



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



The recovery appears to be on a real path to becoming a chapter of our history with whatever sadness or tragedy of which we might each have witnessed or been a part. The next few months will be critical as we continue to see a further lessening or elimination of restrictions. I don't know how I'll ever be able to leave the house or see friends without a mask, at least in the car or in my pocket. In all this past period, however, work has not lessened at RELAC and the programs have continued with positive gains. For that I thank the support staff, each Board member, and the many of you who continue your generous support. It will be nice at some not too distant time to have in-person meetings of the Board at our headquarters. Zoom gets a little old after a while.

The RELAC newsletter keeps us informed on so much in the County that is current, shared moments from so many retired members, as well as reports from the various committee chairs. The individual committee reports will include more detail than I could summarize here. Also, if you haven't already, I encourage you to become a regular user of our website at www.relac.org. There you can find additional information on these programs and on our golf and RV activities, and the many other ways that you could actively participate.

Office staff members are continuing to work on a schedule that, normally, has only one person in the office at a time; however, each has home computer capacity so most of the time the distance is unrecognizable. We know this is going to change over the next months and the Office Management Committee continues to twist and tweak to keep it running and deal with unanticipated incidents. This will include the installation of plastic shields for when the office function returns to what will be the new normal, and upgrades to the office-based computer system. The volume of mail and phone calls has not diminished. Thank you for your continuing understanding.

Our "Pension and Health Care Watchdog" role has not lessened during this pandemic. We continue to have three Board members who are part of LACERA's two governing boards. Reports from our representatives are always included in the RELAC newsletter. We have also continued our efforts, working with many other agencies across the country, to eliminate unfair Social Security benefit reductions. I'm sure you will receive updated information on this effort.

We look forward to being able to see you, perhaps in the fall, when we bring back our seminars and restart some special events.

RELAC Joins National Group to Lobby Against Unfair Social Security Reductions

RELAC has joined the national Alliance for Public Retirees to support passage of H.R. 2337, proposed legislation to reform the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) of the Social Security Act.

The Alliance for Public Retirees was created nearly a decade ago by the Retired State, County and Municipal Employees Association of Massachusetts (Mass Retirees) and the Texas Retired Teachers Association to resolve the issues of WEP and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).

Together with retiree organizations, public employee unions and civic associations across the country, the organization has worked to advance federal legislation through Congress aimed at reforming both the WEP and GPO laws.

The WEP, which reduces Social Security benefits of people who spent part of their working career in a job covered by Social Security and another part of their career in a job not covered by Social Security, adversely affects many of RELAC's members. It has shortchanged affected retirees' Social Security payments by upwards of \$400 a month on average. H.R. 2337 would provide up to \$150 a month in relief for those currently impacted by WEP and fixes the WEP for future retirees.

The GPO is a federal law impacting the ability of some retired government workers to collect spousal Social Security benefits. Specifically, GPO applies to public retirees who collect a pension from employment not covered by Social Security. H.R. 2337 does not address GPO.

A new "Legislation" button has been added to the RELAC website to keep members up-to-date on H.R. 2337 and how they can help to push for its passage. The website is at relac.org.

July 5 is Deadline to File for RELAC Board

July 5 is the deadline to file a petition to become a candidate for the RELAC Board of Directors.

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

If no petitions are received by 3 p.m. on July 5, the current directors whose terms expire this year – Linda C. Hopkins, Don Fandry, and Diane Sandoval -- will be automatically reelected to new three-year terms expiring Dec. 31, 2024. All have been endorsed for reelection by the Board of Directors.

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

Board of Investments

by Joseph Kelly
RELAC Director and LACERA Board of Investments Trustee



In early May, Jon Grabel, the chief investment officer, informed the LACERA Board of Investments that the retirement trust hit a high-water mark of \$70.5 billion. At the end of March 2020, the trust's value was \$54.5 billion. This historic period from March 2020 to May 2021 was one in which we faced a global pandemic, economic upheaval, and significant pressures on our democratic system of government. Despite these challenges, LACERA continued to pay promised benefits during this historic period. That is a remarkable accomplishment, and I thank Jon and his stellar team for all they do that allowed that to happen.

At its May 2021 meeting, the board approved a new asset allocation. The setting of the asset allocation occurred over a 10-month period, in which the board considered investing in a low interest rate global environment, the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on education and the economy and capital markets, and the impact of climate risks on investment returns, among other investment assumptions. The asset allocation that the board approved aligns with two of our investment beliefs. The first is that the asset allocation, over the long term, will be the primary determinant of returns and risk, and the second is that asset allocation has a greater effect on return variability than asset class investment. The asset allocation includes a diversified group of asset categories, which may potentially result in better performance throughout a full market cycle, while providing sufficient liquidity to pay promised benefits. The following table delineates the current and new asset allocation.

Asset Allocation		New
Growth Global Equity Private Equity Non-core private real estate	48%	53%
Credit Liquid Credit Illiquid Credit	12%	11%
Real Assets/Inflation Hedges Core Private Real Estate Custom Natural Resources Custom Infrastructure TIPS	16%	17%
Risk Reduction/Mitigation Investment Grade Bonds Custom Hedge Funds Long-term Government Bonds Cash Equivalents	24%	19%
Total	100%	

Have an enjoyable and safe summer!

Board of Retirement

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



Many of you may remember what happened to LACERA'S total assets at the onset of the pandemic. The massive drop in the stock market took a significant toll on the LACERA portfolio and by April 1, 2020 our total net asset value had dropped to \$54.5 billion from our previous high of about \$63 billion. As many of you know, LACERA'S monthly payroll exceeds \$1 billion a month, and when we experienced the drop, our chief investment officer (CIO) had to get somewhat creative to ensure that we had adequate cash on hand to make our monthly payroll. As some of you know, we make very little on the money that we keep in cash, so the goal is to have enough to pay the bills but not to put too much in this asset category. Our other investments are the ones that really pay the bills.

About a month ago CIO Jon Grabel sent out an e-mail to both boards at LACERA informing us that our fund hit an all-time high of \$70.5 billion. While you never can recover the losses that you acquire by NOT having the money to invest, we have done very well in recovering what was initially lost. Today our total net asset value is in a very good place and bodes well for our total fund returns, which we will know when we close our books at the end of June. Hats off to our entire investment team at LACERA; we are lucky to have such talented folks managing our money.

News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich
Assistant Executive Officer



Last weekend I did two things I haven't done in oh so long: I went to the beach and spent an afternoon walking along the shore and just relaxing and enjoying the sound of the waves, and I went to see a movie with my daughter. Sure, these two things probably sound very mundane and normal, and you are probably wondering why I have started out this month's article sharing this with you. My goal is to share a little personal celebration of the fact that we have all survived and weathered a very dark and difficult time as we finally get control of the pandemic and are returning to more normal activities. The mundane, for me, is something to celebrate.

LACERA, too, is making plans to return to more normal activities. We are in the process of planning our "return to the office." Over the last several months we have averaged a little more than 80% of our staff securely working remotely on any given day. The ability to work securely in a remote environment has allowed LACERA to continue to meet our obligations to each of you while keeping our staff members safe. Now that we are seeing so many people get vaccinated and the tremendous reduction in reported cases, we are looking to welcome more of our staff into our offices by September.

Recently our chief executive officer (CEO) announced in his monthly report to the Boards of Investments and Retirement that we are preparing to open our Member Service Center for the first time since March 2020. We will begin the reopening process with a limited number of in-person appointments available beginning July 6. The limited reopening will allow us to test our new health and safety procedures, which will remain in place for the foreseeable future. This includes still wearing masks, cleaning procedures after each individual appointment, asking members to self-check their temperature before coming into the Member Service Center, and new "foot traffic" flow procedures in the office.

Our return to the Member Service Center comes with an important change. LACERA will be moving to an appointment-only Member Service Center. Several years ago, we introduced appointments for the individual one-on-one counseling. At the time, we gave appointments priority, but would still accept walk-ins, with the caveat that we would serve walk-in members as we



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

April-May 2021

Chief Executive Office – Maxine Yue
Children & Family Services – Bernice Steen
Fire – Bob Lee Hancock
Harbor/UCLA Med. Center – Mila Rose Reyes
Health Services – Daniel Alcaraz, Adela Campbell
Internal Services – Lorraine Roybal
Mental Health – Robin Kay-Wicker, Dennis Murata
Public Social Services – Dora Gomez
Public Works – Mary Gibso, Lary Spenser
Sheriff – James Coyne, Kathleen Dinsmore, George Hofstetter, Scott Hurst, Bettye Jones, Francis Lung, Jim Mc Donnell, Sharman Moten, Alice Robinson, Natalie Salazar
Superior Court – Yolanda Reza
Associate Members – Lori Lee Hancock, Melanie Hurst, Joe Reza, Cheryl Moten, Faustino Reyes Jr.

Thanks for New Member Referrals

We would like to thank the 12 members who recruited colleagues to join RELAC during April and May. Due to our aging membership, we must remain vigilant in signing up new members in order to remain a strong organization to protect your 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 or go online at 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):

Elizabeth Baca, *Kathleen Dinsmore*, Sheriff
Judy Hammond, **Joseph Kelly**, **Sheila Shima**,
Marvin Southard, *Robin Kay-Wicker*, Mental Health
Carmen Irigoyen, *Daniel Alcaraz*, Internal Services
Robin Kay-Wicker, **Sheila Shima**, **Marvin Southard**, *Dennis Murata*, Mental Health
Ofelia Lopez, *Dora Gomez*, Public Social Services
Tamara O'Sullivan, *Bernice Steen*, Children and Family Services
Les Robbins, *George Hofstetter and Jim McDonnell*, Sheriff
Georgia Salazar Rutherford, *Natalie Salazar*, Sheriff
Anita Keyes Spenser, *Lary Spenser*, Public Works



Happy Birthday, RELAC Centenarians

Happy birthday to our members who will be 100 or older in July & August.

June

Anderson Johnson, 107, Sheriff
June 14, 1914
(inadvertently left off June's list)

July

Natsuko Takaki, 105, Mechanical
July 3, 1916

Lois S. Bupp, 101, District Attorney
July 6, 1920

Mildred E. Mc Felea, 103, Los Angeles Municipal Court
July 7, 1918

Florence Greenberg, 101, Engineer
July 14, 1920

Mary W. Johnson, 100, Rancho Los Amigos Hospital
July 27, 1921

August

Angela McKittrick, 103, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
August 2, 1918

Ruth P. Walter, 100, Mental Health
August 20, 1921

Shintaro Matayoshi, 100, Health Services
August 24, 1921

Rose M. Becerra, 104, Medical Center
August 30, 1917

Congratulations to Spring Drawing Winners

The lucky winners of RELAC's spring drawing are listed below.
Each will receive \$25.

Lucy Alba, Whittier, California
Victoriana Silvas Alonso, Burbank, California
Alicia Auh, Prescott, Arizona
Mercy Avila, Ontario, California
Don Benjamin, Tucson, Arizona
Mattie L. Cummings, Inglewood, California
Carmen Falcon, Apple Valley, California
Moliece V. Hansen, Bountiful, Utah
Nora N. Jackson, Fontana, California
Norma Kettelkamp, Lancaster, California
Deanna Luttio, Cedar City, Utah
Christine Koss, Las Vegas, Nevada
Barbara J. Moore, Springfield, Missouri
Sarah Overstreet, Monrovia, California
Lee L. Post, Torrance, California
Myrna-Joy Pugh, Los Angeles, California
Ruth Stegeman, Arcadia, California
Beverly Williams, Covina, California
Dorothy Walkosz, Surprise, Arizona
Kenneth Ward, Gardnerville, Nevada



Letters To The Editor Write On!

I received the three copies of the RELAC newsletter today. I not only want to thank you for all of your hard work that you have put into my stories, but all the lives you touch over the course of the years. You really make a difference to all of us retirees albeit we are scattered all over the country. I also saw one of my former secretaries mentioned in the "Where are you?" section. I e-mailed her with the contact information. Hopefully she will seek you guys out! Best regards.

Ed Anhalt, Genoa, Nevada

Just wanted to let you know I appreciate all of your hard work on the RELAC newsletter. I always enjoy reading it and was especially happy to see Joe Kelly's article on June Pride Month. I am very pleased to see that diversity is being included. Hope you are doing well and staying healthy. Thanks again!

Liz Cortez, Cathedral City, California

I just received the May/June edition of the RELAC newsletter yesterday. Thanks for including Joe Kelly's article on LGBTQ Pride Month. The department heads and Supervisor Kuehl are the most visible, but many more RELAC members are LGBTQ, so thanks for recognizing the month.

John Schunhoff, Los Angeles, California

Just read Joe Kelly's (Pride Month) article in the newsletter. Very well expressed and as he said, "to educate all of us about each of us." Love the mousepad and words written on pad. Unfortunately, this world has many mean, cruel and ignorant people. My friend's relative was brutally attacked in Guatemala because he was gay, and died. So sad. What accomplishments in Joe's life and blessings. May God continue to bless him.

Norma Nieto, Rowland Heights, California

Thank you so much for sending (the article you did on the death of my mother, Susan Kerr). It looks fantastic. You did a great job. Thanks again for all your hard work. We appreciate it.

Kim Schultz, Granada Hills, California

I just received the RELAC newsletter. Thank you for including my daughter and granddaughter in the Like Father, Like Son/ Daughter section. It was nice seeing my former boss Supervisor Yaroslavsky with his son, former DA Garcetti, former DA Cooley and former Assessor Auerbach and their respective son/daughter achievements. Thank you also for including information about my Distinguished Fellow Award from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Stay safe

Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, Arcadia, California

Thank you, Judy Hammond. I just wanted to thank you for the terrific article you wrote about me and my books in the current newsletter. You got everything right! Usually, when I've had write-ups by others, something is misspelled, erroneous, or confusing.

Lee Gale Gruen, Walnut Creek, California

Good luck to the L.A. County retirees walking for babies (in the March of Dimes' March for Babies virtual walk).

Joyce Breslin, Pasadena, California

Thank you so much for the birthday card and all the nice things you do. I'm 103 – 104 on Aug. 30, if I am still here.

Rose M. Becerra, Los Angeles, California

Thank you for remembering me. May you have many wonderful days ahead of you – all of you, too! Good thoughts! Your gestures and kindness are greatly appreciated!!

Marion L. Siu, Los Angeles, California

Congratulations, Food Bank Donors

by Linda C. Hopkins, Community Support Committee

The RELAC Board of Directors and the L.A. Regional Food Bank sincerely thank our generous supporters that donated over \$20,228 to help fight hunger in the county. Their collective donations provided over 40,000 meals for families in need.

A special thank you to our top four donors: Dave Muir, Evelyn Gutierrez, Helen Masuda, and Evelyn Fullmore. Their combined donations totaled \$6,800. We were truly inspired by the special donation made by Helen Masuda, who donated her stimulus check in the amount of \$1,800. Our generous and supportive RELAC members are a shining example of the adage, "sharing is caring."

As the need for nutritious meals continues, we encourage interested RELAC members to visit our website at relac.org and scroll down to Food Bank donations. Thank you for your continued support of communities in need.

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL



Fighting Hunger. Giving Hope.

May 21, 2021

Brian Berger, President
RELAC
1000 S. Fremont Ave. Unit 15
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

Dear Brian,

Thank you for the incredible support of the Retired Employees of LA County who have raised \$20,228 for the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. This generosity will enable us to provide enough food from more than 40,000 nutritious meals to food insecure children, families, seniors and individuals throughout Los Angeles County.

The demand for Food Bank services has increased sharply since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Food distribution has increased by 125%, and we expect the demand for food assistance to remain high in the foreseeable future. Through our partner agency network and direct distribution programs, we estimate that we are providing nutritious food to 900,000 people each month.

Your support enables us to continue to provide nutritious food to our neighbors in need. We truly appreciate your support during this time of great need.

Sincerely,

Roger Castle
Chief Development Officer

P.S. Please visit LAFoodBank.org/coronavirus for up-to-date information on the Food Bank's response to the Coronavirus

Thank you for helping so many in need!

What's Happening Virtually?

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair
Special Events Committee



L.A. County lifts social distancing restrictions June 15.

County Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer, following the state's guidance, has announced that almost all sectors and businesses will be able to return to usual operations, with some limited exceptions, on June 15.

However, to effectively protect yourself and others, please continue social distancing, wearing a face mask and washing your hands. Together we can help reduce the health risk related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In compliance with state COVID-19 requirements and protocols, facilities like the County Art Museum, Natural History Museum, libraries and local parks are now open to the public, but may have to comply with limited attendance guidelines.

County Fair Update

After 99 years of being hosted in September, the Los Angeles County Fair is being canceled in 2021 and is permanently moving to the month of May starting next year.

Established in 1922, the L.A. County Fair will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2022. The May 5-30, 2022 event will feature a fiesta celebration on Cinco de Mayo, celebrate moms on Mother's Day, and close with a barbecue celebration on Memorial Day weekend. Get ready for next year's centennial celebration!

Take a Hike!

Parks and Recreation Department has officially opened outdoor recreation options for hikers. Over 550 miles of public trails are now available for public use. Enjoy the open spaces. For additional information, visit [Trails.lacounty.gov](https://trails.lacounty.gov).

Health and Wellness Online

County Library online services now include health and wellness programs like yoga and meditation on Mondays; and body and brain tai chi programs, which include life skills drumming, using the power of rhythm to release stress, on Fridays.

Activities at Home for Adults also include library programs from crafts to culture, such as: Cooking with Chef Jose Andres, Improving Your Memory, Adult Coloring, Exploring National Parks Online, Bird Discovery videos, and much more. Visit lacountylibrary.org for additional information.

Scholarship 2021 Awards Announced



Ryan Kaplan



Patrick Melia



Madeline Pak



Sydney Torgersen



Amanda Yee

The RELAC Board of Directors congratulates our 2021 Scholarship Program winners: Ryan Kaplan, Patrick Melia, Madeline Pak, Sydney Torgersen, and Amanda Yee.

Each of the students, who are grandchildren of RELAC members, will receive \$1,000 to further their educational goals.

This is the second year that RELAC has awarded scholarships.

"These five exceptional students will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship in support of their educational goals and pursuit of their chosen future careers," said RELAC President Brian Berger. "RELAC also congratulates the nominating RELAC members. We share their pride and support for these five honorable, hard-working students."

The five scholarship awardees:

Ryan Kaplan is the grandson of RELAC member Loren Mandel. Ryan has been accepted at California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo and Pomona. His major is in engineering and his career goal is to work for Tesla, Microsoft, Google or NASA.

Patrick Melia is the grandson of RELAC member Edward Melia. Patrick has been accepted at the University of Alabama, University of Arizona and Boise State University. His major is mechanical engineering and his goal is a science-related maritime career.

Madeline Pak is the granddaughter of RELAC member Veda Tan. She has been accepted at San Diego State University. Madeline's major is in business administration, statistics and public management. Her goal is a career in product management and marketing.

Sydney Torgersen is the granddaughter of RELAC member JoAnne Palmer. Sydney is currently enrolled in Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah. Her major is pre-nursing science and her career goal is to be a nurse practitioner.

Amanda Yee is the granddaughter of RELAC member William Yee. She has been accepted at the University of Florida, Baylor University and Biola University. Amanda's major is in biology and her goal is to have a career in the medical profession.

RELAC's Scholarship Program was implemented to provide financial assistance to RELAC members and their eligible family members as they prepare for the achievement of their educational goals and future employment careers. "We are proud to invest in their future," said Berger.

Recognition of the students includes articles in RELAC's newsletter, website postings and participation in a 2022 Recognition Awards Luncheon event.

Congratulations, Ryan, Patrick, Madeline, Sydney and Amanda.

Firefighter Tory Carlon Killed in Workplace Dispute

County Fire Specialist Tory Carlon, 44, was killed and Fire Capt. Arnoldo Sandoval seriously injured when a co-worker shot them at the Agua Dulce fire station where they worked. The shooter, Jonathan Patrick Tatone, 45, killed himself following the incident.



Authorities said the June 1 shooting at Station 81 followed a workplace dispute between Carlon and Tatone. Sandoval, 54, was shot multiple times when he tried to intervene.



With family

Tatone was off-duty at the time of the incident. He left the station after the shooting and returned to his home about 10 miles away, where authorities say he barricaded himself inside, set the house on fire and died of a self-inflicted gunshot during a standoff.

"I never thought one of our firefighters would face danger at one of our own community fire stations," said Fire Chief Daryl Osby.

Carlon, a 20-year veteran of the department, is survived by his wife, Heidi, and three daughters. He was remembered by co-workers as a devoted parent who served as a mentor to younger firefighters.

"He was a brave, committed, loyal member of the Fire Department," Osby told reporters. He was "truly dedicated, one of our better firefighters, amazing, and a true loss to our department."

Colleagues rallied to show support for Carlon and his family. Members of the Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Fire Department and other fire and law enforcement agencies joined with the County Fire Department to escort Carlon's body to the Coroner's Office.

Two days later when Carlon's daughter, Joslyn, graduated from high school, nearly 300 firefighters gathered to celebrate with her, lining up outside as she walked in and cheering for her as she accepted her diploma while wearing her father's fire jacket, which was presented to her before the ceremony. "We're here to make sure that she knows we're all thinking about her," said Fire Capt. Chris Reade. "We all dropped everything we were doing in our personal lives and came down here to show our support."

"(Her) father couldn't be here, so we're here," said Fire Battalion Chief Nick Berkuta.

The community also rallied to help the family financially. A Go Fund Me was set up with a \$200,000 goal and after two days had surpassed \$225,000 from 1,052 donors, many contributing anonymously.



LACERA cont. from p2

could. Beginning in July, we will only see members with a scheduled appointment (which can be scheduled online or by calling the Call Center). This change will improve our service to members, as we can make sure that we limit wait time to see a specialist by being able to better plan how many we need. We will also be keeping our virtual appointment offerings as well. Members will be able to schedule time to either come in and see us in-person or meet with one of our specialists using our online video meeting process (which has turned out to be very popular with members). Members that do visit us without an appointment will be assisted with setting up an appointment for a future date.

This is a good time for me to close this month's article by encouraging everyone who has not registered for My LACERA, our online portal, to take a few minutes and do so. Here are five really good reasons for doing so:

It's a secure way for you to make routine changes, such as address changes, direct deposit changes, tax election changes, and even beneficiary information updates.

You can also request pension verification letters.

You will have access to your monthly automatic deposit receipts and other important documents and communications in the document center section. You can even opt out of receiving most mailed letters and communications from LACERA and instead be notified via e-mail as soon as new documents become available in the Document Center.

You can contact us securely through our secure message center.

The fastest and most secure way to send us documents is to upload them through My LACERA.

It provides us with your e-mail address, which allows us to send you timely updates about LACERA, including notices about future board elections, periodic updates from our CEO and chief investment officer, and service updates.

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.

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RELAC Member/Tuskegee Airman Honored by Flyover, Donation

by Jason H. Williams, RELAC Member

On Saturday, March 20, 2021, the Condor Squadron of four vintage WWII airplanes took off from Van Nuys Airport to begin an historic flyover to commemorate the life and heroic achievements of 100-year-old Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Theodore (Ted) George Lumpkin, Jr., a RELAC member, who died Dec. 26, 2020, due to COVID-19. His death occurred four days before his 101st birthday.



At a ceremony prior to takeoff, a \$25,000 donation from Dr. Douglas Yoon, president of XDR Radiology, was presented to the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation (TASF) in Lumpkin's name. The donation was significant because (1) it equaled the largest single contribution received by TASF and (2) the funding of education for young scholars from disadvantaged communities was one of Lumpkin's highest educational priorities. "I can't think of a more pressing challenge than to involve myself in getting underserved kids into college," Lumpkin said before his death.

The Condor Squadron is a group of aviation enthusiasts dedicated to preserving the memory of those who have served our country over the years. The flyover, with Lumpkin's son, Ted III, and two grandsons as passengers in three of the four planes, included iconic Southern California landmarks -- Point Fermin Lighthouse, the Battleship USS Iowa (in Los Angeles Harbor), Compton Airport (site of the Missing Man Formation), the University of Southern California (where Lumpkin received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees), the Coliseum, Los Angeles City Hall, the Hollywood sign and Griffith Park Observatory. Los Angeles County Supervisors Holly J. Mitchell and Janice Hahn were key supporters of the flyover event.



Pilot Will Kalbermatter, pilot Eric Zine, Ethan Lumpkin, Ted Lumpkin III, Theo Lumpkin, pilot Rob Sandberg and Squadron Cmdr. and pilot Chris Rushing.

The Tuskegee Airmen Group, which integrated the United States Armed Services during WWII, was created in 1941 on orders by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. This heroic unit of flight instructors, African American fighter pilots, bombardiers, mechanics and other ground support personnel (the 332nd Fighter Group) was among the most highly decorated units in WWII. In addition, on March 29, 2007, the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award, was presented by President George Bush and Congress to the Tuskegee Airmen for their valor in bombing runs and protecting U.S. bombers during WWII. Lumpkin attended this memorable ceremony.

In recognition that the education of young people was very important to Lumpkin, the TASF is accepting tax deductible scholarship contributions in the name of Lt. Col. Ted Lumpkin at: www.taisf.org or by mail at: Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation, Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, 1816 S. Figueroa St., Suite L-5, Los Angeles CA 90015.

County Seeks Retirees to Serve on Assessment Appeals Board

The County Board of Supervisors is seeking qualified retirees to serve on the Assessment Appeals Board and sit as the County's Board of Equalization.

The Assessment Appeals Board listens to and conducts assessment appeals hearings on property tax disputes between taxpayers and the Assessor's Office, making decisions based on evidence presented at hearings.

Qualification and compensation details may be found under Assessment Appeals Board Members at <https://bos.lacounty.gov/Services/Assessment-Appeals>. Questions may be also directed to jwalcek@bos.lacounty.gov.

Technology Corner:

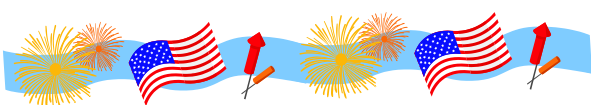
by Joseph Kelly, RELAC Board Member

Package Deliveries

The volume of packages that the United States Postal Service (USPS), United Parcel Service (UPS) and Federal Express (FedEx) have handled in this pandemic has been astounding. Some days I have at least one package from all three on my front stoop. Did you know that both UPS and FedEx offer free online services that inform you a day or two in advance of a package delivery, allow you to redirect deliveries to be held at one of their respective partner sites, and confirms real time when they delivered a package?

The UPS service is UPS My Choice and the FedEx service is FedEx Delivery Service. I enrolled in each of these in 2019 when I read of a robbery committed in a residence in Brooklyn, New York by two men who identified themselves as FedEx workers, one of whom wore a FedEx uniform. The immediate red flag to me was that two FedEx workers showed up to this residence. In all the years I have been receiving packages at my home, there has been only one worker delivering it. In addition, why weren't both staff wearing FedEx uniforms?

Regardless, by utilizing these free services, you are aware of upcoming deliveries and real time delivery information. If staff from either firm show up at your door outside of these times, don't open the door. If the delivery was legitimate, the delivery person will leave you official notice including the tracking number. You can then reschedule the delivery using the service noted above.



Keeping Up With Retirees

We asked three RELAC members to let us know what they have been doing since retirement. Their articles follow.



BRIAN LEAR

I started my County career in 1979 with the Mechanical Department as an electrical apprentice. Four years later I became a journeyman electrician, working in facilities throughout the County. After the department was renamed Internal Services (ISD), I promoted into electrical supervision and worked at the Hall of Administration and the surrounding County buildings of the Civic Center.

I was promoted to building craft superintendent, first working with the Special Services section and later managing all of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) facilities. After three years on the DPSS assignment, I was promoted to section head of the District One area over Facilities, working closely with the Board of Supervisors to fulfill their needs throughout the Civic Center. I did that for eight years, which moved me into retirement in 2019. That's a short summary of my career, which spanned over 40 years.

I am a very happy retiree, now that I have more time to do the things that I've always done. This includes riding my mountain bike just about every morning at Bonelli Regional Park and San Dimas Canyon in San Dimas (close to my Diamond Bar home), playing tennis in the surrounding area of the Inland Empire, and playing golf whenever I can, on average of two days a week. Taking my kayak out to Bonelli Park, doing some bass fishing, also taking my RV up to the Sierra area (Twin Lakes, Mammoth and the Bishop area) for fly fishing. Wine tasting all throughout Paso Robles, Solvang and Pismo Beach area. Off-roading in my recently new Jeep Rubicon throughout the back country like Utah and Ocotillo Wells in San Diego County. As you can see, I am enjoying my retirement lifestyle, and I love to see that check from "LACERA" at the end of the month. It's like I've won the lottery.

I also continue to build swimming pools.

As I write this, I am out of town in my RV in the Solvang, Pismo Beach area playing golf. I will be home on Monday.

8



CATO FIKSDAL

My L.A. County story begins like many others, I guess: from the bottom. It was 1973. Finally done with university, newly married and unemployed, I was earning a little money by painting my parents' house. The unemployment office rang me and said that the Agricultural Commissioner's office was hiring recent vets using federal funds (PEP). I said thanks, I would think about it, and went back to the job at hand. Thinking? What was I thinking? Someone had just offered me a good job opportunity and I was slopping around with brown stucco paint. I had no idea what an Agricultural Commissioner was or for that matter what he/they did, but a job is a job and I had the correct education. Two days later I was at an interview in the basement of the Hall of Administration. Three days later I was working. Looking for beetles in the train yards.

Thirty years later (after being hired in 1974 as an inspector trainee and serving as head of the department from 1998-2004), I was explaining to the Board of Supervisors that Cato's excellent adventure was over, and I was opening a new chapter. Three days after my retirement party, which was a definite high, I was on a plane to Norway. I had earlier purchased a condo there and planned to split my time between there and L.A. That was more than 15 years ago.

As planned, travel and adventure was the new order of the day. I have visited 51 countries and 49 states (not Rhode Island). I have driven across the U.S. seven times. It is difficult to pick out favorites, but I think Morocco, Turkey, Malaysia, and the Amazon are highlights. I would like to think that we are not done yet. I also planned to do a bunch of cooking classes as I enjoy working in the kitchen, but unfortunately all my learning there has been autodidactic.

After a lot of soul-searching, I sold my meager holdings in California in 2018 and bought a no-maintenance condo in Ft. Lauderdale on one of the canals, and a little boat. Florida life consists of beach, pool, boat, restaurant, repeat. Actually, it's a little more complicated, but the most important things here are the right shorts, a Panama, and sunscreen. My only regrets in moving are not seeing my California family and friends, and I miss my garden. Since my three daughters and families live as far apart from each other as is possible in the U.S. -- New York, Miami and Los Angeles -- in one sense it sort of doesn't matter where I live.

I and Grete, my Norwegian "samboer," continued our intercontinental time sharing until the dreaded Corona put a stopper to it. We have not been back to the USA or done any traveling outside Norway for 14 months and sorely miss my family -- three daughters, two sons-in-law and two beautiful granddaughters -- and all the exotic places yet to see. (Philosophical aside: The most important lesson learned in all my travels is that with the exception of a very few people, everyone all over the world wants the same things: a home, a family, a job, enough to eat, and security.)

In Norway, I swapped the condo for a house overlooking the Oslo Fjord, also with a boat, where, in spite of the terrain, we have eked out a garden. Norway is one of the most interesting places in the world to tour, and we spend a lot of time traveling the country. The natural beauty of the place is unsurpassed in the world ... California being a close second.

In addition to travel and gardening, I have for 10 years been a volunteer for World Cup Nordic (cross-country) skiing and biathlon events in Oslo, and now also work with a small group to maintain a forest stream area for local hikers.

All is good and we are in good health, considering our slightly more than middle age, and do a lot of hiking and bike riding when the weather allows.



With wife, Cheryl, and grandchildren Aaron and Ava

ED ANHALT

In June of 1975 I began my career with the County after graduating the School of Criminology at U.C. Berkeley in 1973. I was offered a job with the Probation Department as a group supervisor 1 (GS1). The gentleman offered me an "as needed" position at Central Juvenile Hall in East L.A. I replied, "I don't care how far I have to drive, but I want a permanent position." A couple of days later I was offered a permanent position at Camp John Munz in Lake Hughes. I ended up driving 150 miles round trip every day for two years! I am glad I held out because not only did I get benefits, I squeaked under the timeline and was put in the Plan A retirement, which I am so grateful for.

Four months before I started with the County, I met my wife and have been with her for 45 years, so Cheryl was always part of my life while working with the County and still is. During my career I worked at all three juvenile halls, five camps (Munz, Mendenhall, Scott, Scudder, and Gonzales), Camps Headquarters, and the Van Nuys Juvenile Office. I advanced through the ranks from a GS1 to a senior probation director during my almost 34 years. I spent most of my years in juvenile halls and camps, spending only 19 months in a field position.

My average work week was 80 hours per week, but somehow I managed to go to the gym every day at 4:30 a.m.! I could not manage that now! During my career I was the president of the California Probation, Parole and Correctional Association as well as the training chair for CAPIA (managers who worked Probation facilities). I met and networked with some really wonderful people, which really enhanced my career. With the help of some great people, I was able to design and build a high-risk offender unit at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, started boot camps, worked with the Sheriff's Department in getting the Livescan/mugshot system at all three juvenile halls and worked on a myriad of other trendsetting projects in Juvenile Corrections.

I retired in 2009, and in 2018 we moved to northern Nevada, where we reside at the base of the Eastern Sierras in the Carson Valley. We are active doing kayaking, hiking, going to concerts, biking, flying, shooting, four wheeling, fishing, going to the gym and meeting with friends. We wake up to snowcapped mountains, geese and ducks flying, and red tail hawks perching close by. During my years working, I obtained my commercial pilot's certificate as well as my instrument rating. I have been flying for the Civil Air Patrol doing search and rescue and homeland security missions for the past 15 years. I was a squadron commander for 4 ½ years, which turned out to be a full-time volunteer job!

We have traveled all through the USA (mostly national parks) as well as visiting our kids, who have not resided in California for quite some time. Our military son, Justin, has lived in Alaska, Texas, England, Alabama, Virginia and Florida. Our daughter, Heather, now lives in Utah and has worked as a college professor. With the kids and grandkids, we always have had an

excuse to go somewhere, even during COVID! The grandkids are really a blessing and spend time with us during the summer. My parents still reside in Sierra Madre, where I grew up. Mom is 96 and Dad is 98. Both are doing well and I am so lucky to have them. We continue to travel and meet regularly with friends I met on the job, in high school, and in college. We joined a retirees group of law enforcement officers, many of whom are from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Picnics, four wheeling and a ton of other activities with this group has further enhanced our retirement.

We travel the world on cruise ships, which is my wife's favorite mode of transportation, while meeting other people and enjoying other cultures. So far we have spent over a year at sea. I am grateful to have so many friends, family and my health. If anyone tells you retirement is boring, tell them they are crazy...it's wonderful and you earned it!



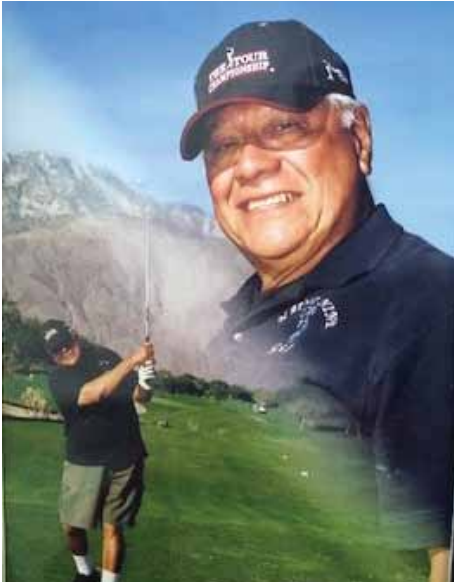
From left are: Bayer, Kelly, Sturges, and Golightly.

Lynn Bayer and Joanne Sturges Retire (For the Second Time)

For many years, retired department heads have met several times a year for lunch. For almost the last 20 years, Lynn Bayer, former director of the Department of Public Social Services, and Joanne Sturges, former Board of Supervisors executive officer, have been responsible for organizing the lunches and outreach to new members. Bayer and Sturges recently announced their intentions to "retire" as co-coordinators and Steven Golightly, former director of the Child Support Services Department, and former Treasurer-Tax Collector Joseph Kelly have assumed these responsibilities. While sad to see them relinquish their responsibilities, retired department heads were happy that Bayer and Sturges still plan to participate in the lunch club. The outgoing and incoming team – all RELAC members – met for lunch recently in Playa Vista to discuss the transition. All were fully vaccinated and happy to see human beings again that weren't in their respective pods.

August is National Golf Month

National Golf Month was founded in 1993 by the Professional Golfers' Association of America (PGA) to encourage golfers to share their experiences and bring new golfers to the greens. We ask some of our RELAC members to share their love of the game and how they got involved in the sport.



Gil Sandoval
RELAC Golf Director

(RELAC associate member Gil Sandoval agreed to serve as golf director in 2003 as a favor to his wife, Diane, a RELAC director, and RELAC when Ed Barrios resigned and RELAC had no one to take over the position. Sandoval retired in March 2009 from the graphic arts and marketing industry.)

I started playing golf in 1973 after lending a co-worker \$200. He repaid \$100 and gave me a complete set of golf clubs in a bag to hold as collateral until he paid the balance, which he never did. So, I had a set of clubs, a golf bag with a pair of golf shoes that were my size, and I decided to try out the game. It turned out to be more of a challenge than I thought. I could hit the ball really far, but I could not always control the direction, and the desire to do better got my attention to the game of golf. It took two years to bring my score under 100 for 18 holes. Two years later I shot my first round under 80 with a score of 78. It was the highlight of my golf experience and a love of the game that has lasted for the last 48 years. The best round of golf that I have ever played was at a Jack Nicklaus-designed course which had a par of 71, and I shot a 72. I have never had a hole-in-one, but have had a dozen very close, once with the ball a quarter of an inch over the edge of the cup on 183-yard par three at Whispering Palms Golf Resort in La Jolla, California. But I will keep trying, as all golfers do!



Pat Proano
2018 Retiree, Public Works

My love affair with golf began 38 years ago when I joined the Department of Public Works (DPW) Golf Club. Jim Noyes, former director of public works, led the club and organized monthly golf tournaments at various courses in Southern California. In 2009 I moved from Long Beach to Santa Clarita and joined the Tournament Players Club (TPC) at Valencia. My golf game dramatically improved at TPC with the opportunity to take lessons, practice and play tournaments with several club and PGA tour players. The competition game gave me an opportunity to test and improve my golfing skills. During my career, I enjoyed representing the County and Public Works at many golf tournaments, including those organized by the California Contract Cities Association, California State Association of Counties and American Public Works Association. Among the renowned courses I played in California include Pebble Beach, Riviera, Wilshire, Sherwood, Torrey Pines and Sandpiper. Some of my memorable rounds included playing golf with Supervisor Don Knabe and DPW Directors Tom Tidemanson, Harry Stone and Jim Noyes. When I retired in 2018, my wife, Lyne, and I moved to Hilton Head Island in South Carolina. This place is a golf mecca, with over three dozen challenging golf courses, where we play on a weekly basis. We have taken road trips to play at many courses in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Some of our most memorable include Pinehurst, Harbour Town, Sea Pines, Oyster Reef, The Club at Savannah Harbor and TPC Sawgrass. I have enjoyed the excitement of hitting three holes-in-one while playing at TPC Valencia, Robinson's Ranch, and Los Amigos. To top it off, during one of my recent rounds here in South Carolina, I shot my personal best round by scoring a 77. Life is Great!

With grandson Trent Luechtefeld



Ray Fortner
2009 Retiree, County Counsel

My main track is Virginia Country Club in Long Beach, where I have been a member since 2002. (Former County Counsel) DeWitt Clinton, who joined a few years before that, encouraged me to get involved with the addictive and humbling pastime. In our group of eight to 10 regulars, DeWitt plays four days a week (we still haven't gotten back to being open on Monday because of COVID-19 restrictions), and I play three days, often with DeWitt, plus a fourth short practice day. I been frustratingly close to a hole-in-one several times, but the golf gods say not yet, while DeWitt added another one a short time ago. We have played with (former Treasurer-Tax Collector) Larry Monteilh many times over the years, but not recently because he prefers starting at sunrise and DeWitt and I start at a more civilized hour. And for a year or two recently, I was playing twice a week with (former County Supervisor) Don Knabe and (Knabe Chief Deputy) Curt Pedersen. Great fun, socialization and fraternization with all these characters!

With DeWitt Clinton (left)



Frank DaVanzo

2011 Retiree, County Counsel's Office

Golf is a sport that is impossible to play consistently well. As I have grown older, I have found that you meet some of the nicest people on the golf course. Attached is a picture of my playing partners today: Jose Huitron, Steve Serranos, me and Drew Respicio. I've played with Jose before, but met the other two gentlemen for the first time today. All three are members of a County-related golf club, the Sandbaggers, which is now run by retired County employees Karl Schroeder, a RELAC member, and Jim Russell. The club originated within the County Department of Internal Services. Drew worked for the Sheriff's Department, but is now a L.A. City fireman. We had a great time cheering each other on. The great challenge of golf is getting outside of yourself and realizing that you can be your own worst enemy. There is no point in beating up on yourself, but instead you have to learn to live with your mistakes and try to learn from them. That is what the term "for the love of the game" means. When I retired 10 years ago a friend suggested I adopt "frank4golf" as my e-mail address because I like to play golf and it is a name easy to use and remember. Think how many golfers named Frank there are who would like this handle!



Brian Lear

2019 Retiree, Internal Services Department

This photo was taken at Dos Lagos in Corona. It's a very beautiful golf course and very challenging. That is one of my favorite locations to play. My home course is Mountain Meadows in Pomona. I love to play there because it's close and it is a Los Angeles County course. About four years ago a good friend of mine took me out for the first time and I fell in love with the sport. I consider myself a well-rounded athlete, but golf happened to be one of the hardest sports to learn and it's very challenging. I love the sport because it takes you to various different golf courses that are very beautiful and if you walk the course like I do often, it's very good exercise while playing. Right now my scores are in the low 90s, but I'm taking lessons with GOLFTec, which is helping me a lot. Hopefully by the time I'm done with those lessons, I'll be shooting in the low 80s. My average playing time is one day a week, but I spent a lot of time at the range, around three to four days a week just trying to get better. One of the persons that I enjoy playing with is Dave Chittenden, who was chief deputy director of the Internal Services Department before retiring.



Greg Walia

2000 Retiree, Public Works Department

When I was working I used to pass golfers in the hot sun or in heavy drizzle and I'd think, "What a bunch of crazies, trying to put a tiny ball in a small hole." About 15 years ago I joined their club. Now I golf three days a week and enjoying it... more the company than golf.

Wendy Watanabe

2014 Retiree, Auditor-Controller

Dennis Watanabe

2011 Retiree, Beaches and Harbors



The golf course we go to in Henderson, Nevada reopened in May last year after a two-month lockdown. It quickly became the only activity in town as strict rules were applied for golfers, such as mask wearing, non-sharing of golf carts, touchless flagpoles, etc. People generally felt safe on the course due to the wide-open space, so the golf business in our town was booming. We started playing golf off-and-on about 10 years ago, much more off than on. Then, when the pandemic hit, we got more serious into the game. We have been playing once or twice a week with this nice couple who moved here from Maui. We are content just to get out of the house, put in some exercise and smell the fresh air. Golfing has helped us to stay sane while the pandemic is still going through the world. We truly enjoy the game, but need big improvement in our golfing skills. This is a tough sport indeed. Hopefully lessons and a lot of practice on the driving range will eventually help. The occasional birdies and pars we get have made us keep coming back for more -- the rest of the time we are just chasing that little white ball.



Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond
Newsletter Editor

The high cost of jail phone calls and commissary items has long been an issue, as has how the Sheriff's Department spends the profit it makes on these inmate purchases. There has been study after study, but now it looks like the County may be ready to forgo some of the profit it makes from the inmates. The Board of Supervisors is considering providing free phone calls – which now cost 25 cents a minute -- and eliminating the steep markups on commissary items – which may be more than double their actual cost. Supervisors say it is important for the inmates to keep in touch with their family and friends, but the high cost of the phone calls often makes that impossible. The Board has asked for a review of the revenue generated by the phone calls and commissary sales and an audit of how much of that money is used to benefit the inmates. The revenue from the inmates is no chump change -- the company that provides the phone services guarantees the Sheriff's Department a minimum of \$15 million annually. Supervisor Chair Hilda Solis said when jails were closed to visitors last year, inmates made 1 million more phone calls and ran up an additional 20 million minutes compared with the last three years. When Supervisor Holly Mitchell was a state senator, she authored legislation that would have capped jail phone and commissary costs, but it was vetoed by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Work is progressing on creating two new departments: the Economic and Workforce Development Department and the Department of Aging and Disabilities. But, though supervisors directed last November that money be included in the 2021-22 budget to create the Department of Youth Development to care for children and teenagers now in the Probation Department's custody, Chief Executive Officer Fesia Davenport did not do so, saying it was premature.

The Community Development Committee has been renamed the Housing Advisory Committee and its membership increased by two non-tenant members for a total of 11 members.

The Board voted to transfer Bruce's Beach in Manhattan Beach to heirs of the black couple who owned and operated a resort for African-Americans there before the property was taken from them by eminent domain in the 1920s due to racism. The County Lifeguard Headquarters is now located at the site.

A "Zero Emissions Infrastructure Plan" is being prepared by the County to dramatically expand the charging station infrastructure to make electric cars practical for drivers, no matter where they live or work.

An ordinance is being drafted to prohibit the feeding of peafowl in public places. Supervisor Kathryn Barger said it is needed because when regularly fed, peafowl may become more territorial and aggressive.

The County Fairplex in Pomona is among emergency shelters housing migrant children who have crossed the border without a parent. As of June 6, 374 of the children had been placed with families or sponsors. Hygiene kits, clothes, blankets and other essential goods are being donated by the public as many of the youth had nothing but the clothes they were wearing.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority says it will not support any expansion of the 710 Freeway, which runs from Long Beach to Alhambra, that involves displacing residents. A current proposal calls for widening the freeway.

Photojournalist Nasser Baker filed a civil rights lawsuit against the County, alleging he was pushed, struck and threatened by sheriff's deputies while videotaping deputies and protesters in 2020.

The Board of Supervisors, reacting to complaints that the Sheriff's Department was withholding names of deputies involved in shootings while on duty despite a 2014 California Supreme Court ruling generally requiring

such disclosures, ordered the names be published within 48 hours. Sheriff Alex Villaneuva responded a day later that he will release the names within 30 days after the incident, to give investigators time to evaluate whether a threat exists against the deputy.

Los Angeles has joined a number of other cities considering creating their own health department, unhappy with the way the County handled the pandemic.

On a 4-1 vote, the Board of Supervisors asked a pilot program be implemented to guarantee a basic income of at least \$1,000 per month for at least 1,000 residents for three years, potentially targeting women living at or below the poverty level who were released from jail in the last seven years. The Board also asked the Department of Public Social Services to come up with potential pilots to include CalWORKS families, transition-aged foster youth, individuals receiving general relief and low-income individuals, without regard to immigration status. Supervisor Kathryn Barger opposed both proposals.

The Registrar-Recorder's Office has approved the circulation of a petition to recall District Attorney George Gascón. Proponents, upset about reforms implemented by the D.A. that they feel are a threat to the community's safety, have until Oct. 27 to collect 579,062 signatures to get the recall on the ballot in 2022. About 80 people gathered on the sidewalk across the street from Gascón's Long Beach home to get signers. Azusa, Beverly Hills, Covina, Lancaster, La Mirada, Pico Rivera, Rosemead, Santa Clara, Santa Fe Springs and Whittier city councils have approved votes of no confidence in the D.A.

Compton filed a claim against the County for what the city said was "rampant" fraud by the Sheriff's Department for billing for patrol work not done. Inspector General Max Huntsman said similar claims of falsified patrol records have been made before, but he could not verify whether they are valid as the Sheriff's Department will not let his office inspect the records.

Teri and Jerry Kohl donated \$5 million to the Los Angeles Opera -- the largest gift received during the pandemic -- to allow the staging of its first live, in-person show since March 2020.

Descanso Gardens in La Canada-Flintridge has been recognized by the National Register of Historic Places and will be included on the official list of historic places worthy of preservation.

Saying they believe suicides among veterans are undercounted, the Board of Supervisors asked a review team be created to track veteran suicides in hopes of providing more effective intervention.

Questions have been raised by the Auditor-Controller and Office of Inspector General about the ability of the Department of Public Health to regulate and oversee local nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

PASSAGES

Compiled by Judy Hammond,
Newsletter Editor



Gerakos



Santana



McDonnell



Llewellyn

APPOINTMENTS:

After receiving public criticism, Supervisor Kathryn Barger withdrew her recommendation to appoint Dr. **David Drew Pinsky** (AKA Dr. Drew) to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. Former County Deputy Chief Executive Officer **Miguel Santana**, who recently resigned as president and CEO of Fairplex, named president and CEO of the Weingart Foundation, a private grant-making foundation advancing racial, social and economic justice in Southern California. **Gustavo Dudamel**, artistic and music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, will also become music director of Paris Opera beginning Aug. 1.

RETIREMENTS:

Former Sheriff **Jim McDonnell**, who was defeated in his 2018 reelection bid, was granted a deferred retirement (for three years, 11 months) in February. **Crystal Cooper-Murrell**, a technology manager in Internal Services Department who helped develop the County website, with almost 33 years of service. **Saul Cervantes**, with almost 38 years of service in the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors. **Rich Llewellyn**, former aide to Supervisor Ed Edelman and District Attorney Gil Garcetti, retiring this summer as L.A. City chief administrative officer.

ELECTIONS:

Supervisor **Sheila Kuehl** has announced she will not seek reelection in 2022, saying she has worked non-stop since she was seven and, approaching 80, would like to “see what it’s like not to work and follow the dreams on my bucket list.” Three persons have already announced they will run for the seat: state Assemblyman **Richard Bloom**, West Hollywood Mayor **Lindsey P. Horvath**, and Los Angeles City Controller **Ron Galperin**. **Eliezer Vera**, chief of the Sheriff’s Department Technology and Support Division and member of the department since 1988, says he will run against Sheriff **Alex Villanueva** in 2022.

COURTS:

Trenton Trevon Lovell, 31, pleaded guilty to murdering Sheriff’s Sgt. **Steven Owen**, 53, five years ago, shooting him multiple times after Owen responded to a burglary call in Lancaster. Judge **Patrick Connolly** admonished by California Commission on Judicial Performance for inappropriate demeanor and remarks, his third such admonishment since 2010. Sheriff’s Deputies **Pedro Guerrero-Gonzalez**, 34, and **Noel Lopez**, 41, indicted on charges they lied in a 2018 drug and weapons investigation. Former District Attorney Jackie Lacey’s husband, **David Lacey**, was placed in a diversion program instead of facing criminal charges for pointing a gun at demonstrators outside the couple’s home during his wife’s bid for reelection last August. Sheriff’s Deputy **Daniel Manuel Auner**, 23, said to be driving at a high rate of speed, has been charged with murder after the car he was driving last summer while off-duty crashed into a traffic pole, killing one of his passengers and seriously injuring two others. Former Sheriff’s Deputy **Marc Antrim** sentenced to seven years in prison for orchestrating a 2018 fake drug raid to steal more than half a ton of marijuana and \$600,000. Sheriff’s Deputy **Kevin Honea**, 33, charged with perjury for lying about finding a gun in a vehicle two years ago.

DEATHS:

Gil Gerakos, former aide to Supervisor Ed Edelman and later the Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services Department, from brain tumor. **Nwamaka Patience Oranusi**, 33-year employee of the Department of Public Health, where she was director of the Health Facilities Inspection Division, after long battle with cancer. **Eli Broad**, 87, major donor to the County Museum of Art and the leader of the fund-raising campaign to complete the Walt Disney Concert Hall, eulogized by Supervisor Janice Hahn “as one of the most consequential civic leaders Los Angeles has ever seen... (who) helped transform L.A.’s physical and cultural landscape and make it the capital of arts and culture it is today.” Board Chair Hilda Solis directed the County flags to be flown at half-mast and the fountains in Grand Park to light up in the color white to honor Broad. **Rigoberto Arrechiga**, 49, who served 20 years in the Public Defender’s Office and was president of the Mexican American Bar Association and the Latino Public Defender’s Association. **Vince Aguilar**, 54, 30-year County employee who was a civil engineer in the transit section of the Department of Public Works. Capt. **Brian Levasseur**, 52, a 32-veteran of the County Fire Department. **Juana Sequiera Solis**, mother of Supervisor Hilda Solis. **Jane Boeckmann**, who served on the Board of Governors of the County Museum of Natural History and a founding member of the First 5 L.A. Commission. **Lloyd Huff**, chief of cross connections and water pollution control for the Department of Public Health until his retirement in 2005. **Margery Ann Gould**, executive director of the Commission for Children and Family Services until her retirement in 1999. Probation Department Detention Services Officer **Michael E. Wall**, with 14 years of service, who was working at Central Juvenile Hall when he went into cardiac arrest. Dr. **Rodger Keller Farr**, 88, whose work with the County Department of Mental Health led to life-changing involvement with the Skid Row homeless population; founder of the Skid Row Mental Health Project in 1981, traveling nationally to share the concept of the project and problems of the homeless mentally ill. **John “Jack” Charles Levan**, who retired in 2003 as director of judicial support for L.A. Superior Court, with 39 years of service. Sheriff’s Commander **Sammie Collins**, who retired in 1990 after 30 years with the department. Sheriff’s Lt. **Jerry Price**, who retired in 1993 after 26 years of service. Prominent real estate developer **Robert Maguire III**, 86, who as president



Owen



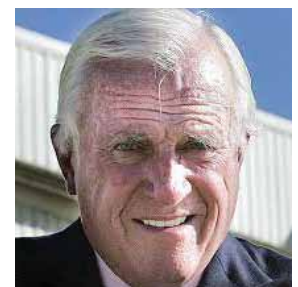
Vera



Broad



Boeckmann



Maguire

Continued on p. 14



SEIU 721 President Linda Dent Dies of Cancer at Age of 68

Linda Dent, a clerk in the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office who rose from a steward to become the first woman and first black president of SEIU 721, has died at the age of 68 after battling pancreatic cancer.

Born in Louisiana and raised in Compton, Dent witnessed the effect of racism and dedicated her life to fighting for racial and economic justice for all. As a member of the bargaining team for L.A. County, Dent pioneered the strategy of joining with community allies to push county government to adopt programs that helped a broad cross section of working-class and poor Angelenos, in addition to members of her union.

The alliances Dent built ignited the Fight for \$15 campaign, sparking minimum wage increases first in L.A. County and the City of L.A. that culminated in a landmark statewide law that raised wages for 6.5 million Californians. She created the Compton Jobs Fair to help the formerly incarcerated find jobs with dignity, and pushed the City of Los Angeles to create the Targeted Local Hire program, a first-of-its-kind effort to set aside entry level city jobs for ex-offenders, homeless and other disadvantaged city residents.

"I have never met a leader more fiercely dedicated to making a difference in the lives of working people," said SEIU 721 Executive Director Bob Schoonover, who Dent succeeded as president of the local. "She was my sister, my ally and my friend for decades and words cannot convey how much I and everyone else in our movement will miss her."

Dent will be succeeded by SEIU 721 Vice President David Green, a social worker and 21-year veteran of the Department of Children and Family Services who also serves as an elected member of the Los Angeles County Employee Retirement Association Board of Investments.

Dent is survived by her husband, Lee, three children, and seven grandchildren.

RELAC Director Victoria Pipkin-Lane said news of Dent's death was devastating. "Linda supported me throughout my County career. She served on the Labor-Management Advisory Committee for Productivity Enhancement, and was an effective advocate for SEIU. I enjoyed working with her. Linda was a very humble, warm and nice person; an angel to me. She made a positive difference in many lives."

Probation DSO Michael E. Wall Dies on Duty



Probation Detention Services Officer Michael Wall suffered a fatal heart attack on April 30, shortly after restraining a juvenile offender who had led a mob assault on another juvenile offender at the Central Juvenile Hall in Los Angeles.

The attack occurred inside a classroom, and two of the offenders then ran into a field in front of the facility. Wall and another officer chased the youths and restrained one of them. Wall then suddenly collapsed, and Probation and Juvenile Court Health Services employees rushed to his aid and began CPR. He was transported to the hospital, where he passed away during emergency surgery.

Wall, who worked in the Probation Department for 14 years, is survived by a daughter and sisters.

James Phelps, assistant superintendent of Central Juvenile Hall, said the passing of Wall while on duty has affected Probation staff at all levels.

"The recent loss of Detention Services Officer Michael Wall was felt deeply by those who knew him and worked with him. His passing impacted each in different ways. Although the incident is devastating, I am struck by those who immediately responded in an attempt to preserve life. These individuals demonstrated the very best of us. I will never forget the passing of DSO Wall nor witnessing the highest example of human compassion. My thoughts and prayers are with DSO Wall and his family."

RELAC member Edward Anhalt, who served 34 years with the Probation Department, said people don't realize how dangerous being a probation officer is and usually think only about police officers dying in the line of duty. He said the dangerous and stressful nature of the job creates extreme health conditions. "I gave two eulogies in my last year."

PASSAGES

continued from p.13

DEATHS:

of the County Museum of Art helped expand the museum and stabilize its finances; from complications of pneumonia. **Martha Aguayo Galaif**, 80, who spent most of her career as an administrator at County+USC Medical Center, running the Internal Medicine, Psychiatry and Pediatrics Departments before becoming the chief administrator for Women's Hospital. She was a founding member of the hospital's Arts Council, procuring artwork donations for new buildings, and a member of the Board of Directors of CARES. Internationally recognized plastic and reconstructive surgeon Dr. **Garry Sidney Brody**, 88, recruited in 1969 to open and head the Plastics and Reconstructive Service at the County's Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey, later instrumental in establishing the Division of Plastic Surgery in the Surgery Department of USC Medical School and a Hand Rehabilitation Center at the University Hospital. Col. **Richard A. Littlestone**, 97, who campaigned successfully for a columbarium at the Los Angeles National Cemetery to ensure more veterans' ashes could be held locally, and was recognized by the County Board of Supervisors with a Lifetime Service award. **Masashi "Sid" Okazaki**, 95, a statistician with the Public Health Department, who retired after more than 30 years.



Brody



Littlestone



Okazaki



Galaif

IN MEMORIAM

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

Agricultural Comm./Wts. & Meas. - Phineas Libbaenis Ware

Alternate Public Defender - Paola M. Argueta

Animal Control - Floyd E. Dwight

Antelope Valley Rehab. Center - Raymond A. Tellez

Assessor - Ernesto G. Agpaoa, Jitendra T. Damani, Joyce E. Denavich, Daryl R. Grafious, Ilda L. Ramos, Lawrence S. Rubinson, Jeanne M. Vidal, Edward A. Weber

Auditor-Controller - Derek D. Marshall

Board of Supervisors - Margery A. Gould, Yvonne Hayes

Burbank Municipal Court - Katherine Habermacher

Chief Executive Office - Peggy Brooks

Child Support Services - Betty M. Curry, Georgia Craver May, Makram G. Shehata, Lelia C. Swayne, June V. Ware

Children & Family Services - Larry D. Ascherman, Millie J. Bunkley, Stanley E. Cerveny, James Chen, John W. Duckwall, Beverly D. Ferguson, David M. Galanda, Joyce Graham, Barbara H. Green, Maria G. Guerrero, Leola M. Raglin, Howard R. Scriven Jr., Elizabeth Suarez

Compton Municipal Court - Ivy G. Roberts

Correctional Health - Carmen Alcantara, Clara A. Luna

County Counsel - Esther Ramirez

District Attorney - Ethel R. McCants, Dewey Dale Shoemaker, Sidney D. Trapp

Engineer Facilities - John S. Bozin, Kenneth C. Murphy, Robert Levin

Fire - Franklin T. Reavis, Stanley Barlow, Patrick E. Bradford, James H. Heywood, Jay D. McCafferty, Franklin T. Reavis, Gary S. Rice, Daniel George Rose, Gerald E. Sparks, Larry A. Westby, Jack O. Williams

Flood Control District - Dennis Rohrs

Harbor/UCLA Medical Center - Bettie J. Brown, Willie Ruth Coleman, Temi A. Doty, Juan M. Garcia, Kathleen M. Gray, Alvin Posey Harris, Gamalier Lesure, Denise Miller, Doris Pierno, Jackeline C. Reyes De Yescas, Jeane C. Skriloff, Fred Valdivia

Health - Virginia Maltby

Health Services Administration - Lavina H. Atkinson, Subramaniam Balasubraman, Lois E. Beridon, Linda Carson, Colleen J. Colson, Myrna Davis, Marian W. Emerson, Martha Aguayo Galaif, Marjorie Gunning, Bruce K. Hon, Arthur E. Horney, Hideko Ichikawa, Mable Starks

Internal Services - Bruce J. Alberti, Chester C. Bryant, Eddie L. Fluellen, Arthur Hill, John F. Holmgren, Generoso Morales, Beverly S. Ng, John Ivory Sims, John Solis

Juvenile Court Health Services - Millicent I. Edwards, Mary L. Misso

King-Drew Medical Center - Gloria R. Byers, Ivory O. Chapple, Betty J. Du Bose, Bertha Y. Ross, Beathrice Lucille Simmons, Rosie N. Townsend, Julius Vaughn, Loyce Delora White, Lurnetta Wimbley, Lemuel Wright

LAC+USC Medical Center - Oretta Armstrong, Gloria J. Brown, Mercelita G. Buensuceso, Richard G. Carlson, Connie E. Closure, Carlos Cortez, Myrlene Decatur, Beatrice R. Echols, Juan Nestor U. Escaro, Kalu G. Ezikpe, Earline Freeman, Joan A. Gallo, Edward E. Healy, Consuelo Hernandez, Dale Luckie, Sarah R. Morales, Delfina P. Murcia, Ann Pope, Fernando L. Reyes, Yolanda Ruiz, Irene C. Schorr, Frederick J. Taylor, Maria Elen Vaughn

LACERA - Remigio M. Feliciano, Jill Rawal

Mechanical - Raymond R. Cummins

Mental Health - Mona L. Burton, Sankar P. Das, Francis X. Dewaele Jr., Bonnie M. Earle, William G. Fadriqueela, Debbie S. Frazier, John D. Hamman, Deborah A. Hooks, Ronald R. Koegler, Harold E. Mavritte, Ramon F. Rocha, Elizabeth Smith, Connie Pack Stonebraker, Betty M. Strode

Olive View/UCLA Medical Center - Carrie L. Baker, Franz Boctor, Juliet J. Fortune, Eddie Kirven, Richard O. Taylor

Parks and Recreation - Harendra J. Bhatia, Harold L. Bressler, Jose J. Mendez, Felix Theus Jr.

Planning and Research - Joseph M. Callahan

Probation - Anthony O. Adeniji, Troy Amos, John A. Bowman Sr., James R. Cooksey, Robert S. Eldridge, Willa Farrow-Burrows, Blanche Houston, Willie J. Neusom, Beatrice Schneider, Dale S. Thomas, George R. Thomas, Carl W. Virden, Michael E. Wall, Florence N. Warren, Henry Webb, Arthur Wright Jr., Lois O. Young

Public Defender - Rigoberto J. Arrechiga, Zona Joyce Steffen

Public Health - Mina H. Abdou, Gloria K. Apper, Linda Bosley, Violet Lucinda Hetz, Lloyd P. Huff, Edgardo B. Lim, Masashi S. Okazaki, Nwamaka Oranusi, Mattie Randolph, Daisy B. Ryals, Jennie Serrato, Parviz Shokrizade, Christine Sparks, Gail N. Spencer

Public Library - Carmen De Castro, Donald Edward Stapleton, Ti T. Tang

Public Safety - Richard M. Councilman, James T. Rich, Ralph Rodriguez

Public Social Services - Gertrude A. Ayala, Isidoro Barrocas, Sandra E. Bonds, Belver D. Broadnax, Barbara J. Broussard, Mary Brown, Patricia A. Burton, Adrienne Bush, Delores Marlene Carbone, John S. Chan, Kenneth W. Chin, Marda C. Chow, William Chow, Annabelle Collins, Mary R. Coston, Gloria J. Crosby, Anahid Danielian, Ruben P. Diaz, Katherine Duarte, Adela C. Gonzales, Bertha Gonzalez-Gar, Candelaria I. Gutierrez, Zeophia Herbert, Kimberly L. Hunter, Carmen H. Jacobson, Victor R. Javier, Youra D. Johnson, Richard T. Judson, Bette V. Kidd, Mary V. McConnell, Fujiko Nakatani, Eloisa Nino, Charles H. Nishimura, Bun Heang Ny, Marie W. Olson, Bobbie J. Potts, Aurora Rivas, Arvilla F. Rockey, Isabel N. Romo, Virginia C. Shen, Ninfa Skidmore, Carol L. Sledge, Daniel A. Smith Jr., Mary E. Stamm, Veronica Thomas, Karen S. Volz, Tien N. Vu, Alene Walker, Celeste G. Walton, Kathleen Washington

Public Works - Vicente Aguilar, Ramon Ballesteros, Steven J. Cordero, Arturo S. Correa, Darryl D. Driggs, George Nevin, Robert V. Niemann, Norman F. Prew, Thomas V. Reese, Daniel E. Spears, Marion L. Strickland, Clifford L. Swanson, Dorothy L. Traylor

Rancho Los Amigos Hospital - Josephine Culp, Annie L. Perkins, Joyce E. Ricks, Helen Mary Salina, Carolyn M. Smith, Nina J. Strom, Lucye Williams, Bertha L. Wright-Lee

Regional Planning - Bernice B. Harrington, Kenneth C. Topping

Sheriff - Paul P. Bartush, Richard L. Boom, Patricia L. Brademeyer, Robert A. Carnes, Sally Y. Carrillo, Sammie L. Collins, Sharda M. Coulter, Frederica Davis, Sean P. Donovan, Eugene C. Eggers, George E. Elwell, Edward P. Entwisle, Kenneth E. Estep, Robert G. Findling, Harold Franzlick, Elin T. Friend, Daniel Robert Gilmore, Lawrence C. Gombos, Louise Carmen Gard, Rosalyn Green, Donna K. Harper, Mary A. Havlovic, Charles F. Herter, Ramona Hurtado, George E. Johnson, Charles A. Khaliq, David E. Lapane, Hugh D. Lloyd, Diana R. McWhorter, Raymon L. Morris, Ralph J. Mundell, Antonio Palacios, Peter N. Potter, Virginia President, Jerry D. Price, Dorothy Jean Price, Richard J. Radis, Erick V. Reed, Gloria G. Rodriguez, Lee K. Secrist, Gilbert R. Sherwood, Carl G. Spalin, Richard N. Teeman, Michael P. Treinen, Gabriel Velasquez, Friedrich K. Wacker, Frank B. Waldron, Richard L. Wallace, Lester J. White, Julia E. Woods, George R. Zabala

South Bay Municipal Court - Eva B. Throne

South Coast Air Quality Mgmt. - Tom Nakashima

Superintendent of Schools - Roosevelt M. Beatty

Superior Court/County Clerk - Michael J. Bayne, Michael Berg, Evelyn Ann Booker, Ulysses Burns, Ivy W. Cheng, Jeanette Culp, Alex Dugally, Shizu Komuro, Jackie S. Luk, Angelina Monteiro, Toni I. O'Brien, Juanita S. Pike, Myrna W. Puno, Nancy C. Richardson, Veronica N. Robinson, Sandra S. Rosker, Annette L. Van Olden

Treasurer/Tax Collector - Alva B. Washington

Women's Hospital - Rosa L. Wilson

Workforce Dev., Aging & Comm. Svc. - Gilbert Gerakos, Salena Hernandez, Louis Ramirez

Unidentified County Agency - Rex Jordan Castellaw, Ned L. Lillich, Billy Malone, Delmona P. Ruby, Palmer Spear



**RETIRED EMPLOYEES
of LOS ANGELES COUNTY**
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Recruit New Members and Win Cash

The Board of Directors has decided to have a cash drawing to reward and encourage members who 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 2021.

So, get your former colleagues to join and list your name on the application as making the referral. You win, they win, RELAC wins.

RELAC Board members and staff are not eligible for prizes.

The easiest way to sign up as a new member 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.

Good luck, and thank you for your support of RELAC.



WHERE ARE YOU?

We continue our efforts to locate RELAC members for whom we have no current address, phone number, or e-mail address. Thanks to those of you who contacted your friends or family members whose name you saw listed in our last edition – it is helping! Here are a few more of those we would love to hear from. Call us at (800) 537-3522 or e-mail us at admin@relac.org.

From California:

Matthew D. Cohn, Woodland Hills; Cj Cormier, Wilmington; Cheryl Dailey, Sunland; Phyllis G. Ehrenberg, Sherman, Oaks; Rune Eriksson, Mariposa; Harold D. Eshelman, La Verne; Mary Louise Garner, Palmdale; Valice L. Gill, La Canada; Roy Griffin, Fontana; Ruben Gukasov, Valley Village; Juanita Hernandez, San Fernando; Marcus Hershey, Santa Clarita; Frans L. Johnson, Palm Desert; Judith E. Jones, Diamond Bar; Sandra Taylor, Hawthorne; Bessie K. Toole, Los Angeles.

From Oregon:

Michael E. Galvin, Sheridan; Charles L. Johnson, Florence.

And from various states:

Don A. Hansen, Boise, Idaho; Russell H. Holmes, Summit, Utah; Please Laster, England, Arkansas; Shirley B. Love, Grand Prairie, Texas; Patricia Rottler, Carson City, Nevada.



IMPORTANT!
*Are you moving?
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Cut out the address portion of this newsletter, correct it and mail to:

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1000 S. Fremont Ave.,
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(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.

