



63 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

Jan/Feb 2022 Vol 57-1

## President's Message

by Brian Berger



I feel cautiously optimistic in saying that we hope this new year will be an easier one, with less unexpected challenges than many of us had to face in 2021. During that same 2021 period, however, key RELAC programs moved forward and even expanded, thanks to the joint efforts of the committee chairs and staff, and because of the support from so many of you who followed us and participated through the RELAC newsletter or on our website. We are already deep into the planning for the 2022 events, including some face-to-face seminars and special events later in the year. I again encourage you to read the articles in the newsletter and to visit our website to get additional information on our programs, including scholarships, the Food Bank, the March for Babies, holiday toys, the R.V. Club, our golfers group, and others.

In November, RELAC hosted the California Retired County Employees Association conference in Long Beach, with representatives from 20 county retirement associations. This three-day conference gave all of us a chance to share information that keeps our pension and health care watchdog commitments alive and active. Everyone also got a chance to meet the young penguin that was sponsored in a support program by Evelyn Gutierrez, one of our Board members, during one of her earlier planning visits to the Aquarium of The Pacific, which was a site for one of the conference dinners.

The office continues to be open, with staff rotating in on a scheduled basis and also working from home on office-supplied computers. We are fortunate that almost all work can be handled through the mail, phone calls, or in response to e-mail inquiries. We continue to work to improve areas where technology can help us with key information. We honor the mask/distancing requirements and all staff have had their vaccinations, as is true of all Board members as well.

We look forward to a busy 2022 and the chance for many of us to actually meet with each other again. Please feel free to offer suggestions. We are always ready to explore new opportunities.



## Kelly Resigns Seat on RELAC Board

Retired County Treasurer-Tax Collector Joseph Kelly, who was appointed to the RELAC Board of Directors in January 2020, has resigned, effective Oct. 15, 2021.



He remains a member of RELAC and will continue to represent retirees on the LACERA Board of Investments.

"I have the greatest respect for RELAC and its mission, and my colleagues with whom I served on this admirable board," said Kelly. However, he said he needed to lessen his commitments.

Kelly was elected to the LACERA Board of Investments in 2021, endorsed by RELAC, and serves as vice chair and Audit Committee chair. He also chairs the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Housing Development Corporation, a non-profit developer of low-income housing. At RELAC, he headed the Investments Committee and served on the Budget and E-Communication committees.

"There is a lot of work to do at RELAC, and I can no longer commit to juggle three director positions," Kelly said in his resignation letter.

Dave Muir, RELAC's immediate past president, who recommended Kelly's appointment to the Board, said he completely understands Kelly's decision. "It's been amazing to me that he has been able to serve on such important and busy boards, all at the same time."

RELAC President Brian Berger called Kelly's resignation "a real loss to RELAC."

A 23-year County employee who started in the Auditor-Controller's Office, Kelly was the county treasurer-tax collector when he retired in 2019.

## LACERA Files Lawsuit Against County

The independence of the Los Angeles County Employees Association (LACERA) is at issue in a lawsuit before the court.

LACERA has filed a lawsuit against the County after the Board of Supervisors refused to implement several personnel actions approved by LACERA's two governing boards.

The personnel decisions were approved by the LACERA Board of Retirement and Board of Investments in June, but the Board of Supervisors on Oct. 5 rejected or modified all but one of the decisions.

The County takes the position that the supervisors can veto personnel decisions made by LACERA's boards, and that the County has ultimate authority over the terms and conditions of LACERA employees. LACERA, however, disagrees.

In its lawsuit, filed Oct. 18, LACERA asserts that under state law and the state Constitution, LACERA is an independent agency with authority over its management and administration, and that the County is obligated to implement personnel and salary decisions approved by both LACERA governing boards by including them in County salary ordinances.

The lawsuit requests the court to order the County to implement the personnel actions approved by the LACERA boards, which would create new positions deemed important by LACERA – including a deputy chief, investment officer and principal staff counsel – and change titles and salaries to several existing positions.

LACERA said the actions are needed to manage and administer the retirement system, and to perform the work necessary to protect and to invest prudently

continued on p.11

# News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich

LACERA Assistant Executive Officer

It's the end of November as I write this article and we have all just returned from our Thanksgiving break. Personally, and at LACERA, we have a lot to be thankful for this year. Personally, my family is fully vaccinated, including our booster shots, and healthy. At LACERA a majority of our staff are fully vaccinated, healthy, energized and focused on providing service and delivering on the promised benefit. Our fund is doing well with double digit returns, moving LACERA to a 76.3% funded ratio as of June 30, 2020, and likely near 80% when the final valuation comes in for June 30, 2021.



Last month we held our annual offsite meeting for the Board of Retirement. One of the topics we focused on was the member experience and member journey concepts. These two topics are currently the leading theories in providing service to customers – or in our case – members. The member experience concept encourages an organization to look at the interaction and service provided from the member's point of view with the goal of designing the experiences to be simple, efficient, as easy as possible, and, of course, making sure you deliver on what the customer wants. The member journey refers to identifying specific time periods, processes, or goals that a member goes through so you can examine those journeys, understand all aspects of the journey, and focus on maximizing that experience from the member's point of view.

While LACERA is still discussing whether we will adopt these formal approaches, I am pleased to share that LACERA's approach to providing service over the last decade and a half has always been focused on improving the member experience. The recent launch of the new LACERA.com website is one example of our efforts. Behind the scenes, we are taking efforts to improve several processes to make them convenient, faster, easier for you to do, and, of course, to maintain our high quality standards.

Over the next few months, we will be entering into our new strategic planning cycle. Under the leadership of the Board of Retirement, LACERA is working on selecting a consultant to help us develop and implement a new strategic plan. The new strategic plan will help focus LACERA efforts towards specific measurable goals that will advance delivery of our promises to our members. We'll keep you updated on what those goals are as we go through the process, but I can assure you that you – our member – will always be at the forefront of what we do.

With that, I'll sign off for this month and we'll see you again next time. In the meantime, please stay safe, take care of yourselves and your families, and enjoy your retirement as much as possible – you earned it!

# Investment Board

by Joseph Kelly

LACERA Board of Investments Trustee



On Oct. 13, 2021, the Board of Investments (Board) held an offsite strategy session, although this one was virtual. While we had hoped to be able to congregate again in person, the virtual meeting was the more conservative approach, given the ongoing dynamics of the pandemic. Trustees and investment staff discussed the current strategic initiatives: 1. Enhancing operational effectiveness. 2. Optimizing the investment model. 3. Maximizing stewardship and ownership rights. 4. Strengthening the fund's influence on fees and cost of capital. 5. Implementing "Towards Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity" throughout the investment program. Investment staff did an excellent job presenting each strategic direction and the status, and the related discussions with trustees were very informative. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into preparing the offsite and in executing it, and staff, once again, hit it out of the ballpark. Thank you, investment staff!

At its November meeting, the Board adopted a new policy by which it will choose its officers (chair, vice chair and secretary) each January. In short, for each officer position, staff will develop a trustee seniority list, and the most senior trustee assumes the officer position for a one-year term. If a trustee declines the role, the position would go to the next most senior trustee on the list. Prior to the adoption of this policy, trustees elected officers at the Board's first meeting in January. The new policy received unanimous support. At the November meeting, the Board also approved a revised code of ethical conduct and media policy.

LACERA Pension Fund		October 2021	Total Assets \$74.4 Billion		
Returns:	FYTD	1 year	3 year:	5 year:	10 year:
	+4.6%	+26%	+12.9%	+11.1%	+9.5%



## Board of Retirement

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

As we move into the new year, I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2022. These past two years have been very trying, to say the least. COVID has certainly changed a great many things in our world, some good, but most bad, in my opinion. Many of us have lost friends and former colleagues and some of you who have contracted COVID will live with the lingering effects and impacts for some time to come, according to medical experts. LACERA has certainly changed the way it operates as we now have many employees working from home part of the week, and that will probably be the norm in the foreseeable future. The challenge will be in continuing to provide the quality one-on-one service for which LACERA is well-known and is proud to offer.

Speaking of LACERA, all of you received a letter from LACERA's chief executive officer a couple months ago advising you that the LACERA Boards voted to file a lawsuit against the Board of Supervisors over the issue of just who controls and runs LACERA. The law is pretty clear with respect to who has the exclusive fiduciary and plenary authority to do this, and it's not the Board of Supervisors. We seem to live in a different political arena today than when I served as former Supervisor Don Knabe's appointee. He always let me do my job, and throughout the more than 10 years that I was his appointee, he never once contacted me to tell me what to do or how to vote, ON ANY ISSUE. This is the way it should be.

One last issue is the the new Medicare Part B premiums that were announced in November. LACERA administers the retiree health care program and one of its responsibilities is to prepare the necessary paperwork to the Board of Supervisors for approval of the reimbursements for those who qualify for a Part B reimbursement. This was done on Nov. 17, so hopefully the Board of Supervisors will do its part and approve the new rate reimbursements prior to the end of December.



## Application Period Opens for 2022 Scholarships

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Scholarship Committee



Ed, Patrick and Jayne Melia

The RELAC Board of Directors, in support of continued education, is pleased to announce that the application process is open for the 2022 scholarship program for members and their families.

Up to five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to RELAC members, their children, stepchildren, grandchildren and step-grandchildren. Application forms and additional information are available on the RELAC website at [relac.org](http://relac.org). Applications may be

submitted to the RELAC office or e-mailed from Jan. 1 through March 1.

Scholarship 2021 awardee Patrick Melia's nominating grandparents recently contacted the RELAC office to thank directors for sponsoring the program.

"We would like to thank RELAC for honoring our grandson Patrick Melia with one of your \$1,000 scholarships this year," said Ed and Jayne Melia, RELAC members and retired probation officers. "Patrick has been a hard-working honor student and recently accepted an appointment to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. He will pursue studies in maritime engineering. Your scholarship will aid with his expenses and he, his parents and we are grateful for this wonderful award."

For additional information, visit the RELAC website or contact Linda Hopkins, RELAC Scholarship Committee chair, at [lhopkins1054@gmail.com](mailto:lhopkins1054@gmail.com).



Berger Hopkins Gutierrez Nelson Muir

## Berger, RELAC Officers Reelected for 2022

The RELAC Board of Directors has unanimously reelected the current Executive Committee to serve new terms in 2022. Brian Berger will serve his second year as president.

Linda C. Hopkins continues as vice president, Evelyn Gutierrez as secretary, and Dyanne Nelson returns for a third term as treasurer. Dave Muir, as immediate past president, is the fifth member of the Executive Committee.

## Winners of Cash Drawing for Recruiting Members To Be Announced in the March-April Newsletter

The results of RELAC's cash drawing for recruiting new members in 2021 will be announced in the March-April edition of the newsletter. Dec. 31 was the deadline to qualify for the drawing. As of Dec. 1, there were 79 referrals by members. Staff and Board members made another 33 referrals, but they are not eligible for prizes. Twenty \$25 prizes will be awarded, with multiple prizes to the same individual allowed.

## L.A. Regional Food Bank Thanks RELAC for Donations

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Community Support Committee



RELAC Office Manager Sheila Simpson and Directors Dave Muir, Linda Hopkins and Don Fandry

The L.A. Regional Food Bank recently featured RELAC on its website, thanking the organization and its members for providing more than 90,000 meals to address hunger experienced by needy families and the unemployed.

"RELAC is a nonprofit that consists of retired employees of the Los Angeles County government, and with their support, the Food Bank continues to provide meals to our hungry neighbors in need, especially as the economic impact of the pandemic continues," said the Food Bank article.

"The work of the Food Bank is possible thanks to generous supporters like the RELAC team, who have inspired their network to donate funds to our cause. As the pandemic unfolded in 2020, the leadership and members of RELAC saw the importance of the Food Bank's work to provide meals to our food-insecure neighbors, and they started a fundraiser to help with the fight against hunger in L.A. County."

RELAC members as of Nov. 30 had donated \$23,025 to the Food Bank.

A recent demonstration of community support resulted at a Department of Human Resources reunion luncheon with a caring donation of \$200 to the Food Bank project.

"I am so grateful to have been blessed with all the necessities of life," said RELAC Director Linda Hopkins, who coordinates the Food Bank project for RELAC. "I was initially drawn to RELAC because the organization is service driven. I am now also appreciative that we have chosen to help others and support the L.A. Regional Food Bank, the March for Babies and the Fire Department's toy drive."

RELAC Director Dave Muir has been among the donors. "Most of us are lucky to have retirement security and first-class health care benefits. I can't imagine what it's like having to miss a meal, worse yet, worrying how I would feed my children."

If you wish to assist in raising funds for RELAC's continued Food Bank campaign, reach out to your friends, neighbors and organizations that may be interested in helping provide much-needed food for families in need.

Take a moment and visit the RELAC website for additional information and to make an online donation, or contact Hopkins at [lhopkins1054@gmail.com](mailto:lhopkins1054@gmail.com).

The RELAC Board of Directors sincerely thanks you for your generosity and caring.

# Letters To The Editor

Regarding the article [in the November/December 2021 newsletter] on page 11 by RELAC Director Kelly: This was one of best articles I have ever read in the RELAC newsletter. It was informative and hilarious. He is definitely an entertaining and skillful writer. Has he any published writings? Thank you for a great newsletter throughout the year. Sincerely,

**Martha Lovelace, Los Angeles, California**

*(Joseph Kelly's response: No, I have not published any writings, although many people have encouraged me to do so. I was very happy to learn that you enjoyed the article, and I thank you for the kind note.)*

Attached are a few remarks about Sue Widman. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Randy and I enjoy the RELAC newsletter and, in particular, your writings. Keep it up!

**Stephanie Klopfleisch, Los Angeles, California**

I enjoy the stories and all the feature articles that you organize! Thank you! Best wishes,  
**Areta Crowell, Pasadena, California**

I received the additional copies you sent me of the September/October 2021 RELAC newsletter. My family enjoyed getting your actual publication instead of the photocopies I had given them. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness! You and the RELAC team continue to do a wonderful job for L.A. County's retirees.  
**Constance Perett, La Verne, California**

I appreciate the extra copies of the RELAC newsletter with the picture of my granddaughters. Very thoughtful. I continue to enjoy the newsletter and especially your updates on what is happening with the County Family.  
**Philip L. Browning, Rancho Palos Verdes, California**

I always enjoy the newsletter. Appreciate all you do to be there for all of us! Happy Thanksgiving and many blessings.  
**Dolores Parrish, Clarkston, Michigan**

You have made an enormous impact on the newsletter. People enjoy reading it. Your article on the 50th anniversary celebration of the "Emergency!" television series was excellent. I learned new details about the show and paramedic program that even I didn't know, and I am quite familiar with both subjects. I enjoy learning new things. (Former Supervisor) Pete Schabarum was one of the most remarkable people I ever met. The other is Robert A. Cinader. This creator of popular television shows, with the help of actors Randolph Mantooth and Kevin Tighe, caused emergency medical services to be improved across the county. Bob Cinader devoted so much time to the paramedic program he became perhaps the most respected voice in the field of EMS. I think Pete's motion to study the concept of creating a network of trauma centers, which I was told would be defeated 4 to 1, passed because Cinader advised other Board of Supervisors members the idea made sense. I understand Randy and Kevin will attend the January celebration. The Fire Department employees of the era loved those people. During my recent ambulance ride to the Loma Linda University Medical Center's emergency department, a paramedic taking care of me told me he wants to go see Station 127 in Carson (now named The Robert A. Cinader Memorial Fire Station). Many paramedics not associated with the County have gone to see the facility, used in filming the TV series.  
**Tom Hibbard, Loma Linda, California**

Thank you [to Evelyn Gutierrez] and the Board of Directors for remembering and sending me a birthday

## Letters to the Editor continued

card on my 91st birthday. It means a lot to me. Sincerely,

**Vijayaradhi Komanduri, Aliso Viejo, California**

[Enclosed is a] donation for the L.A. Regional Food Bank in memory of Sharon Shorer.

**Marion L. Siu, Los Angeles, California**

## Golf News

by *Gil Sandoval*  
RELAC Golf Director



### Lakewood Golf Tournament Oct. 18, 2021

Our tournament started 20 minutes late as the golf course was trying to get three tournaments out for the day. We had a windy, cool day, but all worked out as we scrambled to get everyone out to accommodate the course management.

The "A" flight was a close battle as Renato Daluyen edged out Javier Alvarado and Tony Bacon by one stroke, taking first place with a net 67. Javier, playing in his first RELAC tournament, was in second place in a card off as he and Tony both had net 68s, with Tony finishing in third place.

Stephen Lee beat Frank DaVanzo, last month's winner, in the "B" flight, with Frank taking second place in a card off as they both brought in net 71. Art Morris came in third place with a net 73.

In the "C" flight, Andy Mendoza, playing steadily, won with a net 73 as Terry Black and Frank Martinez tailed behind. Terry came in second place with a net 81 and Frank took third with a net 91, edging out Lee Gustafson by one stroke.

The Ladies Flight was an easy win for Jacqueline Johnson, who shot a net 76. Shirley Johnston backed her win of the last tournament with second place, edging out Kay Barents in a card off as they both had net 83. We had six women players and we welcome their participation. Thank you all for playing!

In the men's closest-to-the-pin competition on par-3 holes, Chuck Adams won on the third hole and Ken Reed on the 17th. In the women's competition, Jacqueline Johnson took the third hole and Shirley Johnson the 12th.

Our Chester Washington tournament was scheduled for Dec. 6, 2021, so results from that tournament will be on the RELAC website, as the newsletter deadline had passed.

The next tournament is scheduled at Los Amigos Golf Course in Downey on Jan. 24. First tee is at 8 a.m. A reminder: fees have been increased to \$42 for 2022. The entry form, available on the RELAC website under the calendar section, must be received by Jan. 3. Hopefully, those who have friends who play with us and do not have access to the RELAC website will pass on the information about our next tournament so they can sign up to play. We also would appreciate if you could help us recruit new RELAC members who are golfers and help our program grow.

## RELAC NEWSLETTER

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Treasurer

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# RELAC Hosts CRCEA Fall Conference

by Evelyn Gutierrez, CRCEA Conference Committee

The CRCEA Fall 2021 Conference hosted by RELAC from Nov. 7-10 was coordinated by Conference Committee co-chairs Dave Muir and Evelyn Gutierrez, and members Brian Berger, Linda Hopkins, J.P. Harris, Les Robbins and Sheila Simpson.

Following an almost two year cancellation of conferences, the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA), a 20-county retiree organization, enthusiastically supported attendance at the 2021 fall conference "reunion" in Long Beach.



Steve Goodling

The conference was called to order by CRCEA President Skip Murphy. The CRCEA theme "New Horizons, Navigating into the Future" was highlighted by Steve Goodling, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, who gave the welcoming address.

The keynote address, "Sacramento Insights & Political Update," was presented by Joe Ackler. Workshops featured presentations on: "Senior Safe Driving" by CHP Officer S. Yarbrough; "Paws-it-ive Companions for Seniors" by Dr. Fumie Yamamoto, DVM, L.A. County Animal Care and Control Department; "Rediscovering Nature" by Dr. Peter Kareiva, president and CEO, Aquarium of the Pacific; "California Water Opportunities and Solutions" by Jason Rollo, Metropolitan Water District; "Healthy Minds" by Tiffany Zhang, AARP regional coordinator; and "Strategic Communication Technology" by Stephanie Todd, L.A. County Internal Services Department Internet Development Division. All workshops received favorable comments.

CRCEA is comprised of 20 county associations working together to enhance advocacy and retirement benefits for retired public servants throughout California. Providing information and networking opportunities is key to supporting organizational mission statements and the achievement of service goals to members. RELAC will share a number of workshop presentations with our membership in future newsletters. Your response and ideas for future articles are welcome.

RELAC wishes to express sincere appreciation for the generous support of our conference sponsors: Platinum Sponsors: Pacific Group Agencies and My Senior Health Plan. Gold Sponsors: Shernoff, Bidart, Echeverria, LLP; Southland Credit Union. Silver Sponsors: L.A. Professional Peace Officers, Association of L.A. Deputy Sheriffs, L.A. County Management Council, L.A. County Library Foundation and the L.A. County African American Employees Association. A special thank you is extended to the Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau for providing media support, promotional items, a special deejay performance at the Aquarium reception and the "Show your Badge" program information on local business discounts available. In addition, RELAC extends a sincere note of appreciation to County Supervisor Janice Hahn for providing transportation service for conference attendees.

The success of the CRCEA "reunion" conference was the result of great teamwork. Buddy Tisnado, Courtyard Hotel events manager and the RELAC Conference Committee are to be congratulated on a purposeful and enjoyable conference. The Spring 2022 CRCEA Conference will be hosted by Orange County. Stay tuned for workshop highlights in our next newsletter and additional information on our RELAC website.



Sheriff Honor Guard



CHP Officer Yarbrough



CRCEA conference opening session



Rhonda Biesemeier



Dr. Yamamoto



Dr. Kareiva



Peter Blasi, MSHP



Carlos Gonzalez, CRCEA Treasurer



Mike Sloan and Steve Pettee



Brian and Gene Berger, Dave Muir



PGA Aquarium Reception



Skip Murphy and penguin



Ilene Barcnas, Orange County



Evelyn Gutierrez and Rachel Strohecker



Elaine Weston and Edith Simonson

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

October-November 2021

**Adoption** – Ronald Monie

**Adult Protective Services** – Jacquelyn Pernel

**Agricultural Comm./Wts. & Meas.** – Clifford Caporale, Myra Yamachi

**Alternate Public Defender** – Antonio Garcia, Sherrilyne Headley, Jen Polen

**Animal Care & Control** – Irene Natividad

**Arboreta & Botanic Gardens** – Luann Munns

**Assessor** – Rebecca Alcabedos, Robert Barone, Fernando Macias, Ruth Maciel, Alicia Panganiban, Rebecca Solk

**Board of Supervisors** – Olga Castaneda

**California Children's Services** – Irma Chacon, William Gonzalez

**Chief Executive Office** – Phil Ansell, Marvin Brown, Robinetta Campbell-Mack, Elena Estrin, David Howard, Michell Jackson, Rhonda Jumper, Maryanne Keehn, Sidney Kikkawa, Ruben Rivero, Donna Stine

**Child Support Services** – Katherine Bradley, Cheryl Davis, Tijerina Duran, Ruby Gold, Doreen Grindler, Barbara A. Itagaki-Covington, Judith Meraz, Joylyn Phillips, Olga Quintero, Herlinda Reyes, Yelba Rodriguez

**Children & Family Services** – Anita Abner, Joanne Agramonte, Jannie V. Barclay, Donna Brazzell, Mitchell Brooks, Rita Brown, Medina Cammock, Charles Clemons, Eloyce Daniels, Ashot Dashtoiyan, Bonnie Elia, Tracey Lynch Evans, Amalia Garcia Lassalle, Jan Green, Craige Henderson, Michael Jeffreis, Alex Iskander, Paula Jackson-Hill, Ym Kiang, Emogene Davis Lee, Veronica Martinez, Clara Meels, Joaquin Miramontes, Linda Murray, Karmen Pena, Anna Price, Jimmy Ramos, Charlene Robinson, Catharine Rooney, Mary Schreiber-Baum, Denise Scott, Rowland Selame, Cori Shaffer, Luis Soria, Lorie Stephany, Jacquelyn Stewart, Lillian Tennell, Mary Thomas, Linda Todd, Elaine Varnadore, Mary Wilhite, Dominique Wulfekuhle, Mary Raphael Ybarra

**Community & Senior Services** – Gloria G. Lopez, Robert Ryans

**Consumer/Business Affairs** – Cynthia Tucker

**County Counsel** – Jeanette Cauble, Bobbie Fesler, James Owens  
**District Attorney** – Bruce Abraham, James Bell, Bryant Bushling, Duchein Cohen, Barbara Dengado, Anthony Garcia, Robert J. Hale, Charles Hazelton, Janice Jackson, Beatrice Jaime, Mary Keyfauber, Gilbert Roldan, Terrie Tengelsen

**Engineer** – David Garcia, Richard Baligad, Harry Batchelder, Craig Bender, William Bennett, Marie Cantacessi, Lawrence Collins, Gerald Cosey, Vernan Curtis, Kurtis "Darryl" Doty, Alice Duckworth, Edward Estrada, Paul Evans, Daniel Fournier, Scott Fulton, Richard Garrett, Lucy Guadiana, Dominique Holden, Ron Hughes, Ronald Jones Jr., George Jones, Thomas Kobetitsch, Richard Leuck, Carmen Mc Laurin, Guy Melker, Mark Mihaljevich, William Monahan, Michael Morales, Valerie Ohman, Robert Parra, Jean Robertson, Arlene Saucer, Miriam Schneider, Karl Schultz, Michael Shannon, Jeffrey Sims, Donald Upham, Trina Valencia, George Verkamp, Jeffrey Vrooman, Ken Wiles, Eric Wood, Steve Zaragoza

**Harbor/UCLA Medical Center** – Curtis Andrews, Cresenia Camcam, Lluçila Coloma, Clara A. Dozier, Jesusa Flores, Mayra Flores, Myung Kang, Jin Lin, Johnnie Martin, Vanessa Nicolas, Genuina Robles, Della Toniolo, Amy Vahdat, Barbara Washington

**Health Information Management** – Gwendolyne Paraguya

**Health Services** – Mary Abbott, Theresa Aleman, Joan Anderson, David Beck, Gertha Benson, Manuelito Bolosan, Roy Colson, Daniel Davini, Francisca De La Monte, Angelita Dimson, Hilary Elonai, Paul Frederick, Dorothy Gaither, Marguerita Garcia, Rosalind Giddens, Luz Gonzalez, Manuel O. Gonzalez, Teres Hernandez, Roger Hughes, Janie R. Jackson-Saymour, Shirlisa Johnson, Adrienne Lear, Kai Hea Lee, Sandra Lyons, Andres Martinez, Rima Matevosian, Sandra Mc Gowan, Ruby Nelson, Huong Nguyen, Penelope Ornelas, Roderick Palmer, Dorothy Porter, Gail Roberts, Salvador Rosales, Linda Rosiles, Elaine Santiago, Burl Wagenheim, Gloria Washington Boyd, Sandra Williams, Judy Yamato, Joe Zuniga

**High Desert Hospital** – Paula Nicholas

**Human Resources** – Christopher Chadwick, Shelli Weekes

**Internal Services** – Carlos Baumgarten, Violet Carr, Randolph Hoffman, Jimmie Jones, Luis Castillo Olivera, Jose Mares, Veroniza Parrish, John Rice, Roy Romero, Ronald J Schuman, Ya Wong

**King-Drew Medical Center** – Deborah Askew, Willie Newton, Raymond Weeber

**LAC+USC Medical Center** – Isreal J. Arthorlee, Suhas Babiwale, Frederick Boer, Shirley Brown, Rosanna Erickson, Patricia Flynn, Teresa Gonzalez, Larry Griego, Jeremias Gutierrez, Linda Hall, Miriam Johannsen, Sue Keiper, Gordon Lee, Giao Nguyen, Chung Sook Ohang, Jose R. Sanchez, Patricia Sandoval Solano, Rosalva Saucedo, Pearl Smith, Maheia Staine, Susan Tang, Eric Wong, Magdalena Ybarra

**LACERA** – Barbara Chrisman, Andrew Demetroulis, Lourdes Diaz, Johanna Fontenot, Elvia Gonzalez, Lillie Jackson, Steven Johnson, John McClelland

**Library** – Linda Dickerson, Ellen L. Mulkern

**Mechanical** – Carole Bradley

**Mental Health** – Carol Bullard, Christopher Camillai, Juanita Escobedo, Patrice Figaire, Mark Gillogly, Leslie Groenewold, John Herrera, Merla Huntley, Anahid Markarian-Aghaniantz, Vera Muensch, Maria Panduro-Morales

**Military & Veterans Affairs** – Harvey Austin, Frank Valencia

**Museum of Art** – Peter Brenner, Roosevelt Simpson

**Olive View/UCLA Medical Center** – Marian Grier, Alice Mash, Sheril Wire

**Parks and Recreation** – Paula E. Boothe, Steven Flores

**Probation** – Clara Ann Barbee, Clara Ann Carr, Ricky Coffmn, Lyvette Crespo, Gene Dalsky, Gregory Darty, Mel Glass, Vera Hoskin, Anthony Jones, Charles Jones, Lonza Lester, Patricia Lindsay, Oseph Malveaux, Chris Martin, Tonnie Mc Intyre, Patrick Monis, Melvin Nalls, Annie Orange, Maria Lilia Ramos, Gilbert Rodriguez, Carolyn Sherman, Joseph Sills, James Stewart Jr., Ma-Corazor Tacud, Loretta Troupe, Richard Tschinkel

**Public Defender** – Frederick Brennan, Patricia Green, Graciela Patino, Patricia Tarver, Lorraine Welch

**Public Health** – Lydia Ajao, Godfrey Anigbo, Catharine Cousins, Lina Davis, Alma De Larman, Kimraye Dennis, Freddie Duggan, Marsha Epstein, Aprel Gabriel-Johnson, Alice Gonzalez, Norma Ann Harris, Kevin Harvey, Gracie Lewis, Martha Maldonado, Constance Martin, Oscar Ortiz, Elvia Ramirez, Yingyos Sinitvong, Harold Sterker, Michael Williams

**Public Social Services** – Leticia Arce-Rodriguez, Karma Armstrong, Jose Arteta, Seda Barkhoudarian, Burdell Beaman, Monica Boen, Frankie Brown, Henrietta Bullard, Alejandro Cabanillas, Cheryl Carter, Leda Castillo, Bernadine Farlough Cole, Bonifacio Dayao, Zenaida De Padua, Josie Dominguez, Ricardo Escobar, Erminda Francisco, Elizabeth Garcia, Juanita Givens, Lana Hiter, Jerry Hobbs, Donna Hooks, Amelia Iniguez, Barbara Jackson, Sharon Johns, Lynn Johnson, Joanne V. Johnson, Helena Jordan, Leather Kelley, Coralie La Salle, Victoria Le, Marcelina Ledesma, Chih Chiang Lin, Beatrice Manzi, Maria Melgar, Maria Jessica Meza-Zamora, Dana Mims, Virginia Adrianna Molina, Lola Nevarez, Minh Nguyen, Hermila Nuila, Donald Pharoah, Annis Rawls, Faviola Rodriguez, Cheryl Russell, Susan Shu, Sharon Simmons, Sarah Sims, Audrey Smith, Daniel Smith, Otis Thompson, Mildred L. Tong, Altha Turner, Irma Valencia, Shirley Wayne-Simmons, Brenda Williams, Sterling Williams-Banks

**Public Works** – Carmela Brust, Jim Dufour, Gary Ewell, Efrain Fernandez, Robert Fetty, Michael Fioravanti, Terri Grant, Eileen Horton, Saul Luna, James Martinez, Ousama Nimri, Walter H. Reynolds, Marsha Rodman, Greg Slevin, Wilford Thomas, Jesse Williams, Marcia Winn, Henry Yan

**Purchasing & Stores** – Raymond Jackson, James F. Martinez

**Rancho Los Amigos Hospital** – Olivia Fortuno, Olga Jones, Meenal Patel, Roy Byrer, Louise Young

**Regional Planning** – Rosy Alaniz, Richard Bruckner, Gloria Taylor

**Registrar Recorder/County Clerk** – Alice Rivers, Marcia Ventura, Rita Figueroa

**Roads** – Leyla Harney, Violet Mc Michael

**Sheriff** – Anthony Adragna, Perry Ahn, Maria Alencastro, William Amendariz, Rodrick Armalin, Anthony Arnold, Sylvia Atondo, Michael Ayer, Vicky Barndollar, Richard Bayly, Carmen Bellas-Loffredo, Jeffrey Biehl, Lesli Birkhead, Larry Blackwell, Dirk Blansfield, Ronald Boudreaux, Lawrence Brambles, Gregory Buntin, James Campbell, Judith Campbell, Raymond Cardenas, Romeo Catura, Linda Cavanaugh, Nicolas Cavarrubias, Cescam Carol, Paul Clay, Carl Coates, Bonnelyn

Cole, Dennis Conte, Blair Conway, Sandra Cowthran, Steve Difonzo, Brian Dow, Johnny Dredd, Richard Emerton, Joseph Fienschmann, Alice Finkelstein, Pacifico Francisco, Allen Charles Frisch, Scott Fuquay, Gary Gertig, Eric Giambalvo, Budd Goldman, Diane Gonzales, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Bradley Gray, Joe Guterrez, Donald Handley, James Harding, Judit Harris, Tim Hazelwood, Healy Cornelius, Russell Hill, Harold Hladky, David Hontz, John Howard, Maria Jacquez, Foster Johns, Patrick Jordan, Mary Junior, Michael Kenyon, Aasia Kinney, Michael Kluss, Joseph Knapp, Robert Knudson, Jeffrey Lammers, Joseph Langill, Sherry Lewis, Edward Liebl, Ronald Lipvosky, Joseph Lo Monaco, Grady Machnick, John Madrid, Bradley Martinelli, Cary Math, Douglas McClure, Leonard McCray, Gregory McHenry, Antoinette McKeller, Richard McKeon, Cetta Merrill, Craig Miller, Dora Miller, Ruben Munoz, Gregory Nelson, Craig Newsom, Richard Norenberg, Diana Norris, Rian Oates, Michael Olex, Deborah Orpinel, Jose Ortiz, Darren Ota, Richard Pfaff, David Philippon, Bruce Pollack, Constance Quintana, Melanie Ramirez, Victor Rampulla, Jon Ray, Nagendra Reddy, Robert Renteria, James Rewald, Allen Ripley, John Rivera, Robert Robinson, Myra Rocio, Edward L. Roman, Pauline Romero, Juan Salas, Jeffrey Salvesson, Claudine Sanchez, Michael Schaap, Cynthia Sheckells, Alex Shoomliansky, Scott Short, Steven Skrnich, Wayne Smith, Lessie Spears, Randal Stover, Russell Stover, Charles Stringham, Donald Surber, Natha Takeshita, Patrick Tapia, Joshua Thai, Debra Trimble, Kimberly Turner Grisby, Eleanor A. Turner, Nancy Wallace, Ross Watson, Leroy Welcome, Terrence Wener, Evelyn White, Norman Williams, Yvette Williams, Gerald Wright, Sheila Yamaguchi, Monica Zaragoza

#### **Superior Court** – Margaret Allen, Antoinette Aquaro, Julie Aragon, Rosa Avalos, Charmain Campbell, Maria Chavez, Karen Clendenen, Yvonne Cooper, Cynthia Cruz, Susan Di Stefano, Evelyn Dominguez-Malave, Mary Dorsen, Doris Driscoll, Karen Ebenhack, Carol Egerer, Calvin Hithe, Rebeca Horan, Gail Houghton, Donald Kennedy, Charlotte L. Kibler-Sanchez, Angela Kirkendolph, Jones Kreager, Wendy Latin, Raul Noriega, Pauline Pappas, Katherine Parker-Rijke, Liza Perez, Linda Ramirez, Jaime Ruiz, Hate M. Shaaban, John Sleeter, Leonard P. Stevens, Irene Young

#### **Treasurer/Tax Collector** – Ning Wong

**Department Not Designated** – Ines Acosta, Phyllis Allen, Rosalinda Alvarado Gomez, Mary Bailey, Ellen Beeton, Nelly Bernhoit, David Black, Pamela Blake, Erthaline Bowman, Richard Boyd, Marie Brown, Terrence Brown, Evelyn Carmichael, Delia Casarez, Jennie Castillo, Desmond Chiong, Norma Cnonn, Gemma Cofield, Ana Colon, Maria T. Contreras, David B. Craig, John Davis, Imogene Drisdorn, Andrea Duncan, Frankie Evans, Richard Faulk, Yolanda Fernandez, Patricia Fields, Marlene Fomocod, Federico Gapac, Nancy Gellor, Luis Gomez, Maria Gomez, Hattie Greene, Beverly Hall, Margo Hansell, Marlene Hasler, Michael Hong, Verna Howard, Michael Howe, Antonic Ibarra, Shirley Jackson, Maumein Jennings, Patricia Jensen, Julian Jimenez, Florida Johnson, Walter Kline, Helen Lee, Alfreda Leftwich, Cornelia Lindo, Joyce Locke, Linda Lopez-Corckett, Frances Love, David Martinez, Grace Martinez, Gloria McCorkle, Harold McKenney Jr., Theresa Mc Mahon, Nancy Meaker, Alfonso Morales, Jauregui Nakhla, Raymond Nicolai-Vargas, Alma Ofreneo, Aiko Ogata, Geraldine Oi-Lavorico, Howard Ollison, Elisa Palanca, Sandra Pister, Usa Poupongtong, Mary Christine Rivas, Delia Rodriguez, Genevieve Romero, Leonardo Rouse, Winnie Saw, Billie Scott, Joseph Sforza, Cynthia Shannon, Niwat Sihavong, Carol L. Snyder, Bonita Stinson, Lili Surber, Salwa Tadros, Janice Takamoto, Hilton Tarver, Nelda Torres, Karen Tran, Eyvonne Turner, Gloria Tyler-Buggs, Dennis Vinopal, Janice Vital, Beverly Walker, Deborah Warren, Robert Waters, Richard Wenig, Madeline White, Leonie Whitehead, Rhonda White-Watts, Wendy Whitman, Alicia Williams, Delerese Williams, Johnetta Williams, Nettie Williams, Bettye Woods, Paulette Wynn-Keene

**New Associate Members** – Walter C. Adams Jr., Merrill Adragna, Vachik Aghaniantz, Merle Ahn, Solomon Ajao, Robert Alaniz, Danny Alcabedos, Cristobal Alencastro, Pernell Allen, Brenda Anderson, Joan Anderson, Laurney Andrews, Paula Armendariz, John S. Armstrong, Elizabeth Weldon Arnold, Benjamin E. Avalos Jr., Wilbur Edwin Arbee Jr., Alan A. Barclay, Bobbie Batchelder, Martha Baumgarten, Loretta Y. Baxter, Marlynn Bayer, Marlene Bayly, Karen M. Bell, Edward R. Bilow, Melissa Blansfield, Emanuele Bortolazzi, Teri Bourdeaux, Maria D. Brandon-Stewart, Tammy Broussard, Bernard Bullard, Magnolia C. Buntin, Maria Cabanillas, Hector A. Camcam, Karen A. Campbell, Sharon Caporale, Rita Cardenas, Susan Phipps Carr, Adelaida Catura, Anthony Cesca, Adele Chadwick, Peter Njoc Chung, Henry Ciesielski,

Anna Marie Cirtos, Eric Claiborne, Leticia Clay, Cynthia Coates, Sharon D. Cohen, Joann Conte, Robin Cosey, Johnny Covington, Sherri Craig, Diana V. Darty, Sima Dashtoian, Colleen Davis, Diane Davis, Rigney J. Davis, Maria De La Rocha, Samuel L. Dennis, Diego F. Diaz, Jennifer Difonzo, Glenn Dimson, Cindy Dow, Jeanette Y. Dredd, Willard Russell Driscoll, Cheryl A. Duggan, Alvin L. Edwards, Bjorg Elonai, Lois Emerton, Richard C. Erickson, Johanna Evans, Lydia Ewell, Jesus H. Fernandez, Don Fesler, Stacey Fienschmann, Arthur Fomocod Jr., Ihunnaya O. Frederick, Rosa Fuquay, Elbert E. Gaither, Ysabel Garcia, Edwin Gellor, Elizabeth Gertig, Dana Giambalvo, Wallace Giddens, Orville P. Givens, Eugene Glasco, Brenda Glass, Theresa Goldman, Angel Gomez, Rosie Gonzalez, Barbara Y. Gool, Gregory Green, Alan Grindler, Jimmie Grisby, Anna Guevara-Kobetitsch, Alson Hall, Helen Hall, Carol Handley, Joy May Harding, Leopold F. Harris, Carol Hauser, Francis Felicia Hazelton, Debra Hazelwood, Suzanne C. Healy, Cheryl Henderson, Joseph Hernandez, Pamela Hidalgo, Julie Hill, Larry Hill, William W. Hiter, Susan Hladky, Susana Holden, Jeremiah Hong, Shirley A. Hontz, Ann Howard, Artmiss Iskander, Georgia Jeffries, George Jensen, Daryl Johns, Cristi Jones, Clifford Jordan, Patricia C. Jordan, Ramond Junior, Tracy Justrich-Collins, Judith Kenyon, Hwei Ching Kiang, Cynthia Kline, Martha Kluss, Jennifer L. Knapp, Tondra Knudson, Kim Lynn, Kraemer McHenry, Stella M. Lammers, Cindy Langill, Alan Lavorico, Theresa Lawrence, Ruben Ledesma, Marilyn Lee, David Leonard, G. Evelyn Lesure-Lesterm, Sandra Leuck, Donald Lewis, Bridget A. Liebl, Christina Lipovsky, Daunn Lo Monaco, Arlene Lobato, Willie J. Love, Gloria Luna, Deborah Machnick, Carla Macias, Berisford Maheia, Martin Maldonado, Cladia Malveaux, Vivian Mares, Vicente D. Martinez, Gerhard Martus, Carol McClure, Kelly McGovern, Bernadine McKenney, Beverly McKeon, Patrick D. McMahon, John McMichael, Michael Meaker, Kerry Melker, Jill Mihaljevich, Colleen K. Miller, Regan M. Miller, Anabony Monohan, Eileen Morales, Sally Morales, Helmut Muensch, Arthur F. Mulkern, Elaine Munoz, Patricia A. Nalls, Jennifer Newsom, Roxanne P. Nimri, Tammy Oates, Justin R. Ofreneo, Florida Olivera, Jesus Orpinel, Sheila Ortiz, Lisa Ota, Manuel Palanca, Josefino B. Panganiban, Shirish C. Patel, Raquel Pena-Rampulla, Rodolfo Perez, Maya Alyce Petties, Tracy Pfaff, Dan L. Pister, Carol Quan, Melvin Quan, Pedro Carlos Ramos, Sharyl Ramos, Delvith Retreage, Christine H. Rice, Frances Ripley, Brenda Rivera, Iranetta Roberson, Ray A. Roberson, Sandra Robinson, Rosalies S. Rodriguez, Sandra Romero, Kirk Rooney, Olivia Patterson Ryans, Ernest A. Sanchez, Virginia Sanchez, Luann C. Shoomliansky, Diane Short, Yolanda M. Smith, Yolanda Soria, John Stephany, Janell Elizabeth Tarver, Gary Tengelsen, Rhonda Spears Thomas, Carlos Tijerina, Debra Tschinkel, Frederick S. Turner, Janice Lynn Upham, Xaghoob Vahdat, Francisco Valencia, Juan Valles, Kathy Verkamp, Teresa Vinopal, Helen Vrooman, Vivian Walker, Robert Wallace, Sharon Y. Welcome, Marilyn Wenig, Nanette Wertz, Theresa Wiles, Joseph Williams, Mardene Williams, Alice Wong, Payuline Wong, Jennifer Woods, Lorie Wright, Susan Yan, Cornelius Young Sr., Paul Zaragoza, Guadalupe E. Zuniga

## Thanks for New Member Referrals

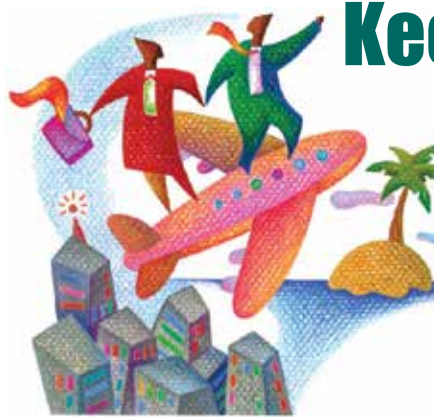
We would like to thank the 28 members who recruited 34 colleagues to join RELAC during October and November 2021. Our thanks to these RELAC members (shown in bold) for referring new members (shown in italics):

**Christine Aleman**, *Theresa Aleman*, Health Services  
**Lynn Barnett**, *Lonza Lester*, Probation  
**Linda Brown**, *Loretta Troupe*, Probation  
**Elena Cervantes**, *Irene Natividad*, Animal Care and Control  
**John Crouner**, *Ruth Maciel*, Assessor  
**George Ellis**, *James Martinez*, Public Works  
**Yosh Fukumoto**, *Amelia Iniguez*, Public Social Services  
**Mary Glass**, *Joaquin Miramontes*, Children and Family Services  
**Steven J. Golightly**, *Cheryl Davis*, Child Support Services  
**Richard Guizado**, *Robert Fetty*, Public Works  
**John Haugh**, *William Monahan*, Fire  
**Twyla Hobbs**, *Jerry Hobbs*, Public Social Services  
**Kathy House and Connie Sullivan**, *Elena Estrin*, Chief Executive Office  
**Harvey Kern**, *Marsha Epstein*, Public Health  
**Bob Landsberg**, *Raymond Weeber*, King-Drew Medical Center  
**James Matthews**, *Marvin Brown*, Chief Executive Office  
*Constance Quintana*, Sheriff

# Keeping Up With Retirees

With wife, Audrey

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



## ARETA CROWELL

I had been a psychology professor before coming to L.A. in 1966. Wanting to add to knowledge instead of teaching what others had discovered, I found a perfect fit in the new federally funded Research Division of the Department of Mental Health (DMH). We started with epidemiological research, such as where persons being treated at the state hospitals lived before admission and what community services they would need to leave the hospital. Out of that came L.A. County's first census tract /street address cross index. DMH worked with the county Planning Department to establish that basic epidemiological research tool. Patient and census demographic data, organized by health districts (now Service Planning Districts -- SPAs), became the basis for much planning and organizational work in the County.

DMH grew rapidly in the 1960s as counties were given responsibility to replace huge, institutional state hospitals with community treatment services. In 1971 the Board of Supervisors decided that it would be desirable to merge all health functions into one Department of Health Services (DHS). It was hard for management trained in hospital administration to think about the broad community considerations of an outpatient-based approach as needed in mental health – and there were many struggles. Mental Health became separate again in 1978, a decision since revisited several times. The decision was driven by community outrage over failure of DHS to flexibly allow mental health hiring using non-refundable state allocations while the rest of the department was in a blanket freeze. I was regional director in San Fernando (Service Area 2 today) and later San Gabriel (SA5), where I secured a National Institute of Mental Health grant to establish the La Puente Community Mental Health Center. We were always struggling to get funding to meet the community needs!

In 1988 I became director of mental health services for San Diego County. Four years later I was persuaded to come back to L.A. to head DMH after Supervisor Ed Edelman called me personally. I served from 1992 until retirement in 1998.

My tenure as DMH director was marked by two major initiatives:

1. Bringing more dignity to persons suffering from mental illnesses, showing they could be used effectively as peer support employees and given a prominent role in planning.
2. Ending episodic management of patient services, managing services for individuals on a longitudinally integrated basis during an individual's lifetime. Those new programs provided the evidential base for the "Millionaires Tax," which brought significant new resources into the mental health service world.

Many approaches now recognized as "best practices" originated during those years: work with law enforcement to prevent criminalization (and jailing), integrating substance abuse and mental health treatment, placing services for children in schools and showing that "housing first" was the best way to help end homelessness, and close work with service recipients and families to organize programs to meet real needs.

My time in San Diego was brightened by working for David Janssen, a strong advocate for the value of public service. It was a joy when David came to L.A. County as chief administrative officer!



## JIM JONES

After graduating from California State University, Long Beach in December 1985, I started work with the County in January 1986 as an entry level auditor with the Audit Division of the Auditor-Controller. This was a great opportunity to work with smart people on challenging assignments. I also got to see a lot of diverse County operations and make some lifelong friends.

After working at the Auditor-Controller for several years, I worked at Health Services (two separate tours of duty), Public Works (once), Internal Services Department (ISD) (twice), and the Chief Executive Office (CEO) (twice). At ISD, I was chief deputy from 2009 to 2013, and ISD director from 2013 to early 2015. My last County assignment was as chief deputy CEO from 2015 until I retired in mid-2019.

After I retired, I went with my family and friends on a 500-mile walk along the Camino de Santiago, a medieval pilgrimage route in northern Spain ending at the city of Santiago de Compostela. In normal years, several hundred thousand people walk at least a portion of this route. They may have various reasons for walking: for fun and exercise, to mentally process a life change, with a religious purpose, or otherwise. For me, walking the Camino was a good way to transition to retirement, sharing time with family, friends, and other pilgrims, and enjoying something far outside everyday life.

Since early 2020, I have been working a few hours as needed for the CEO on budget and financial issues, but I also have lots of time for hiking, biking, and spending time with friends and family. The last two years have gone by quickly, though sometimes not quickly enough during multiple COVID waves. My daughter Katie was doing a study abroad program in spring 2020 when the pandemic broke out. She stayed for the entire spring semester in Geneva, but it wasn't the great experience she had hoped for. She is now happily back at UCLA. My other daughter Elizabeth is happy to be working online and never wants to go back to the daily commute. We are all hopeful that the worst is behind us.

Like everyone else, my wife, Audrey, and I were grounded for a few months due to COVID. But when international travel restrictions loosened, we went to Italy to walk a small portion of another old pilgrimage route, the Via Francigena. The entire Via Francigena route from Canterbury to Rome can take months, but we walked only two small portions, one week walking through Tuscany, and another week walking the last leg of the trip to Rome. Our portions of the Via Francigena wound through vineyards, olive groves, and medieval hilltop towns. Like the Camino, we traveled independently, staying in different towns each night on the way to Rome. We didn't see many Americans this fall, but there were other travelers from Europe and Canada. The Italian rules around COVID seemed similar to those in Los Angeles. Vaccines and negative COVID tests were required to enter Italy.

Public service is a privilege, and the County provided an interesting, challenging, and rewarding career for all my 33 years. I treasure the friendships that I made along the way, and I remain impressed by the outstanding knowledge, dedication, and professionalism of County civil servants.

I am very grateful to have met so many wonderful friends and co-workers at the County. I want to thank everyone that I had the privilege to work with. I wish you all the best in retirement, and hope to see more of you in coming months.



### DHR Retirees Donate to RELAC Food Drive

Nine Department of Human Resources (DHR) retirees met in November for holiday luncheon and decided to make a \$200 donation to RELAC's drive to raise funds for the L.A. Regional Food Bank. Shown at luncheon are: (left side) Linda Hopkins, Susan Toy Stern, Barbara McGowan and Rosy Alaniz. At top: Maggie Avila. Right side: Kathy Campos; Campos' daughter, Erin (not a retiree); Marian Figueroa; Jean Uyehara and Rhonda Fernandez. All but Avila and Campos are RELAC members. Following the luncheon, RELAC Director Epi Peinado, also a DHR retiree, added another \$50 to the donation.



### Holiday Luncheon for Retired Law Enforcement Officers

Retirees of the L.A. County Sheriff's and Probation Departments were among those attending the North Nevada Retired Law Enforcement Officers' holiday luncheon on Nov. 22 at Genoa Lakes Golf Course Community Center in Genoa. These included RELAC members Ed Anhalt (Probation, in salmon shirt) and wife, Cheryl; and Steve Huss (Sheriff, in wheelchair, bottom row) and wife, Monica. Others from Sheriff's Department were Bob and Janet Berardi, Jeff and Kim Donahue, Allen and Karen Harris, Tim and Sylvia Hayes, Allen and Maria Kunihiro, James "Mats" Matsuoka, Dan and Natalie Myers, Bill Neumann, Ralph and Ellen Obenberger, and Tony Till.



### Antonovich Among Those Honoring Ambassador

Former County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, a RELAC member, was among those at an

Oct. 23 dinner and reception aboard the Battleship USS Iowa in the Port of Los Angeles honoring Ambassador Robert O'Brien. The National Museum of the Surface Navy, founded aboard Battleship USS Iowa and scheduled to open in 2025, named O'Brien, former U.S. national security advisor, the recipient of its 2021 Freedom of the Seas Award. O'Brien accepted the award and presented the keynote speech at the event. Freedom of the Seas Awards is attended by senior leaders within their respective fields. O'Brien is a former constituent of Antonovich's.

### Kelly Celebrates Dia de Los Muertos

RELAC member Joseph Kelly and two friends attended the Dodgers' Dia de Los Muertos celebration on Oct. 1. Kelly made the costumes, including the hats filled with skulls and flowers, and the mano Mexicano (Mexican bow ties). Masks were required inside the stadium; Kelly made those from very special fabric, with a N95 underneath. The trio were well received; over 100 people asked to have a photo taken with them and the cam operator filmed them. Because they were dressed in costume, they received Dia de Los Muertos bobbleheads. "It was great, great fun," said Kelly. Dia de los Muertos—the Day of the Dead—is a holiday celebrated on Nov. 1. Although observed throughout Latin America, Dia de los Muertos is most strongly associated with Mexico, where the tradition originated. Dia de los Muertos honors the dead with festivals and lively celebrations. The spirits of the dead are believed to return home and spend time with relatives. To welcome them, the family builds altars in their honor.



### Crowell continued from p.8

It was David who was surprised that I retired when finances looked so much brighter. It was my cottage that prompted my final decision. I had longed to spend my entire summers in retirement at our cottage on our island in a lake in eastern Canada near the famed "Thousand Islands." Since retiring I have enjoyed the summer morning swims, the loon calls, golden sunsets on the shoreline across the lake, and so much more.

Yes, I am an immigrant! Very aware of my white privilege and very grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from my colleagues with all their varied backgrounds. My time in L.A. County was a rich learning experience – I have used that knowledge in retirement to help with volunteering to assist with homeless services and advocacy for affordable housing. That keeps me busy during the winters I spend in Pasadena.

When I retired, I saw in the State Children's Health Insurance Program -- called Healthy Families -- a way to increase availability of mental health services for California's kids. So I lobbied to be the mental health representative on the state Advisory Committee to the Managed Risk Advisory Board (MRMIB), which had responsibility to organize and run the program. Eventually I was appointed by Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg as the Legislature's representative on the MRMIB Board itself, where I served for eight years. It was a good place to use all my varied experience.

Public service has always been my highest value and I always believed that people chose a career in mental health because they shared that value -- no one would

become wealthy in mental health services! It saddens me when public officials decry public servants and speak of them with disdain.

Before COVID, my husband, Russ Smith, and I took one or two major trips every year, including to Vietnam, India, the Danube, Adriatic, Africa, Spain, Malta, Ireland, Middle East- Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Greece, Turkey, Alaska, Haida Gwaii, Italy, Canadian Arctic and Greenland, and Mexico.

There has been a tradition among department heads to have lunch together after the Tuesday Board of Supervisors meetings: the Rat Pack. Today the retirees who continue the lunch-time gatherings have decided to drop that now-obtuse reference for the dignified "Retired Department Heads." But I treasure the Rat Pack plaque I received in 1998. It was a group I always enjoyed -- and still do. Now there are many retirees at the lunches whom I never knew during my working days -- an entire generation! I wish good health for all retirees and the ability to continue to be good public servants in all they do. It has been a wonderful life!



Bill Crowe



John Hammargren



Mike Lewis (on right) and husband, Mark



Stephanie Hampton, Joanne Sturges, Gerri Kariya

## Pete's Posse Says Goodbye

Among the several hundred attending the Oct. 24 celebration of life in Indian Wells for former County Supervisor Pete Schabarum were RELAC members Mike Lewis, John Hammargren, Stephanie and Jerry Hampton, Joanne Sturges, Lloyd "Bill" Pellman, Gerri Kariya, Bill Crowe, and Jim Hankla. Fishing buddy Hammargren and RELAC Director Judy Hammond, a friend of 50 years, joined the family the day before at the

private graveside service at Calvary Cemetery in East Los Angeles, where Schabarum's wife, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are also buried. Schabarum was a County supervisor from 1972 to 1991 and a RELAC member throughout his retirement.

Schabarum's daughter, Laura Vandivort, explained the significance of items on display at Schabarum's graveside service:

*The white box is holding his urn, and placed on top of that and buried with him is a Cal football alumni hat. The flower lei is for my mom and the ti leaf lei was for Dad; my cousin Chanda was raised in Hawaii and she did the traditional leis. The white orchid we did as a family: Mom and Dad loved orchids. The flowers in the paper wrappers were from my Aunt Lilian, cousin Lynn, her sister, Anne, and Anne's daughter Adelle. The saddle, hat and boots were Dad's. Dad belonged to a group called Rancheros Visitadores and each May they take a week and ride across land in Santa Ynez. When a Ranchero passes away, they have on the first day of the ride the "Empty Saddle Ceremony" held outside at the "enramada," which is a rough wooden altar with a wooden cross in the background and a bell hanging overhead. There is a lone horse who has lost his brave rider. The saddle is empty except for spurred boots turned backward in their stirrups. The lost rider's hat is carried forward by a friend and laid at the foot of the cross. All the missing riders' names are called out as the bell tolls. This ceremony will be carried out the first week in May at the start of the yearly ride. We wanted to honor Dad with the symbols of what will come. You can see Mom and Dad's headstone in the photo. Not in the picture, but at the bottom, would be his mom and dad, grandmother and grandfather. To the left and right of Dad's headstone are aunts and uncles.*



Laura Vandivort



## It Was a Great Trip for Retirees on African Safari

It was another successful African safari for RELAC Director Les Robbins, who led 16 people – 10 of whom were L.A. County retirees – on a 17-day trip in September that started in Kenya and ended in Tanzania. Robbins' next safari (his fifth) will be in February 2023 and is already fully booked – 16 of the 20 signed up are County retirees and/or their spouses -- and he is taking names of those interested in a 2024 safari. Robbins doesn't make any money on the safaris; he says he does them for the pure pleasure. Among those on the recent safari were former Sheriff Jim McDonnell and his wife, Kathy; and former interim Sheriff John Scott and his wife, Alice, a retired captain. Also from the Sheriff's Department were retirees Pam Shrick, John Voss, Gregg Sabalone, and Robbins. From the Fire Department were John Lopez and Ray Gorospe, and from the Health Services Department was Nancy Miller. Former Supervisor Don Knabe and his wife, Julie, were scheduled to go, but had to cancel when they tested positive for COVID-19 just days before the trip. Robbins says he loves Africa: "There is no place on Planet Earth that compares to the grandeur and magnificence of Africa."



John and Alice Scott



John Lopez



Les Robbins



Jim McDonnell

## LACERA Lawsuit continued from p.1

the assets of its members and retirees. The salaries for these positions would be paid from LACERA's investment earnings and are within LACERA's budget, the amount of which is established in state law and which is separate from the County's budget.

LACERA is a public retirement plan created and operating under the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL) and is subject to the California Constitution, CERL, and the Public Employees' Pensions Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA). It is the largest County pension retirement system in the United States.

For more information, including a copy of the lawsuit, visit LACERA's website at [lacera.com](http://lacera.com) and, using the search function, search for lawsuit.

## RV Event Canceled

The RELAC RV Club camping event planned for Jan. 9-12 has been canceled due to COVID-19 concerns.

## Referrals continued from p.7

**Dyanne Nelson**, *Mary Thomas*, Children and Family Services

**Norma Nieto**, *Maria Chavez*, Superior Court

**Milena Rada**, *Gloria G. Lopez*, Community/Senior Services

**Les Robbins**, *Perry Ahn*, Sheriff

*Richard Emerton*, Sheriff

*David Hontz*, Sheriff

*Michael Kluss*, Sheriff

*Melanie Ramirez*, Sheriff

*Robert Renteria*, Sheriff

**Joann Sanfilippo**, *Lesli Birkhead*, Sheriff

**Sheila Simpson**, *Roosevelt Simpson*, Museum of Art

**Clare E. Sleeter**, *John Sleeter*, Superior Court

**Yvette Vasquez**, *Penelope Ornelas*, Health Services

**Joseph Villanueva**, *Terrence Wener*, Sheriff

**Mary Wawro**, *Bobbie Fesler*, County Counsel

**Alicia Williams**, *Pauline Romero*, Sheriff



## Happy Birthday, RELAC Centenarians

Happy Birthday to our members who will be 100 or older in January and February.

### January

**Shirley L. Gruskin**, 102, Public Social Services  
Jan. 11, 1920

**Gilda Saporito**, 103, Health  
Jan. 12, 1919

**Ruby S. Nomura**, 101, Internal Services  
Jan. 20, 1921

**Leona Biro**, 102, Health Services  
Jan. 27, 1920

### February

**Catherine S. Uyeda**, 105, Probation  
Feb. 4, 1917

**Irving Sherman**, 103, Flood Control District  
Feb. 5, 1919

## Three Generations Serve LASD



### James Hellmold Retires; Pins Badge on Son

New Sheriff's retiree **James Hellmold** pins badge on his youngest son, **Jonah**, who graduated from the Sheriff's Academy in May, a third-generation member of the agency. Hellmold's father served as a deputy for more than 30 years and his mother was a civilian employee. Hellmold retired as head of the Sheriff's Operations Division on Nov. 30, with 33 years of service; he was once assistant sheriff, but was demoted to chief after making an unsuccessful bid to become sheriff in 2014.

## Three-Day "Emergency" Celebration Details Online

Join the Los Angeles County Fire Museum for three days filled with cast appearances, autographs, camaraderie, nostalgia, fun and excitement as it celebrates "Fifty Years of EMERGENCY! on Television." Details of the Jan. 14-16 celebration at the Bellflower facility are available on the museum's website at: <https://www.lacountyfiremuseum.com/emergencys-50th-info>.

The groundbreaking 1970s "Emergency" television series -- shot at County facilities and featuring what was then a new concept, paramedic squads -- was on the air during primetime from Jan. 15, 1972 to 1977, followed by a series of two-hour television movies that aired in 1978 and 1979.



## One Year Anniversary of Ted Reed's Death

Debra Reed, widow of **Ted Reed** -- former chief deputy of the Chief Administrative Office, head of Beaches and Harbors Department, and first deputy director of the County Museum of Art -- published this In Memoriam in L.A. Times to mark the first anniversary of Reed's 2020 death following a stroke at age 87. *My Reed... it's been a year since you died in my arms. Although after 37 years I can't hold you anymore, you are forever in my heart. So loved. So cherished. Your powerful spirit lives on in each of us.*

## Two Columns to Resume in March-April Newsletter

Due to space limitations, two columns that normally appear in the newsletter, "Inside LA County" by Judy Hammond and "What's Happening" by Evelyn Gutierrez, are not included in this edition. They will resume in the March-April newsletter.

# PASSAGES

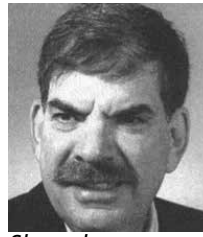
Compiled by Judy Hammond,  
Newsletter Editor



Chandler



Bates



Shumsky



Espinoza



Kvammen

## DEPARTURES:

**Bobby Cagle**, head of the Department of Children and Family Services since Dec. 1, 2017, resigned, effective Dec. 31, 2021, to go into the private sector.

## RETIREMENTS:

**Kathleen Austria**, long-time Department of Mental Health employee who held leadership roles in Local 721 and served as a deputy in Second Supervisorial District under Mark Ridley-Thomas and Holly Mitchell. Former Judge **Peter P. Espinoza**, who retired from Superior Court in 2016 and became the first permanent director of the County Office of Diversion and Reentry. **Randi Tahara**, with almost 26 years of service as a Board of Supervisors deputy, including serving as assistant chief deputy to Supervisors Holly Mitchell and Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. **Gina Lugo-Tully**, human resources manager in the Department of Human Resources, with more than 42 years of service. **Kenneth "Mark" Cox**, Internal Services Department, who handled audio-visual for Board of Supervisors meetings and Hall of Administration events, with almost 33 years of service. **Edna H. Hamilton**, Office of the Public Defender management secretary, and **Helen Canales**, Child Support Services secretary V, both with 50 years of service.

## APPOINTMENTS:

**Virginia Pryor**, chief deputy of the Department of Children and Family Services since December 2019, will serve as interim director of the department until the Board of Supervisors names a replacement for Bobby Cagle. Former Public Health Department Chief Information Officer **David Cardenas** named deputy director of public health, overseeing the department's Operations Support Division, at annual salary of \$217,039. **Karly Katona**, deputy to Mark Ridley-Thomas when he was a county supervisor, has been named "caretaker" of L.A. Council District 10 following Ridley-Thomas' suspension as a city councilman after being indicted on corruption charges. Katona is Ridley-Thomas' chief deputy at the city. Rev. **Andy Bales**, who leads the Union Rescue Mission, confirmed as Supervisor Kathryn Barger's appointee to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission. Barger says he will bring a fresh perspective, a dose of realism, and boots on the ground experience. **Antonio Sanchez** will begin a term Jan. 1 as Supervisor Hilda Solis' appointee on the LACERA Board of Retirement.

## HEALTH:

Deputies rallied to support retired Sgt. **Jeannie Ramirez**, a Sheriff's Department employee from 1979-2007, who is battling breast cancer. RELAC Director **Les Robbins** is recovering from knee replacement surgery performed Dec. 2.

## DEATHS:

**Richard Shumsky**, chief probation officer from 1998 to 2005, a 36-year employee who served as Local 685 Deputy Probation Officers' Union president before being selected to head the department. **Gustavo Dudamel**, music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, lost some of his closest family in Venezuela -- including his grandmother, who helped raise him -- to COVID-19. Dr. **J. Robert Bragonier**, 84, who retired in 2002 as medical director of Maternal Health Programs for the Department of Health Services, died peacefully at home on Oct. 26, 2021. Arcadia City Councilman **Roger Chandler**, 77, who retired from the Sheriff's Department after 24 years of service, then went on to become the chief of police of the Los Angeles City Housing Authority and in 1994 created the City of Hawaiian Gardens Police Department, from cancer. **Mary Jung**, 72, who served as chief deputy in the Chief Administrative Office and Department of Health Services, retiring in 1999, from stroke. **Kenneth Royce Kvammen**, 94, long-time county surveyor and engineer, retiring in 1989 -- who climbed Mt. Whitney on 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, jumped from an airplane on 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, scuba-dived throughout the world, and skied well into his 70s -- following a stroke and broken hip. **Margaret "Peggy" York**, 80, who served as head of the County's Office of Public Safety and first woman to serve as deputy chief of the Los Angeles Police Department. **Sue Widman**, 79, assistant director of the Community and Senior Services Department when she retired in 1996. **Marvin Holen**, 92, former president of the board of directors of the Southern California Rapid Transit District. **Alonzo Whitaker**, captain with Office of Public Safety, who retired in 2003 after 37 years of service. The body of **Miriam Travis**, 87, a retired sergeant who worked in the L.A. County Sheriff's Department homicide bureau, was found inside a refrigerator in her Riverside home.

## ELECTIONS

Long Beach Police Chief **Robert Luna**, who retired in December, announced his candidacy for L.A. County sheriff in the 2022 election. County employees **Herman Bermudez Santos** and **Vivian H. Gray** were reelected to new three-year terms on the LACERA Board of Investments and Board of Retirement, respectively, beginning Jan. 1, 2022. **Holly Mitchell** is new chair of the Board of Supervisors; **Sheila Kuehl** is chair pro tem. **Marcia Mayeda**, director of the Animal Care and Control Department since 2001 and the longest-serving department head, named president of the Los Angeles County Management Council, which has more than 1,400 members.

## COURTS:

**Mark Ridley-Thomas** pleaded not guilty to federal charges alleging bribery and conspiracy while he was a county supervisor. Sheriff's Deputy **Luke Liu** acquitted of manslaughter in 2016 death of an unarmed man at a Norwalk gas station. Sheriff Alex Villanueva said an administrative investigation will be conducted now that the criminal case is over. Liu remains on unpaid administrative leave. Arraignment is expected March 8 for **Jose Flores**, 42, a sheriff's custody assistant charged with trying to bring methamphetamine into the Men's Central Jail in November 2018. A lawsuit filed by Sheriff's Deputy **Austreberto Gonzalez**, alleging he had been retaliated against after reporting an assault by a member of a "deputy gang" on another deputy, was dismissed by a Superior Court judge, who said the claim was unfounded.



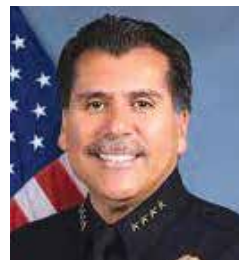
Austria



Cagle



Katona



Luna



Mayeda



Tahara



## Health Services Administrator Bob Bragonier Dies at Age 84

Dr. J. Robert (Bob) Bragonier, medical director of Maternal Health Programs for the Department of Health Services when he retired in 2002, died peacefully at home on Oct. 26, 2021 at age 84.

Bragonier was an adjunct professor of obstetrics and gynecology at UCLA School of Medicine for 32 years and practiced obstetrics and gynecology at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center in Torrance for 17 years. He was a tireless champion for women's health care and reproductive rights.

An Iowa native, he spent two years at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland before moving to the South Bay area of Los Angeles in 1970.

After retirement, Bragonier -- who worked his way through college and medical school as a disc jockey of jazz and classical music on FM stations in Iowa and Nebraska -- turned his passion for jazz into a second career, teaching "The History of Jazz" classes through the South Bay Adult School, Omnimore Dominguez Hills, and UCLA Extension. He was an accomplished trombone, piano and vibes player as well. He accumulated a collection of jazz and classical music that approached 10,000 pieces, which he recently endowed to UCLA School of Music.

Bragonier and his wife of 62 years, Barbara (his college sweetheart), loved to travel, visiting more than 80 countries. His family said he made life-long friends wherever he went because of his sense of humor, compassion, and outgoing nature.

Cynthia Harding, who worked in the Department of Public Health for 35 years in a variety of positions, including chief deputy director and interim director, said Bragonier "was an amazing person in so many ways and touched so many of us in his work and in his passionate endeavors."

She worked directly with Bragonier when she took over as director of Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health programs in 2001. "He was an amazing public health leader and an incredible partner in that work. He and I also shared a love of jazz and music and he reviewed many of the albums I recorded. I was grateful to have a music reviewer who actually understood our music." "Bob will be greatly missed."

In addition to his wife, Bragonier is survived by three children, Bruce R. Bragonier, Rebecca Schuler, and Elizabeth Bragonier Walsh; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

## Jung Praised for Intellect, Kindness

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

Mary Quon Jung, former chief deputy in the Chief Administrative Office and the Department of Health Services, has died at age 72.

Jung, a RELAC member, died Oct. 21 after suffering a stroke at home. She had surgery for colon cancer on Sept. 1 and had started chemotherapy two days before her death. She learned she had cancer in July, but did not share the diagnosis with friends.

"All indications were that it was contained and chemo would be preventative...She had lost a lot of weight and maybe that was too much," said her husband, former Assistant Auditor-Controller Michael Galindo. "Our family is devastated."

Jung served as chief deputy to Richard Dixon during his six years as chief administrative officer and was a key member of his staff when he was chief of the budget division. Following his retirement in 1993, she became chief deputy in the Department of Health Services, serving under Bob Gates and Mark Finucane.

"There is simply no better executive or finer human being ever in County service," said Dixon. "Mary was brilliant, skilled, knowledgeable, creative, kind, caring, and humble. She was totally dedicated to making Los Angeles County excellent. It was a great privilege to work with and know Mary. Her premature death deeply saddens me --we have lost an extraordinary woman."

Jung retired in 1999. She and Galindo, who wed in 1996 after being a couple for 18 years, continued to live in Los Angeles. In retirement she took an active role in helping her daughter, Christina (Tina), and son-in-law raise her grandchildren, Mikey and Riley. She was an avid cook, developing her skills by collecting many cookbooks and attending cooking classes; became an e-reader fan; travelled with family; and continued to keep in touch with junior high, high school and college friends, as well as former co-workers.

Jung was born on April 4, 1949 in Watsonville, California and was the first child of immigrant parents. Her family moved to Los Angeles, where she graduated from Manual Arts High School as valedictorian. Her father died when she was 18 and she became the family's head of household. She attended the University of Southern California on a full scholarship, as did her four younger siblings. In 1970 she had her daughter, and continued her education at night, graduating from Cal State Los Angeles with a master's degree in business administration. She started her career at Los Angeles County's Department of Public Social Services as a temporary worker performing food stamp audits.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned in Jung's honor on Nov. 2.

RELAC Board members Linda C. Hopkins and Victoria Pipkin-Lane were among those praising Jung. "So many of us have fond memories of Mary," said Hopkins. "Mary was always encouraging to me, a County novice," said Pipkin-Lane. "I am thankful that I benefitted from her kindness and support during my County career."

RELAC member Constance Perett said Jung was a role model for many women in the County's workforce. "She was an excellent executive, a kind, thoughtful, and intelligent person."

RELAC member Marion Figueroa met Jung, then chief deputy CAO, in 1989 when Figueroa transferred from the Department of Health Services to be a CAO mental health budget analyst. "My boss at DHS, Terry Munoz, asked Mary to watch over me. Mary made it a point to come by my cubicle on my very first day." She said Jung "was a unique phenomenon." "Asian-American managers in the County were rare, so I was pleasantly surprised and very proud. She was a trend setter - a working Chinese mother! We had dynamic conversations about our kids, culture, budget and ordering Chinese food from "Mon Sing!" She was tough, a great mentor, supportive and funny."

RELAC member Barbara McGowan, who like Figueroa, remained friends with Jung following her retirement. "Mary was one of the first people I met when I transferred to the CAO. She was not only one of the most intelligent people I've ever met, but also one of the most kind. When we found that our birthdays were within days of each other, we started taking each other out to lunch. Soon anyone within close "proximity" of our dates was invited to join us. We followed this tradition through our retirement time. Mary will always be remembered for her great work and dedication for the County, but also her understanding and kindness to others. She was never too busy."



## York Broke Ceilings for Women

Margaret "Peggy" York, chief of the County Office of Public Safety from 2003-2009, died Oct. 17 at age 80 after a series of illnesses and multiple organ failure.

At the time York was in charge of the office, it was the fourth largest police agency in L.A. County, with 600 sworn officers and 750 contracted security guards responsible for County facilities, parks and hospitals.

York's law enforcement career spanned 44 years and she was once the highest-ranking woman in the Los Angeles Police Department, when in 2000 she was named the first woman deputy chief, responsible for five police stations, a traffic division and 2,000 employees. She was part of the first all-woman homicide detective team in 1979, partnering with Detective Helen Kidder, which inspired the 1980s television series "Cagney & Lacey."

York moved from Ohio to the Los Angeles area with her family at age 13. She attended Lynwood High School and one of her first jobs was the Easter Bunny at the May Company in downtown Los Angeles. After her first marriage ended, she sought work to support her three children and was hired in 1965 as a civilian radio telephone operator with the LAPD, and three years later began her career as a policewoman.

She worked as an investigator, a supervisor, lieutenant, captain and commander, culminating as deputy chief. When she began her career, female officers were relegated to desk jobs or working at jails. They were assigned the lowest-level detective work and could rise only to the rank of sergeant and could supervise only other women.

LAPD Chief Michel Moore described York as a consummate professional and pioneer. "She demonstrated true grit and utilized her talents to ascend to the highest ranks within the department. Along the way, she touched many lives, and it was truly an honor to have worked alongside such a humble leader. Her tenacity and spirit continue to inspire future generations of women joining our ranks."

The Los Angeles Police Women Police Officers and Associates President Commander Ruby Flores said York was an inspiration for countless women in the LAPD. "(York) was not afraid to challenge conventional roles for women ... The law enforcement community is poorer without her intellect, her wisdom and her generosity," Flores said. "We lost a titan of a woman, but her legacy and contribution towards the advancement of women on the LAPD will live on."

After retiring from the LAPD, York became the head of the County's Office of Public Safety, which was formed in 1998 with the consolidation of various County departments' security forces, and was unofficially known as the County Police. The agency was initially under the umbrella of the Department of Human Resources, but later was transferred to the Chief Administrative Office. Soon after York's retirement, the office was dissolved and its responsibilities shifted to the Sheriff's Department. RELAC member Don Knabe, a County supervisor when York headed the Office of Public Safety, said York raised the level of respect for and organization of the office. "She brought it out from under the radar!" And everyone was always surprised, he said, to find out York was married to Judge Lance Ito.

RELAC member Mike Antonovich, also a County supervisor when York was the chief, said he highly respected York's professionalism, leadership, and involvement in community organizations. "Peggy was an excellent role model in law enforcement and civic affairs."

In retirement, York dedicated herself to public service with groups such as the Salvation Army, Rotary Club, the Children's Court Committee, Women Against Gun Violence and the Los Angeles Police Museum, where she served as chair of the Chief's Circle. She was a long-time member of Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena and in 2018 became a published poet with three of her poems featured in ONTHEBUS, a popular literary journal.

Following Ito's retirement in 2015, the couple -- who met in 1981 at a homicide crime scene and wed less than a year later -- traveled widely and spent time with friends and family. Married for 40 years, Ito was described by family as "heartbroken and lost" by the death of his wife.

In addition to her husband, York is survived by brothers Gregory Mandley and Jeff Mandley, sons David and Dennis York, daughter Cynthia York Shadian, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

With husband, Lance Ito



## Former County Manager Sue Widman Dies at 79

Sue Widman, 79, assistant director of the Community and Senior Services Department (CSSD) when she retired in 1996, has died of Alzheimer's.

Widman worked for the County for more than 26 years, starting as an administrative assistant in the Data Processing Department before joining CSSD as a division chief and then assistant director. She received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of California at Berkeley and master's from Cal State Los Angeles.

"Sue Widman was a funny and clever lady who knew how to get things done with a minimum amount of aggravation for all the County bosses and subordinates jostling for position," said friend and former CSSD Director Stephanie Klopffleisch.

"A proverbial 'cool head,' Sue kept her big financial stream of federal grants running smoothly. Working with her was a pleasant experience, and the County of Los Angeles was better off due to her skilled leadership."

Widman, who died Aug. 17, was married for 47 years to former County Chief Administrative Officer Richard Dixon. They were married Dec. 26, 1974. Dixon said that following retirement, his wife enjoyed traveling and taking cruises, and spent nine years as a civilian service commissioner for the City of Burbank.

In addition to Dixon, Widman is survived by sons John and Jeff Santee; stepchildren Louise Webb and John Dixon; granddaughters Krista King, Erin Dixon, Michele Webb and Rebecca Dixon; and brothers Michael and Thomas Curley.



## Bernie Weintraub, 97, Was Active in Health Services Programs



Funeral services were held Nov. 24 for **Bernard "Bernie" Weintraub**, 97, special assistant to the director of the Department of Health Services when he retired. Weintraub was active in a wide variety of health services programs, including public health practice, environmental research and management, hospital administration, health facility licensure and certification. He served on the L.A. County Emergency Medical Services Commission as a member of the governing council of the Southern California Public Health Association and received the American Public Health Association's lifetime achievement award. Appointed by former Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Weintraub served many years on the County Commission for the Aging, often as president, and the only commissioner granted emeritus status.

# IN MEMORIAM

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

**Alcohol/Drug Pgms. Admin.** – Edward Sacchette  
**Animal Control** – Rigoberto Anaya  
**Antelope Valley Rehab. Center** – Edlee F. Hartwell  
**Assessor** – Rimia F. Lacuesta, Isaac F. Liu, Laurence E. Mantuano, Gerald W. Miller, Robert D. Rincon, William G. Rowe  
**Auditor-Controller** – Thomas J. Kozlowski  
**Beaches & Harbors** – Jean S. Uchiyama  
**Board of Supervisors** – Sherry M. Scates, Rita M. Thomas  
**California Children's Services** – Otilia Ruelas, Margaret Scott  
**Chief Executive Office** – Emil P. Cantalupo  
**Chief Information Office** – Isaac Shaw  
**Child Support Services** – Andrew Doswell, Gloria Perez, Thad D. Young  
**Children & Family Services** – Robert R. Achterberg, John P. Baird, Lawanda R. Braswell, Thomas A. Bright, Millicent R. Butler, Barbara A. Foxworth, Conchita R. Gardner, Violet A. Godwin-Tipton, Paul A. Graham, Brenda E. Graves, Charlene McArdle Hageman, Marie B. Halfon, Puran S. Khalsa, Danny Martin Le Cornu, Cynthia V. Levine, Edward R. Lulet, Velta McCormick, Peter J. McDonald, Shirley A. McHenry, Argin Mehrabian, Pedro Mestas, E. Shannon Strull, Susan T. Thom, Tammy Thomas  
**Communications** – James P. Hawley, Shirley M. Healey  
**Correctional Health** – Austin J. Anthony  
**District Attorney** – Laura A. Aalto, Leonard T. Blake, Jan Marie Borboa, Gloria Hinojosa, Katherine King, William G. King, Thomas C. Kuhn, Michael Earl Tobey, Yolanda Vega, John C. Velarde  
**Fire** – Marian R. Crowley, Albert A. Escamilla, Albert R. Lecou, Michael R. Lee, William E. Mc Craney, James W. Moss, Eugene D. Newton, John J. Prancevic, Thomas N. Shoden, Lawrence S. Simcoe, Frances J. Smith, William J. Sutton  
**Harbor/UCLA Medical Center** – Angel Acosta, David Atkinson, Casey L. Brown, Charlene A. Dye, Paul Fu, Lolita E. Go, Wilhelmina Johnson, Mildred Kendrick, Shirley Mateik, Deborah J. McClam, Gloria M. Miller, Lois Sanders, Armando Taylor, Kenneth Taylor, Rosa Washington  
**Health Plan Administration** – Dennis M. McIntyre  
**Health Services Administration** – Kathleen Bustos, Frankie M. Davis, Varnes Ervin, Mikhail A. Hanna, Rashad G. Hanna, Mary Q. Jung, Margaret A. Salvatore, Elizabeth E. Silva, Frances V. Torres, Sandra Whitfield  
**Internal Services** – Frank A. Arellanes, Tuan T. Do, Phillip Evans, Albert Luis Gonzales, Jo Anne Hunter, Michael Jakubowski, Samuel R. Lenoir, Earl A. Madsen, Flossie M. Meadows, Carl C. Moore, Fumio Oshita, James M. Roane, Ceferino C. Sagun, Abraham Salum  
**King-Drew Medical Center** – Brenda Coffee, Odessa Combs, Marva Ruth Cousar, Vera Ellison, Pearl L. Garzillo, Leman Anthony Smith, James L. Snowden  
**LAC+USC Medical Center** – Emma M. Anderson, Delmira Augusta Ayarza-Presc, Richard H. Boyd, Cynthia M. Bryant, Geraldine Carter, Joyce A. Clarke, Ezra N. Earle, Bernice E. Fuller, Rosie Galindo, Edward B. Hai, Juanita January, Dolly Kamdar Kyaw-Sint, Dorothy E. La Mothe, Albert L. Macapagal, Ernestyne McGee, Marva J. Newsom, Margie G. Rivas, Delano C. Robinson, Rainat Salaam, Julia F. Scoville, Iris Shao, Cynthia Thompson, David C. Torres, Marvelito M. Unite, Eunice Velasquez, Gerda G. Verkaik, Rosetta Williams, Mary F. Winbush  
**LACERA** – Thanh Dinh  
**Medical Examiner-Coroner** – Frank W. Sample  
**Mental Health** – Raymond Anderson, Arthur Burns, Carolyn L. Jones-Simpson, Rosalia Martinez, Jesus S. Najera, Lynn Rostedt, Nancy R. Smith, Hareda Woods  
**Military & Veterans Affairs** – Ellen Jackson  
**Museum of Natural History** – Bernard J. Fuller, Charles E. Orrico  
**Office of Public Safety** – Alfred Davis, Alonzo Whitaker, Margaret A. York  
**Olive View/UCLA Medical Center** – Irene German, Walfred Orlando Lopez, Sallie A. Maag, Cynthia Di Morgan, Diane G. Morris,

Stephanie F. Neff, Joanne Carol Neill, Michael A. Rogne, Kiyo M. Yamabe  
**Parks And Recreation** – Milagros L. Cruz, Richard L. Rodriguez  
**Pasadena Municipal Court** – Ruby L. Williams  
**Probation** – Betty R. Bock, Bobby Busby, Marcello E. Chavez, Fred Diamond, Alberto M. Duran Jr., Gerald M. Franklin, Sharon L. Grossman, Dwain Hales, Jeanette K. Harms, James L. Harris, Mark B. Harris, Ronald A. Jackson, Innie M. Jenkins, Jo An J. Kelsey, Bogus L. Miller, Jo Ann Mitchell, Ralph E. Munoz, Rosie Parker, Van C. Phung, Marvin L. Shuck, Richard Neil Shumsky, Chiquita A. Sipos, Queeny A. Turner, Emerencian Velarde, Wilbert Watts Jr., Troy L. Wilcher  
**Public Defender** – Marcia Galindo, Joan W., Garrott, Richard S. Hanki, Clara R. Harrell, Albert L. Johnson, Morton E. Levy  
**Public Health** – Rosa Astacio, Mariana Boyers, J. Bragonier, Glenda Callwood, Librada Ganioco, Michael Griego, Norman Groom, Larry L. Hilario, Billy Jackson, Susan M. May, Bernard S. Weintraub  
**Public Library** – Raquel L. Ayson, Daniel C. Chagolla, Betty M. Marlow, Louise H. Reynolds  
**Public Social Services** – Conchita R. Adriano, Kathryn Alexander, Carrie M. Alston, Olga Aponte, Lucia D. Argabright, Helen Beatty, Josefina G. Blanco, Lisa Nicole Blue, Josephine Brooks, Sandra R. Cervantes, Lupe Cooper, Mattie L. Cummings, Joanne E. Durant, Effat K. Elkobaitry, Barbara T. Fay, Myrian I. Gomez, George Gonzalez, Mary J. Heard, Graciela Huth, Norma R. Jenkins-Jones, Tommie L. Johnson, Eugene C. Kenourgios, Robert K. Knight, James P. Lambert, Alice N. Lou, Pedro Magdaleno, Robert Maldonado, Adrienne C. Martin, Tracy Franklin Morrison, Peggy A. Pearson, Dwon Phillips, Jacqueline C. Porter, Larry D. Porter, Theresa R. Quincey, Myra L. Richardson, Elaine Yanira Santana, Abdul Shahid, Ruth O. Shimansky, Bertha Soto, Frances M. Talancon, Vera Thompkins, Dolores J. Walker, Lureta Ware, Marie A. White  
**Public Works** – Sharam N. Arjman, Frank E. Benson II, Jack L. Conner, William W. Freeland, Donald Hinsberger, Kenneth R. Kvammen, James Lopez, Clayton G. McKinney, Jess P. Mendibles, Lida Nercessian, Anthony C. Olguin, Bill G. Phillips, James B. Roadhouse II, Doris J. Robinson, Donald Smith, Arthur V. Vigil  
**Rancho Los Amigos Hospital** – Hazel Adkins, Anna W. Ednoff, Nancy B. Ekberg, Sara J. Guentz, Mary Lee Ivey, Donna Lee Lucas, Claudine Marcoux, Harold Thomas, Barbara Williams  
**Regional Planning** – John S. Edwards  
**Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk** – Yong Suk Kim, Shun Leung  
**Sheriff** – Macrina Q. Aguon, Keith Anderson, Joseph P. Berry, Leonard Robert Bodine, Renee M. Botts, Timothy M. Brennan, Marilyn Brown, Bernard S. Budge, Patrick J. Burke, Nora J. Burnett, Henry E. Carrel, Mary S. Casarez, Roger G. Chandler, Patty H. Choe, Gregory S. Clark, Kevin G. Collins, Robert S. De La Garza, Donald D. Di Marzo, John F. Fleming, Roy D. Hamilton, Margaret A. Hanes, Robert G. Hauck, Jasper O. Hicks, James H. Holland, Alfonso P. Johnson, Martin L. Kudell, Benjamin Lang, Michael Le Peilbet, Nancy J. Lewis, Arlan E. Lynch, Brent J. Mahar, Richard J. Mc Keon, Ronald G. Mee, Robert M. Mendez Jr., Nelda M. Moore, Betty Lou Morgan, Robert G. Myers, Andrew L. Myers, Cerelina O. Natividad, Shamkant V. Panat, Fortunato A. Parrino, Stanley Patrick, Raymond M. Reid, Cynthia M. Ribilla, Roy A. Riffle, Charles M. Rodriguez, Anthony D. Serena, Helen Hee-Ok Shin, Richard A. St. John, Ada R. Swanson, Susanna Valenzuela, MoWahab, George F. Walsh, Wayne S. Yasutake  
**Su. Cal. Air Pollution Control** – John A. Danielson  
**Superintendent of Schools** – Barbara Jones  
**Superior Court/County Clerk** – Allan B. Amador, Sandra L. Anderson, Estella Aparicio, Andre Averin, Sharon R. Finchamp, Robert H. Fletcher, Shirley Flowers, L. C. Grays, Frederick L. Hewston, Kristie L. Lange, Cruz Montoya, Stacy Lynne Pender-Walke, Nuria Pineda, Walter Reschman  
**Treasurer/Tax Collector** – Anthea Cappas  
**Whittier Municipal Court** – Marilyn Mae Brook  
**Women's Hospital** – Linder Hollinquest  
**Workforce Dev., Aging & Comm. Svc.** – Dorothy A. Willenborg  
**Unidentified County Agency** – Starratt H. Hill, Caroline M. Pratt



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

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## VALENTINE DRAWING

### Be Our Valentine and Win \$25

It's that time of year again. In a gesture of appreciation for your continued support, all members are eligible for a special Valentine drawing of 20 prizes – \$25 each. To participate, complete the coupon below and mail to the RELAC office:

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

Coupons must be received no later than Feb. 7.



#### Valentine Drawing

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Print Clearly*

## It's Never too Late to Join RELAC

*by Victoria Pipkin-Lane, Newsletter Committee Chair*

Better late than never. At age 96, Audrey Rottman has become a member of RELAC.

Rottman submitted an online application in October after receiving a mailer from RELAC that was sent to all L.A. County retirees who had not joined the organization. She is glad she did. "I enjoy being a RELAC member," she said, adding that she looks forward to receiving the newsletter.

Actually, this is the second time around for Rottman.

She first joined RELAC when she retired from L.A. County service in March of 1981. But somewhere along the way her membership lapsed. The Long Beach resident said she is not sure exactly when the newsletter stopped arriving, but she really missed the publication. Perhaps a new RELAC database upgrade or computer software deleted her membership in error, she said. She said she is not sure what happened, but is glad to again have the newsletter.

Rottman retired from the County after Long Beach General Hospital, where she worked as a nurse for 13 years, closed. Retirement has been an adventure, travelling extensively throughout France, Germany and Australia with her husband, Dr. Warner Rottman, who worked as a veterinarian for the County. He retired in 1982 and passed away in 2015.

What do you do when you live longer than even you expected? Rottman says she has "no secret to long life other than enjoy life. I never expected to live this long."

She is a cat lover, and says of her cat: "She runs the house."

The mother of two daughters (Rae and Mary) and two sons (James and Thomas), she has two granddaughters (Sarah and Lizzie) and one great-grandson (David), who live in the Claremont area. She says she adores her grandchildren and is able to see them often.

Rottman will be 97 in August.



**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.