



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

# RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

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

## President's Message

by Brian Berger



Summertime. I hope all of you are enjoying the weather and expanding your adventures beyond wherever you/we were trapped in the winter and rainy spring months. My wife and I and the grandkids are simply having fun. It is so nice to see the excitement and joyful laughter of the 12-year-old twins and their younger cousin.

A date to make down on your calendars is Aug. 10. This is the day of our annual Recognition Luncheon. It is a noisy and happy event and always with a large crowd. We will hold it again at Almansor Court in Alhambra.

I know each of us look forward to being brought up to date, County-wise, as we read the columns on activities at LACERA, the Board of Retirement, and the Board of Investments, not to mention the goings on "Inside LA County." You will find these articles most interesting. RELAC continues to be vigilant as it works with LACERA, CRCEA (California Retired County Employees Association) and others to keep a sharp eye on those County-related benefits programs.

Speaking of sharing information, it is such a nice gift to all of us to be able to read the letters and articles from so many retirees that are submitted and which our editor, Judy Hammond, includes in the newsletter. We get such positive feedback from so many of you that I can only encourage anyone who feels like sharing... don't be shy.

The RELAC Board will be holding a retreat in late June to take some time to assess all our programs and discuss ways that might or should be taken to reflect changes. As just one example, we are partnering with the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors to get our newsletter distributed by e-mail to all employees at the Hall of Administration. This is a big deal. It will greatly expand our exposure, and will replace the stack of hard copies of each edition that we deliver, which get a more limited distribution, especially since so many employees now work from home. We are hoping to expand the e-mail distribution to other departments as well.

Finally, as I say each time, please feel free to contact us with any suggestions or comments that you may have. I can also add that those kinds of encouraging contacts have increased and they do help us in so many ways.

## Vote Harris, Martin and Robbins for LACERA Boards

The RELAC Board of Directors is urging members to vote for J.P. Harris, Debbie Martin, and Les Robbins in the upcoming election for retiree representatives on the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) Boards of Retirement and Investments.

Robbins and Harris are seeking their third terms on the Board of Retirement, Robbins as the retiree representative and Harris as the alternate. This is Martin's first candidacy. She is hoping to replace Joseph Kelly, who did not seek reelection to the Board of Investments. All are RELAC directors.

The retiree seats on the LACERA Boards of Retirement and Investments have historically been filled by directors of RELAC, helping to ensure retirees' interests are protected and allowing RELAC to assist its members in resolving any issues with LACERA that may arise.

Retired members of LACERA who were retired on or before April 15 are eligible to vote in the election, which will be held Aug. 4-31. Members will be allowed to vote by mail, phone or e-mail.

Ballots will be mailed to all on Aug. 2. Voter information and log-in credentials will be e-mailed on Aug. 4 to retirees who have valid e-mail addresses on file with LACERA. Those who do not have an e-mail address or have an invalid e-mail address on file with LACERA will receive log-in credentials and voter information with their paper ballots.

For general information regarding the election, call the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors at (800) 786-6464. The County, not LACERA, is conducting the election.

The Board of Retirement and Board of Investments govern LACERA, which is an independent government entity that is separate and distinct from the County of Los Angeles.

LACERA administers and manages the retirement fund for the County and outside  
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## Trailblazer Former Supervisor Gloria Molina Dies

Former County Supervisor Gloria Molina, 74, the first woman and the first Latina elected to the Board of Supervisors, has died of cancer after a three-year battle.

Molina served 23 years on the Board of Supervisors, elected in 1991 and retiring in 2014 after term limits imposed by voters prevented her from seeking another term.

Yvonne Braithwaite Burke preceded Molina on the Board, but was not elected to the post at that time. She was appointed in 1979 by then-Gov. Jerry Brown, but lost the election the following year. Molina had been a member of the Board for 21 months when Braithwaite Burke returned in 1992.

Molina, who died two weeks before her 75th birthday, posted on her Facebook page on March 14 that she had terminal cancer. The announcement prompted an outpouring of accolades and tributes, including by the current Board of Supervisors, which immediately renamed Grand Park in downtown Los Angeles in her honor, giving her credit for its development. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority also renamed the East L.A. Civic Center light rail station in her honor.

Described as a trailblazer, Molina was the first Latina Assembly member in California, the first Latina on the Los Angeles City Council, the first Latina on the Board of Supervisors.



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# Investment Board

by Joseph Kelly, Trustee  
LACERA Board of Investments



The announcement by the White House of a deal to lift the debt limit was welcomed by investors. If there is one thing investors do not like, it is uncertainty. The retirement trust returned 4.1% fiscal-year-to-date through March 31, beating the benchmark return of 2.1%. The three, five and 10-year returns are all greater than the trust's targeted return of 7%. See table below.

I attended the 2023 Milken Institute Global Conference in May. We heard from leaders in the capital markets regarding interest rate hikes, artificial intelligence, and the state of the U.S. banking sector. I also attended several sessions on aging. As we grow older, we face new challenges related to engagement and purpose, financial wellness and mobility and movement. I was struck by the promise of ongoing research and innovations focused on leading happy, healthy and engaged lives as seniors. The Milken Institute makes its public Global Conference sessions available on its website, milkeninstitute.org.

In 2021, I informed you that LACERA did not make audio or video recordings of its meetings available to the public on its website. Since I rejoined the Board of Investments in 2021, I have been a consistent advocate of making these recordings available because accessible recordings increase the transparency of board and committee deliberations. In February 2021, the Joint Organizational Governance Committee, a joint committee of LACERA's two governing boards, considered the matter and instructed the chief executive officer to develop a proposal to make these recordings available to the public. I am very pleased to report that all board and committee meetings are now available for viewing on the LACERA YouTube channel. The LACERA channel is at <https://youtube.com/@lacera2580>.

Please enjoy your summer!

LACERA Pension Fund		March 2023	Total Assets: \$72.3 billion		
Returns	FYTD	3 year:	5 year:	10 year:	
	+ 4.1%	+ 12.1%	+ 7.5%	+ 7.8%	

## LACERA Boards cont. from p.1

special districts. It is one of the largest county retirement systems in the United States.

The Board of Retirement is responsible for the administration of the retirement system, the retiree health care program, and the review and processing of disability retirement applications.

The Board of Investments is responsible for establishing LACERA's investment policy and objectives, exercising authority and control over the investment management of the fund, and establishing contribution rates to assure proper funding of the system.

The County of Los Angeles established a pension trust fund in 1937 to provide defined retirement and death benefits to eligible County employees. The following year LACERA was established to administer the program. In 1971 LACERA also began administering the retiree health care benefits program.

# News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich  
Assistant Executive Officer



Summer salutations from your LACERA family! As we bask in the warmth of the summer season, we're eager to share with you some crucial updates on our efforts to bolster your security and enhance your interactions with LACERA. Moving forward, I'd like to draw your attention to some vital cybersecurity measures and share some exciting technological upgrades on the horizon.

Let's start with cybersecurity -- a matter of paramount importance. We need to alert you that a few LACERA members have fallen victim to sophisticated phishing scams, where attackers impersonate LACERA staff to trick them into revealing sensitive personal and financial information. Always remember to verify the sender's e-mail address. If you're not sure about a sender, hover your mouse over their e-mail address to see if it matches the sender's claimed identity before clicking any links or responding to information requests. And remember to exercise caution when responding to unsolicited service requests or unexpected requests for personal information. Our dedicated Information Security team will continue to provide reminders and alerts that you need to stay safe. Most importantly, if something doesn't seem right, or if you ever have doubts about a communication you receive that appears to be from LACERA, don't hesitate to call us at (800)786-6464 to confirm whether we are indeed trying to reach you.

To further ensure your security, we are thrilled to announce an upcoming upgrade to our call center authentication process. In July, we plan to deploy a system leveraging new voice recognition and artificial intelligence (AI) technology. This enhancement, dubbed Voice AI Chat, will streamline the authentication process by asking basic identification and secure validation questions prior to speaking to a LACERA specialist, thus making your data more secure and your experience more convenient. It also offers an optional voice ID setup for expedited authentication in future interactions. Rest assured, in any instance of validation failure, you'll be connected to a specialist who can assist you further. This technological advancement underscores our commitment to your information security. It also has the added

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## Board of Retirement

by Les Robbins, RELAC Director  
LACERA Board of Retirement Trustee

As many of you know, LACERA has been working diligently for a number of years to eliminate the maximum \$1 million lifetime cap on benefits paid out for the Anthem Blue Cross Plans I, II, and Prudent Buyer. There is no cap on the Anthem Blue Cross III as this is the Medicare supplement plan and when the Affordable

Care Act (Obamacare) was passed, most maximum caps were eliminated. LACERA's Anthem Blue Cross plans were exempted due to the fact that the regulations impacted plans that included both active and retired people and LACERA's plans are composed of retirees only. By the way, LACERA fought that during the time that the ACA regulations were done, but was not successful.

Our discussions with County representatives have been unsuccessful as there seems to be zero interest (we must assume this is coming from the Board of Supervisors) in either eliminating the cap all together or increasing it. As each year passes and as we live longer (which we are) and as the costs of health care continue to rise, this will be a bigger and bigger problem.

When possible, LACERA will move retirees who are approaching their caps into alternate plans. However, that is not always possible as there are areas in our country where our other plans are not available. And we still have retirees who have no access to Medicare and that furthers the extent of the problem as well. I have tried to be a positive thinker when it comes to this issue, and knowing just how important the issue is to the LACERA Board of Retirement and, of course, to LACERA CEO Santos Kreimann, the battle to continue to address the lifetime cap will continue.

One last thing to remember is if and when you choose to relocate from California, it is important that you do your due diligence and find out if your current retiree health plan will work where you are moving. This is especially important if you are enrolled in one of our Kaiser plans because Kaiser is only available to our members in eight states. Moving is not always as easy as it first sounds as health care is also not always as accessible in areas that may be more rural or remote.

Till next issue, be well and enjoy your retirement. You earned it.



## Welcome New Members

April – May 2023

Assessor – **Lito Hugo**  
 Board Of Supervisors – **Victoria Osborn**  
 Children & Family Services – **Paula Gamboa, Garnett Madison, Joan Marks, Andrette Whitmore, Paula Yanez, Jann Zinderman**  
 County Counsel – **Amy Naamani**  
 District Attorney – **Peter Bliss, Fernando Guzman**  
 Fire – **Paul Guerrero, Muriel Jones**  
 Harbor/UCLA Medical Center – **Gamalier Lesure**  
 Health Services – **Susan Foster**  
 Internal Services – **Jo Ann Knight, Joanne Swart**  
 Juvenile Court – **Filomena Martin**  
 LACERA – **Roxana Castillo, Liza Evans, Sharon Reece**  
 LAC+USC Medical Center – **Tamar Arazi-Marquez**  
 Public Social Services – **Guadalupe Gamez, Lorraine Garcia, Cynthia Roberts-Davis, Elba Salazar**  
 Public Works – **Julio Gonzalez, Oscar Olguin**  
 Sheriff – **Anthony Divita, Joseph Frey, John Kearns, Robert Koch, Gene Lee Leatherman, Albert Maldonado, Clifford Privetera, Ileana Privetera, Paul Romeo, Anthony Shapiro, Richard Stone, Fredrick Sykes, Toni Terrell-Randolph, Scott Walker**  
 Associate Members – **Ruth Divita, Michelle Guerrero, Brenda Sophia Guzman, Teresa Kearns, Jeannette Leatherman, Patricia Vashti Major-Bliss, Cecilia Maldonado, Paul Marquez, Carol V. Olguin, Christopher Randolph, Sherry Shapiro, Dana Swart, Aracelly Trujillo**  
 Affiliate Members – **Jacqueline Guevarra**

### Thanks for New Member Referrals

Our thanks to these 10 members (shown in bold) who recruited colleagues (shown in italics) during April and May 2023.

**Roberta Abner**, *Toni Terrell-Randolph*, Sheriff  
**Nick Chico**, *Lorraine Garcia*, Public Social Services  
**Arthur Dass**, *Richard Stone*, Sheriff  
**Debbie Guerrero Jackson**, *Joanne Swart*, Internal Services  
**Jackie Guevarra**, *Elba Salazar*, Public Social Services  
**Nora Jackson**, *Sharon Reece*, LACERA  
**Sharon Littman**, *Jann Zinderman*, Children & Family Services  
**Joaquin Miramontes**, *Paula Gamboa*, Children & Family Services  
**Joaquin Miramontes**, *Garnett Madison*, Children & Family Services  
**Joaquin Miramontes**, *Joan Marks*, Children & Family Services  
**Joaquin Miramontes**, *Paula Yanez*, Children & Family Services  
**Joyce Richardson Stallworth**, *Gamalier Lesure*, Harbor/UCLA Medical Center  
**Les Robbins**, *Joseph Frey*, Sheriff  
**Les Robbins John Kearns**, Sheriff  
**Les Robbins Robert Koch**, Sheriff  
**Les Robbins Fredrick Sykes**, Sheriff

## Vote for Your RELAC-Endorsed Candidates

### For Board of Investments: Debbie Martin

I am excited to announce my candidacy for the LACERA Board of Investments. As a retired chief deputy director with 35 years of service to the County of Los Angeles, I would like to continue to serve and represent my fellow retirees. My qualifications, proven skills, and leadership experience have prepared me for this elected position in many ways.



In 1986, I embarked on an extraordinary career with the County, working for six departments, including the Auditor-Controller, where I attained my certified public accountant license and a master's degree in public administration. I also served in the departments of Treasurer-Tax Collector (TTC), Parks and Recreation, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Chief Executive Office, and Public Social Services.

During my tenure at TTC, I had oversight authority of investment policy, ensuring investment transactions followed established guidelines. I retain an overall understanding of investments, large budgets and financial markets. As a fiduciary, I have an ethical and legal duty to safeguard our pension plans and uphold the decisions prudent to the best interest of retirees and beneficiaries.

I respectfully ask for your vote to the LACERA Board of Investments.

### For Board of Retirement: Les Robbins

For the past 25 years I have had the honor and privilege of representing Los Angeles County employees, both active and retired, as a member of the LACERA Board of Retirement and Board of Investments. I first served as an elected member of both boards, then as an appointed member of the Board of Retirement and then as an elected member of the Board of Retirement.



Being a trustee on either of our boards is a huge responsibility to the more than 170,000 members of LACERA, both active and retired. I am very proud of my record during my tenure at LACERA, which also makes me the most senior member, in terms of years of service, of either of the LACERA boards.

If reelected to the Board of Retirement, I pledge to continue representing all of you in a prudent and responsible manner, never forgetting what LACERA is, what LACERA does. The LACERA mission is to produce, protect, and provide for the promised benefits, and that is exactly what I have done and what I will continue to do if reelected. I humbly ask for your support once again.

### For Alternate, Board of Retirement: J.P. Harris

I am again asking for your support and your vote to elect me to a third term as your alternate retiree member on the LACERA Board of Retirement. I also strongly urge you to support the other RELAC-backed candidates: Les Robbins for the 8th Member of the BOR and Debbie Martin for the 8th member on the Board of Investments.



All retirees are very fortunate to have three RELAC Board members filling the retiree seats on LACERA's two boards. That is because only RELAC exclusively attends to the interests of all retirees of Los Angeles County, union and non-union alike.

All three of us have also received the endorsement of the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs and the Professional Peace Officers Association. This is significant because those two organizations represent the rank and file, and supervisors, of the largest single County department. They recognize the importance of having qualified, motivated individuals on LACERA's boards.

Over the past three years, many things have changed, but one significant thing has not: LACERA's promise to produce, protect and provide the promised benefits on behalf of its members. As a fiduciary, I am solely focused on ensuring your continued financial security that your county pension provides.

Do not be complacent. You will be receiving your ballot in the mail during August. Do not put off voting. Vote as soon as you receive your ballot and return it to the Registrar-Recorder immediately.

In my 35 years with the Sheriff's Department, I learned the old adage that if you stay ready, you don't need to get ready. Les, Debbie and I are ready to serve and will be honored to have your support.

# RELAC's 2022 Annual Financial Report

RELAC's operating results for the year (\$428,002 in revenue minus \$413,279 in expenses) produced a gain of \$14,723.

The "Unrealized Gain/(Loss)" set forth at the bottom of the report covers the reduction in RELAC's investment account at JP Morgan due to unfavorable results in the securities market.

The JP Morgan investment account is maintained as a benefit protection "war chest" to cover litigation and advocacy expenses and as a reserve for unanticipated expenses that may arise during the year.

RELAC ANNUAL REPORT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, REVENUE EXPENSE			
<b>I. Changes in Assets &amp; Liabilities 2022 vs 2021</b>			
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>12/31/22</b>	<b>12/31/21</b>	
Checking Account	104,723	108,607	
Money Market Account	34,170	85,958	
Petty Cash	200	200	
Other Assets	6,885	15,477	
Security Deposit	2,591	2,591	
Office Equipment-Less Depreciation	10,051	11,546	
Litigation Reserve	1,646,336	1,879,231	
Total Assets	<b>1,804,956</b>	<b>2,103,610</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
Current Liabilities	9,700	21,774	
Retained Earnings	2,084,903	1,827,505	
Less Net Income	(289,647)	254,331	
Total Equity	1,804,956	2,103,610	
Total Liabilities & Equity	<b>1,804,956</b>	<b>2,103,610</b>	
<b>II. Operating Results</b>			
	<b>12/31/22</b>	<b>12/31/21</b>	
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Member Dues	377,730	363,509	
Investment Income	25,037 (1)	23,860 (1)	
Miscellaneous Income	50	215	
Member Events & Misc.	17,502	27,148	
Interest	7,683	5,353	
Total Revenue	<b>428,002</b>	<b>420,085</b>	
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Office Expense	114,706 (2)	109,814 (2)	
Personnel & Payroll	142,687 (3)	121,327 (3)	
Board of Directors Meetings & Expenses	7,249	5,438	
Committee Meetings & Expenses	5,951	6,454	
Membership & Conferences	11,087	36,144	
Insurance	4,096 (4)	4,639 (4)	
Membership Meetings	8,829	7,592	
Membership Benefits & Promotions	52,286	16,215	
Elections	-	-	
Newsletter	52,372	53,730	
Website	985	900	
Investment Expense	13,033	18,149	
Total Expense	<b>413,279</b>	<b>380,402</b>	
Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	(304,370)	214,651	

# RELAC Night at the Dodgers

Dodgers vs. Giants  
Friday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m.



You are cordially invited to join RELAC members on Friday, Sept. 22 at Dodger Stadium. The Dodgers will be playing the Giants. Following the game, you will be treated to a dazzling drone light display.

The RELAC member discounted price is \$47 each for the first two tickets ordered. Additional tickets may be purchased at the special group rate of \$52 each (below cost to general public). Reserved seating is in Section 8RS. Seating is limited, so reserve your tickets as soon as possible. Complete the reservation form below and mail it with your check to the RELAC office by Aug. 21.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Dodger Stadium is a cash free, paperless stadium. All entry tickets are digital and will be e-mailed to you two weeks before the game with instructions on how to download tickets to your cell phone. You or someone with you must download tickets to a cell phone and show tickets at the entry gate. Detailed instructions will be provided in the digital ticket.

## Dodgers vs. Giants – Reservation Form

Friday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Two digital tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$47 each

Additional digital tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$52 each

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with check payable to RELAC:  
RELAC, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit #15  
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

### Reservation Deadline: Aug. 21

Ticket order must be received in RELAC office by Aug. 21 unless arrangements have been made.  
For questions, call (626) 308-0532.

### For Office Use:

Rec'd

Payt. Amt.

Check #

## RELAC at Veterans and Military Families Event Hosted by County

RELAC Directors Don Fandry and J.P. Harris – shown with Congresswoman Judy Chu --represented RELAC at the 25th Annual Tribute to Veterans and Military Families at Arcadia County Park on May 27, hosted by Los Angeles County. The event featured a ceremony honoring veterans, a resource fair, live music, equipment displays, food trucks, and lots of family fun.



## Thank You to Recent Retirees With 40+ Years of Service

We salute the following recent County retirees who served 40 or more years. And a special nod to six who served more than 50 years: Oscar Espinoza, LAC+USC Medical Center; Lynda J. Moore, Public Social Services; Steven H. Partida, Public Library; Jo-Helen Shumate, Public Social Services; Carol Walker Johns, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center; and Roy Williams, Parks and Recreation.

ASSESSOR: Danilo Y. Alejo

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Arlene Barrera, Karen E. Loquet, Debbie K. Moore, Deborah D. Johnson

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Ernestina O. Rhind

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Rosalinda A. Acosta, Sandra L. Brewster-Bra, Grace Y. Chang, Angela Cole, Tao T. Dam, Soraya Golban, Chui W. Hom, Diane M. Love, Sandra Mack, Cynthia Meza, Christopher B. Rogers

CHILD SUPPORT: Shelley D. Charles

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Cecilia Alba, Lenora Jackson-Thur

FIRE: Angela Hannah, Amelia Mawson  
HARBOR/UCLA MEDICAL CENTER: Sharon J. Kendrick, Opeta U. Palaita, Antonia Richardson, Ramona Sparks, Bobbie Tomlin, Carol Walker Johns

HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION: Maeran Kim, Sandra H. Pickett (from deferred), Moslatania R. Vernon, Patricia Wyatt-Johnso (from deferred)

INTERNAL SERVICES: Maria M. Beltran, Dong H. Doan, Rochell Edmondson, James M. Fujimoto, Mei F. Lew, Robert W. Mengel

LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER: Richard Avila, Remelita C. Calixtro, Oscar Espinoza, Patricia A. Garcia (from deferred), Maria R. Najera, Georgina D. Joya, Jacqueline S. Prince (from deferred), Aundrea J. Robinson, Thomas Weigel, Lupe Wendt

MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER: Christopher B. Rogers  
PARKS AND RECREATION: Roy Williams

PROBATION: Joyce F. Clark (from deferred), Joseph L. Nunez, Ray L. Thompson

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Omar C. Hazel, Patricia A. Moorhead, Sandra C. Rodriguez

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM: Olga Coronado, Hattie P. Morris, Judith R. Robb, Marilyn G. Smith, Adele A. Zayas  
PUBLIC LIBRARY: Steven H. Partida

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Mary E. Garcia, Irma Guerrero, Lynda J. Moore, Jo-Helen Shumate, Rosa M. Gallardo, Fran Himes Khron, Shirley Hunter, Sonia Moreno, Brenda Murrell

PUBLIC WORKS: Norma J. Catchings, Paul Deardorff, Michael J. Hays, Hector O. Hernandez, Gail Marie Lee, Stuart L. Lillich, Sylvia Luna, Steven A. Morgan, Gilbert C. Nelson, Nader Samaan, Richard E. Spicer  
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Jefferie Jankans

SHERIFF: George Y. Ching, Maria L. De Alba, Sharon M. Farmer, Juan C. Hinstrosa, Meza M. Lee, Benita P. Leon, Stephen C. Macinnis, Varnell F. McLean, Aurora M. Wenceslao, Darlene E. Williams

SUPERIOR COURT/COUNTY CLERK: Patricia E. Collaso, Elizabeth M. Del Real, Lynne K. Garcia, Ye K. Kang, Mosava M. Prothro

TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR: Tam T. Dao, Michael Jones



County Representatives: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Director Jim Zenner, and veteran members of the Sheriff's Department with Kenneth Anhalt and wife, Shirley.

## County Honors Father of RELAC Member

Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) Director Jim Zenner, and members of the Sheriff's Department from the American Legion STAR Post and Temple Station were among those honoring Kenneth Anhalt, father of RELAC member Ed Anhalt, at his 100th birthday celebration on April 15 at his Sierra Madre home.

Anhalt, a World War II veteran, served in the U.S. Air Forces, also referred to colloquially as the U.S. Army Air Corp, from 1943 through 1945. During those two years, he flew 28 bombing missions as a tail-gunner on a B-25 Liberator against Nazi-occupied Europe and Germany. He was awarded the Air Medal with two clusters (act of heroism or meritorious achievement) while participating in aerial flight. He also received a battle star that is earned by members of organizations taking part in certain battles or other wartime operations.

"Being able to honor Kenneth Anhalt on his 100th birthday and personally thank him for his military service is something I will never forget," said Supervisor Barger. "His bravery and resilience is inspiring, as is his ongoing local community service that persisted well after his military service ended. I am very happy that our community has gathered around Kenneth on his special day to show him how appreciated he is."

"Our World War II veterans fought valiantly for our country against an enemy that would have undoubtedly stripped us of our American identity and way of life," said MVA Director Zenner. "Because of Americans like Mr. Anhalt who have answered the call to serve, we are able to live free and enjoy our way of life."

Anhalt, a native of the Bronx and Queens, has been married to his wife, Shirley, 98, for 76 years. He attended Pasadena City College, became a quality engineer, and worked at Jet Propulsion Laboratory until his retirement. He also served on the Sierra Madre Police Commission and is a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3208 in Sierra Madre.

Ed Anhalt, who worked in the County Probation Department for almost 34 years, retiring in 2009 as a senior probation director, said his father "exemplifies what being a wonderful man really is. He has always been an example of a patriot, has served God, country, his community and, of course, his family. He has been an inspiration to all of us in so many ways."



Four Generations Celebrate: Kenneth Anhalt with son, RELAC member Ed Anhalt; grandson, Justin; and great-grandson, Aaron.

# Letters To The Editor

## Write On!

I thank you so much for your assistance and also for the wonderful publication that you put together and send out each month. It's such a wonderful way to keep in touch with County happenings and to learn about the wonderful people that we had the privilege to work with in our careers.

**Irene McReynolds, Seal Beach, California**

Thank you so much for the gift from the Valentine Day drawing. I was very surprised, and I appreciate your thoughtfulness so very much.

**Kirbie J. Baldwin, Harbor City, California**

Thank you for your story about Ginger Barnard, commemorating her life and accomplishments. Early in her County career (back in the Seventies), Ginger and I worked together as planners in the newly formed Planning and Resource Development Office of the Bureau of Social Services. Ginger was instrumental in the development of several innovative and effective community service programs. One of these was a pilot project that reached out and provided supportive services to school kids and their families in East Los Angeles. She also proposed a computer processing project to automate the community resource files of social workers throughout the County. Her idea became the catalyst to the development of the Community Resource Information Bank, or "CRIB Program." This was an important step in the eventual creation of the County's centralized telephone information and referral service of today, "211 L.A." I will miss her.

**Ron Hansen, Los Angeles, California**

*(Ed. Note: RELAC member Ginger Irvine Barnard passed away April 4 from pulmonary fibrosis at age 80.)*

Keep up the good work, all RELAC staff!

*(Ed. Note: This note was included with a donation for L.A. Regional Food Bank.)*

**Lawanda Allee, Pasadena, California**

Whatever happened about the Social Security offset? It's been a while since you have published any updates. This is unfair; we paid our share, as did the general public.

**Thomas E. Brown, North Las Vegas, Nevada**

*(Ed. Note: Unfortunately, the legislation again failed to get out of committee. New bills have been introduced, HR 82 (Graves, Louisiana) and S597 (Brown, Ohio). We will provide further information on those in future editions.)*

I just wanted to send you a delayed thank you for the \$25 check for being a lucky winner of RELAC's cash drawing for those who recruited new members in 2021-22. Enclosed is my check for \$25 payable to RELAC for deposit into one of your many worthwhile fundraisers. Feel free to apply it to any of your fundraisers. Thank you for your support of all the L. A. County retirees. Smile.

**Gwen Andrizzi, Torrance, California**

Thank you so much for Fred's very nice birthday card. He read each one of them and was thankful to the Lord for His care and for his friends. He is 98 as of this year's birthday. His short-term memory is not good, but he is physically good and walks outside when weather is nice. Our granddaughter comes over to walk with him. He reads a lot – the Bible, books, and newspapers and enjoys that so far. He thanks you for remembering him and I thank you, too, as at our age there are not too many of our friends around anymore.

**Fred and Pat Gustin, Oro Valley, California**

## Scholarship Winners with Their RELAC Families



Anaya Harrison



Johanna Zeise



Aliyah Hodges



Zina Ogunnaya



Brooke E. Bushong



Kristi Ikemoto

## Six Winners of RELAC Scholarships Selected

The Board of Directors congratulates the six winners of RELAC's 2023 scholarships: Brooke Bushong, Anaya Harrison, Aliyah Hodges, Kristi Ikemoto, Zina Ogunnaya, and Johanna Zeise.

The students and their RELAC sponsors will be honored at RELAC's Recognition Luncheon on Aug. 10 at Almansor Court in Alhambra.

This is the fourth year of the scholarship program, which is open to RELAC members and their families. Five \$1,000 scholarships are normally awarded, but this year a sixth scholarship was approved by the Board on a one-time basis in honor of former RELAC Director Evelyn Gutierrez, who was one of the founding members of the scholarship program and served as chair of the evaluation committee. RELAC received donations in Gutierrez's memory when she died unexpectedly in 2022 and the Board decided to supplement those funds to enable the award of the sixth scholarship.

Director Linda C. Hopkins, chair of the Scholarship Committee, said Kristi Ikemoto was selected for the Evelyn Gutierrez Scholarship Award in consideration of her accomplishments, including her community service.

The 2023 scholarship winners and the RELAC family member nominating them:

Brooke Bushong, nominated by her grandfather James Jakubal, was accepted by the University of Alabama and Penn State, but chose to attend Texas-Christian University. Interested in anatomy and the functions of the human body, her goal is to be an orthopedic surgeon.

Anaya Harrison, nominated by her grandmother Janie Harrison, has chosen to attend UC Berkeley, and says her goal is to be a nurse practitioner trained in obstetrics and gynecology so she can educate and advocate for women, saving lives through education and representation.

Aliyah Hodges, nominated by her grandmother Terri Morris, was accepted by four California state universities but decided to attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She will major in kinesiology, with the goal of becoming a team physician/athletic trainer.

Kristi Ikemoto, nominated by her grandfather Kenneth Ikemoto, was accepted by Cal Poly Pomona, California State University, Long Beach and Chapman University but chose to attend UCLA. She is interested in psychobiology and through education, plans to continue to expand her views of the world.

Zina Ogunnaya, nominated by her father, Cyril Ogunnaya, was accepted to Mount Saint Mary's Academy and Rutgers University in New Jersey. She will be a graduate student in the fall at Rutgers, pursuing a clinical psychology degree.

Johanna Zeise, nominated by her grandmother Jean Zeise, loves agriculture and horses, and plans to attend North Dakota State University, where she will major in equine science with an emphasis on equine nutrition.

## County Family Fesler, Bowser and Aiello: County Counsel Trio

RELAC Director Bobbie Fesler has retired from the County Counsel's Office, but her sister, Joyce Aiello, and daughter, Katie Bowser, still work for the department. Fesler joined the department in 1974, Aiello in 1991 and Bowser in 2005.



Fesler was hired in September 1974 and in 1987 became an assistant county counsel, working as the division chief of the Public Services Division until her promotion to senior assistant county counsel in 1997, a position she held until her retirement in June 2008.

Aiello followed in her sister's steps in May 1991 and became an assistant county counsel in 2008, working as the division chief of the Contracts Division. She also managed the Labor and Employment, Workers Compensation and Probation Divisions, and is currently developing the Office of County Hearing Officer.

Bowser joined her mother and aunt in May 2005. In May 2023 she was promoted to assistant county counsel and serves as the division chief of the Social Services Division.

How did this dynamic trio end up in the same office and what was it like working together?

Fesler explains:

While I was still working in the County Counsel's Office, we often discussed issues each of us was working on. Since my retirement, there are some occasions when we talk generally about legal questions or issues, without any discussion of privileged information, obviously. And, once in a while, Joyce or Katie will ask me about whether or how something was addressed in the past, giving me a chance to reminisce or assume the role of the Wise Old Elder of the Village of the County Counsel.

During law school, I spent one summer as a law clerk in the County Counsel's Office, enjoying the people and the work and developing a great deal of respect for many of the attorneys I worked for and with that summer. So, it just seemed natural to apply for a job in the office when I graduated from law school the following year.

Joyce and Katie's interest in becoming government lawyers and working in the L.A. County Counsel's Office clearly was influenced by seeing the satisfaction I enjoyed from working in the public sector and the respect I had for my colleagues in the office. In addition, they each had unique life experiences that played a big role in their decision to seek employment in the office.

Joyce worked for county government and the Superior Court in Santa Barbara after college and before law school, so her interest in government law was enhanced by that experience. Katie didn't need to wait until college to see the legal world up close, as both of her parents were practicing attorneys. She was attending depositions with her dad before she was old enough to go to school! And, by the time she was a teenager, her Aunt Joyce had joined her mom at the County Counsel's Office, providing her with even more exposure to what a career in the County Counsel's Office had to offer.

### LACERA cont. from p.2

benefit of helping to increase the number of calls we can take by reducing the time we normally spend on validating you when you want to speak to a specialist. That's a good thing because it means more security and, hopefully, a faster response time when you call.

We are also excited to share that we're close to finalizing our strategic plan, which is set to guide LACERA over the next five years. This plan was formulated with the aid of both internal expertise and external perspectives. Our strategic priorities are built around five pillars: (1) enhancing member experience, (2) innovating through technology, (3) investing in people, (4) adopting an enterprise risk management and compliance framework, and (5) promoting fiscal durability. These pillars are intended to ensure your benefits are protected, risks are mitigated, and our staff are developed and trained to the highest standards. We firmly believe that these strategic priorities will enable us to fulfill our mission to produce, protect, and provide the promised benefit, both now and in the future.

In conclusion, I'd like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable service and extend a warm welcome to all our new retirees. Embarking on your retirement journey is a significant milestone, and it is our privilege to serve you during this new chapter of your life. Thank you for your continued trust in us. I encourage you to keep an eye out for further updates on the integration of these features. More information will be provided as we approach the deployment date through our quarterly newsletters, lacera.com, and e-mail notifications. 7

### RELAC NEWSLETTER

Vol 58 - July/Aug 2023  
Number 4

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9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Closed Friday,

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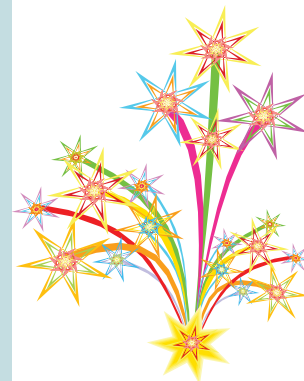
Public Holidays

### Letters cont. from p.6

Thank you so much for sending extra copies of the newsletter. I really appreciate receiving them because my family and friends have been asking for copies. Having heard from a number of retirees, I don't mind people having my e-mail address (2sanderson65@gmail.com). I still live in View Park, not Long Beach. In my haste to reduce my words, I left out the most important achievement of my life - Leon and I have a daughter, Dr. Stephanie Anderson Hardaway. Dr. Hardaway is the principal at the Advanced Technology Center in the Montebello Unified School District. Many of the RELAC readers remembered my having a child and inquired about Stephanie. Again, thank you for the extra copies!

**Sandra "Sandy" Jones Anderson, View Park, California**

(Ed. Note: Anderson was featured in the "Keeping up with Retirees" section in the May/June 2023 newsletter.)





# Keeping Up With Retirees

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

## SUSAN (Langaker, Higgins) CONIGLIO

People ask me all the time how I went from cop to party planner.

My career with the Sheriff's Department was cut short after 16 years due to neck and back injuries. I still suffer with tremendous pain from these injuries, but I am grateful for the lessons I learned while in the department. Around 2006-2007, when I saw that I would be forced to retire due to my injuries, I went back to school, studied interior design and started an event planning company. I met with Sheriff Baca and he signed a referral letter for my business on Sheriff's letterhead. It hangs on the wall in my office.

My first assignment in the Sheriff's Department was as an "off-the-streeter" at Central Jail Arraignment Courts prior to going through the Academy. There I learned to "suck it up" no matter how scared I was by my surroundings. Also, that you just have to tell yourself, "You can always wash your hands." I can still smell the halls and remember having to overcome the gag reflux in response to those smells.

I entered the Academy in 1998 as part of class #260. While there, I learned a few helpful life lessons. The important ones pertained to safety and resilience, like "Never give up," "Failure is not an option," and "If you stay ready, you never have to get ready." There are other lessons and memories that resonated as well. One was the idea of working together in a platoon as a team and how effective it could be. I also learned that peer evaluations were brutal but survivable (prepared me for bad Yelpers, lol). I learned that I loved being the platoon sergeant, maybe even a little too much, as delegating was a strong point for me. I guess I realized then that I could be a boss or just bossy, and people would actually listen. I learned I could clean my revolver in the dishwasher and have the cleanest gun in my class. I was told by a range master (not mentioning any names) that it was safe and would not damage the .38 revolvers. After we were assigned the 9mm's, the gig was up and I did not clean it in the dishwasher anymore. By the time we got the Beretta 9 mm's, I had overcome my fears of handling a weapon and became an expert shooter.

I graduated the Academy in May 1990 and was assigned to the Transportation Bureau (TST), where I learned to drive a bus while standing. I was too short to sit down. The Crown buses we trained on were 10 speeds and not suited for smaller people. This meant I had to shift 10 times while standing, holding onto the wheel and working the gas, clutch and brake with one foot. I earned a few nicknames like "Yokohama Mama" for two reasons: the tires were bigger than I was (5'1", 107 pounds) and I looked like I had been working as a mechanic on the bus rather than driving it because I would return from my route with a filthy uniform. My uniform shirts had black marks all across my chest and I had blisters all over my hands from holding myself up while driving. If my butt so much as hit the air seat, it would bounce me up, propelling me toward the ceiling of the bus. I would have to thrust one hand up over my head to stop my head from hitting the ceiling. A seat belt was out of the question, and yes, I must've looked ridiculous! I did it though, and made it through training. I was then allowed to drive the newer automatic MCI buses, where I could actually sit down. While at TST, I went from a young, 21-year-old who would not even drive her Toyota Corolla on the freeways (yes, I drove side streets everywhere because my older sister told me I "would die" if I drove any freeways) to driving these enormous buses. So, I had to learn to drive an ancient artifact of a bus all over L.A. County on numerous freeways with 50-something, screaming, cigarette-smoking, smelly inmates. I look back now and think my poor training officer at this assignment deserved a medal.

I also got one of my first lessons on how to be a businesswoman. I sold Avon at the time. I figured out how to increase and network my business. A lot of the court reporters and female deputies became my customers. It was my first try at being a businesswoman or at thinking like an entrepreneur. I've traded in the bus driving for my 2019 Aston Martin Vantage two-seater. It's a lot faster, more fun, no passengers that smell bad or get mad when I play country music.



With husband, Frank

After leaving TST, I went to Industry Station, where I worked patrol, crime prevention and became a detective assigned to the robbery team. I also became a mom during the five-six years I was at Industry Station. While working crime prevention, I learned that I loved working events that made a difference in the community. I also found that I was good at doing events. I worked the 999

Run for Kids, Tip-a-Cops for Special Olympics, Camp Courage, Inner City Slickers, job fairs, horse camp, etc. I loved the idea of making a difference in kids' lives through events. This inspired me to write a proposal for a mentorship program, which paired at-risk youth with our equestrian volunteers and their horses. I had been in the court and foster system as a kid, so I really found this rewarding. With the help of some amazing supervisors and deputies like Larry Unrein, Lt. Mike O'Brien (OB, RIP), Sgt. Tim Murakami and Sgt. Jackie Yarbrough (RIP). I

feel so blessed to have been mentored by such great leaders. One of the people who continues to inspire me is my friend, Linda Healy, a retired commander who was my captain while I was working patrol. Her leadership skills and care for her deputies left an unshakable impression on me. I strive to be the type of boss and mentor she was to my employees.

I transferred to Major Crimes Bureau (Metro), which was the assignment I loved the most. As soon as I arrived, my partner, Detective Bob Barrios, and I were assigned some awesome cases. One of them was the Dr. Dolittle escape case, where an inmate made an ID from a newspaper photo clipping of Eddie Murphy and walked right out of Twin Towers.

Today, I own Star Struck Events, an event planning company, and a historic venue I named La Villa Bella San Antonio (laVillaBellaSanAntonio.com) that is the original San Antonio Hospital, built in 1906. I have turned it into a wedding and event venue. I also lease office space to eight other businesses, including my own event company, at this property. I am proud of myself for overcoming the adversity I had to overcome to purchase this building in 2016. In 2011, I set my sights on purchasing this beautiful building. I was told by so many that I should give up and that I wouldn't be able to do it. Heck, I was a single mom, barely making it. I worked award show security jobs anywhere I could in order to pay my bills. I was not willing to give up on my dream. I give credit for a lot of my success as a businesswoman to my time as a deputy sheriff. I look back and every assignment in the department taught me different lessons. These lessons have stuck with me and helped me with starting and running my own businesses. I also gained insight about myself and found strength where I didn't know I had it. A very important thing I also learned was to have a sense of humor about just about anything and everything.

I am now happily married to my husband of five years, Frank (aka the loud, fun-loving Italian), who owns a construction company, Cutting Edge Builders, specializing in building restaurants. We met in 2014 through a mutual friend. So, if he tries to tell you I met

*continued on p.10*



# Meet Your New RELAC Directors

## DEBBIE MARTIN

I grew up in Carson in the 1960s and 1970s with my parents, brother, and sister. As a kid, I was always on my bike cruising the neighborhood talking to everyone on the street. Don't think I haven't changed much, always talking. In 1980 I moved to Long Beach to attend California State University of Long Beach. My major was business with a concentration in public accounting. Prior to graduating, I interviewed with private companies and public agencies. However, my plan was to start my own accounting business, until my father, with all his wisdom, convinced me to accept the offer from L.A. County.



*With husband, Greg*

After 36 years of service with the County, I retired in September 2021. I had a wonderful journey and opportunity to work with several extraordinary people during my tenure which evolved into lifelong friendships. I worked in six County departments, including Auditor-Controller, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Parks and Recreation, Chief Executive Office, and Public Social Services, and held executive management roles as chief deputy director of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and chief deputy at Department of Public Social Services.

Retirement felt a little strange at first, but like the rest of you (and my husband, Greg, who retired in 2018 as a detective in the Long Beach Police Department), I fell right into not having a schedule. However, those who know me know that I am a busy bee and cannot sit still. There was so much I wanted to do while I was working but did not have the time. Ultimately, I decided I wanted to (1) do something creative, like my parents; my mom was an artist and my dad a builder, (2) contribute more to charitable organizations in efforts to help others, (3) remodel our 70-year-old mid-century modern home in Eastside Long Beach, (4) travel more, and (5) spend more time with family. I am happy to report I was able to accomplish all these goals.

While exploring my creative side, I discovered I had a knack for designing earrings. I developed a business plan and progressed to where I am today. My sales continue to increase monthly (last month they doubled) and I am learning a lot. I can't believe I accomplished my college dream of owning my own business. Additionally, I donate a portion of my sales to St. Jude in memory of my mother, which has been so rewarding.

Our house remodel will be underway soon, which will require us to move out. Therefore, we opted to purchase a second home to reside in during our estimated year-long renovation project. The second home will be rented/leased as income property; never thought I would ever be a landlord.

I traveled to Europe in October 2022 with my good friend Marion Romeis, who retired from the Department of the Auditor-Controller. We visited Germany, Holland, and Belgium; it was an amazing trip. I have gone up the coast a few times to visit another friend, Kandy Hays, who retired from the Department of Parks and Recreation. As for my family, I have visited my aunt and uncle in Texas and my sister and niece in Wisconsin and Chicago. I have also spent significant time with my local family, my husband, son, brother, sister-in-law, great aunt, nieces, nephew, and cousins. We took a couple of family trips this year to La Jolla and Palm Springs and will be heading up the coast this summer.

I am excited about being on the RELAC Board of Directors and look forward to making a difference. I am also running for the LACERA Board of Investments (retiree position) and hope to have your support.

If I had to sum up retirement in one word, it would be "Satisfying!"

## JAMES BREKK

Do you remember the floppy disk? How about WordPerfect? [Jeff Foxworthy]"You might be a retiree if you remember this:" It was the early 1990s. Many of you were still using "terminals" rather than computers -- those green or yellow displays with no graphics. Long before e-mail became a common word, do you remember when you first got "electronic mail"? How about the rotary telephone? Well... never mind that.



In 1992, LACERA hired me as a consultant to design and implement its first local area network, a host of servers, new computers with Microsoft Windows, e-mail, and connect its mainframe to those new servers and computers. I also trained staff on how to use all the new gadgets. With it came Word and Excel to replace WordPerfect and Lotus123. I recall the people who did a lot of word processing pleaded for me to not pluck them away from their beloved WordPerfect. I was told that Word simply cannot replace WordPerfect. They were right, of course, but I knew that we still needed to move to Word because it was the future. Looking back, I am so glad I got that one right!

As a consultant, I visited client offices throughout the day. This meant that I could be on the Westside in the morning and Ontario in the afternoon. All the traveling made me appreciate the home I was about to be given. When the LACERA project was completed in 1994, LACERA needed someone to manage all the new tech, so they made me an offer I could not refuse--and I did not refuse. I accepted the full-time job and no more running around. Through the years, although I had opportunities for what seemed like bigger and better things, LACERA always found a way to keep me, and I never left. In truth, it was because I loved LACERA and what LACERA did -- I loved what I did.

My LACERA career started as a supervisor, then assistant manager, then manager. In 2008 I was appointed as LACERA's first chief information security officer. Until my retirement, I was responsible for keeping all of LACERA's precious data safe, especially the members' personal data. In 2010 I became the chief information officer in charge of all LACERA's technologies. Between 2017 and 2018, I served as the interim deputy chief executive officer with responsibilities for the entire organization. These roles gave me the soup-to-nuts experience at LACERA. I am forever grateful to those above me and around me who allowed me the opportunities to do what would become the only job that mattered -- To provide the promised benefits.

Of the current RELAC directors, I first met Les Robbins (already a LACERA Board member in the '90s) and Diane Sandoval (chief financial officer of LACERA at the time), and later Dave Muir (chief counsel of LACERA) and J.P. Harris (LACERA Board member). It is not an exaggeration to say that my strong belief in LACERA's mission, and now RELAC's mission, was because of these role models and all that they have taught me. I will also never forget former LACERA Board member and RELAC President Bill de la Garza, who always had the retirees' best interest at heart and most importantly, he was such a kind man. It was my association with them that inspired me to become a director at RELAC.

As a recent outsider looking in, I can tell you just how important RELAC is when it comes to protecting retiree pensions and benefits. The membership strength of RELAC plays a vital role and is a stabilizing force to ensure that retirees' interests are represented. In fact, RELAC is the only organization that is solely focused on you -- the County of Los Angeles retirees. I want to thank you for choosing to be a part of this great organization and keeping RELAC strong. It is an honor to be among you. If they are not a member already, please ask your co-retirees to consider RELAC because every member counts. In closing, I would like to wish you joy, good health, and vitality. Enjoy your hard-earned retirement! I hope to meet you and see old friends at a RELAC function soon!

## Thank You for Helping Us Fill the Basket



Thanks to the generosity of our members, RELAC has surpassed its 2023 goal of raising \$5,000 for the L.A. Regional Food Bank. One of our members offered in May to match up to \$1,000 of donations that were made by Memorial Day. We put out the word in an e-mail blast and our members responded enthusiastically, and as of June 2, we had collected \$10,000 – more than twice our goal. We will continue collecting donations throughout the year – the need for food never ends – but we wanted to say thank you now for helping RELAC Fight to Help End Hunger.



## Stocking the Shelves

As a volunteer at a local food bank (The Pantry), RELAC Director J.P. Harris can personally attest to the important role the L.A. Regional Food Bank plays in fighting hunger. The Pantry, operated by Friends in Deed, which is supported by various faith communities in the Pasadena/Altadena area, distributes food it receives from the Regional Food Bank to 540 households (about 1,200 people) weekly, an increase of 100 households over the same period last year. Harris volunteers his time to unpack the pallets and stock the shelves when the Pantry receives its weekly supplies. “Your donation is critical to keeping this essential service operating throughout the Los Angeles region,” Harris said. “It provides a true safety net to those who are food insecure.”

## July 6 is Deadline to File for RELAC Board

July 6 is the deadline to file a petition to become a candidate for the RELAC Board of Directors.

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

If no petitions are received by 3 p.m. on July 6, the current directors whose terms expire this year – Brian Berger, J.P. Harris, Dyanne Nelson, Victoria Pipkin-Lane and Les Robbins – will be automatically reelected. All have been endorsed for reelection by the Board of Directors.

Pursuant to RELAC’s bylaws, a person who holds, or within the past 24 months held, a leadership position with an organization that represents County retirees that has a goal or policy that may be incompatible or in conflict with a goal or policy of RELAC is ineligible to serve as a director of RELAC.

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



## RELAC Highlighted at March for Babies Ceremony

RELAC Director Linda C. Hopkins was a flag bearer during the opening ceremony of the March of Dimes’ March for Babies on May 20 at Gloria Molina Grand Park in downtown Los Angeles. Hopkins and Director Nora Jackson are co-captains of RELAC’s team for the 2023 fundraising campaign. In her role, Hopkins was on stage and stepped forward, waving her flag, when Team RELAC was highlighted. Once four teams were highlighted, there was a countdown and the flag bearers led the walkers to the start line near the stage. RELAC has participated in the March for Babies since 2018 and was the top fundraising L.A. County team the past three years. As of June 1, RELAC had raised \$3,713 of this year’s \$5,000 goal.



## Higgins cont. from p.8

him while driving the buses and he was an inmate, it is not true!! He loves to joke around like that. He even showed up to one of our first dates in an orange L.A. County jumpsuit with his hands behind his back and said, “Do you recognize me now?” We have a ton of fun together with trips to the river in our RV, out on the boat in Lake Havasu, and trips to Europe or the Caribbean. We bought a house in Mt. Baldy that is under construction. I design and he builds it. We have a ton of friends and there is never a dull moment. I am on the board of the Upland Chamber of Commerce and involved in fundraising events to support our local nonprofits and our local police department.

We live in Upland and together have five children. I have one daughter, Madisen, 24, from my first marriage. Frank has two daughters, Lacey and Haley, and two sons, Jordan and Austin. Their ages range from 27 to 39. There are two amazing grandsons, Benjamin, 8, and Daniel, 12. Also part of the family are my two cats, Bella and Harley, and two dogs, Cooper and Roxy.

We are just one large blended Italian family. There is never a dull moment and I love it! We both work hard and play hard. I’m not sure at this rate we will ever retire or even slow down.



## Health Managers Reunite

RELAC members Dave Beck, Richard Marciniak, Barry Hunt and Ron Hansen were among those at the June 8 reunion luncheon of County health manager retirees, held at the San Antonio Winery in Los Angeles. Also at the luncheon, but not caught on film, were RELAC members Maureen Flannery, Kathy Lohr and Christine Rufolo.

# PASSAGES

Compiled by Judy Hammond,  
Newsletter Editor



Ashton



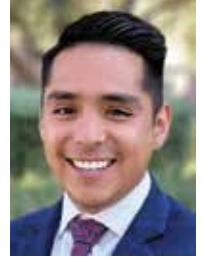
Desplaines



Bourne



Viera Rosa



Olguin

## DEATHS:

Former County Supervisor **Gloria Molina**, 74, who retired in 2014 after 23 years on the Board, from cancer. **Eileen Fitzgerald**, longtime secretary in the Chief Administrative/Executive Office, from cancer. Retired Sheriff's Lt. **David Rosenberger**, retired in 1989 from Lakewood Station after almost 32 years of service. **Beverly L. Bourne**, a deputy public defender and senior trial attorney for the Alternate Public Defender's Office before being appointed a Superior Court judge in 2013 at age 54 by then Gov. Jerry Brown, from cancer. **Queen E. Jones**, 72, division chief for the Department of Public Social Services at time of retirement and 2018 president of the Association of Black County Administrators, overseeing programs to help members advance in their careers at the County, with 45 years of service. **Fred Cravea**, senior capital projects manager for the Public Works Department. **Jefferson "Jeff" Wheeler**, 81, 33-year employee of the Parks and Recreation Department, retiring in 2001 as assistant director of the northern region. Dr. **Wilbur Jordan**, who spent his career focused on providing comprehensive health care to HIV and AIDS patients, including founding the Oasis Clinic on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center campus in 1984 and serving as director until his 2020 retirement. **Ed Winter, Jr.**, 73, who as deputy coroner handled death investigations of some of Hollywood's biggest celebrities, retiring in 2019 after almost 17 years of service. **Robert "Bob" Muench**, 76, who started his County career in the Department of Forestry and Fire Warden in 1967 while attending college, becoming a permanent employee in 1971, and retiring in 2004 as a manager in Chief Executive Office.



Cravea



Bales

## RETIREMENTS:

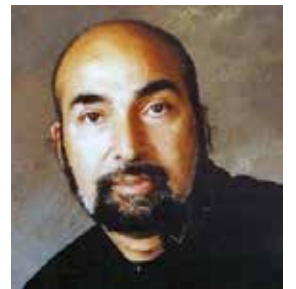
Probation Department Chief Deputy **Karen Fletcher**, who had been acting as interim chief probation officer for less than two months after the firing of Adolfo Gonzales, retired May 19, with 34 years of service. **Donald S. Ashton**, deputy executive officer from 2006-2010 in the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, serving the past seven years as chief administrative officer of El Dorado County (from deferred). **Lauren Black**, former assistant county counsel, who oversaw the Probation Division, with 22 years of service (from deferred).



Jones

## DEPARTURES:

The Rev. **Andy Bales**, 64, president and chief executive officer of Union Rescue Mission and 2021 appointee of Supervisor Kathryn Barger to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, relocating at end of year to Des Moines, Iowa to be close to grandchildren. **Chad Smith**, 51, who has spent two decades with the L.A. Philharmonic, the last four as chief executive, leaving to head the Boston Symphony, saying he is ready for a new challenge.



Jordan

## APPOINTMENTS:

**Guillermo Viera Rosa**, head of California's Division of Adult Parole Operations and an ex-officio member of the Board of State and Community Corrections, hired in mid-April to improve conditions in the County's juvenile halls, elevated to interim chief probation officer following retirement of Karen Fletcher. **Ted Olguin**, special assistant to Assessor Jeffrey Prang, where he focused on strategic communications and speechwriting, promoted to chief of staff of the Assessor's Communications and Public Affairs Unit team, overseeing a staff of 13. **Michael Desplaines**, chief executive officer and president of the Norfolk Botanical Garden in Virginia, is the new chief executive officer of the County Arboretum and Botanical Garden in Arcadia, replacing Richard Schulhof, who retired.



Smith

## MISCELLANEOUS:

Former Sheriff **Alex Villanueva** has a talk show, airing 10 to 11 a.m. on weekdays on CRNTalk.com.

## COURTS:

Former County Supervisor **Mark Ridley-Thomas** has asked for a new trial after being convicted of bribery and fraud charges in connection to a contract that was awarded to USC School of Social Work for TeleHealth in return for favors for his son. Former Sheriff's Deputies **Michael Vega** and **Christopher Hernandez** charged with conspiracy, witness tampering, falsification of records and deprivation of rights in a case in which they allegedly forced a 24-year-old skateboarder into the back seat of their patrol car in 2020 and threatened him before crashing into a vehicle. Sheriff's Deputy **Jim Devoe** has been charged with one count of felony child abuse for allegedly slapping and punching his 5-year-old son, causing extensive injuries.



## Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond  
Newsletter Editor

On a scale surpassed by perhaps only the Catholic Church, the County is being hit by lawsuits from individuals who say they were victims of childhood sexual abuse. County officials are anticipating having to pay \$1.6 billion to \$3 billion to resolve roughly 3,000 claims of sexual abuse that allegedly occurred in County foster homes, children's shelters, and probation camps and halls dating to the 1950s. The County has retained 11 law firms to work through the claims, which were filed after legislation was enacted to extend the window to file lawsuits by victims of childhood sexual abuse. Many of the claims arise from MacLaren Children's Center in El Monte, now closed, where former foster children say physical and sexual abuse was rampant.

The Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner is now the Department of Medical Examiner. Officials say the renaming more accurately reflects the role of forensic pathology in the performance of the department's duties and responsibilities.

The LAC+USC Medical Center has been renamed also. It is now the Los Angeles General Medical Center. The Board of Supervisors said the new name would assist in the confusion between the facility and the adjacent Keck Hospital of USC.

County officials were joined by Sister Tootie Toot of the L.A. Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to raise the Progress Pride flag over the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration on June 1, the first time the pride flag has flown over a County building. Supervisors voted unanimously in March to explore how the flag can be flown over all County facilities during future Pride Months.

The MTA added more officers and homeless outreach teams for bus and rail to improve safety and boost ridership. Transit riders are being encouraged to use an app that allows anonymous reporting of suspicious activity directly to Metro Security.

The County Museum of Art ran the L.A. County Fair's annual art exhibition in the Millard Sheets Art Center for the first time this year in an experiment that could continue at future fairs.

The state ordered the County to close its two juvenile halls – Barry J. Nidorf in Sylmar and Central in Boyle Heights -- by mid-July due to a staffing crisis and increased violence and drug use.

Approximately 280 detainees who have not yet been sentenced are being moved to Los Padriños Juvenile Hall in Downey, which had been closed amid reduced population and allegations of abuse by staff. The department says consolidating the bulk of the youths to one location will allow for better use of staff. Executives, including Interim Chief Probation Officer Guillermo Viera Rosa, and all 3,000 sworn peace officers are working a line shift every month to increase staffing. The acute staffing shortage resulted in youths not being let out of their rooms, cancellation of family visits, and limited or non-existent schooling and therapy.

More than 2,200 homeless individuals died in the County during 2020-21, due mainly to drug overdoses (fueled by fentanyl), followed by heart disease, traffic collisions and homicides; the County Department of Public Health says the homeless are dying at nearly four times the rate of the population, when adjusted for age and gender.

The Ballona Creek Trash Interceptor 007 kept nearly 155,000 pounds of trash from flowing into the ocean following the winter storms. The solar-powered device, introduced last October by the County Public Works Department and a Dutch nonprofit in a two-year pilot project, lifts objects from the water with a conveyor belt and drops them into a dumpster.

In an effort to satisfy a consent decree imposed by the U.S Department of Justice, supervisors voted to use part of the Twin Towers Jail in downtown L.A. to treat inmates with severe mental illness. Sixteen beds will be initially provided to give emergency care and evaluate those who may be in danger to themselves. The federal agency cited the County for inadequate mental health treatment and lack of beds for mentally ill inmates.

A two-mile rail line – two years behind schedule and \$335 million over budget -- opened in June that links the Gold, Blue and Expo routes in downtown L.A., eliminating the need to transfer between the three lines. Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins said it will be "a game changer."

The Office of Inspector General sent letters to 35 sheriff's deputies ordering them to submit to questioning about their knowledge of deputy gangs within the

department, saying failure to cooperate was grounds for decertification. They were also ordered to bring photos of any tattoos on their legs or any that resemble those that have been associated with the Banditos and Executioners. Sheriff Department unions Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs and Professional Peace Officers Association have sued to keep the deputies from being required to testify.

Dozens of dogs from the County Department Animal Care and Control (DACC) shelters were flown in May to Utah and Idaho as part of a transport program to relocate animals to areas that are experiencing a shortage of adoptable animals. DACC Director Marcia Mayeda says the L.A. region is currently overwhelmed with homeless pets.

A federal judge for the second time rejected an agreement between the County and L.A. Alliance for Human Rights in the March 2020 lawsuit alleging the County had created a dangerous environment in the skid row area and beyond by its inaction on homelessness. The judge also denied the County's request to pause the suit as it pursues an appellate review of his ruling.

The families of two slain El Monte police officers who were killed in 2022 filed a \$25 million wrongful death lawsuit against the District Attorney's Office and the Probation Department, saying the shooter was only on the streets because of negligence of both agencies.

The County is requiring restaurants and food facilities in unincorporated areas use only containers, cups, dishes and cutlery that are recyclable or compostable for take-out orders. Full-service restaurants must use reusable food service ware for dine-in customers. Also prohibited is the sale or rental of single-use coolers, packaging and plastic peanuts, and pool toys not encased in durable materials.

The Florence-Firestone Community Service Center in Los Angeles has been remodeled, with the space being shared by the Florence Library, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and the Aging and Disabilities Departments.

After being found not accessible to the disabled, Metro's Union Station will improve access in walkways, signage and parking facilities.

With \$80 million from a settlement with the Sanitation Districts, the Department of Parks and Recreation is beginning the design and construction phase of the Puente Hills Landfill Park, with the first areas of the park set to open in 2027.

The American Lung Association says Los Angeles remains the smoggiest metropolitan area in the nation, a title it has held every year but one during the last 24 years.

The County's population in 2020 was 10,014,042. In 2022 it dropped to 9,721,138.

The Sheriff's Department has approximately 1,450 personnel who have served in the military. In addition, it has 351 members currently serving in the Reserve components of the U. S. Armed Forces and 18 presently deployed worldwide and on active duty.

The Board of Supervisors is supporting state legislation that would reinvest a portion of sales and use tax revenues generated by historic entertainment and sports venues – such as the Hollywood Bowl – back into those venues to upgrade their accessibility and infrastructure.

## Bob Muench Advanced from Weeds to Budgets

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor



Robert "Bob" Muench, 76, who began working for the County while a college student as a weed abatement officer and ended his 37-year career as a manager in the Chief Executive Office specializing in intergovernmental relations, legislation, budgets and complex personnel issues, has died.

Funeral services for the Altadena resident, who died April 16 after several years of poor health, were held at Oakdale Memorial Park in Glendora on June 2.

"Bob was a very quiet and low-key individual who worked tirelessly on many County efforts to make things better for the residents and employees of Los Angeles County," said RELAC member Sandy Davis, former chief deputy of the Chief Administrative Office.

RELAC member Gerri Kariya was head of the Intergovernmental Relations and Legislative Affairs Office, where Muench led the annual state budget analysis and other important state legislative issues, coordinating with Board of Supervisors offices and County departments. "Bob was a most valued professional, an excellent team member and a fine gentleman with a good sense of humor," she said. "I very much appreciate Bob's most notable contributions and his friendship. Like so many others in the County family, I will sorely miss Bob and Beverly Muench."

Beverly, Muench's wife of 43 years, who was acting chief deputy in the Children and Family Services Department when she retired, died in 2022 at age 72.

Muench's County career began in 1967 with the Department of Forester and Fire Warden in a temporary position while he attended college. He became a permanent employee in 1971 as an assistant supply officer and was promoted to staff assistant the next year, a position he held until 1975 when he was hired by the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department.



With wife, Beverly

He transferred back to the Forester and Fire Warden in 1986, three years later going to the Chief Administrative Office (which later was renamed the Chief Executive Office) as a management analyst. There he was promoted to principal analyst in March 1998 and then to manager, CEO in 2001. He retired three years later.

In retirement he enjoyed river and deep-sea fishing with his brother, Dick, and nephews, and was an avid golfer.

## Molina cont. from p.1

"It's not like there was a red carpet laid out for her," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who got to know Molina while working for former Supervisor Mike Antonovich. "There was a lot of challenges. It seemed like every time there was an issue, it was a constant fight, but no one did it better than Gloria."

Zev Yaroslavsky, who served with Molina on the City Council for four years and 20 years on the Board of Supervisors, said he learned how much she was admired in her community when he drove around his native Boyle Heights and stopped at a former synagogue that had turned into a Latino evangelical church. Yaroslavsky said the pastor wasn't impressed when he introduced himself as a supervisor, but that changed when he mentioned that one of his colleagues was Molina. "And his face lit up," Yaroslavsky said. "County supervisor meant nothing to him, but Molina? That was everything."

The LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes museum and cultural center in Los Angeles is honoring Molina with a "Gloria Molina: Community Champion" exhibit through Aug. 16. The L.A. County Fair has also announced that starting this year, the winning quilt in its annual Home Arts contests will receive the Gloria Molina Quilting Award to commemorate her love for quilting.

"Sometimes she was wrong, but most of the time she was right," said Yaroslavsky, who said he still bundles up in a quilt she knitted for him when the two were termed out in 2014. "And the reason why so many were annoyed by her was because she held up a mirror to ourselves."

Molina is survived by her husband, Ron Martinez; daughter, Valentina Martinez; grandson, Santiago; and siblings Gracie Molina, Irma Molina, Domingo Molina, Bertha Molina Mejia, Mario Molina, Sergio Molina, Danny Molina, Olga Molina Palacios, and Lisa Molina Banuelos.

## Ceremony Honors Fallen Officers

Three Sheriff officers were among those honored at the 54th Annual Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony, held May 24 to commemorate the lives of peace officers who died in the line of duty while serving the residents of L.A. County.



The three are Detective Amber Leist, who died in 2020 when struck by a car while helping a woman who fell at a busy intersection; Officer John Mercer Black, who died in 1929 from injuries sustained during a traffic collision while on his County-issued motorcycle; and Officer Morgan Wyatt Honeycutt, who died in 1928 after suffering injuries after being hit head-on by a vehicle.

As part of the ceremony, held at the L.A. County Peace Officers' Memorial Wall at Biscauiluz Regional Training Center in Los Angeles, Sheriff Robert G. Luna accepted a torch delivered by members of various law enforcement agencies following a three-day Memorial Torch Relay Run totaling over 300 miles. The relay began at the Hall of Justice and traveled to each mainland Sheriff's station.

## Happy Birthday, RELAC Centenarians

July  
None

August

Shintaro Matayoshi, 102, Health Services  
Angela McKittrick, 105, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center  
Florence P. Paik, 101, Health Services  
Leonard Rouse, 103, Unidentified County Department  
Ruth P. Walter, 102, Mental Health

## Winter Handled High-Profile Coroner Cases

Edward "Ed" L. Winter, Jr., 73, who as a deputy coroner handled death investigations of some of Hollywood's biggest celebrities, has died.

Winter, who died March 17 at his Los Angeles area residence, retired in 2019 after almost 17 years of County service.

Among the high-profile death cases he assisted with included Whitney Houston, Paul Walker, Tom Petty, Brittany Murphy, and Michael Jackson. His first assignment on his first day on the job was the investigation into the death of actress Lana Clarkson inside the mansion of famed music producer Phil Spector. A jury found Spector guilty of Clarkson's murder in 2009.



The following information was submitted by Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, retired chief medical examiner-coroner/director for Los Angeles County:

Assistant Chief Edward L. Winter Jr. (April 11, 1949 to March 17, 2023)  
(A synopsis of his 50-plus years of extraordinary service as a law enforcement/coroner peace officer to the people of the State of California.)

Assistant Chief Winter was born and raised in California and attended schools in Los Angeles County. He attended Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, with a general education major, until he was drafted into the United States Army in 1969, where he served two years. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant while assigned to the 54th Military Police, Provost Marshals Office and worked with the Military Police Investigative Service and Criminal Investigation Detachment.

In January of 1971 he was hired as a police officer with the Pacific Grove Police Department in California, where he handled patrol, narcotics and juvenile investigations.

In January of 1974 he transferred to the Arcadia Police Department, where his assignments included patrol, field training officer, traffic officer, K-9 handler, hazardous devices (bomb) specialist and SWAT team. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant and served as a patrol supervisor and SWAT supervisor, and then promoted to lieutenant and served as watch commander, SWAT commander and detective commander for 14 years until retiring in 2002.

Following his retirement, he worked as a special deputized U.S. marshal, Federal Court security for approximately one year and then was hired by the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner as a lieutenant/supervising coroner investigator in February 2003. As a lieutenant, he would oversee death investigations and supervise both investigators and civilian personnel. He would also conduct internal affairs investigations and oversee high profile, officer- involved shootings and in-custody death cases. In August 2005, he was promoted to captain, L.A. County Coroner Investigations and in April 2007 he was promoted to assistant chief, L.A. County Coroner Investigations/ Operations. Assistant Chief Winter also served as the public information officer as warranted. He retired in December 2019 after nearly 17 years of dedicated service to Los Angeles County.

He earned his bachelor of arts degree in business management at the University of California, Riverside, and possessed numerous California Peace Officers Standardized Training (POST) certificates. He was also a POST instructor and taught POST Homicide School, at the Orange County Sheriff's Department Academy and Homicide School for Los Angeles Police Department.

On a personal note, Assistant Chief Winter was very loyal to the Department of ME-Coroner and provided assistance to me during my two tenures as department head during the investigation and handling of the tragic deaths of Michael Jackson, Corey Haim, Whitney Houston, Brittany Murphy, Carrie Fisher, 2005 Glendale Metrolink multiple fatality train incident and 2008 Chatsworth Metrolink train accidents.

*(Ed. Note: A celebration of life was held May 23 for RELAC member Carol Koelle, who was bureau chief of Adult Field Services in the Probation Department – one of only several women in high-ranking positions at the time of her retirement in 1993. A 35-year employee of the Probation Department, Koelle died recently at age 85. RELAC member Jane Martin, who worked with Koelle and remained a friend, was one of those attending the celebration of life.)*

## Probation Friends Celebrate Koelle

by Jane Martin, RELAC Member  
Probation Department Retiree



Our Probation-Family Celebration for Carol was held May 23 at Hof's Hut in Seal Beach, with over 20 friends gathering to share warm memories, those "Carol stories" that remain fresh in our hearts and, of course, our love for a special and dear friend. Given that Carol had been retired since 1993 (30 years), those joining in her celebration were all friends and colleagues who knew her for over 40 to 60 years. A lovely tribute.

In sharing experiences, Carol's quiet, behind-the-scenes approach to her work and volunteerism became more evident, including her leadership with the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), the Long Beach Trauma Council and the Sarah Center. Joining in the tribute to Carol was Michele Winterstein, executive director of For the Child, who remembered Carol with deep affection and gratitude both as a representative of Probation and as a dedicated volunteer following her retirement.

It was a heart-felt afternoon, with Carol definitely "present in spirit." Special remembrances were given to everyone – beautiful butterfly bookmarks and charming butterflies-in-nets, signifying renewal and new journeys – plus chocolate rabbits, a favorite treat of Carol's.



*RELAC members Barbara Foster, Sandy Russell and Jane Martin, retirees of the Probation Department, were among those at celebration of life for Carol Koelle. Martin was a bureau chief; Russell and Foster were supervising deputy probation officers.*



# IN MEMORIAM

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

**Antelope Valley Rehab. Center** - Donald M. Stapleton  
**Assessor** - Ernesto Marquez, Arnold A. Tchira  
**Auditor-Controller** - Antonio Miera  
**Beaches & Harbors** - Richard E. Haddock  
**Board of Supervisors** - Gloria Molina  
**California Children's Services** - Rae H. Shiratsuki  
**Chief Executive Office** - Virginia Irvine Barnard, Eileen G. Fitzgerald, Marjorie Gallen-Hanov, Robert L. Muench  
**Child Support Services** - Cynthia Davis, Judy A. Jones, Lorraine Smith  
**Children & Family Services** - Penny L. Carson, Janina M. Chatman, Bruce H. Cowan, Peggy L. Crist, Deloris E. Dean, Kathleen L. Dearing, Clarence D. Dillard, Joyce Harris, Maxine Joe, Deanna M. Kramer, Venetta Lewis, Dorothy L. Mitchell, Carol B. Mitchell, Leslie R. Myers, Lorene V. Nelson, Jesus Sanchez, Alana Sounhein, Arthur Sweeney, Maxine E. Thompson, Amor M. Umali  
**Communications** - Joyce M. Sweet  
**Correctional Health** - Olivia Corral Gomez  
**County Counsel** - David B. Kelsey  
**District Attorney** - Lily R. Balian, Edward M. Boyer  
**Fire** - Donald E. Beckman, Leroy Crawford, Oskco Edwards Jr., Charles A. McIver Jr., Paul R. Neil, Kenneth E. Renz, Jack R. Sells, Dennis L. Slack, Kurt F. Wilhelm, Tommy G. Williams  
**Flood Control** - Samuel Levy, D.P. Wilson  
**Harbor/UCLA Medical Center** - Lisa Banks, Asuncion L. Castillo, Micaela Castillo Ada, Perry L. Davis, Virginia Enriquez, Martha E. Hopkins, Evelyn V. Hunt, Minnie L. Johnson, Wilbert C. Jordan, Aurora F. Marcia, Juanita McKay, Mary L. Miodovski, Florence N. Nagata, Barbara J. Pecot, Christine E. Rogers, Lilia P. Santos, Sallie M. Slater, Willie Vallejos, Alyce Wilner  
**Health Department** - Leona Biro  
**Health Services Administration** - Darlene Carlson-Wali, Mary E. Craton, Gloria De Santis, Mary R. Glass, Lillian P. Megaffin, Renee Noble, Petra Palafox, Arthur Ragazzi, Maria-Lanie R. Samoy, Victor E. Schelling, Joseph Smith, Willie J. Thompson, Harry L. Warrior  
**Human Resources** - Stella A. Plotkin  
**Internal Services** - Diane R. Amador, Tara P. Clarke-Marino, Robert L. Cornelius, Kenneth R. Graham, Sharon A. Harris, David L. Holland, Minnie L. Johns, Van D. Johnson, Claude Maples, Ruby S. Nomura, Roger E. Parrell, Joan Shelley  
**Juvenile Court Health Services** - F. Betty Tsutsumi  
**King-Drew Medical Center** - Benedicto Bautista, Helen Campbell, Ocie J. Fortune, Jean Foster, Vernetta Holmes, Dolores E. Jefferson, Carol J. Smith  
**LAC+USC Medical Center** - Jean Bowles, Anita C. Brawley, Ramon Candia, Soo J. Cho, Judith L. Fox, Patricia A. Garcia, Juanita J. Gardner, Teresa Gordillo, Syn Hee Kung, Susan Leong, Eli Marshall, Michael D. Masters, Angie O. Medina, Patrick B. Park, Helen R. Parker, Irene Polanco, Regaina Richardson, Velia A. Rodriguez, Phyllis M. Towers, Teresa Velasquez, Joseph Washington, Peggy A. Watler, Mildred Watson  
**LACERA** - Mary S. Ortiz, Ramon E. Reyes  
**Mechanical** - Norris Joseph Mohr  
**Medical Examiner-Coroner** - Eva T. Heuser, Edward L. Winter Jr.  
**Mental Health** - Anna Apodaca, Margarita M. Bilbrew, Balram G. Hemrajani, Jose A. Morales, Margaret A. Welck Miranda  
**Museum of Art** - Adam H. Avila  
**Museum of Natural History** - Edward J. Novotny  
**Olive View/UCLA Medical Center** - Virginia Bushman, Paul A. Elia, Anita Fernandez, Maryanne Loomam, Rudy A. Mamaril, Irene M. Matousek, Gabriel Osorio, Ellen J. Smith, Susan W. Spike, Lori A. Stuerzer, Alice Trundle  
**Parks and Recreation** - Alfred Flores, James Jimenez, Jacqueline D. Miller, Arnib Samuel

**Probation** - Milton L. Anderson, Jenell M. Banning, Irene Bonillas, Lucille B. Burns, Sheila R. Campbell, Miguel Duran, Linda R. Flemister, Pete Garcia, Charles C. Haftarczyk, Nichole D. Jackson, Lois A. Kennedy, Betty T. Komachi, Gerald H. Leavitt, David H. Lemus, Latonya M. Lindsey, Roger Dennis Maxwell, Dina L. Miller, Rollin Moulton, Lucy I. Munoz, Victor Paieda, Cynthia L. Pearce, Arthur M. Ramirez, Kimberly M. Santos, Lee Smith, Virgil L. Spencer-Wells, James C. Stillwell, Robert Tannahill, Lena M. Virgil, Suzanne S. Whitney  
**Public Defender** - Michael F. Keele, Ira Kwatcher, Dellia-Chante Lemaire, Kenneth P. Lezin, Marilynn D. Lippi, Joel S. Peck  
**Public Health** - Frances J. Bratton, Jesse Campos, Flora M. Colinco, Esther M. Dennis, Emmanuel Egeonu, Joyce A. Guerra, Paula M. Guzman, Robert Holden, Richard E. Holland, Franklin Mac Intyre, Julie B. Mayfield, Peggie McCarty, Irvin B. Perry, Robert L. Smith, Patricia Stemig  
**Public Library** - Miklos Arkosy, Nina David, Clarence P. Jackson  
**Public Safety** - George O'Neal Austin, Henry M. Rodriguez  
**Public Social Services** - Marcos A. Acosta, Mary L. Andrade, Alice Calderon, Magaly Carrillo, Clotilde T. Carroll, Cheung W. Chan, Annette B. Collins, Sergio C. Cuaresma, William E. Fair, Stella Ghazikhanian, Jesus Goytia, Daryl E. Grenier, Rita Gutierrez, Clayton Hertz Jr., Shirley Hunter, Glen A. Jamison, Barbara L. Johnson, Alma M. Jones, Seymone Kelly, Lois D. Lawrence, Victoria K. Le, Maria M. Lopez, Maria Lutgarda E. Malijan, Lynn D. McCune, Geraldine Minor, Emantha M. Moore, Arnett H. Mosley, Lillian R. Nelson, Boniface Chukwudi Nwagbo, Elinor Ann Osman, Barbra Peavy, Doris D. Powell, Barbara D. Rasmussen, Samuel Rivas, Ruth L. Ross, Doris E. Shulze, Sigmund L. Sigal, Beverly M. Stewart, Maria Teresa Suarez, James M. Swedlow, Jeanette Thomas, Phung Dac Truong, Norma J. Van Orsow, Purita M. Vitug, Mary E. Womack  
**Public Works** - Frank Alesi, Michael Robert Banacky, Edwin G. Bargeman, George K. Bobbitt, Thomas F. Burnett, Fred Neil Cravea, Robert P. Duran, Daniel A. Flores, Antony R. Hernandez, John D. Hulin, Freddy Kirkwood, Kwei F. Lee, Julius Mantelman, Gerald David McQuade, Ruben Mendez, Richard W. Pasqua  
**Rancho Los Amigos Hospital** - Clara A. Archie-Norwood, Norma J. Bartleson, George L. Bowers, Rose M. Cartmell, Michael Carl Dickson, Avanel Griffin, Lorene E. Hunter, Gordon V. Johnson, Charles D. Kovan, M.D., Tom Edward Martinez, Marcia Martinez, Otis McGlothen, Judy R. Piper, Mattie Record, Carmen Ridenour, Marques R. Roberson, Winifred Wurga  
**Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk** - Michael C. Baron, Vera B. Hall, Pamela M. McCloud, Phyllis J. Smissen  
**Regional Planning** - John L. Orr, Todd A. Zagurski  
**Sheriff** - Deborah L. Arter, Norman Bradley Blair, Glori A. Blanchard, William R. Bluthenthal, Gregory L. Brouse, Carol Brown, Richard E. Chaffin, William Connor, Royce R. Crowder, Robert E. Dick II, Maria Dieplinger, Margie G. Eversley, James C. Fosdyck, Gary L. Frederick, Domingo Garcia, Raydell Garrett, Billy L. Griffin, Michael W. Griggs, Delores J. Holden, Richard E. Howard, John R. Johnson, Beto R. Kienast, Wayne E. Kiger, Richard J. Koprowski, John E. Loftus, Scott P. Marron, Charlene R. McCann, Carl D. Moler, Yolanda I. Newsome, Glenn A. Odynski, Robert E. Payne, Nick Popovich, Steven H. Potter, Nagendra K. Reddy, Walter L. Scheuerell, Stephan E. Strand, Chris Tatar, Carolyn S. Taylor, Jonathan R. Torres, Gary T. Tse, Li-Chiu Yao  
**Superior Court/County Clerk** - Victoria S. Ayers, Pamela R. Brown, Lourdes Fondevila, Alissandra Ruth Halasz, Celeste Hale, Diane R. Hild, Herlinda Hinaga, Mary Kathleen Malloy, Magda Schafler, Willie S. Taylor, Linda S. Theuriet, Alex S. Urbach  
**Treasurer/Tax Collector** - Aurora Dasalla, Will Gibson  
**Women's Hospital** - Young Sook Lucia Chun, Enid Vera Durant  
**Workforce Dev. Aging & Comm. Svc.** - Richard Murillo, Kathleen E. Newton  
**Unidentified County Agency** - Robert R. Shipley Jr., Allen Sill



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

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #66  
PASADENA, CA

## VOTE:

- Les Robbins**, Board of Retirement
- J.P. Harris**, Board of Retirement (Alternate)
- Debbie Martin**, Board of Investments

**LACERA  
BOARD ELECTIONS!**  
August 2023



## Annual Recognition Luncheon

Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023

Celebrating 65 Years of Advocating for Los Angeles County Retirees

Almanson Court, 700 Almanson St., Alhambra

Reservation Form  
2023 Annual Recognition Luncheon  
Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2023

RELAC Member \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Dijonnaise \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 ea. Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian Penne Pasta \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 ea. Total

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to "RELAC"  
and mail to: RELAC, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15,  
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

Confirmation and payment deadline:  
Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023



Keynote Speaker

**Santos Kreimann, CEO**

Los Angeles County Employees Retirement  
Association (LACERA)

- Introduction of LACERA Election Candidates for Boards of Retirement & Investments
- 2023 Scholarship Awards
- Veterans Salute
- Entertainment by Ernie Perez (TSA Choir)

\$35 Per Luncheon Ticket – Entrée Choice of  
Chicken Dijonnaise (Boneless Chicken Breast  
with Whole Grain Mustard Sauce Garnished with  
Toasted Almonds) or Vegetarian Penne Pasta  
No-Host Social Hour: 11 a.m. – Noon  
Luncheon and Program: Noon – 2:30 p.m.

## UPDATES

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.