as the last few years. Many of our staff members – particularly those in the Document Processing Center – do not have the option to work remotely and have been in our offices throughout the pandemic to ensure our members' paperwork is processed quickly and accurately. The positive feedback we have received means a lot to us as we continue to work hard to improve your experience with LACERA.

If you just retired, congratulations! I wish you much happiness and fulfillment in this new phase of your life. In case you haven't already, be sure to register for My LACERA (to access it, visit [lacera.com](http://lacera.com) and click on the green My LACERA link on the upper right of the page) so you can conveniently access your account information, automatic deposit receipts (ADRs), and 1099-Rs, as well as make updates to your personal info, upload documents, and receive important alerts from LACERA.

*continued p.4*

## Board of Retirement

by Les Robbins, RELAC Director, LACERA Board of Retirement Trustee



Each year the Board of Retirement approves the new retiree health insurance rates that become effective on July 1 of the year. At our March Board meeting we approved the new rates and there is a ton of good news. On average, our rates only went up about 1%, with a couple of exceptions, one being our Kaiser Plan rates for the state of Washington, where they went up 11%. Washington is our newest Kaiser service area so those rates are probably still in the adjustment period. All things said, however, we were very pleased with the very small increases and in some instances DECREASES in our premiums.

You might be asking yourselves why this happened and the short answer is that utilization, due primarily to COVID-19, was down considerably. People either couldn't get in to see doctors, specialists, etc. or they put off having elective surgeries until the worst of the pandemic was over. Things are returning to a more normal medical environment and we are already seeing an uptick in our usage, especially on the dental insurance front. So if you put off getting a colonoscopy, PAP smear, PSA test, mammogram, or a friendly visit to your dermatologist, now is the time to play catch-up and have these very important things done. As retirees, we have health insurance benefits that very few enjoy. You need to utilize it, as catching disease early can mean the difference between living and dying. You all worked too hard and too long to die or become disabled due to your own negligence. We're all going to die from something, we all know that, but let's all do our best to keep the list as small as possible.

Till the next article, be well, enjoy your retirement, and be safe.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

February – March 2022

**Assessor** – Herach Pilikian  
**Children & Family Services** – Patty Armani, Sayonara Garland, Suzanne Hodge, Ralph Mena Jr., James Perkins, Tanyss Rosas  
**Child Support Services** – Robin Bracken, Maria Teresa Madero  
**County Counsel** – Barbara Dolan  
**Fire** – Robert Goldman  
**Harbor/UCLA Medical Center** – Judy Bartolome  
**Health Services** – Rachel Blankenship, Thu-Anh Hoang, Olivia Leiva, Vijay Manghirmalani, Doug McCallum  
**Internal Services** – Manuel Hernandez, Phillip Ochoa  
**LAC+USC Medical Center** – Sonia Smith  
**Mental Health** – Diane Guillory, Carol Smith  
**Parks and Recreation** – Toni Simmons  
**Public Defender** – Henrietta Edwards  
**Public Health** – Joyce McGhee  
**Public Social Services** – Dora Kontorovsky, Carmen Orozco, Carolyn Scruggs, Irma Tessier, Mario Uribe, Shanae Young  
**Public Works** – Phil Doudar  
**Sheriff** – Steven Gross, Vincent Martin, Richard Martinez, Anthony Parker, Oliver Renner, Bruce Waldo, Michael White  
**Superior Court** – Gerry Comanche, Stefani Sherwin  
**Treasurer/Tax Collector** – La Tanya L. Simmons Sparks, Sandra Pina-Barbee  
**Department Not Designated** – Shawn Bradford, David Gallien II, Eunice Greenwood, Earlean Welch  
**New Associate Members** – James David Blankenship, Maritza Dubie-Urbe, Jackie Edwards, Robyn Harris, Gloria D. Knight-Gallien, Victor Madero, Cobus Malan, Jennifer Martin, Jennifer Martinez, Jose Emilio Martinez, Cynthia Mc Callum, Larry Mc Ghee, Richard Orozco, Cynthia Parker, Jane Renner, Tracy White

## Thanks for New Member Referrals

We would like to thank the 16 members who recruited 15 colleagues to join RELAC during February and March. Due to our aging membership, we must remain vigilant in signing up new members to remain a strong organization to protect our hard-earned pension and health benefits. We are the only organization that exclusively serves the interests of Los Angeles County retirees, so help us help you. For membership applications and brochures, call the RELAC office at (800) 537-3522, e-mail [admin@relac.org](mailto:admin@relac.org) or go online at [relac.org](http://relac.org). Be sure to tell the new member to put your name on the application as making the referral.

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

**Mercy Avila**, *Irma Tessier*, Public Social Services  
**Charles Bradford**, *Manuel Hernandez*, Internal Services  
**Elena Cervantes**, *Maria Teresa Madero*, Child Support Services  
**Barry Chass**, *Patty Armani*, Children & Family Services  
**Diane Lee McGriffin**, *Phil Doudar*, Public Works  
**Clarissa Mena**, *Ralph Mena Jr.*, Children and Family Services  
**Rafi Nazarian**, *Herach Pilikian*, Assessor  
**Carmen O. Perez**, *Doug McCallum*, Health Services  
**Valinda Rhoden**, *Suzanne Hodge*, Children and Family Services  
**Les Robbins**, *Carol Smith*, Mental Health  
**Sheila Simpson**, *Toni Simmons*, Parks and Recreation  
**Lena Virgil and Meredith Barrett Wilkins**, *Sayonara Garland*, Children and Family Services  
**Dave Walters Jr.**, *Steven Gross*, Sheriff  
**Christina Warren**, *Diane Guillory*, Mental Health  
**Surena White**, *Rachel Blankenship*, Health Services

## RELAC Annual Report of Assets, Liabilities, Revenue Expense

### I. Changes in Assets & Liabilities 2021 vs 2020

ASSETS	12/31/21	12/31/20
Checking Account	108,607	94,955
Money Market Account	85,958	25,645
Petty Cash	200	200
Other Assets	15,477	6,065
Security Deposit	2,591	2,591
Office Equipment-Less Depreciation	11,546	11,024
Litigation Reserve	1,879,231	1,713,774
Total Assets	<b>2,103,610</b>	<b>1,854,254</b>

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities	21,774	24,895
Retained Earnings	1,827,505	1,643,574
Less Net Income	254,331	185,785
Total Equity	2,103,610	1,854,254
Total Liabilities & Equity	<b>2,103,610</b>	<b>1,854,254</b>

### II. Operating Results

Operating Results	12/31/21	12/31/20
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Member Dues	363,509	384,624
Investment Income	23,860 (1)	22,000 (1)
Miscellaneous Income	215	-
Member Events & Misc.	27,148	4,512
Interest	5,353	5,799
Total Revenue	<b>420,085</b>	<b>416,935</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
Office Expense	109,814 (2)	112,998 (2)
Personnel & Payroll	121,327 (3)	126,652 (3)
Board of Directors Meetings & Expenses	5,438	7,468
Committee Meetings & Expenses	6,454	5,610
Membership & Conferences	36,144	14,057
Insurance	4,639 (4)	3,997 (4)
Membership Meetings	7,592	17,408
Membership Benefits & Promotions	16,215	18,623
Elections	-	-
Newsletter	53,730	55,468
Website	900	1,080
Investment Expense	18,149	15,381
Total Expense	<b>380,402</b>	<b>378,742</b>
Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	214,651	147,593

### Notes:

1) Litigation Reserve is invested in a diversified portfolio pursuant to RELAC's Investment Policy approved by the Board of Directors with the assistance of JP Morgan, RELAC's investment advisor.

2) Office Expenses include bookkeeping and auditing, rent, services and supplies, payroll processing and postage.

3) Personnel and payroll includes office manager and two clerical personnel with a four-day workweek.

4) Insurance includes liability and directors and officers.

Please note: Program activities were mostly cancelled this year, due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Meetings were held virtually for most of the year.

Treasurer's Certification: I, Dyanne Nelson, hereby certify that this report was prepared without audit from the books and records of the corporation. An annual financial review is performed by a certified outside agency.

## Annual Sheriff Retirees Reunion Back After a Two-Year Hiatus

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, L.A. County Sheriff's Department retirees will hold their annual reunion at Inter Mountain Fairground in McArthur, California from June 19-23. The fairgrounds is at 44218 A St. on Highway 299, approximately 70 miles east of Redding, between the peaks of Mt. Lassen and Mt. Shasta.

Retirees (including civilian) and their traveling companions are invited to attend the reunion, which would have been the 43rd had it not been for the pandemic.

"If you have a motor home, trailer, van, tent, or you would like to stay at one of the rustic motels in a town next to the City of McArthur, you are welcome to come and enjoy this reunion," said co-coordinator Charlie Engelbart.

Activities will include potluck dinners, bocce ball tournaments, 31 tournaments, golf, a margarita party, pancake breakfast, and more. Coffee and sweet rolls will be provided in the mornings. Water, soda, beer, and wine will also be provided.

Co-coordinator Chickee Nelson said the reunion has been a popular event, and many retirees indicated they were interested in resuming the event this year. "We do not want to lose this tradition for our retirees."

For more information, Engelbart may be reached at [Charlie.engelbart@gmail.com](mailto:Charlie.engelbart@gmail.com) or (562) 889-3757 and Nelson at [Chickee1@outlook.com](mailto:Chickee1@outlook.com) or (562) 760-0875.

### FOR SALE:

**TWO COMPANION MAUSOLEUM CRYPTS** at the San Fernando Mission Cemetery. Each companion crypt holds two caskets or urns. Includes one crypt plate each, one insert each, one vase each. Located next to each other, at prime location height, approximately five feet from ground. Asking market price at \$20,000, each companion crypt. If interested, please contact Laura at (626) 222-3040.

## Lacera continued from p. 2

### Strategic Planning Update

LACERA is embarking on its strategic planning process, a collaboration of our board trustees, executives, managers, and key staff members, to set LACERA's direction and goals for the next several years, as well as further into the future. It's particularly exciting this year because it will be the first planning session with our full executive team, and we have a lot of energy and ambitious ideas from across the organization. In February, the Board of Retirement approved hiring KH Consulting to assist us in our efforts, and we are setting the meetings schedule. We anticipate the new strategic plan will be completed and considered by the trustees this fall and look forward to sharing our shared vision for LACERA with you.

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

## Do Dogs Grieve?

by Marcia Mayeda, Director  
Animal Care and Control Department



The other night my husband and I were talking about one of our past dogs, a great Pyrenees named Isabella, who passed away several years ago at 14 years of age. When we mentioned her name, our golden retriever, Rebecca, raised her head and looked around the room. She clearly recognized Isabella's name and remembered her.

Now 11 years old, Rebecca came to us as a rambunctious five-month-old puppy after she had been surrendered by her owners at our Lancaster Animal Care Center. She and Isabella lived together for many years. Isabella taught Rebecca doggie manners, provided calm leadership, and allowed Rebecca to take naps with her. Rebecca recognized Isabella as her leader and took her cues from her. This relationship had an impact on Rebecca, and she remembered Isabella even after she had been gone for many years.

Was she grieving? I don't think so, at least not at this point. However, in the weeks after Isabella's passing Rebecca did seem a little lost. Always an affectionate dog, she reached out even more for attention (and perhaps consolation). Her world had changed, and she was adapting to Isabella's absence.

I was reminded of this when I read the results of a recent study regarding dog grief as a result of the loss of another dog in the home. This 2022 study was the result of a survey of 426 Italian dog owners who had owned at least two dogs, one of whom died while the other was still alive. The study sought to determine if dogs grieve and reported some interesting findings. They found:

"Several negative behavioral changes were commonly reported in the surviving dog after the death of the other dog: attention seeking increased (67%), playing less (57%), level of activity reduced (46%), sleeping more (35%), fearfulness increased (35%), eating less (32%) and vocalization increased (30%)... When any behavioral alteration was observed, 24.9% of the owners observed it for more than six months, 32.2% between two and six months, 29.4% for less than two months. No behavioral changes were observed by 13.4% of the owners."

The dogs' gender, spay/neuter status, age at the time of the other dog's death, breed, or whether they were able to view the body of their deceased dog friend did not affect the duration of behavior changes.

Other takeaways from this study include:

- The duration of the relationship between the two dogs positively correlated with "playing less," "level of activity reduced," and "sleeping more," but no correlation was found with variables such as "fearfulness increased," "vocalization increased," "attention seeking increased" and "duration of the behavioral alteration."
- A friendly and parental relationship between the two dogs was associated with stronger behavioral changes, while no association was found between behavioral variables and an agonistic/mutual tolerance relationship.
- The sharing of items or activities was positively correlated with behavioral changes, with a reduction in the level of activity, while no sharing was negatively correlated with all the observed behavioral changes.
- The single significant predictor for playing less was the friendly relationship between the two dogs.
- The level of fear in the surviving dog was positively correlated with its owner's level of suffering, anger, and psychological trauma.

What can we take away from this information? Be especially mindful of your surviving dog's emotional status. Provide reassurances and keep a routine to provide a sense of stability. Understand that your grief can also impact the surviving dog, causing anxiety and stress for it. And when you and your remaining dog are ready, consider adding another to your home so your dog can have a new friend. What better place to find that dog than at a Los Angeles County animal care center?

You can read the full study here: <https://rdcu.be/clyQU>

## What's Happening?

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair  
Special Events Committee

As you plan to attend future outdoor activities and the enjoyment of family outings, please remain informed on L.A. County Public Health policy updates at [publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov).

The following events or activities may provide you with safe and enjoyable outings. Call the number provided to confirm event dates and public health requirements.

### L.A. County Fair, Fairplex – May 5- 30

1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona. Parking entrance at Gate 17.

The L.A. County Fair is celebrating its 100th anniversary with the opening concert on Thursday, May 5- WAR (R&B).

Additional concerts will feature the following: May 6 – Brett Young (Country). May 7 – KC and the Sunshine Band (Rock). May 8 – The Beach Boys (Rock). May 13

– Lynyrd Skynyrd (Rock). May 14 – Cole Swindell (Country). May 15 – Juanes (Latin). May 20 – The Brothers Johnson (Blues). May 21 – Lady A (Country). May 22 – La Adictiva Banda (Latin). May 27 – The Spinners (R&B). May 28 – ZZ Top ((Rock). May 29 – Ramon Ayala ((Latin). May 30 – Kansas and Blue Oyster Cult (Rock).

### L.A. COUNTY DAY – May 7 – Tickets: \$10 – (909) 623-3111.

### Renaissance Pleasure Fair, Saturday-Sunday, April 30 - May 22

Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area – 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

15501 E. Arrow Highway, Irwindale

Performers dress in Elizabethan costumes, with 13 performance stages featuring traditional entertainment. (626) 334-1065.

### 101 Festival – Hollywood Bowl Centennial Celebration –

June 11 and June 12 2301 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles  
Launching the Hollywood Bowl's 100th season, the Bowl and The Ford are hosting a celebration of music and community featuring singer/songwriter Ben Harper, the LA Phil (conducted by Thomas Wilkins), "Queen of Percussion" Sheila E and other featured performances. Registration for FREE tickets starts May 10. (323) 850-2000.

### Marina del Rey – Chace Park

13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. (424) 526-7910.

### California Sunset Series Sailing Regatta

Wednesdays, May 4 to Sept. 7 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Best viewing at Fisherman's Village and Burton Chace Park

### Beach Eats Food Trucks – Thursdays, May to October - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Parking Lot #11 – 14101 Panay Way

### Kahanamoku Klassic (canoe event) – June 4 – 9 a.m.

Southern California Outrigger Racing Association hosts annual team paddling event through the main channel en route to the ocean course.

### Marina Fest – Boat show – Historic boat tour

June 22 – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (310) 877-5500.

### New County Library Hours

Hours of operation are being expanded at East Los Angeles, Hacienda Heights, La Crescenta, Rowland Heights, and Topanga libraries.

Monday through Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Sunday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

For additional information: [lacountylibrary.org](http://lacountylibrary.org).



## Deadline Extended for March for Babies Donations

by Evelyn Gutierrez,  
Community Support  
Committee



Team RELAC is pleased to announce that the donation deadline for the 2022 March for Babies campaign has been extended through June 30.

With your support, Team RELAC will achieve an unprecedented third year as L.A. County's March of Dimes top team! Team RELAC is proud to join the March of Dimes in the fight for the health of all moms and babies impacted by a premature birth. Together, we are building a better future for all families in our communities.

Donations may be made online through a direct link, [www.marchforbabies.org/team/RELAC](http://www.marchforbabies.org/team/RELAC). To support a particular walker, you may scroll down to a Team RELAC walker's name: currently, Brian Berger, Linda Hopkins, Evelyn Gutierrez and Carla Williams. Donations may also be made to Team RELAC without identifying a particular walker.

Donations may also be sent by check, payable to March of Dimes, noting "March for Babies" in the lower left corner. Checks should be mailed to: RELAC Office, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15, Alhambra, CA 91803-8802.

The RELAC Board of Directors wishes to express gratitude for the generosity extended by RELAC members for community projects that have enriched lives in our diverse communities.

## Public Housing Waiting List for Older Adults Open Until June 30

June 30 is the deadline to apply for the waiting list for public housing offered by the County's Development Authority for persons over the age of 62.

There are seven site-based lists for housing. For descriptions of each site and information on applying, go to [lacda.org](http://lacda.org).



# Letters To The Editor

## Write On!

Dear Ms. Hammond, thank you for the tribute to my sweet darling Peggy in the RELAC newsletter. An unexpected but very much appreciated blessing.  
**Lance Ito, Pasadena, California**  
*(Ed. Note: Ito is the husband of Peggy York, who died Oct. 17, 2021 at age 80.)*

Dear Evelyn [Gutierrez, RELAC director], congratulations on your being honored by the Board of Supervisors! Well deserved, my friend. I enjoy your "What's Happening" report in the RELAC newsletter and your "cards to seniors" program is pure genius. Really compassionate and so welcome by seniors. It is wonderful to get something in the mail that is not a bill or a solicitation for money. I have managed to escape COVID and, though essentially housebound for most of this episode, have been extremely busy with a number of project and community involvements. Hope you have stayed well and that your new tie with RELAC is a source of real pleasure.  
**Marilouise Morgan, Los Angeles, California**

Just a notice that my husband, retired L. A. County Sheriff Sgt. Thomas Bush, recently died. Thomas served 35 years in the Sheriff's Department prior to his retirement. We had a smallish ceremony for him in Marina Del Rey, California, last month. He will be missed by his family and many friends. I'm not sure how to note in the newsletter, but perhaps someone might post the information form for me. Thank you.  
**Adella Bush, Los Angeles, California**

There are many County employees that retire in March, why wasn't the retiree list not included in the March-April newsletter?  
**Charles E. Bradford**  
*(Ed. Note: We do not print the list of retirees in the newsletter due to space limitations. However, we do post the names on our website at relac.org. The site is updated monthly. To find the list, go to the left side of the home page of the website and select "Recent Retirees List.")*

Just read the latest RELAC newsletter and saw the profile on Bobbie Fesler and the news that she is joining the RELAC Board. I think she will make a great addition to the Board.  
**Carol Matsui, San Dimas, California**

Spoke with Bill Pellman not too long ago. He mentioned that you have been penning a monthly newsletter to County retirees. I would like to get on your mailing list if possible. It would be nice to follow those retiring, as any other news you write about. I don't recall receiving an invitation to join when I retired. It's a very informative newsletter. I look forward to joining.  
**Fred Guido**

Read your column about updating the Hall of Admin for earthquakes. My office was in #603 when the 1971 Sylmar quake hit. Came in the next day -- in the hallways, there were metal plates separating the building wings. They popped out, leaving maybe half-foot wide crevices and you could look down six stories. Really appreciate all that you, Brian Berger, Les Robbins, and so many more do for us L.A. County retirees. We're so fortunate.  
**Barry Chass, Camarillo, California**

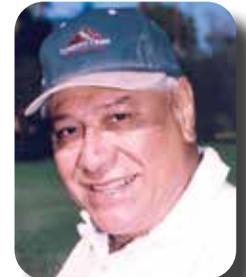
Thanks a million for my pocket secretary. Sincerely appreciate all the hard work done on our behalf.  
**Albertha L. Handy, Compton, California**

RELAC, thank you so much for the pocket calendar and all the hard work you do.  
**Mary Noah, Russellville, Arkansas**



## Golf News

by Gil Sandoval  
RELAC Golf Director



### RELAC Golf Tournament La Mirada

Do to the rain on March 28, the golf tournament at La Mirada was postponed. I will send out the new schedule information to the golfers as soon as it becomes available. Tournament information may also be found on the RELAC website at relac.org under the calendar link.

Postponing the tournament was disappointing, but I would rather not take a chance on our seniors getting caught in a downpour. Arrangements will be made for those who have paid and will not be able to play on the rescheduled date. Our wishes that you have all stayed healthy through this pandemic crisis and continue to be well.

Our next tournament is at the Santa Anita Golf Course on June 6. Entries must be received by May 16. Only one guest is allowed per member. Enclose a check for \$42 per golfer and send to the RELAC office at 1000 S. Fremont Ave. #15, Alhambra, CA 91803-8802.

If you want to contact me directly, you can do so at [gjl8sandoval40@outlook.com](mailto:gjl8sandoval40@outlook.com) or (714) 504-2378.

## RELAC NEWSLETTER

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Number 3

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Office Hours

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday - Thursday

Closed Friday,

Saturday, Sunday &

Public Holidays



# Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond  
Newsletter Editor

The Probation Department has been in the news frequently in recent months. And not in a good way. While supervisors said they are enthusiastic about the state's decision to close its youth justice facilities and transfer detainees to counties, L.A. County has not resolved problems it already has with operations at its present structures. Camp Scudder has been closed since 2019 due to structural issues. Nidorf Juvenile Hall failed a recent state inspection. Central Juvenile Hall has been deemed by the state to be unfit for youth, prompting supervisors to ask staff for a closure plan. A Probation Oversight Commission inspection showed unprofessional conduct, excessively punitive actions and subpar standards for food and hygiene. And a lawsuit has been filed by at least 20 women who allege they were repeatedly sexually assaulted at Camp Scott, an all-girls juvenile detention facility in Santa Clarita, between 1996 and 2008.

Supervisors were also at odds on where to house the youth being transferred from the state. The majority voted to use Campus Kilpatrick in Malibu, and Camps Scott in Santa Clarita (boys) and Dorothy Kirby in Commerce (girls). Supervisor Kathryn Barger opposed the use of Scott, wanting Nidorf used instead.

As part of its goal to eliminate reliance on fossil fuels and transition to clean energy sources, the Board of Supervisors voted to create an ordinance that would slowly phase out the use of natural gas in new residential and commercial construction in unincorporated areas beginning in 2023.

The Board enacted a new ordinance that will prohibit supervisors from earning income from outside employment, aimed at preventing conflicts of interest and ensuring accountability to the public.

The County Fire Department sent surplus equipment to Ukrainian first responders, including helmets, bulletproof body armor, medicine and medical equipment.

Although legislation went into effect more than a year ago that required certain enforcement records be made accessible to the public, more than 70 percent of these requests in the County remained outstanding, prompting the Board of Supervisors to approve funding, staffing and technological improvements to allow the Sheriff's and Probation departments to come into compliance. The Board also passed an ordinance requiring the two departments to post certain public records relating to officer misconduct on a publicly accessible website.

The abandoned Poor Farm building at the historic Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey was heavily damaged by a massive fire that burned for several hours.

Even more new departments and offices are on the horizon. The Department of Youth Development is to open in July. The Justice, Care and Opportunities Department is being created to centralize justice reform efforts the Board has formed to advance its "Care First, Jails Last" justice system, including the Office of Diversion and Reentry, the Alternatives to Incarceration Workgroup, and the Gender Responsive Advisory Committee. A Justice Advisory Board will assist the new department. An Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health is being established within the Department of Public Health, following approval of environmental justice and climate health as Board priorities. A commission formed by the Board of Supervisors to advise how to improve homeless services has recommended a new position be created, reporting directly to the Board, to oversee all county services for homeless to improve accountability and better coordination.

The minimum wage in unincorporated areas will increase to \$15.96 per hour on July 1.

Four modules are being created at Century Regional Detention Facility for pregnant inmates so staff will know of their condition and give them more attention.

The County's new guaranteed income program -- called Breathe -- is one of the biggest in the nation. It will provide \$1,000 a month to 1,000 randomly selected low-income residents for three years.

The Board has asked staff to design a one-year pilot program that would provide free feminine hygiene products and diapers at certain County venues, such as libraries and parks, citing a study that showed low-income families struggle to pay for such items.

An \$8.1 million visitor plaza project at the County Arboretum in Arcadia will expand the entrance, restore the historic 1956 gatehouse, include enhancements, and create accessible parking and pathway from the south parking lot.

County mental health teams and specialized vans are embedded at two Los Angeles fire stations (and will expand to at least five) in a pilot program that will allow them to participate in emergency response calls for persons in crisis, providing therapeutic support, deescalating situations and ensuring safe transit to a mental health center.

Local 721 -- which represents about 55,000 workers, including nurses, social workers and custodians -- is threatening to strike if the County doesn't increase its pay offer, currently 6 percent over three years. The union also wants the County to hire more staff and stop outsourcing jobs to private contractors.

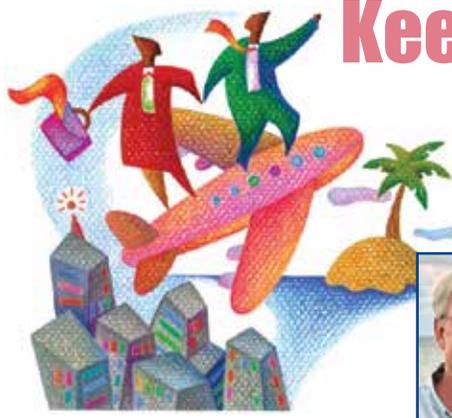
Supervisors, upset that the Sheriff's Department in particular was lax in enforcing the County COVID-19 vaccination policy and directives, has empowered the County's director of personnel to fire employees who do not comply.

The Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission has begun an independent investigation into deputy gangs, with the investigation being conducted without charge by at least eight attorneys, including former federal prosecutors and two former federal public defenders.

The Assessor's Office has a backlog of thousands of claims for property tax relief filed by older and disabled homeowners who, as a result of a proposition approved by state voters in 2020, are entitled to a significant property tax break when they move to a more expensive home, as well as parent-to-child and grandparent-to-grandchildren inheritances.

A \$412 million project to repair the Whittier Narrows Dam, deemed a high urgency flood risk in 2016 by the Army Corps of Engineers, can now go forward, thanks to \$219.5 million funding included in the \$1.5 trillion spending package approved by Congress.

The state is imposing \$55 million in fines against L.A. Care, the County-operated health plan that insures more than 2 million Medi-Cal and other low-income patients, for violating requirements that specialist appointments be approved within 15 days following a referral from a primary care provider. Patients at L.A. County-run hospitals and clinics face an average wait of 89 days.



# Keeping Up With Retirees

We asked RELAC member Steven Golightly to let us know what he has been doing since retirement. His article follows.

With husband, Douglas



## STEVEN GOLIGHTLY

My adventurous journey with Los Angeles County began in October 1999. Lynn Bayer hired me as her chief deputy in the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) after a nationwide recruitment. I left my position as a federal senior executive service employee with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Atlanta to relocate to L.A. I learned over the years that it is not easy to move into an executive management position in the County if you are coming from the "outside." However, it was the best decision I have ever made.

Lynn gave me a lot of freedom to spread my wings and get accustomed to the County and to DPSS culture. Then, after I had been on the job only 14 months, Lynn told me that she had decided to retire in the coming three months (March 2001). Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen let me know that I would assume the position of interim director until the Board of Supervisors selected a permanent director. I served in that position for a year. My friend and colleague Bryce Yokomizo was appointed DPSS director, and I then moved over to the newly created Child Support Services Department (CSSD) as chief deputy to Philip Browning in March 2002. Again, I experienced what it was like coming into an executive management position from the outside, in this case from another county department.

In late 2006 Philip was asked by the Board to move to DPSS as director, replacing Bryce after his retirement. In late February 2007 David Janssen called to let me know, that at his recommendation, the Board unanimously appointed me as the new CSSD director. I was sworn into that position on Monday, April 2, 2007.

Fast forward – I served as CSSD director until my retirement in February 2020. Mine was the last large scale retirement party prior to the pandemic. On Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020, about 200 friends, colleagues and family joined me for a celebratory lunch at Tamayo's in East L.A. There were lots of hugs and kisses and speeches. My husband, Douglas Warde, and I then left for two weeks in the Caribbean. We came home, the World Health Organization declared that we were in a pandemic, and we were locked up (figuratively) at home for the next year.

Since retiring, I have continued teaching in the master of public administration programs at both California State University Dominguez Hills and Northridge. Last August I was asked to return to the County – Department of Children and Family Services – in a retiree 120-day position. That work is concluding, and I have really enjoyed being back in the County family. Additionally, I am serving on the National Child Support Enforcement Association Board of Directors and as chair of the Board of Directors of Wolf Connection, a youth empowerment program and a wolfdog rescue center and sanctuary. My son keeps telling me that I really don't know the meaning of "retirement." With that said – I am really enjoying myself at this point in life.

Last September I went to France with our niece, her daughter and Douglas's sister. We went to Paris to see the Christo exhibit and then to the south of France to Provence (lots of rosé!)

continued p.9



## A Wolf Connection

In March 2018 I went to the Wolf Connection in Acton for the first time. I did not know what to expect but knew that my husband, Douglas, really wanted to go. That Saturday four years ago was a life-changing event for me. Fast forward to 2021 – I was elected to their Board of Directors and

this year I was elected chair of the Board. What happened on that eventful day you might ask? First, let me tell you a little bit about the Wolf Connection and the beautiful wolves who live there.

Wolves are misunderstood. Yet science tells us the wolf is the first animal we ever associated with more than 40,000 years ago. Early humans adopted our family and social structure, survival, and hunting techniques from wolves. Researchers believe we have a memory of this bond in our DNA.

Wolf Connection is a 501c3 nonprofit wolf rescue and human empowerment organization. It is an educational sanctuary and wilderness retreat center that brings people together through direct relationship with rescued wolves for the purpose of empowering the next generation to become authentic leaders and stewards of the Earth. There is a belief that the deep understanding of our relationship with animals and the environment is a powerful doorway into the development of strong individuals, productive societies, and a sustainable civilization on this planet.

The Wolf Connection helps to empower youth to become authentic leaders and contributing community members. They accomplish this through facilitating experiential relationships with rescued wolves and the natural environment. These deeply intuitive animals inspire young people to be fully present in their bodies, release ideas and behaviors that no longer serve, and understand their unique role in a human "pack" or community. The wolves help youth focus on their impulses, feelings, and behaviors in a constructive way; they learn to forgive and give others (and themselves) a second chance.

All of this is done through donations, and a multitude of contracts with Los Angeles County (DMH, DPSS, Mil Vets, etc.) and local school districts throughout the county. Founded in 2009, what started as in-school presentations and brief visits to the sanctuary have evolved into a multi-disciplined program with one day field trips and a signature eight-week Experiential Education, Youth Empowerment, and Diversion Program.

Now to answer the question about what happened on that eventful day in 2018 that changed my life? I am an animal lover by nature, but never really thought much about wolves, other than what I saw in vampire movies. When I saw firsthand these incredible animals, each with their own story about obstacles they had overcome to end up at the ranch, I fell in love with each one of the 25 wolves there. We now have 33 wolves and wolfdogs, and our current expansion goals will bring that number to 75 animals. Every week we receive calls from throughout the country asking if we have room for "just one more rescued wolf."

If you would like to experience firsthand what I have described, go to their website – [wolfconnection.org](http://wolfconnection.org) - for more information about events and donating opportunities.

This may very well change your life also.....Steven



## Retired Capt. Barbee Honored As First Female County Firefighter

The L.A. County Fire Department honored its first female firefighter, Fire Capt. Cynthia "Cindy" Barbee, during Women's History Month in February.

Now retired, Barbee was hired in 1983. She was the first recipient of the department's distinguished Trailblazer Award, which recognized her courage, commitment, and contributions to empowering women in the fire service.

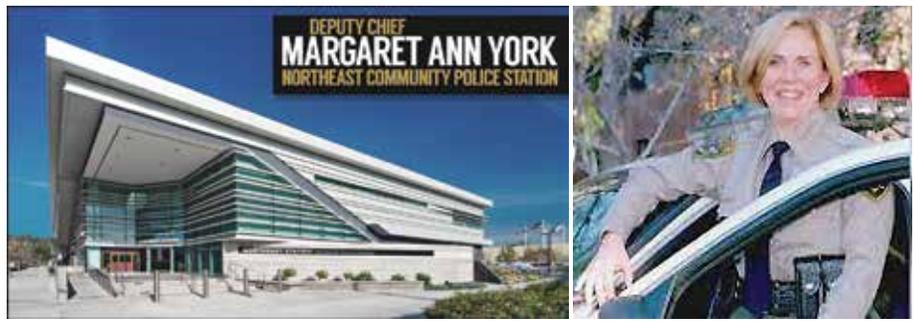
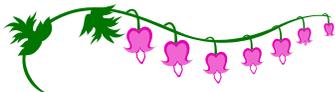
"She was a true trailblazer, exemplifying professionalism and serving as a role model for the women who would follow in her footsteps," the department posted on its Facebook page. "As the department's first female firefighter, she proved that it can be done — and made a positive change for the next generation of female firefighters."

## Steven Golightly cont. from p.8

Then in November, Douglas and I went to Rwanda to go gorilla trekking and then to Zimbabwe for a safari and then to Mauritius for a beach vacation. We ended up being away from home for a month. Next on our horizon is a trip to Fiji in May for my 70th birthday — with seven close friends. I have my 52nd high school reunion in New Jersey in August and then a trip to London in September with my sister Kathy. Lastly for this year, Douglas and I are returning to Puerto Vallarta at Thanksgiving.

Douglas and I live in Beverly Hills with our dog, Poppy IV, and our cat-in-charge, Mavro. My three children and five grandchildren (who range in age from 11 to 18) live on the East Coast. Ben is a captain in the U.S. Coast Guard and is stationed in Miami with responsibility for Coast Guard operations in the Caribbean. Lindsay teaches in the Ithaca (New York) school district and Elizabeth teaches in Baltimore. We see them as often as we can, but not as often as I would wish.

Life is good — and I still marvel at the end of every month when LACERA makes a deposit into my checking account. As I said earlier, working for L.A. County was the best decision I ever made professionally!



## L.A. Police Station Named in Honor of Peggy York

The Los Angeles Police Department's Northeast Community Police Station was renamed in honor of former County Public Safety Chief Margaret "Peggy" York (2003-09), who was LAPD's first woman deputy chief and part of the department's first all-female homicide detective team, which inspired the 1980s television series "Cagney & Lacey." She started as a policewoman in 1968, when the LAPD did not promote women past the rank of sergeant, and women were only tasked with working on issues involving women and children. York died Oct. 17 at age 80 after a series of illnesses and multiple organ failure.



## Lawrence, First Female Fire Chief Deputy, Retires

Colleagues, family and friends gathered March 17 to congratulate Dawonna B. Lawrence, the first female chief deputy in the County Fire Department, on her retirement. Lawrence worked for the County for more than 34 years, including 9 ½ years with the Fire Department. As chief deputy she oversaw the department's

\$1.3 billion budget and supervised more than 800 employees within the Administrative, Prevention, and Special Services Bureaus, and the Community Outreach, Recruitment, Diversity and Inclusion Service.



Gerry White, Supervisor Janice Hahn, and Anthony Marrone at dedication.



## Bench Honors Retired Fire Battalion Chief Gerry White

The Lawndale Rotary Club has installed a bench at Fire Station 21 in Lawndale in honor of retired Battalion Chief Gerald "Gerry" White, who has volunteered time and effort to help others locally and abroad for nearly 60 years.

White, who spent part of his firefighting career as a fire captain at Station 21, retired from the L.A. County Fire Department in 1986, but continued to serve the community as a member of the Lawndale Rotary Club. He has served as the club's president and is a major donor and bequest society member.

Supervisor Janice Hahn and Anthony C. Marrone, who was serving as interim County fire chief at the time of the bench dedication, joined community leaders at the February ceremony honoring White.



# Happy Mother's/Father's Day



## KAREN M. HARRIS

*District Attorney, 2016 Retiree*

I was born in St. Louis, Missouri, the seventh of 12 children. My parents relocated to South Central Los Angeles when I was a little girl. My father worked for Western Airlines until he retired and my mother was a homemaker and seamstress. Our parents (both deceased) sacrificed to send all 12 children (eight girls and four boys) to Catholic elementary and high schools. We all attended Mother of Sorrows Elementary School. All eight girls attended St. Michael's Catholic High School for girls and my brothers attended Verbum Dei Catholic High School for boys. I attribute my success to my parents, who raised us in a Christian home where there was plenty of love, Christian values and hard work. My parents, whom I refer to as heroes, instilled discipline, tenacity, love and a great work ethic in each of us.



## CAROL MATSUI

*Public Social Services, 2005 Retiree*

I come from a family of five children. Initially my father was the only breadwinner in the family. My mother was a stay-at-home mom, taking care of five kids spaced 1 1/2 to two years apart. My parents were strong and resilient in raising us, with a priority emphasis on education. The rule of thumb was homework first. All my siblings went on to higher levels of education and I attribute that to my parents.

My parents were also leaders by example. My father was involved in community baseball and worked with youngsters in developing not only baseball skills, but also team building and respect. My mother was involved with the Brownies and Girl Scouts, becoming a parent adviser to both organizations.

This example of engagement and service left an impression with me to also get involved in professional and community organizations and has guided me through my County service and continues while in retirement.



## BARRY CHASS

*Children Services, 1996 Retiree*

My great grandparents left Russia to escape the pogroms. They were so grateful to be in America that they encouraged their first son, my grandfather, to work in public service. My grandfather was an engineer and worked for the City of Pittsburgh, where he was the chief engineer designing the city's water system. He worked there for almost 40 years, retiring as the city's commissioner of water and power. My father, Robert L. Chass, also was an engineer and worked for Pittsburg's Health Department, specifically dealing with the air pollution caused by the steel mills.

After World War II, my parents moved to Los Angeles, where my father continued the family commitment to public service by getting a job with L.A. County's Health Department as an inspector working on the "smog" problems plaguing the County. Eventually, the engineering staff split away from the Health Department and became the County's Air Pollution Control District. My father was the lead engineer who drafted the technical language in the County's legislation that banned the backyard incinerator. For those old enough to remember (mid 1950s), this was very controversial at the time because of the dramatic increase to the budgets for garbage collection of both the County and all of its incorporated cities. I can still remember some late night phone calls from some very angry city councilmen and mayors. My father eventually promoted to department head before he retired in the mid '70s after about 30 years with the County.

My father's brother, Melvin, served 30 years as a lawyer with the Veterans Administration, assisting disabled veterans, and now both my kids are continuing the family commitment to public service, working as Medicare auditors.

Four generations of public service.





**BARRY HUNT**

*Health Services, 2010 Retiree*

My life is inextricably linked to county government. Both of my parents, Hal and Phyllis Hunt, were County employees.

When I was born, my mom was a secretary in the Sheriff's Department when Eugene Biscailuz was sheriff. My dad was a registered environmental health specialist in the Department of Public Health. Later my parents were active in LACERA, RELAC and the Retired Sanitarians Association. Dad's father, W.T.S. Hunt, was an Oklahoma legislator when the Oklahoma State Constitution was approved in 1906.

Dad retired in 1974 after 38 years of County/City service. He was part of the merger of L.A. City and L.A. County Public Health Departments in 1964. He was a frequent public speaker at departmental social gatherings and was a tireless advocate of public health initiatives in the County for decades. He graduated from UCLA and was a medic in World War II (Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, etc.). Dad passed away in 1995.

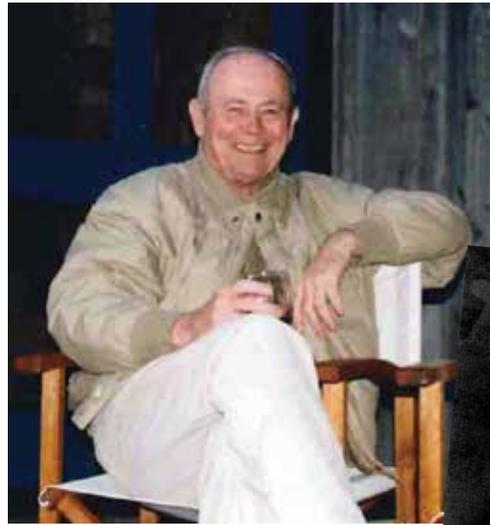
My parents were the inspiration for my brother, Dorian (who retired from L.A. Fire Department administration), and me to attend UCLA and to pursue public service careers. They supported us constantly through the years in our hobbies, musical instruments, sports, vacations, public speaking competitions, etc.



**SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER**

I'm thankful for the lessons my mom taught me that still inspire and encourage me today. She led by example, demonstrated the importance of humility, and reminded me to always keep a sense of humor. My dad illustrated the importance of showing others respect and serving your community, which are values I still

hold dear today. I'm constantly reminded of the life lessons and support my dad gave me.



**HARRY HUFFORD**

*Chief Administrative Officer, 1985 Retiree*

My childhood years were marked by the Depression and WWII. My dad was an itinerant pharmacist changing jobs frequently. We started in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania; his store got flooded out. I began school in Butler, Pennsylvania, and then Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Forty Fort and then again Pittsburgh. Probably nine different schools. We got comfortably settled in Pittsburgh and along came WWII.

They began to draft men over 32 to age 38, so we went. My dad left the Maritime Service as a chief warrant officer. After, we lived in Sheepshead Bay, New York; and then we hit heaven when he was assigned to the base hospital on Catalina Island in California. I left California for a year in Virginia and a year in Germany in my Army years. Been here since. I was an administrative trainee in Los Angeles County in 1954 and returned to the Chief Administrative Office in 1956.



**JIM MATTHEWS**

*Superior Court, 2013 Retiree*

I am grateful for the upbringing my parents gave me and my brother, John. The caring they showed to others was ingrained in me and has guided me my whole life. It is why I had positive experiences during my four-year enlistment in the Air Force, and work success in the private sector before my career with the Los Angeles County Superior Court. It continues to this day in my retirement endeavors. I am grateful that the good upbringing resulted in the great life I continue to have. For those of you who know me, you probably won't recognize the thinner version of me when you look at this family photo. Keep on enjoying life, and I will, too.



# PASSAGES

Compiled by Judy Hammond,  
Newsletter Editor



NyBlom



Stiger



Masayon



Solacito



Wong

## RETIREMENTS:

**Brian Stiger**, who served 10 years with the County, first as director of the Consumer and Business Affairs Department, then chief legislative representative in Sacramento. Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. **Ruth Wong**, first female to head the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, appointed in 2013 after serving 12 years in the Mental Health Department and the Chief Executive Office. **Dulce Maycumber**, space planning and facilities manager in the Auditor-Controller's Office. **Steve NyBlom**, manager in the Risk Management Branch of the Chief Executive Office. **Kerry Silverstrom**, chief deputy director of the Beaches and Harbors Department and former deputy to Supervisor Ed Edelman, with more than 38 years of service.

## DEATHS:

**Dr. C. Paul Morrow**, a founding member of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at LAC+USC Medical Center who was internationally recognized for his expertise in the treatment of women with gynecologic malignancies. Former Sheriff's **Capt. John C. Thurman Jr.**, 86, who retired in 1992 after 32 years of service. Former Sheriff's Lt. **Richard H. Didion**, 71, who retired in 2000 after 27 years of service, and continuing to work part time in Court Services until 2019. Lawyer **Richard Close**, member of the Los Angeles County Formation Commission. Fire Capt. **Steven McCann**, 48, a 16-year veteran of the County Fire Department, died on duty after suffering a heart attack on Feb. 9. **Jeffrey Fields**, appointed to Superior Court in 1980, becoming a private judge for 11 years after retiring in 1994. **Melanie Duggan**, 72, long-time executive secretary in the Department of Children and Family Services. **Patricia Anne Hundt Western**, 51, environmental health specialist in the solid waste management program of the Department of Public Health, with 26 years of service. **Nora Waller**, 82, wife of former Sheriff's Chief William Waller, who retired in 1993 after more than 34 years of service. **Ellen (Elena) Belber Jimenez**, 95, who worked for the Department of Children and Family Services for more than 40 years and long-time member of the Board of the Gene Autry Museum. RELAC member **John Lawrence Paillet**, 91, a homicide investigator when he retired from the Sheriff's Department after more than 30 years of service, who helped establish the Special Enforcement Bureau and was one of the first black deputies in the Narcotics and Homicide Bureaus. **Evelyn Hoffman**, 91, former director of corporate giving at the Music Center and first executive director of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, retiring in 2007.

## APPOINTMENTS:

Supervisor Kathryn Barger appointed former assistant chief deputy/communications director **Anthony (Tony) Bell** as an alternate to the Local Agency Formation Commission and reappointed him to the Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs. **Dr. Maria Sabio-Solacito**, who joined the Department of Animal Care and Control in 2008 as a veterinarian, named deputy director of West County Operations, in charge of the Carson/Gardena and Agoura animal care centers, volunteer program, public information office, e-operations, two communication centers, and adoption partner program. **Randi Tahara**, who served as a Board of Supervisors deputy for almost 26 years, including as assistant chief deputy to Supervisors Holly Mitchell and Mark Ridley-Thomas, appointed by Mitchell to the County Arts Commission. **Ivan Masayon**, associate director of the County Office of Emergency Management, selected to head the Assessor Office's administrative services unit. **Herb Wesson**, former chief deputy to Supervisor Yvonne Burke and later president of the L.A. City Council, appointed as temporary replacement for L.A. Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas, who was suspended after being indicted for alleged corruption. Wesson immediately terminated former Ridley-Thomas Chief Deputy **Karly Katona**, who was serving as caretaker of the seat. Chief deputy **Dawyn Ranae Harrison** is acting county counsel with the departure of **Rodrigo Castro-Silva**, who resigned March 31 for personal reasons after 15 months. She is the first African-American to head the office since it was established in 1913.

## COURTS:

Former Sheriff's Deputy **Andrew Lyons**, 37, has been charged with manslaughter for killing an unarmed man in 2019 as he tried to flee in a car. Lyons is accused of retrieving his semiautomatic assault rifle and shooting into the vehicle after it stopped moving. The County settled a wrongful death lawsuit brought by the man's family for \$3.9 million in 2020. The Board of Supervisors approved a \$1,850,000 settlement to Department of Children and Family Services employee **Dennis Finn** for alleged disability discrimination, harassment and retaliation; and \$300,000 to District Attorney's Office employee **Courtney Zifkin** for alleged sexual harassment and retaliation. A jury awarded the family of former County Fire Department Capt. **Michael Shepard** \$2.7 million after finding Caltrans partially responsible for his death in a 2019 traffic collision while he was off-duty.

## HEALTH:

RELAC Board member **Diane Sandoval** is recovering from a serious fall, injured when, blinded by the sun, she missed the edge of a curb while walking and lost her balance, hitting her head on the curb and falling on her left side. Her doctor says it will take a while to heal completely. "My fall was serious, but could have easily been worse," she said. "Thank the Lord for watching out for me."

## ELECTIONS:

**Katy Young Yaroslavsky**, senior deputy to Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and daughter-in-law of former Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, is a candidate in the June election to replace L.A. City Councilman Paul Koretz, who is running for city controller. Sheriff's Deputy **Steve Johnson** is one of four candidates trying to unseat L.A. City Councilman Mitch O'Farrell.

## MISCELLANEOUS:

Former Chief Administrative Officer **Harry Hufford** and wife, **Jan (Pollard)**, have just recently finished bailing out their basement after an October 24, 2021 atmospheric river flood. Their Santa Rosa home is the low point of a cul de sac and the runoff from the rainstorm formed an underground river, which overflowed into their basement, flooding the lower third. Hufford said the next job is sorting through the many items stored in the basement to determine what to keep, recycle, consign, or dispose.]



Duggan



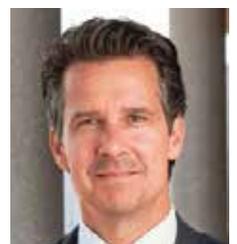
Johnson



Harrison



Maycumber



Bell



Yaroslavsky

## Paillet Cited as One of Finest Deputies in LASD's History

RELAC member John Lawrence Paillet, 91, a homicide investigator when he retired from the Sheriff's Department after more than 30 years of service, has died. In 2021 the department honored him as "one of the finest deputies in our history."

Paillet joined the department in 1956 as a deputy and two years later helped establish the Special Enforcement Bureau. He was one of the first black deputies in the Narcotics and Homicide Bureaus; after retiring he assisted in closing cold cases as late as 2018 at age 88.

In February 2021 the department posted a tribute to him on its Facebook page, calling him "one of the finest deputies in our history."

In June 2018 Paillet was awarded a Sheriff's Star Scroll for his work in turning a cold case about a slain 20-year-old woman into arrests and convictions for murder. The case involved the robbery, kidnapping, rape, and murder of Palmdale gas station employee Leslie Long. She was robbed at gunpoint by two men who then drove her to an isolated desert area, where she was raped, made to kneel on the ground and shot five times in the back of the head. Her body was found three days later. Paillet headed the investigation in 1978. The Sheriff's Department said because investigators insisted on a sexual assault kit with hopes for future processing and because Paillet collected key pieces of evidence, two suspects were convicted in 2017, almost three decades later, and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

"After almost 30 years of retirement, homicide investigator John Paillet returned to testify in a 1978 murder case, bring justice for the victim and closure to her family," said homicide Capt. Christopher Bergner when presenting the award to Paillet. "At almost 88 years old, John is still committed to the department and citizens of Los Angeles County. It was a pleasure to acknowledge his efforts and to meet such a humble man."

Paillet was recruited by the U.S. Navy for his football skills, and served two tours in the Korean War, working in the engine room on a warship, deemed a notable position at the time for a black man.

He loved fishing, playing golf, watching and attending ball games, cooking, reading the paper, swimming in his pool, and took great delight in his grandchildren, always present at their many sports games, and even escorted one to the prom.

Paillet was married 68 years to his wife, O'Della.



## Interment Set May 16 for former Sheriff's Capt. John Thurman

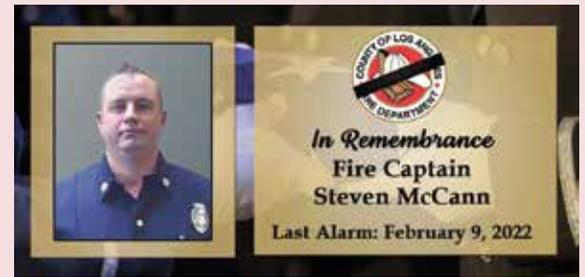
Retired Sheriff's Capt. John Cochran Thurman, Jr., 86, will be interred with military honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego on May 16 at 11:30 a.m.

Thurman, who lived in San Clemente, died of natural causes on Feb. 8.

Thurman started his 32-year career with the Sheriff's Department in 1960 as a deputy sheriff. Rising to the rank of captain, he commanded many bureaus and facilities, including the East and North/South Facility, Pitchess Honor Rancho, the Altadena Station, and the Court Services West Bureau. Upon retirement from the Sheriff's Department in 1992, he became interim police chief of Sierra Madre.

He joined the U.S. Army to serve in Korea after graduating from high school in 1952 and received his direct commission in 1957. He served in the Army Reserves for more than 29 years, rising to the rank of colonel. Serving in many command and leadership positions, his final position was DSCLOG, 63rd ARCOM. His highest award was the Legion of Merit.

Thurman's wife of 51 years, Mariann, preceded him in death. He is survived by three children, John L. Thurman, Julie Francisco, and Maria Thurman; and six grandchildren.



## Steven McCann Dies on Duty

Fire Capt. Steven McCann, a 16-year veteran of the County Fire Department, died while on duty Feb. 9 from an apparent heart attack. Flags were ordered to be flown at half-staff at all County buildings following the death of the 48-year-old firefighter, who was found unconscious by colleagues at the El Monte station where he served. A memorial service was held Feb. 25 at Calvary Chapel in Diamond Bar. McCann is survived by his mother, three daughters, grandchild and siblings. McCann was praised for his service, bravery and commitment to keeping the community safe.

## Former Supervisor Aide Jim Cole Was Civic Leader and Journalist

RELAC member Arnold James ("Jim") Cole, who served as a deputy to former County Supervisor Burton Chase, passed away Feb. 7 at age 90.



For decades Cole's interests centered on volunteerism, which led him to leadership roles in community organizations and programs whose goals were designed toward the betterment of the community and improved quality of life for its residents. For more than four years he was in the vanguard of the local and greater South Bay battle

to defeat the state's proposed I-107 freeway routes through Lomita, which came to a successful conclusion when then-Gov. Ronald Reagan signed a bill abolishing the project.

As a member of the steering committee for Lomita's cityhood campaign, he was credited as being the chief architect of the city's successful incorporation in 1964. He was elected to the Lomita City Council for three terms before retiring from the council in 1980. He served three terms as mayor. During his time on the council and as Chace's aide, he worked to expedite the development and construction of the Los Angeles County-City of Lomita Civic Center.

During the city's centennial celebration in 2007, Cole, as part of a six-member editorial board, was principal author of "Lomita...A Century Remembered." A 78-year resident of Lomita, he also served as a committee member on the Lomita Historical Society and Friends of the Lomita Library. He worked as editor of the Lomita News and city editor at the Daily Breeze.

Cole was born in Boone, Iowa, and served four years in the Army. He was married 65 years to his wife, Charleen, and had three children: Karen, Craig and Cheryl; and two grandchildren, Tim and Kellen.

Funeral services were held March 4 at Green Hills Memorial Chapel in Rancho Palos Verdes.



## Morrow Was International Cancer Expert

Dr. C. Paul Morrow, a founding member of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at LAC+USC Medical Center who was internationally recognized in his field, died peacefully March 17 at home, surrounded by his family, including Jean, his wife of 59 years.

Morrow, born in 1935, served two years as a medical officer in the Navy and completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Mercy Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. Subsequently, he spent two years as a National Institute of Health fellow in gynecology at the MD Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute in Houston, Texas, leaving in 1971 to become one of the founding members of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at LAC+USC Medical Center. He is former director of the Gynecologic Oncology Program at LAC+USC Women's and Children's Hospital and the USC Kenneth Norris Jr. Cancer Hospital. During his academic career, his research focused on endometrial cancer, management, trophoblastic tumors, reconstructive surgery, and vulvar diseases.

Throughout his nearly four decades in academic and clinical medicine, Morrow was dedicated to the newest and highest standards to preserve the best quality of life for patients. He was widely regarded as a one of the finest surgeons and educators in his specialty; he authored/co-authored more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications, was the senior author of both a textbook and a surgery book on gynecologic cancer, and edited or co-edited numerous books, including for several years the Yearbook of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He served as president of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists, the International Gynecologic Cancer Society, the Felix Rutledge Society, and the Western Association of Gynecologic Oncologists. He was also a member of the American Obstetrical and Gynecological Society and the American College of Surgeons.

In his private time, he enjoyed visiting friends and family, traveling, classical music, opera, and sports.

Funeral services were held April 2 at St. Theresa Church in Alhambra and Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Rowland Heights.

## Takata Fought for Asian Americans

by Evelyn Gutierrez

Howard Takata, who passed away on Jan. 18, is remembered by L.A. County colleagues as the founder of the L.A. County Asian American Employees Association. During his County career, he enthusiastically advocated and fought for equal employment and promotional opportunities for Asian Americans in the County workforce.

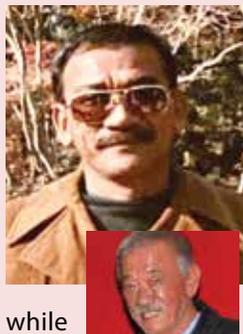
Born in Kohala, Hawaii in 1940, Takata was the youngest of four children and is survived by his sister, Janet. After spending time in active duty with the National Guard while working in construction, he moved to Los Angeles to join his older brothers, William and Roy. He then completed his military service with the Army Reserve.

In 1962, Takata met the love of his life, Margaret, at a local dance. In 1964 they married and became residents of Gardena for over 54 years. They were blessed with two children, son Michael and daughter Dawn.

Takata worked for the County for 31 years and retired as an electro-mechanic engineer with the Internal Services Department (ISD) in 1998. At ISD, he mentored and assisted many employees seeking advancement and future careers in public service. As a founder of the Asian American Employees Association (LACAAEA), Takata was instrumental in creating the association's scholarship program. The Shirley Bolinger Scholarships were created in honor of Bolinger, a division chief with the Chief Administrative Office. In recognition of Takata's dedication to continuing education, LACAAEA also created the Howard Takata Trade/Vocational Scholarship for graduating high school seniors.

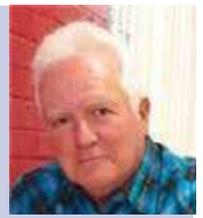
Kathy Migita, LACERA program advisor and Department of Personnel retiree, was among friends and County colleagues attending Takata's memorial services. "It is so like Howard to bring us all together again and to revisit all the memories we shared as his extended family," she said.

"Howard helped organize great community events, including our LACAAEA annual fish fry event. He always made sure everyone was included," said RELAC member Phil Ow. "We will all miss Howard's mentorship and dedication to the Asian American community."



## Retired Sheriff's Lt. Didion Dies at Age 71

Retired Sheriff's Lt. Richard Didion, 71, who retired in 2000 after 27 years of service, died Feb. 1 at his home in Malvern, Arizona.



Didion joined the Sheriff's Department in 1973, working undercover with the Crime Impact Team, the Special Enforcement Bureau and Court Services East. After retirement, he continued to work part time in Court Services until 2019.

A veteran and member of the National Guard, Didion spent many days since retiring on the golf course as a member of the Golf Association of Hot Springs Village and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, as well as attending all of his grandchildren's events. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Janice; daughters, Shelley Korsmeier and Tammy Diaz; five grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

## Remembering Norma Tomlinson

by Evelyn Gutierrez



Norma Charlton Tomlinson was a loving, supportive and active member of the RELAC family. She lived life to the fullest and was a remarkable survivor of the many challenges she faced in her 89 years of life.

Norma married her first love, James Charlton, and soon the birth of their daughters Constance and then Wendy followed. Seeking new employment opportunities, the couple moved to Los Angeles County, and she eventually worked her way through the ranks as a personnel analyst with the Department of Personnel.

Striving to continue her education, Norma received a bachelor of arts degree in psychology, followed by her master's degree and then her doctorate in hypnotherapy. A dedicated member of the First Presbyterian Church, Norma served as a deacon and elder and also as a member of the choir. After 25 years of public service, Norma retired from the Department of Personnel.

After 31 years of marriage, Norma and James parted ways. Not long afterward, Norma met and married her second love, John Tomlinson. In 2002, Norma suffered a stroke shortly after she and John relocated to Hawaii, where her daughter Connie and son-in-law Mark reside.

After five years of rehabilitation, Norma and John returned to Inglewood. However, she did not let her disability become a deterrent to living life to the fullest. She never missed a RELAC picnic or recognition luncheon, in spite of her mobility issues.

One of the hobbies she enjoyed following her stroke was assembling puzzles. She stated that the puzzles relaxed her and stimulated her mind. She also stayed involved with organizations like Women with Similar Interest (WWSI), which brought together women connected through various life challenges.

In 2017, John passed away, after 33 years of marriage to Norma. Struggling through the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing in 2021, Norma relocated to Hawaii to live with her daughter Connie. However, she had a strong desire to return to Inglewood for a visit. On Jan. 6, 2022 she and her daughter Connie arrived in Inglewood and the next day she suffered a massive stroke. She died 10 days later.

# IN MEMORIAM

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

**Agricultural Comm./Wts. & Meas.** - John A. Santos  
**Alternate Public Defender** - Avrum S. Harris, Rudy Limas  
**Ambulatory Care Network** - Margarita T. Martires  
**Assessor** - Alma D. Butler, Lilia C. Cachola, Leandro R. Capagcuan, Erma J. Guinto, Denise Hawkins, Juanita Hopkins, Karam Iskander  
**Beaches & Harbors** - Arnold James Cole, Walter A. Hapke  
**Beverly Hills Municipal Court** - Stanley M. Seidler  
**Board of Supervisors** - Michael W. Pohndorff  
**California Children's Services** - Eunice E. Ahler, Karima S. Boutros, Dionsaunta L. Hurd  
**Chief Executive Office** - Colleen Mae Root  
**Chief Information Office** - John R. McIntire, Madeline Somerville  
**Child Support Services** - Christine Evangelista, Rebecca J. Musa  
**Children & Family Services** - Grazina Baksys, Billie Love Baugh, Eula M. Bennett, Delina Bunch, Mageline Carter, Norma Contreras, Carmen Dhillen, Ilene M. Douglas, Wayne B. Gray, Ellen Jimenez, Lorraine B. Kaschulla, Patricia B. Klewer, Sylvia K. Landon, Beverly Lemelle, Mary F. Long, Joy E. Lopez, Bettye L. McCoy, Salvador R. Pena, Brenda J. Spates, Barbara L. Terry, Voncille C. Wolf  
**Communications** - Ivo Lazzaroni  
**Correctional Health** - Brian C. Mulhern  
**Culver Municipal Court** - Mary Young  
**District Attorney** - Charles E. Boag IV, John Capitano, Rodney James Chapman, Dorothy Joyce Feinstein, Donald S. Jakubowski, Susan Knight, Ralph Mayer, Harold C. Rhudy, Michael A. Wilson, Larry Wong  
**Engineer Facilities** - Charles G. Brisley Jr., Louis Kubur, Melvin R. Smees Jr.  
**Fire** - John C. Gelfuso, Terry J. Golightly, Elvin John Hammer, Gary L. Hill, Raymond A. Hunt, Loy M. Irons, Michael D. Lewis, Herbert A. Lombard, Terrence P. Mathers, Steven M. McCann, Ervin D. McCormick, Anthony R. Munguia, George Harold Oakley, Carl J. Price, Royal K. Rice, Rene A. Rigaud, Howard G. Smith, Ralph H. Snyder, Richard E. Sorenson, Donald E. Stanley, Steven G. Voegtli, Paul D. Wenzel  
**Harbor/UCLA Medical Center** - Yolanda Arambula, Wanda Buchanan, Norman Cox, Hilda Dornfest, John Gabio, Norma J. Glover, Rosa M. Hurtado, Margueriette V. Johnson, Bonita Kinum, Eugene Leggins, Pierre Lenoir, Aileen Sunako Minobe, Lolita A. Pascua, Rebecca C. Sabala, Louise Smith, Maria Trachy, Evelyn V. Valley, Jeanette K. Yip  
**Health Services Administration** - Mary J. Arellano, Josefata Banuelos, Marie A. Bastiampillai, Walter Cobos, Charlene Virginia Dooley, Shonell D. Green, Fannie Hill, Ruth A. Keys, Dean L. Moyer, Manuel D. Orio, Elois A. Phillips, Ernesto G. Policarpio, Nancy R. Portlock, Marion Spencer, Wanda C. Wright  
**Human Resources** - Dolores R. Batungbacal  
**Internal Services** - Tilton D. Batts, Richard L. Brooks, Sterling A. Brown, James Dixon Jr., Ata M. Elsharkawy, Arthur J. Fisch, Cynthia D. Lewis, William D. Nendel, Ervin Pickett, Gordon Roberson, Thomas A. Seelig, Charles E. Walter, Louise L. Wesson, Brenda A. White  
**Juvenile Court Health Services** - Thelma L. Wofford  
**King-Drew Medical Center** - Elaine V. Coffey, Andrew Drummond, Leroy Dubose, Vince Edwards, Adolfin Holcomb, Alvernist M. Hoskins, Maebelle Jordan, Joann McNair, Helmut Muensch  
**LAC+USC Medical Center** - Jareto Caballero, Tina W. Chien, Abel Cortez, Yolanda B. De Costa, Alicia Debayona, Maria M. Espana, Wayne Christopher Feiga, Alberto C. Galang, Bridgett D. Garvin, Gloria O. Gist, Olivia Griffin, Betty J. Hamlin, Iva U. Hopkins, Gloria J. Houston, Chiyeko Ito, Edgar S. Lampano, Gay Lewis, Charlie Mack, Alicia Manangon, Bruce D. Mansfield, Gloria P. Mitchell, Tito Morales, William E. Moss, Ruthie D. Moten, Enrique O. Nava, Patricia J. Pechtl, Doretha Peters, David L. Riggle, Dorothy Rothschild, Guillermo C. Trazo, Molly Trevino, Michael Trotter, Retha L. Williams, Jacqueline Wolfe, Richard S. Yang  
**LACERA** - Rickie L. Regalado  
**Medical Examiner-Coroner** - Lee E. Bockhacker, Mel Graham, Solomon L. Riley Jr.  
**Mental Health** - Kyungmi Cho, Milagres C. Dias, Sherman R. Gibson, Margaret Gioustremes, Ronald S. Herman, Freda G. Hoffmann, Ann P. Hofstetter, Rosalinda D. Hughes, Nenita Karganilla, James E. Moffitt, Cece Palaski, Ronald L. Peteris, Mabel S. Porter, Carmen Quinones, Anne F. Rockwood, Sandra K. Spencer, Mason M. Tachibana  
**Museum of Natural History** - Harold Edward Howard

**Olive View/UCLA Medical Center** - Cecilia T. Campos, Flor Chavarria, Rita M. Fordham, Lureta Johnson, Noralee Kasarda, Dorie P. Mello, Guadalupe Olguin, Regina Orloff, Susan Sheppard, Betty J. Taylor, Daisy M. Valderrama  
**Parks and Recreation** - Luddie L. Ewell, Mary E. Foote, Gerald A. Molinari, Heriberto Sandoval, Everett Wesley Wilson  
**Probation** - Michael V. Allen, Malvin J. Black, Christopher W. Bronson, Darren M. Buckner, Leslie L. Carroll, Stephen T. Cieslik, Lewis Coleman, James Francis Elcock III, Brent D. Ferris, Sheldon Fink, David S. Gipson, Howard D. Jackson, Isiah J. James, Claude Law, Deloris J. Murphy-Clayton, John N. Nazarian, Shirley E. Paris, Theodore Poellnitz, Joseph E. Powell, Sylvia C. Ramirez, Angelita Robles, Rory R. Smith, Sadie Stephenson, Robert J. Strickland, Jack H. Taube, Charmaine Rose Taylor, David D. Turner, Catherine Uyeda, Madeline Ward, Rollan W. Wittkopf  
**Public Defender** - Belinda Fischer, Forrest Latiner, Robert L. Rubinstein  
**Public Health Program** - Federico Barron, Lorenzo C. Castillo, Florence M. Davis, Balbir Dhillon, Patricia A. Hundt, Maria Macias, Jean E. Mitchell, Donald Ogle, Nehemias Santos, Arlene Joy Woff  
**Public Library** - June Geisen, Susana S. Rogers  
**Public Social Services** - Leita Alenskis, Michael E. Anderson, Rosa T. Andrade, Deloise Arnold, James G. Barnhart, Gordon L. Boyer, Judith A. Bradt, Perry L. Brown, Thelma Mae Brown, Mary D. Burch, Idalia Cadenas, Josefina Camberos, Palmyra J. Cameron, Corrine Canizales, Pastora Canlolo, Gladys Cooks, Julio Cube, Henrietta Davison, Theresa Duran, Georgiana Fisher, Jorge A. Flores, Betty L. Gaston, Delores O. Gholar, Sharyn Groslynn, Felicia G. Hammond, Gladys Harris, Andranik Hartenian, Patricia A. Healy, Virginia Brown-Jackson, Leonor Lao, Martha Lopez, George A. Madoyan, Judith W. Mitchell, Ruth M. Mitchell, Ofelia F. Otero, Elaine Parnell, Dorothy Patterson, Robert H. Perkins, Vernitta Phinisee, Leticia V. Ponce, Pauline D. Porter, Gloria J. Powers, Mary V. Real, Mary L. Redmon, Rita M. Redmond, Maria A. Rodriguez, Elizabeth A. Rutkowski, Bridgett B. Smallwood, Betty M. Suzuki, Daisy G. Talag, Barbara A. Taylor, Sallie Taylor, Nancy W. Tinsman, Manuel R. Tomongin, Monica L. Torres, Juan M. Torresmillan, Mari Tzolakyian, Grace T. Wheeler, Lucille White-Cramer, Donald C. Young  
**Public Works** - Richard R. Acuna, Donald L. Allen, Kahtan B. Bayati, Murray I. Brill, Donald D. Donovan, Leslie J. Jacobson, Houshang R. Khojasteh, Raul G. Matas, Jack K. Morimoto, Robert L. Osborne, Rita F. Priestley, Shirley B. Ryan, Bert K. Sugimura, Gary W. Wiederspan  
**Rancho Los Amigos Hospital** - Sally E. Clark, Leticia R. Garces, Guadalupe Guerra, Clara Hayes, Diana Hazely, Marissa M. Johnson, Delora Matus, Dorothy M. Rounds, Hilda Sanchez, Mamie G. Stephens, Frederic K. Takeshita, Mary K. Thrasher, Virginia A. Tumbling Whi, Stanley R. Zerneck  
**Regional Planning** - William J. Cronin  
**Reg-Recorder/County Clerk** - Jaime N. Apalit, Walter T. Baker  
**Sheriff** - Henry R. Aldana, Virginia H. Arguello, Felicitas E. Bartolome, Rudolph Berteaux, Deborah D. Bonczek, Joseph J. Callanan Jr., Alan L. Chancellor, Beth A. Combs, Mediadora A. Contreras, Michael R. Dery, Erin L. Dew, Vincent B. Di Girolamo, Alberta Diaz, Richard H. Didion, William C. Eggebrecht, Clyde E. French, Mercedes S. Frias, Franklin Garrison, Vincent J. Governatori, Lorraine Guajardo, Raymond Hinojosa, Armelia A. Jenkins, Clifford N. Jenkinson, Jimmie L. Johnson, James G. Jordan, Richard M. Komoto, Robert Lowe, Elmer F. McMichael, Linda J. McClure, Frank H. Murillo, George T. Perez, Garold J. Peterson, Dennis Roland Pruet, Frank K. Rezac, Franklin D. Ross, Barbara S. Rugg, David D. Schriefer, Harvey R. Simon, Gary B. Snelson, Gerardo Soto-Vasquez, Dennis E. Stephens, Jacquelyn M. Stringer, Ricky A. Sudik, Edward Sznaper, Robert A. Taranto, Peivi A. Tauililili, John C. Thurman, Zelia M. Weise, Vincent A. Wilson  
**South Coast Air Quality Mgmt.** - Milton Cohen  
**Superior Court Human Resources** - Marvin Licker  
**Superior Court/County Clerk** - Mary E. Allen, Burt Barnett, Barbara J. Black, Chandra D. Brown, J. A. Gatiglio, Yvonne R. Girard, John D. Harris, Jerrilyn Hebert, Melba L. House, Hendrik A. Lamers, Kathryn Dona Nezh, Leoncio M. Rivas, Kazuko Sano, David J. Searcy, Hazel M. Simmons, Ana L. Sullivan, Sandra Turner, Patricia D. Whitten  
**Treasurer/Tax Collector** - Sandra Bagley, Debra A. Smith  
**Whittier Municipal Court** - James J. Serian  
**Women's Hospital** - Ruth Baker, Charles P. Morrow  
**Workforce Dev., Aging & Comm. Svc.** - Pauline L. Martinez, Donald D. Von Sprecken  
**Unidentified County Agency** - Benjamin D. Templeton



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

Return Service Requested



## Congratulations, Valentine Drawing Winners

The following RELAC members are the lucky winners in our Valentine drawing and will receive \$25 each.

Diane Abspoel  
Margaret Allen  
Annabelle Apodaca  
Alice Ayala  
Juanita Bolanos  
James Brashear  
Doris Butler  
Janice Cavin  
James Coles  
Gayle Denis  
Shirley A. Dudley  
Zosima Gilles  
Lorraine Itmai  
Olga Lederer  
Meilin Ma  
Donald J. McCarter  
Elizabeth Means  
Leonor C. Millare  
Gus Morales  
Lemuel P. Salazar

## WHERE ARE YOU?

We need your help in locating these RELAC members, whom we have no current contact information.



### From California:

Gwendolyn C. Abrom, Compton; Demetris Aguebor, Los Angeles; Christine Aleman, Alhambra; Janet V. Anderson, Covina; Patricia A. Andrews, Hawthorne; Esther Are, Riverside; Vernon Atwater, Santa Clarita; Pedro L. Ayala, Perris; Joanne R. Bailey, Stevenson Ranch; Annice Baker, Riverside; Richard Barrett, Huntington Beach; Leandra Benford, Carson; James E. Billesbach, Leona Valley; Joann T. Bourgeois, Palmdale; Craig Bradford, Huntington Beach; Leroy Bragg, Moreno Valley; Kathryn A. Brown, Glendale; Helen H. Chan, Alhambra; Soonjo Chung, Tehachapi; Jackie Clark-Weissman, El Macero; Charlotte K. Coffeen, Pasadena; Linda Conner, Hawthorne; Emma L. Cooper, Los Angeles; Donna Crenshaw, Lancaster

### From Arizona:

Lee Roy Andersen, Bullhead City; John Blakely Jr., Lake Havasu City; Gregory Lon Brouse, Lake Havasu City; Elva L. Campbell, Queen Creek; Gerald Cocke, Phoenix; Leroy Crawford, New River; Leland E. Mathis, Queen Creek; Linda Morton, Lake Havasu City; Charles R. Steele, Lake Havasu City; Jacquelyn M. Stringer, Lake Havasu City; Joyce A. Thompson, Mesa

### From Florida:

Lavor J. Miles, Gotha; Evangelina V. Vazquez, Coral Gables

### From Nevada:

Marjorie L. Crotty, Las Vegas; Nancy Dineen, Dayton; John W. Englund, Laughlin; Roland E. Etcheverry, Fernley; Frances Gordon, Henderson; Ercelle L. Johnson, Las Vegas; Margaret V. Saffron, Las Vegas; Martha M. Sato, Las Vegas; Constance Sieber, Las Vegas; John H. Sontgerath,

### From Texas:

Anthony Austin, Bayside; Elnora Coulter, Mansfield; Charlette Larsen, Georgetown; Robert D. Pecharich, Hideaway; Clarence E. Williams, Henderson

### From Utah:

Heinz J. Cuvelier, Provo; Allen L. Mathews, Washington; Daniel Sanzone, Washington

### From Washington:

Lillian E. Jacobs, Kent; Gary A. Mc Peak, Battle Ground; Ronald Schneider, Redmond

## IMPORTANT!

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

Cut out the address portion of this newsletter, correct it and mail to:

RELAC  
1000 S. Fremont Ave.,  
Unit 15 Alhambra, CA  
91803-8802 or  
Phone:  
(800) 537-3522  
(626) 308-0532  
Fax: (626) 308-2901  
E-mail:  
admin@relac.org  
website:  
www.relac.org

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