



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

Mar/Apr2023 Vol 58-2

President's Message

by Brian Berger

It was a special day for all of us when we held a general membership meeting on Jan. 26, after more than a two years absence due to the pandemic. It was nice to be able to actually see and talk with so many of you. The meeting room at the Department of Public Works (DPW), just a short walk from our headquarters, is a convenient location, especially when vendors, forms, goodies, etc., need space or have to be transported and set up. It can hold a large number of people and has good parking. The speakers, the director of the Department of Aging and Disabilities and the director of DPW, were amazing, sharing very timely information with all of us. You will find more details on the meeting in this newsletter.

We expect that 2023 will have us back to having more opportunities to gather together. It is also timely that the County is reducing the mask requirements. It means my glasses won't fog up constantly, something I deal with now whenever I am anywhere that requires a mask.

The Executive Office, Board of Supervisors has agreed to provide mail-in ballots to all retirees for the upcoming LACERA election for general member, retired member and retired alternate trustees. Retired members will also have the option of voting electronically. This is an important action impacting all of us.

It was nice to also hear from a few of you asking about ways to become more directly involved with the RELAC Board and its committees and activities. Don't be shy. Send us a note so we can answer your questions. As an example, some of you saw Gil Sandoval at the meeting on the 26th. Gil, a veteran, introduced the veteran from DPW who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Gil also directs the RELAC golf program. He is not a Board member, but his significant contribution is obvious. There are others.

Finally, we are into the 2023 season for our scholarship, March of Dimes, and Regional Food Bank programs, all of which we are very proud, and for which RELAC is recognized, thanks to the support and contributions from so many of you. You will be receiving information and reminders on each, and remember you can get contact information at www.relac.org.

Please continue to send us your ideas or recommendations. This will be a busy year for RELAC and we look forward to the chance to see and share with many of you.



Former RELAC President Bill de la Garza Dies

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor



Bill de la Garza, 88, a member of RELAC's Board of Directors for more than 20 years and five-term president, has died.

De la Garza, who worked for the County for more than 37 years and was deputy director of the Department of Parks and Recreation when he retired in 1991, joined the RELAC Board on Jan. 1, 1999 and served as president 2001-02 and 2011-13. He resigned in 2019 at age 84 due to health issues.

He represented retirees on the LACERA Board of Retirement for 15 years, serving as chair and numerous terms as secretary. When his last term expired Dec. 31,

2017, he chose not to seek reelection, instead lending his support to the successful campaign of fellow RELAC Director Les Robbins.

RELAC Director Dave Muir, a former member of the LACERA Board of Investments and the alternate retiree representative on the LACERA Board of Retirement and LACERA's first chief counsel, said de la Garza worked tirelessly for retirees. "Every L.A. County retiree owes a huge debt of gratitude to Bill for his lengthy and dedicated service in looking out for the best interests of retirees. Bill's concern for the financial and operational success of LACERA was evident during his long tenure on the Board of Retirement. His dedication to the best interests of retirees was primary, second only to his family."

RELAC Director Robbins said de la Garza will be missed by all who worked with and for him. "Bill de la Garza is one of those rare people who come along during our lifetimes. A commitment of public service for all of the right reasons."

RELAC President Brian Berger said that de la Garza was one of the reasons he asked to be part of RELAC's Executive Committee. "I think I only met him a few times, face to face, but that was incidental to all I learned about him, and his commitment to all of what we are."

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Court Rules in Favor of County in LACERA Lawsuit

An L.A. Superior Court judge has ruled in favor of the County of Los Angeles and the Board of Supervisors in a lawsuit filed by the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) to determine which agency has the authority to set the salaries and classifications of LACERA employees.

LACERA has indicated it will appeal the ruling, issued Dec. 22, 2022 by Judge James C. Chalfant, but does not anticipate an appellate court decision until around the fall of 2025.

LACERA filed a petition for a writ of mandate in October 2021 to compel the County to adopt personnel actions that had been approved by the LACERA Board of Investments and Board of Retirement. The legal filing was prompted by the Board of Supervisors vote in June to reject or modify several personnel actions approved by LACERA's two boards, including creating several new positions and changing the title and salaries of some existing positions.

LACERA contended that provisions of the California Constitution and the County Employees Retirement Law require the Board of Supervisors to include in the County salary ordinance the employee positions and salaries that are approved by LACERA's Board of Retirement and Board of Investments.

In his 50-page ruling, the judge agreed that LACERA's interpretation of the Government Code section in question was "reasonable," but decided the section was

continued on p.10



Investment Board

by Joseph Kelly, Trustee
LACERA Board of Investments



Each January the trustees of the Board of Investments elect officers (chair, vice chair and secretary) for the calendar year. Effective last year, each officer position is seated by the most senior trustee for that position, unless the trustee passes. This year the board elected Gina Sanchez, Supervisor Hilda Solis' appointee, as chair, Herman Santos as vice chair and me as secretary. This was the first time since the Board of Investments was constituted nearly 50 years ago that the board is chaired by a woman, and I could not have been happier. I have been a strong and consistent advocate for increasing the gender diversity of our investment staff and our partners. Congratulations to Mrs. Sanchez!

LACERA is completing a strategic plan, which was presented to both boards in mid-February. Watch your LACERA newsletter for more information.

Jon Grable, chief investment officer, and Scott Zadril, principal investment officer, offered their thoughts about cryptocurrency recently in a research paper published by the CFA Institute. To be clear, LACERA does not have a strategic allocation to cryptocurrencies. However, LACERA does have indirect exposures to crypto assets by virtues of public companies providing business services related to crypto. I found the report very interesting. Importantly, a recurring comment among those interviewed is that the crypto markets are too immature for those acting as fiduciaries to consider a material investment. Investment challenges include custody, significant volatility and a very fluid regulatory framework. You can find the report here [Cryptoassets: Beyond the Hype](https://www.cfainstitute.org/insights/asset-allocation/beyond-the-hype) ([cfainstitute.org](https://www.cfainstitute.org)).

Investment returns follow:

LACERA Pension Fund		November 2022	Total Assets: \$71.3 billion	
Returns	FYTD	3 year:	5 year:	10 year:
	+ 2.1%	+ 8.1%	+ 7.4%	+ 8.3%

Robbins Resigns as Chair of LACERA Retirement Board

RELAC Director Les Robbins on Jan. 23 resigned his position as chair of the Los Angeles County Retirement Association (LACERA) Board of Retirement, but will remain as a member of the board.

Robbins, who had open heart surgery in late December, said he felt his many medical appointments and cardio rehabilitation sessions would detract from his ability to serve as chair.

Shawn Kehoe is the new chair of the LACERA Board of Retirement.



News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich
Assistant Executive Officer

Greetings from LACERA! There are some very exciting projects and developments at LACERA that we hope will improve the member experience and make your lives easier! Here's a brief update on some of these programs and when they'll be taking effect.

First and foremost, we're happy to announce that we're close to finalizing our strategic plan that will guide LACERA over the next five years. After a lengthy development period, which made use of both internal expertise and external perspectives, we began presenting our ideas to the trustees of the Board of Retirement in February for their input and feedback. In April, the executive team will return to the boards for finalization and then create a roadmap with specific work plans.

Without getting too technical, I'd like to summarize the pillars that we are building our strategic plans upon. These five pillars are comprised of (1) producing a superior member experience, (2) innovating through technology, (3) investing in people, (4) adopting an enterprise risk management and compliance framework, and (5) promoting fiscal durability.

Most importantly, we are dedicated to producing a superior member experience so that you and other members can conveniently access your benefits and health care services 24/7. Technology will drive this innovation through data integration, analytics, and digital knowledge.

The other pillars of our plans include investing in our staff, risk management, and fiscal durability. These pillars will ensure that your benefits are protected, risks are mitigated, and that our staff are developed and trained to the highest degree. These strategic priorities will help us fulfill our mission now and well into the future.

All that, and more, is coming! For now, I'd like to fill you in on some great advancements and improvements we are making today. We are pleased to share that two CORE Benefits training classes have officially graduated and joined our teams. These graduates include specialists who have joined the Member Services Call Center and our Benefits CORE team.

This is great news for all members because it means reduced wait times and faster service. But training new staff is not the only way we're expanding how we help our members. In addition to new security and other behind-the-scenes improvements, we've also recently deployed a call back option, where members who call us on the phone are offered the option of being called back that same day rather than waiting on hold.

We are working to future-proof My LACERA, our one-stop-shop where you can access several helpful resources, securely share documents, message our specialists for help, view your retirement plan, learn about health care, update your information, sign up for direct deposit, and receive important forms and receipts.

Another recent and exciting development is our deployment of new software to livestream, record, and archive our board meetings so that members like you can watch and stay informed at your own convenience. To watch a board meeting, visit lacera.com/leadership/board-meetings at the time of the meeting -- the Board of Retirement (BOR) meets at 9 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month and the Board of Investments (BOI) meets at 9 a.m. on the second Wednesday. Other features and improvements on this webpage include a calendar of upcoming board meetings, archives of previous meetings, agenda materials, and an enhanced search feature. You can also view previous board meetings on LACERA's YouTube channel. Visit the site I listed above and click on "LACERA - YouTube" at the bottom of the page for a variety of videos, including recorded meetings and other helpful retirement information.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on some changes to the LACERA boards. First, I'd like to welcome L.A. County Fire Capt. Jason E. Green to both boards after his election by safety members. Trustee Green will serve on the fourth seat on the BOI and the seventh seat on the BOR. In addition, Trustee Shawn R. Kehoe was reelected to the BOR as the alternate safety trustee. Next, Elizabeth Greenwood has been appointed to the ninth seat on the BOR by Supervisor Janice Hahn. Finally, Trustee Ronald Okum has been reappointed to the sixth seat on the BOR by Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

With that, I'd like to welcome and congratulate any recent retirees from the March retirement season and thank you for all your service to our community. Now, it's our turn to serve you.



RELAC Joins 2023 Drive to Raise Funds for Food Bank

RELAC will once again conduct a fundraising drive to support the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank in the fight against hunger impacting the homeless, unemployed, and low-income families.

Over the last two years RELAC has raised over \$26,000 through the generosity of our members. A \$5,000 goal has been set for 2023.

If you wish to make a donation to the 2023 campaign, you can go to RELAC's website at relac.org, use the link <https://give.lafoodbank.org/RELAC23>, or mail a check made payable to the LA Regional Food Bank to the RELAC office at 1000 S Fremont Ave. Unit 15, Alhambra, CA 91803.

The food bank also operates the commodity supplemental food program (CSFP) to assist seniors in getting food. CSFP is a federal program administered through local agencies designed to improve the health of low-income seniors by supplementing their diets with nutritious fruit, juice, vegetables, milk, cheese, grain and protein, including plant-based protein.

Seniors may visit a distribution site with an ID and staff will complete an application with them. Each application can take up to two people of the same household who are 60+ years, but each person needs to be present with an ID. More information on distribution dates and locations is available by calling (323) 234-3030, ext. 170.



DHR Retirees Donate to Food Drive

Six retirees of the Department of Human Resources met for lunch in January and in addition to catching up on their lives, decided to donate \$125 to RELAC's drive to raise money for the LA Regional Food Bank. All six are RELAC members. From left to right are Susan Toy Stern, Linda C. Hopkins, Rhonda Fernandez, Jean Uyehara and her sister, Lani George, Alice Parker and Authra Waterhouse. Hopkins, who is vice president of RELAC's Board of Directors, heads RELAC's fundraising team as chair of the Community Support Committee.

RELAC Takes Steps to Assure Retirees Can Vote in the Upcoming LACERA Election

by Dave Muir, Immediate Past President

Retirees elect three representatives to serve on the LACERA Boards: two on the Board of Retirement (currently Les Robbins and J.P. Harris) and one on the Board of Investments (currently Joe Kelly). The three-year terms of the current board members expire at the end of 2023, and the Board of Supervisors will be adopting rules governing the LACERA election, estimated to occur in the month of July.

A few months ago, the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors announced its intention to require retirees to vote either telephonically or virtually online. LACERA immediately made known its objections, noting that the unavailability of written ballots could disenfranchise a significant number of retirees. Many aging retirees are not computer savvy and may find it difficult or even impossible to carry out the process of voting over a telephonic online system. Moreover, there are 230 retirees residing outside the United States.

LACERA Chief Executive Officer Santos Kreimann pursued a series of discussions and communications with Celia Zavala, executive officer of the Board of Supervisors, in an attempt to obtain assurances that written ballots would be mailed to all retirees. In a Dec. 27, 2022 e-mail, Kreimann wrote: "RELAC has indicated to my staff a strong desire that physical ballots be sent to all retired members this upcoming election cycle. I believe [RELAC] will litigate this point should a decision to continue offering an electronic voting option with a two-step request process for mailing physical ballots to retirees is sustained."

A potential lawsuit by RELAC was no doubt taken seriously in light of RELAC's current involvement in a case LACERA filed against the County and the Board of Supervisors. RELAC filed a "friend of the court" brief supporting LACERA in that case.

The Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors has now indicated it will mail written ballots to all retirees.

April 14 is Deadline to Apply for Board

RELAC members interested in serving on the Board of Directors in 2024 have until April 14 to file a letter of interest.

Applicants should briefly explain their interest and describe the experience and education that enhance their qualifications. The Directors Nominations Committee will interview all applicants before adding their names to the list of candidates. The current Board of Directors will review the list of candidates at its May 9 meeting and select a slate of nominees to endorse for election. If there are more qualified candidates than open seats, an election will be held in September.

The new directors will serve three-year terms beginning in January 2024. Directors whose terms expire this year are Brian Berger, J.P. Harris, Dyanne Nelson, Victoria Pipkin-Lane and Les Robbins.

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.

Directors are expected to attend monthly Board business meetings, four membership meetings, committee meetings scheduled on an as-needed basis, and to participate in RELAC activities and events.



Letters To The Editor

Write On!

RELAC, thank you for your card wishing me a happy holiday.

Dorothy Elfont, Walnut Creek, California

(Ed. Note: Each December, holiday greetings are mailed to our members who are 90 years and older.)

Brian Berger, I want to thank you and other "workers" for the handy calendar. I have several doctor appointments and it is very helpful. I use it at all times. Also, I look forward to seeing my previous workers' names. I had several friends and, of course, I have lost touch since I retired and moved to Georgia, ya'll. Thank you again. You have presented several good opportunities which I will look into.

Marenda Devens, Longville, Georgia

A RELAC member who is a retiree of the Sheriff's Department called the office to say how much she liked the 2023-24 pocket calendar, but asked that her name not be published. The calendar, she said, is the best that RELAC has ever created, with all the beautiful and positive words on it. "It is out of the ballpark!"

RELAC Member, Sheriff's Retiree

I just got my RELAC calendar and letter. The calendar cover is the best and the tie-in to change is perfect.

Gwen Andrizzi, Torrance, California

Thank you for all you do for us. Sorry about the passing of our good and sweet, caring person, Ms. Evelyn Gutierrez. She had the best smile in the whole world. May she rest in peace. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you.

Yolanda Roybal, Glendora, California

RELAC directors, thank you for the beautiful 90th birthday card. Nice surprise! A special thank you for all you do to keep us informed on our benefits. It gives me peace of mind to have a wonderful pension and health care plan. My deepest sympathy to the family and staff on the passing of Evelyn Gutierrez. Rest in peace, Evelyn.

Linda Campos, Downey, California

Thank you [for printing my tribute to Evelyn Gutierrez and sending a copy of the newsletter to me.] That is thoughtful of you. I miss Evelyn so very much. You write a great newsletter; I have enjoyed every one I've seen. Happy New Year.

Andrea Carroll, Executive Director, LA County Library Foundation

RELAC, thank you so much for all you do for retirees. I love the yearly pocket calendar that we receive. Fits nicely in my purse. I enjoy the luncheon, meetings, and celebrations. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for keeping us connected with the newsletters.

Beverly Williams, Covina, California

I love all that RELAC does to protect our retirement. It's so nice to read the articles on retirees. The Dodger games and other events are a fun way to keep connected with work family (retirees). Thanks for all everyone does.

Christina Fuentes, Long Beach, California

I apologize for neglecting to notify address changes when we relocated to St. Albans, Vermont. It all worked

out wonderfully during [my husband] Bob's last few months. Our daughter and son-in-law took on the responsibility of finding this great place. They live in Grand Isle, Vermont. I now spend a lot of time with them. Thank you for the great years Bob had with the association. As ever.

Rita Capps (wife of deceased member Robert W. Capps), St. Albans, Vermont

To everyone at RELAC, happy holidays. Thank you so much for remembering me at Thanksgiving as well as Christmas. You really made the day for me. I always read your column and enjoy it. Christmas Cheer.

Norris H. McReynolds (AKA Jackie), Los Angeles, California

Dear Board members, many, many thanks for all the years of beautiful greeting cards that you have sent. They are greatly appreciated. I have just celebrated my 99th! And had I known this would occur, I would never have taken my retirement so early. It is most enjoyable to have this contact with L.A. County. Thanks again.

Dorothy McIntyre, Dana Point, California

Dear RELAC, thank you and the RELAC team for the lovely birthday card and for all you do to protect our pensions and health benefits! You are truly appreciated.

Liz [Elizabeth] Means, Galesburg, Illinois

Comments below were received via e-mail in response to the e-mail notification sent to members on the passing of former RELAC President Bill de la Garza:

Mr. de la Garza was a great man. So sorry to hear of his passing.

Marie Herron, Stockton, California

Rest in peace eternally, Mr. Bill de la Garza.

Norma Ureta, Cerritos, California

May God bless him.

Vic Aghakhanian, Tujunga, California

Rest in peace.

Steve Barragan, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

My condolences to the family.

Gerald Rachal, Los Angeles, California

Rest in peace.

Keith Taylor, San Pedro, California

He's in Heaven. Rest in peace.

Patrick Rangel, San Fernando, California

Thank you, RELAC. So sorry to hear that a good man has passed. God bless Bill.

May he rest in peace.

Dave Spelbring, La Crescenta, California

So very sorry to hear about Bill. May he rest in peace, and God bless his family.

Patricia A. Guin, Phoenix, Arizona

Thank You to Retirees With 40+ Years of Service

We salute the following recent County retirees who served more than 40 years. We give a special nod to William Hottran of Parks and Recreation, who had the most years of service – 51 years, 4½ months.

Assessor: **David Breault, Virginia Padilla** (from deferred)

Child Support Services: **Rosemary P. Ransom, Tevy Sithans**

District Attorney: **Francisca D. Arellano, Karen Tandler**

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center: **Joyce Cobbs**

Health Services Administration: **Lori J. Johnson** (from deferred)

Internal Services: **Aundra D. Deadmon, Rick Sorensen**

LAC+USC Medical Center: **Peggy Smith Bell, Gary C. Kanel, Dennis R.**

Morales, Rosalinda Reyes, Daniel Rios, Kirk Wilkins

Mental Health: **Martha Faber**

Parks and Recreation: **William Hottran**

Probation: **Ralph Miller, Alma Jimenez, Frederick L. Taylor**

Public Health: **Alejandra Aguilar**

Public Social Services: **Francine A. Thomas**

Public Works: **Ribhi S. Al-Badawil, Benny Chou**

Rancho Los Amigos Hospital: **Alison J. Stoneham**

Sheriff: **Steven Berlin** (from deferred), **Evelyn Millen** (from deferred), **Timothy K. Murakami**

Superior Court/County Clerk: **Dulce M. Moran**

RELAC NEWSLETTER

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Monday - Thursday
Closed Friday,
Saturday, Sunday &
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County Family



Retired Sheriff's Chief Roberta Abner and retired Lt. Phil Abner with son, Sean Caples, who was recently promoted to sergeant, assigned to the North County Correctional Facility. Roberta and Phil are now reserve deputies. Bottom photo is at Caples' academy graduation in 2007. At right is Roberta's father, Robert Roudebush, who was an electrician in the County's Mechanical Department, and mother, Dorothy. Robert died in 2010; Dorothy in 2015. See profiles on the Abners on page 8.



Golf News

By Gil Sandoval
RELAC Golf Director

Los Amigos Golf Tournament

The rain caused our Los Amigos Golf Tournament to be canceled on Jan. 30, so it had to be rescheduled to Feb. 13. Results will be posted on the RELAC website as it was too late to get them in the newsletter.

We had five women sign up to play in the tournament – we welcome their participation and would like to encourage more to join in the fun. We would like to see more male RELAC colleagues as well.

La Mirada Golf Tournament

The next tournament is scheduled at La Mirada Golf Course on March 27, with first tee at 8 a.m. Entry forms must be received in the RELAC office by March 7. RELAC members may bring one guest for the tournament, with \$44 fees per golfer. Please note that the cost increased beginning in January due to higher fees charged by the golf courses.

The registration form is on page 6.

If you have a course that you would like to play, please let me know and I can add it to our schedule form next year.



Dealing with Grief

Life is Short... Enjoy Each Day

by Greg Walia

Past RELAC Director and President

These past couple of months have been very tough on me.

I lost two buddies, one right after another. One died of a heart attack on Nov. 19, the other the very next day as a result of a stroke.

My golfing and social buddy who died Nov. 20 was Dr. M.S. Hayreh, an ophthalmologist who had retired from Kaiser. My other friend was Dr. L. Singh, a retired chief microbiologist from Good Samaritan Hospital, who, too, was my social, golf and also family poker buddy.

As a result of losing two best friends in two days, I was not only shocked, but also felt going into somewhat of a depression mode. Just to get away from all this grief, my wife, Judy, suggested that I take a trip to India and visit my older sister and a few other relatives I haven't seen in five to six years.

I liked the idea! I'm leaving on Jan. 30 and return Feb. 28. Judy has some health issues so she won't accompany me this time. With family, friends and prayers, I feel strong enough and looking forward to my visit.

Life is short... enjoy each day.



Happy Birthday, RELAC Centenarians

March

Genevieve O. Minjarez, 100, LAC+USC Medical Center

Mary Newson, 100, Sheriff

Mary Jane Shiromoto, 101, Harbor/UCLA Medical Center

Henriette Shrader, 101, District Attorney

Estella J. Tompkins, 101, Sheriff

Esther L. Van Buskirk, 101, Fire

Hazel Kenner Young, 100, Mechanical

April

Martha Ardinger, 100, Fire

Alma J. Hill, 100, Public Social Services

Delores G. Taylor, 101, Public Social Services

McKinney Ward, 101, Mechanical

(If you have an upcoming birthday and do not wish your name included in our centenarian list, please notify the RELAC office.)

Bylaws, Compensation Approved

RELAC members approved proposed bylaws amendments and director compensation at the Jan. 26 general membership meeting. The text may be viewed on relac.org.



RELAC Holiday Luncheon Was a Success

About 120 RELAC members and guests attended the holiday luncheon in December in Whittier. Photo is of lucky winners of prizes. Shown with the large basket in front is Phil Ow, who sadly died several weeks later from a stroke.

Welcome New Members

Auditor-Controller – Nancy Limm
 Children & Family Services – Jerry Aoki, Maria Cruz Trevino
 Child Support Services – Robin Brackin
 District Attorney – Catherine Caraway
 Fire – Howard Ferguson, Gerardo Silva, Patrick Valerio
 Health Services – Henry Valdez
 Internal Services – Mamoru Nishimoto
 LAC+USC Medical Center – Udomsup Jittrikawiphol
 LACERA – Jacqueline Stewart-Boute
 Mental Health – Michele Webber-Klein
 Olive View/UCLA Medical Center – Maria Teira
 Public Social Services – Brenda J. Ball
 Public Works – Stanley Brown, Rassoul Ghavimi
 Regional Planning – Margaret Kanishock
 Sheriff – Betty Brown, Arleen Gray, Carol Jackson, Eileen Kelly, Serah Teo
 Weights & Measures – Cynthia Werner
 Department Not Designated – Thomas Anderson, Linda Oganda, Delilah Vidal
 Associate Members – Charlotte Anderson, Gregory Boute, Tamara Brown, Kevin Nose, Peter Klein, Sandra Silva, Jorge Teira, Eric L. Teo, James R. Vargo

Thanks for New Member Referrals

Our thanks to these six RELAC members (shown in bold) who recruited colleagues (shown in italic) during December 2022 and January 2023.

Roberta Abner, *Arleen Gray*, Sheriff
Roberta Abner, *Eileen Kelly*, Sheriff
Jane Fleming, *Margaret Kanishock*, Regional Planning
Kenneth Johnstone, *Gerardo Silva*, Fire
Carmen Perez, *Jerry Aoki*, Children and Family Services
Scott and Diane Short, *Maria Cruz Trevino*, Children and Family Services

RELAC GOLF ENTRY FORM

La Mirada Golf Course

15501 E. Alicante Rd. | La Mirada, CA 90638 | (562) 943-7123 -0550
www.lamiradagc.com/

MONDAY, March 27, 2023 • 8:00 A.M. START

(PLEASE PRINT)

1. Name _____

Address _____ Email _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

FEES \$44.00 PER GOLFER – CART EXTRA

(please include addresses for ALL additional members/guests)

2. Name _____ Member _____

Address _____ Email _____ Guest _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

3. Name _____ Member _____

Address _____ Email _____ Guest _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

4. Name _____ Member _____

Address _____ Email _____ Guest _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Early _____ Late _____ No preference _____

NOTE: Only ONE GUEST per Member • Enclosed Check For _____ Golfer(s) @ \$44.00 per Golfer

Make check payable to RELAC (write "Golf" in Note Section)

Mail entry to RELAC – Golf | 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15 | Alhambra, CA 91803-8802
 (626) 308-0532 • Office Hours Mon.-Thur. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

ENTRY DEADLINE March 7, 2023

ALL Payments must be in RELAC Office by deadline to facilitate timely payment to Golf Course

FOR OFFICE USE:

Date Rec'd. _____ Amount _____ Check # _____

Notes _____



Raffle winner Alfonso Medina, RELAC President Brian Berger



Raffle winner Dennis McGrath, Medical Examiner-Coroner retiree



Raffle winner Linda McCoy, Steve Pettee of Pacific Group Agencies



Raffle winner Kerrie Thomas, RELAC Director Nora Jackson



Guest speaker Mark Pestrella, head of County Department of Public Works



RELAC President Brian Berger presents check for GPS bracelet to guest speaker Laura Trejo



RELAC Directors Dave Muir and Diane Sandoval with donations to LA Regional Food Bank



Raffle winner Rin Khala, RELAC President Brian Berger

Aging Department Director Trejo Shares Goals

by Victoria Pipkin-Lane, Chair, General Membership Committee

"Approximately 40% of older adults may experience a disability, and we want them to feel comfortable here in the County," said Dr. Laura Trejo, director of L.A. County's new Department of Aging and Disabilities, during keynote remarks at RELAC's Jan. 26 meeting.

Trejo led the Purposeful L.A. initiative, which developed a proactive service delivery system for the silver population. The initiative earned national recognition and mobilized the "entire County region to address aging issues," she said.

Former general manager of L.A. City's Department of Aging, Trejo said she is working with community-based organizations to create a regional coalition of aging disability leaders, who will look at mobility options for older adults when they are no longer able to drive. "We need alternatives for them to move around. Public transportation needs to be user-friendly, and consideration given to older persons waiting for buses." Discussions are being held with Metro on training bus drivers to "deal" with older individuals, she said.

Trejo said the mission of her department is to improve the lives of older persons, how they age and where they live in the community. Technology is being used to accomplish one aspect of the mission. GPS bracelets, part of the L.A. Found program, are available to help locate older adults with cognitive challenges who may wander from home. RELAC has donated \$375 to fund a GPS bracelet for a resident identified by the department.

The department's Home Safe program targets homeless individuals, and projects that address food and economic insecurity are in high demand. "During the COVID-19 pandemic, I received nearly 4,000 telephone calls from older adults in need," she said. Staff also is looking at ways to support older veterans, improve access to health care, and retrain first responders on interfacing with older individuals.

The RELAC meeting, attended by about 75 members, was held in the Alhambra headquarters of the Department of Public Works (DPW). Director Mark Pestrella welcomed the attendees and commended RELAC for protecting and advocating for retiree health care and pensions.

He gave an overview of the department, noting that it designs and deliver public facilities, sponsors waste diversion activities, operates shuttles and specialized transit services in the unincorporated areas of

the County, and maintains the Flood Control District. The latter agency encompasses 2.1 million land parcels and includes 14 major dams and reservoirs, 483 miles of open channel, 3,300 miles of underground storm drains and 172 debris basins.

"We are focused on the customer experience," said Pestrella, adding that "we were all impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic" and learned the department's work "is not about things, it's about people and improving their quality of life." On a personal level, he said that due to the pandemic for nearly a year he was unable to see his mother, who was isolated and unable to be with her grandchildren, and this "heavily impacted" his family.

Additional remarks were given by Stephen Pettee of Pacific Group Agencies, a RELAC partner that offers insurance and financial services. Pettee awarded gift certificates to two raffle winners. There were several raffle drawings throughout the meeting and winners received gift cards from Panera, Target and Chili's.

Pete Cruz, DPW employee and Army veteran, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Information also was shared on RELAC's scholarship program and upcoming activities.

President Brian Berger opened the meeting and served as master of ceremonies. Dave Muir, past president, explained the voting process to the quorum of members, who approved amendments to RELAC bylaws and director compensation. Member Richard Guizado made the motions to approve the items, with a second by Treasurer Dyanne Nelson for the bylaws, and Phoebe Montgomery for the director compensation. Muir was assisted by Directors Diane Sandoval and J.P. Harris.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Berger led the group in a moment of silence for individuals who were killed during a Lunar New Year celebration at a dance studio in Monterey Park.

RELAC members enjoyed a continental breakfast, followed by a light lunch of sandwiches, pasta and green salads, and various juices, sodas and flavored waters.

Survey forms were given to members to fill out, and many expressed their pleasure with the meeting and food items.

Keeping Up With Retirees

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



ROBERTA (Roudebush, Caples) ABNER

I was born and raised in West Covina, California, and I have remained in the state since retirement, residing in Simi Valley since 1982. My passion for a career in law enforcement began when at 19 years of age, I went on a ride-a-long with a small agency in the San Gabriel Valley. I instantly knew I wanted to be a police officer. My parents were initially shocked, as no one in our immediate family was in law enforcement, but quickly became my biggest cheerleaders. I immediately tested and joined the Arcadia Police Department as a police cadet, absorbing and learning all that I could in anticipation of entering the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Academy. My father, Robert Roudebush, worked for the Mechanical Department for the County of Los Angeles as an electrician and he convinced me that it would be best to apply for a large organization where opportunities were plentiful. He stated there would be no better agency than the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). He was truly wise!

In August 1979, I started the Sheriff's Academy (Class 197) with about 100 other cadets. I had never marched or fired a weapon, but I paid attention and was guided and taught by the best. During those days, the academy classes would run laps on Eastern Avenue, and I would see my dad in front of what we called the ISD Building, watching us and taking movies with his Super 8 projector. I was so nervous the staff would figure out it was my father, but eventually he befriended the staff and was allowed to film us during driver's training and other aspects of our training. It is the only video of our class in action and I'm so thankful for being able to preserve those memories.

Lessons I learned during those four months, as well as the advice of many mentors and role models, would serve as a guide for me throughout my entire career of 35½ years. I was also fortunate to follow in the footsteps of many women who were trailblazers in law enforcement, paving the path for other women to achieve even greater success! I had an amazing career full of wonderful memories that we still tell stories about at retiree gatherings. I worked at Sybil Brand Institute, West Hollywood Station, Temple Station, Century Station, Internal Affairs Bureau, Pitchess East Facility, Crime Lab, Court Services and the Training Bureau. I had been a division chief for eight years when I retired in 2015.

Upon retirement, I immediately went into a full-time volunteer position as the senior director for the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles. Essentially, I was in charge of the logistics and route for an international team of torch runners running through the entire State of California and for providing security for the team of runners traversing the entire United States. The mission was to create awareness and raise funds for Special Olympics, and both events were a huge success. I have been supporting Special Olympics Southern California since 2002, serving as the torch run director for 10 years. It is a cause near and dear to my heart.

I also volunteer as a reserve deputy sheriff, assigned at first to the Emergency Operations Bureau and currently to Weapons Training.

Four years ago, I started working part time as a park ranger in my hometown for the Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District. It's a



PHIL ABNER

I was born in San Fernando and grew up in the Valley. By middle school, I had pretty much decided on a career in law enforcement. My thought was that I would probably choose the Los Angeles Police Department because I had always lived in the city and associated law enforcement with that agency.

After high school, I began attending college part time while working full time. By the time I received a degree in criminal justice, I was the manager of a wholesale/retail auto parts store. I continued in that position until I was hired by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD).

When I first began applying for police agencies, it was quite different than it is now. As I recall, the Sheriff's Department only took applications

a couple of times a year and there were hundreds of applicants. I stood in line for over an hour just to obtain an application. I applied for several agencies, but LASD was the first and it was also the first agency that accepted me.

I started the academy in July 1977 and graduated about 24 weeks later. At that time "cadets" were sworn members and regularly worked weekend assignments. The initial assignments were custody and then patrol stations. Toward the end of the academy, we actually worked an entire week at a specific station; mine was Lennox Station. Nine years later, I was a patrol sergeant at Lennox. It was a great assignment both times.

After academy graduation, I was assigned to custody, like pretty much everyone. Custody was a valuable experience, but after about a year I decided I wasn't that fond of it. I applied and tested for the position of district attorney investigator. I placed well in testing and given a hire date. After some discussion with a couple of trusted supervisors, however, I elected to remain with the Sheriff's Department and I never looked back.

In the ensuing 32 plus years, I worked Patrol Division, Training Division (both as an academy drill instructor and a weapons training supervisor), Internal Affairs Bureau, Special Enforcement Bureau (K-9 and Special Weapons Team), was a station watch commander, Detective Bureau lieutenant and eventually retired from Detective Division as a Narcotics Bureau lieutenant.

My wife, Roberta, and I have been together for over 30 years. She had a very successful career with the Sheriff's Department, retiring as a division chief. We actually worked patrol together at West Hollywood Station, but didn't really know each other that well then. We still smile and tell "war stories" about that period of our careers.

After I retired in 2010, I chose to become a reserve deputy sheriff. I have been assigned to the Weapons Training Unit for over 13 years. It's been a great opportunity to stay in touch, continue to contribute and to work with a truly outstanding staff. For about four years after retirement, I worked part time as a park ranger for the Rancho Simi Park District, which has more than 30 parks and over 100 miles of open space in Simi Valley and the unincorporated area of Oak Park in Ventura County. Park rangers are peace officers and work to provide a safe environment in the district recreation areas.

My wife and I have always traveled and for many years have been avid RV'ers. We take many weekend trips to the wine country and have made a couple of monumental trips in the last few years, including Yellowstone Park and Mount Rushmore. A little bit of our time is spent on jeep adventures. As part of one of our RV trips we spent a little bit of time in Moab, Utah. That trip included some rather arduous four wheeling in "Devil's Gate." Roberta says I can do that with the guys

DR. THOMAS TSUNETOMI NOGUCHI

by Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, RELAC Member
Retired Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner/Director



Lakshmanan and Noguchi

from 1967 through 1982. In 1982 he became the chief of autopsy pathology for LAC+USC Medical Center and was also an administrative pathologist there. In 1999 he was honored by the emperor of Japan, who awarded him the Order of the Sacred Treasure for his "outstanding contributions to Japan in the area of forensic science." Dr. Noguchi retired from the County after 38 years on Jan. 29, 1999.

During his tenure at the Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office (1961 to 1982), there were unprecedented civil rights activities-related confrontations and increased use of hallucinogenic drugs as well as cocaine. Gang activities flourished and homicide statistics were sky high. The L.A. office registered as many as 1,800 to nearly 2,000 probable homicide cases per year. As chief medical examiner-coroner, Dr. Noguchi handled the medicolegal death investigation of many high-profile cases, including that of Marilyn Monroe, the Watts riot, Robert F. Kennedy, Sharon Tate (Charles Manson murder case), Janis Joplin, Patricia Hearst kidnapping and Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) shootout case, William Holden, Natalie Wood, and John Belushi. This led to the media dubbing him "coroner to the stars."

Dr. Noguchi has dedicated his life to medicolegal death investigation by providing answers/closures to the next of kin and public with a belief that they have the right to know what happened. He strongly believed in the concept of an independent medicolegal death investigation system. He transformed Los Angeles into an international forensic science center. He always welcomed many physicians from other countries to train at the Forensic Science Center in Los Angeles.

He coordinated the building of the modern Forensic Science Center at North Mission Road in Los Angeles with state-of-the-art laboratory/scanning electron microscope and moved department operations to the new facility from the Hall of Justice. He started the forensic pathology training program and has trained many physicians. He also started the weekly continuing medical educational program in the field of forensic pathology.

Following Dr. Curphey's footsteps, he utilized the services of the Suicide Prevention Center to perform psychological autopsies on coroner cases. Dr. Noguchi believed in team work and brought in consultants in neuropathology, odontology and anthropology to improve the quality of medicolegal death investigation. He appointed the first female medical examiner-coroner investigator.

Dr. Noguchi served as president of the California State Coroner's Association (1974-1975), president of the National Association of Medical Examiners in 1983, and professor emeritus of USC Keck School of Medicine from 1982 to the present. He was formerly a professor at UCLA and Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

Dr. Noguchi remained active in his field following his County retirement and has received numerous awards, including: National Association of Medical Examiners' Helpern Award (Helpern Laureate) in 2005. American Academy of Forensic Sciences' Distinguished Fellow Award in 2007 and RBH Gradwohl Laureate Award in 2015. Los Angeles Society of Pathologists Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008.



NORA JACKSON

I began my career with L.A. County straight out of high school in 1969. My older sister started her career with the County and I followed. I did not know at that time my employment with the County was going to be long term. My plan was to attend the University of the Pacific in northern California, but the plan soon changed, and I enrolled in Los Angeles City College, majoring in computer science, attending school in the day and working part time as a student worker and typist clerk with the Sheriff's Civil Division.

I changed my course of education by enrolling in Sawyer School of Business, where I completed a course in data processing. After completing the course in 1970, I began working with the Auditor-Controller's Office on Washington Boulevard. That was an unusual time as the County data processing personnel worked in the same space with the Superintendent of Schools. The two offices later merged, and County employees would become a part of the Superintendent of Schools. The merger allowed the County employees one year to secure employment back with L.A. County.

By the end of 1971 I had transferred to the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) as an intermediate typist clerk, working in the office on 120th and Vermont, which was preparing to implement the mailing of Food Stamps to participants in the program. I transferred to another position as a data control clerk at the Adams and Grand office. I worked in various sections within DPSS, but my longest career was as an eligibility worker in Aid to Families with Dependent Children. I've worked in Cudahy, East L.A. and Adams/Grand offices. After 16 years, leaving that department felt like I was leaving my family as we all worked so closely together.

In 1988 I was hired by the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) as a retirement benefits specialist. It was a smaller department at that time, with less than 75 employees; today there are over 175 employees. Former RELAC Director Edward Morris was the manager over the benefits section. I was part of the benefits transition team, the first group of employees hired as retirement benefits specialists. LACERA is where I learned about retirement benefits and plans. It is not a surprise to me that many employees working for the County did not understand their retirement benefits and plans -- I had been one of them. My career with LACERA was rewarding. I enjoyed counseling members, explaining, and researching resources to ensure retirees received the correct benefit. Working in LACERA's outreach program, I had the opportunity to visit departments all over Los Angeles County, conducting and facilitating retirement workshops. My last five years was working in quality assurance and training as the senior quality assurance auditor supervisor responsible for the training team, under Division Chief Mike Mikhail.

I could not have timed my retirement at a better time. On Dec. 6, 2019, I turned in my keys to spend time with family and friends. It just happened to be the time of COVID and for the past two years my movement, travel plans and enjoyment were limited. I'm so glad that I did many of the things I enjoy doing through the years and not waiting until retirement. I now spend lots of time with family, especially my three youngest grandchildren. I plan to continue my travels throughout the U.S and abroad. I really enjoy cruising and can hardly wait to get back on the ocean. My plan for this summer is to visit family in Italy and take a river cruise. I cannot leave out continuing my service on the RELAC board, Toastmasters, and volunteer service as a CASA. I can honestly say I have enjoyed my life and the lifestyle that my County service has afforded me, and am looking forward to my next chapter of life.

A Heart to Heart with Les Robbins

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

I can't believe that 2022 is over, but in many respects, good riddance, as it has been a trying year for me personally. Hopefully 2023 will bring better things for us all. My year started with a cancer diagnosis (malignant melanoma) and ended on Dec. 28 with open heart surgery.

At the beginning of my cancer diagnosis and treatment, my doctor at UCI Medical Center had me undergo a full body PET scan. It showed that I had no tumors in my body that were related to the melanoma. Thankfully, we caught the cancer prior to it spreading into my lymph system, so no further treatment was needed. A second PET scan concurred with the first one. So all good on the melanoma front.

The good news about PET scans is that they literally show everything. The bad news about PET scans, as my family doctor told me, is that they show everything. In my case, the scan showed a couple of abnormalities with my heart.

During the next nine months, I had a half dozen tests on my heart and one of the issues seen in the first scan was an abnormal aorta. It showed that I had an aortic aneurysm that was about 3.5 cm in size. This is not uncommon in men my age, but requires constant monitoring. When the size becomes 5 cm, surgery is recommended. Also, the aneurysm can be either ascending or descending and this makes a huge difference in how it is treated. The descending aneurysm can be treated less invasively, but the ascending one requires major open heart surgery. Unfortunately, mine was ascending and by late December had grown to 5.1, so the only way to treat it was via open heart surgery. If the aorta bursts, you are dead by the time you hit the ground.

After a very frank discussion with the cardiothoracic surgeon at the UCI Medical Center, I decided to waste little time and my surgery was scheduled for the very early morning of Dec. 28. I guess the good news is that whatever else they find when they open you up, they will fix as well. So, it's like a major rebuild and overhaul.

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a little nervous about the surgery. I've had over a dozen surgeries in my 74 years of life, but this undoubtedly was the biggest and the longest. All of my doctors said that I was a great candidate for this surgery as I had no underlying medical conditions that put me at further risk, and expected for me to do very well ... I told myself that I'd just be fine and hoped I would.

My surgery lasted five hours, with another hour in recovery and about two and half days in ICU before they moved me to the cardiac care unit. I spent a total of seven days in the hospital at UC Irvine Medical Center. My surgery involved only two things and they both dealt with the aortic aneurysm. They took out the aneurysm area and replaced a valve in my aorta that in and of itself was not life threatening, but it wasn't working perfectly. I had no other heart disease so no angioplasties or anything else was needed. All in all, I am fortunate that for someone my age I have one damned healthy heart.

I am writing this article 12 days after coming home and seem to be doing fine. I am not a back sleeper and that's the only position that you can sleep in after this type of surgery so that adjustment has been no fun. Been off pain meds since I left the hospital (Tylenol only) and the post-surgical pain is not a huge problem.

Had it not been for my cancer diagnosis and the very prompt and thorough work done by Dr. Yamamoto at the UCI Cancer Center Treatment, the doctors would NOT have diagnosed the aneurysm. Left untreated and at the point where it was, I would have eventually probably died from this when it ruptured, which would have been likely at some point down the road. No one survives this if and when they rupture, so I feel very, very lucky to be where I am today.

The medical staff and doctors at the UCI Medical Center were marvelous since the first meeting with my cancer doctor back in late January 2022. Having never have had any issues with my heart, I really had no reason to suspect anything was wrong. I know that some of you have had open heart surgery and most all of us know someone who has had this type of surgery. Like so many other surgical procedures, the advances in this surgery over the past couple decades are significant. I now have a new list of heroes and that list includes anyone who has undergone open heart surgery because as I now know this is the Super Bowl of surgeries, to be sure.

When my wife, Cindy, put out the information about my successful surgery, my e-mails and phone blew up. I don't know how many messages I got, but they



approached 1,000. I apologize if you didn't get a thank you or a response from me, but the prayers and support from all of my L.A. County family is truly appreciated and I can't even begin to put in words how much.

I think it's time for a nap. So again, sincere thanks for all of the prayers and support that I got from all of you. Take care, be well, enjoy your retirement if you are retired and if you are still working, know that you have great things to look forward to in your retirement.

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"ambiguous" so relied on a 20-year-old Court of Appeal decision which the County had cited. He concluded that while LACERA has exclusive authority over the management of the retirement system's assets and their delivery to its members, that authority doesn't extend to setting the salaries for all of its employees. He said the salary-setting power belongs to the Board of Supervisors.

LACERA's 32-page complaint, together with 91 pages of exhibits, asked the court to stop the Board of Supervisors from interfering with LACERA's efforts to hire professional-level employees to invest the nearly \$72 billion pension fund and perform other critical functions.

RELAC Director and previous LACERA Chief Counsel Dave Muir provided a declaration supporting LACERA; and RELAC, as an organization, filed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief citing legal precedent supporting LACERA's position that the County has no authority to second guess LACERA's judgment in determining (1) the qualifications of personnel required to invest funds and operate the system and (2) the compensation required to employ and retain such personnel.

Muir noted that LACERA board members, including RELAC Directors Les Robbins and J.P Harris, are trustees charged with the fiduciary duty to govern the pension system with the care and skill that professional trustees are charged with in similar situations. A breach of fiduciary duty, he said, could expose LACERA board members to financial liability.

RELAC informed the court of its members' special interest in assuring that the trustees on the LACERA boards have unrestrained authority to apply their professional expertise in investing the pension fund to maximize returns and in operating the system to assure beneficiaries of the pension fund receive the benefits they are entitled to.

"If the County was allowed to strip away the exclusive right of [our elected representatives] to control the operations of LACERA," the brief said, the County, rather than the LACERA boards, would control LACERA'S operations, rendering meaningless the statutory right of RELAC's members to elect LACERA board members.

The Court granted RELAC's amicus request, acknowledging RELAC's important interest in the litigation: "RELAC advocates on behalf of both active and retired County employees. The retiree seats on LACERA's boards typically are filled by RELAC directors. Clearly, RELAC has a special interest in this case. RELAC contends that its brief will assist the court in preventing the County from disenfranchising its members and further the objectives of the California Pension Protection Act of 1992."

To view the court's order and other court pleadings, go to RELAC's website – www.relac.org – and view the announcement section.



Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond
Newsletter Editor

The euthanasia last December of Bowie, a 4-month-old terrier at the County's animal shelter in Baldwin Park, prompted community outrage after a rescue group said it had wanted to take the puppy. And the incident was cited in the introduction of state legislation Feb. 10 that would require all California animal shelters to post online the exact day an animal is to be euthanized at least 72 hours in advance or face a criminal violation. Bowie's Law, named after the terrier, also calls for a statewide study to examine underlying issues and solutions to mistaken euthanasia. Despite increased efforts to place animals, last year 14.8 percent of the dogs and 31.7 percent of the cats in the County's animal shelters were euthanized.

District Attorney George Gascón, in announcing that former Sheriff's Deputy Andrew Lyons was ordered to trial for the on-duty shooting death of Ryan Twyman, says his office has filed more officer-involved shooting cases against officers who were on duty than the prior two administrations combined. Lyons is only the second officer in the County in more than 20 years to stand trial for an on-duty fatal shooting.

The Independent Defense Program, long administered by the Bar Association under a County contract, will now be handled by the Public Defender's Office, much to the displeasure of some public defenders, who say they are already overloaded with cases. About 5,800 indigent clients received private attorneys under the program in 2022 when the Public Defender and the Alternate Public Defender had conflicts of interest. The switch came after the Bar requested its budget be tripled to \$9.4 million to provide better oversight of the attorneys. The County balked and assigned the program to the Public Defender, at a cost of \$4.3 million yearly. To get around the conflict-of-interest issue, the Public Defender will establish a "firewall" between these cases and others handled by the department by having separate staff, offices and access to legal records.

Joining the cities of Los Angeles and Long Beach, county supervisors approved an emergency declaration on homelessness to speed up services to the roughly 69,000 people living on the streets, in encampments and vehicles by loosening requirements for contracting, procurement and hiring.

Upset to learn in a newspaper article that the Probation Department planned to sell 337 surplus semi-automatic pistols in an online auction, County supervisors have banned sales of firearms and ammunition by county departments.

L.A. Philharmonic Conductor Gustavo Dudamel says he will not renew his contract in three years to enable him to become musical and artistic director of the New York Philharmonic.

Property owners can register on the Assessor's website to receive e-mail notices within 48 hours of any recorded activity on their property, in an effort to alert them quickly to any fraudulent activity. This supplements a program that provides mail notices within 30 days when a grant deed, quit claim deed or deed of trust is recorded on their chain of title, or within five days when a notice of default or notice of sale is recorded to advise the property is subject to entering foreclosure.

The Assessor's Office says nearly one in three homeowners in L.A. County do not file for a homeowners exemption, costing these 435,000 families \$30 million.

One of the patients at the County's Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation

Center in Downey was recently featured in a Public Broadcasting System (PBS) documentary for his contributions to an important study using robotics.

The Department of Health Services is participating in a new statewide program called Dementia Care Aware that is intended to improve early screening for dementia in patients over 65.

The Animal Care and Control Department waived rabbit adoption fees in January to commemorate Lunar New Year, which in 2023 is being celebrated as the Year of the Rabbit in many Asian American and Pacific Islander cultures.

The Board of Supervisors has given the go-ahead to soliciting proposals for a potential mixed-use affordable housing development for the General Hospital west campus at LAC+USC Medical Center.

The Board of Supervisors approved \$225,000 to settle a lawsuit against its Executive Office by employee Fiona Nagle, who claimed she was subjected to disability discrimination, failure to accommodate and retaliation.

The County expects to spend about \$140 million for the central plant boilers and chillers replacement project. The plant, built in the 1950s, provides chilled water and steam for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems for 11 buildings in the civic center area. The facility is not in compliance with environmental regulations and needs to replace aged equipment.

The County has increased its support of the Museum of Natural History by \$1 million annually due to a growth in facilities and programs, bringing the total to \$25.099 million.

The Commission on Human Relations says there were 786 hate crimes reported in 2021, an increase of 23 percent, and 74 percent were violent. Racially motivated crimes increased the most (17 percent), with blacks being the most frequent targets.

The Bruce family decided to sell Bruce's Beach back to the County for nearly \$20 million, six months after the Board of Supervisors voted to return the site to the descendants of the black couple who lost the Manhattan Beach land nearly a century ago due to racism.

The County Fire Department sent 82 members of its specialized search and rescue unit to Turkey following the massive earthquakes there. The team was said to be only one of two in the U.S. qualified to assist with international search and rescue missions.

A website created by the County allows the anonymous reporting of alleged graft, bribery, waste and fraud.

The County is spending \$33 million to renovate and expand the Public Health Department's lab in Downey, where employees have been working in trailers and cramped quarters.

Roberta Abner continued from p.8

law enforcement position within the parks ensuring rules are being followed and ensuring the safety of the parks.

Recently my husband, Phil, and I joined the Elks Lodge in Simi Valley, and we look forward to additional opportunities to volunteer. I have been taking Spanish for the past two years to build upon the six years I already had in school. I'm also the president of the Retired Female Deputies Social Club.

Like many people, I try to figure out how I ever had time to work. It's all in your priorities! Nowadays, those priorities center around my four little grandchildren and their parents. My son, Sean Caples, is a sergeant with LASD assigned to the North County Correctional Facility. He and his wife, Jessica, have a son, Landen, 7, and a daughter, Ella, 6. My daughter, Danielle Bovard, is a personal fitness trainer. She and her husband, Darren, have a daughter, Devon, 8, and a son, Dillon, 6. Because these cousins are so close in age, they have a blast being together and they constitute the four main reasons we have no plans to move from California! Besides, we love where we live!

Phil and I enjoy camping in our motorhome, traveling, wine tasting and trips to Hawaii. We've done a lot of this since retirement. We have taken two wine river cruises, one to Portugal and Spain and one in the Bordeaux region of France. Phil obliged me in my desire to go to Mackinac Island for the "Somewhere in Time" Weekend. It's a special tribute weekend to the romantic movie "Somewhere in Time" and it did not disappoint. It happened to be the 25th anniversary of the gathering, and Jane Seymour attended. Not only did my wonderful husband take me, but he also dressed up in the period wear clothing with me. I also take several trips a year with the grandkids, in between watching them and all of their sports activities. We are headed to Colorado for spring break this year as well as Maui in July.

So, my days are filled with the laughter and fun of grandkids, travel, camping, working out, Spanish, part-time work, volunteering and planning the next "great trip." I'm always packing in as much as I can and I'm grateful for my good health and wonderful family!



With grandchildren



Phil Abner continued from p.8

from now on. We regularly visit Hawaii, spending time primarily on the island of Maui.

Our son and daughter are married, and we are blessed with four grandchildren. Our daughter, Danielle, has a business degree and was involved in marketing until electing to be a full-time mom. She is very athletic, like her mother, and has developed a new endeavor as a personal fitness trainer. Our son, Sean, is a deputy sheriff and is a newly promoted sergeant.

Between working as a reserve deputy, enjoying grandkids and continual travel, we stay very busy. In the last few years, we've visited France, where we toured the Normandy Invasion route and the Bordeaux wine region. Another trip was to Portugal and Spain. This year we took an Alaskan cruise and are anticipating a cruise to Italy this summer.

We recently became members of the Elks Lodge in Simi Valley and our list of activities seems to keep growing.

Dr. Noguchi continued from p.9

He also received the National Association of Medical Examiners Lifetime Service Award in 2014 and in 2009 the surgery department of the USC Keck School of Medicine established the USC Thomas T. Noguchi Distinguished Professorship annual lecture series.

Dr. Noguchi's academic honors include: Dutton professor of legal medicine, USC School of Medicine, 1987; honorary degree of doctor of science, Worcester State University, Massachusetts, 1984; international visiting professorships at Braz Cuba University, School of Law in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Tokyo Dental College, Nippon Medical School, Tokyo, Japan; and honorary degree doctor of philosophy, presented by Nippon Medical School in September 2014.

Dr. Noguchi was married to microbiologist Dr. Hisako Nishihara in 1960. She passed away in 2014 at the age of 92.

In his spare time Dr. Noguchi has relaxed with activities such as fishing, skiing, photography and painting.

While his professional and extracurricular activities currently are limited due to age and health issues, he is still involved. He has served on the California State Board of Unclaimed Dead as curator for many years and was president of the World Association for Medical Law (WAML) from 2010-2022, now serving as a member of the Board of Governors as immediate past president. He traveled to Australia in December 2022 for a WAML conference, while still president of the

In 1967



organization, and to Dallas, Texas for a meeting of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) two months prior. He is chair of the Past Presidents Committee of NAME.

Dr. Noguchi is also a member of the LAC+USC Medical Center Trauma Quality Assurance Committee and assists with coordinating autopsies done by the County Medical Examiner.

On a personal note, I trained in forensic pathology under Dr. Noguchi's mentorship in 1977 and later was his staff member. He strongly supported my desire to complete further training in clinical medicine and infectious diseases in New York City with a leave of absence from the County from 1980 for two years. The goal was to start a clinical forensic medicine program at the County's Medical Examiner-Coroner's Department. During my tenure as chief medical examiner-coroner, in addition to being always my mentor, he became my colleague and a very good friend and an elder brother/father figure to me. I call him "Papa-Sir."



McDonnell



Gadut



Kellum



Polk



Lippmann

PASSAGES

Compiled by Judy Hammond,
Newsletter Editor

RETIREMENTS:

Timothy Murakami, who served as undersheriff to Alex Villaneuva, with more than 43 years of service. **Alma Martinez**, chief of government relations for Public Works Department and former chief deputy to Supervisor Gloria Molina, with more than 25 years of service. **Dawn McDivitt**, chief deputy director of the Natural History Museum since transferring from the Chief Executive Office in 2014, with more than 38 years of service. **Brian Mahan**, principal analyst in Chief Executive Office, with more than 27 years of service. **Greg Polk**, who served as chief deputy director of the Mental Health Department from 2018 to May 31, 2022, working since then on special projects in the Chief Executive Office, with more than 30 years of service. **Ralph Miller**, who served as president of the L.A. County Deputy Probation Officers' Union Local 685, with almost 44 years of service. **Rob (Robert) Singer**, former curator of Japanese art at the L.A. County Museum of Art, with more than 34 years of service (from deferred list).



Singer

DEATHS:

Marilyn Brown, who worked in the Intergovernmental Affairs Office of the Chief Administrative Office and was division chief of revenue enhancement in the Department of Children and Family Services when she retired. Sheriff's Lt. **Doyle Davidson**, who retired from Biscailuz Center in 1996 after 35 years of service. Former Sheriff's Lt. **Reginald Lawson**, 83, who retired from Lakewood Sheriff's Station in 1994 after 30 years of service. **Frank Decker**, who retired as a lieutenant in Sheriff's Department in 1999, from the Santa Clarita Valley station, with 26 years of service. Capt. **Arn Tretsven**, 54, a 15-year veteran of the Fire Department, who died unexpectedly due to complications from a work-related cancer. Municipal and Superior Court Judge **Robert W. Thomas**, 82, who retired from the bench in 1997 and spent the following 25 years as a private neutral with ADR Services, Inc. Former RELAC President **Bill de la Garza**, who was deputy director of the Department of Parks and Recreation when he retired in 1991. Sheriff's Detective **Steven Lim**, 52, a 26-year veteran of the department, killed when his car crashed near Torrance after he experienced a medical emergency while returning home from work. Dr. **Robert Tranquada**, 92, who served as medical director of the LAC+USC Medical Center and director of the Central Region of the Department of Health Services. **George J. Gorciak, Jr.**, a lieutenant in the Sheriff's Commercial Crimes Bureau when he retired in 1983 after 30 years of service. **Phillip Ow**, 2005 retiree of the Chief Administrative Office and former president of the Asian American Employees Association, who was a volunteer member of several RELAC committees, from a stroke. **Harriett Canister**, retiree of the Health Department (MLK Hospital), who would have celebrated her 104th birthday in April. **George Kuwayama**, former curator of Asian art at the L.A. County Museum of Art. **John "Jack" Lynch**, 89, who retired in 1993 after 23 years as an L.A. Municipal and Superior Court judge, who had Alzheimer's disease. Dr. **Maurice Lippmann**, 93, who served as chairman of the anesthesiology department at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center from 1974-78 and was internationally recognized in his field, retiring in 2009 after 23 years. Historian and author **Harry Kelsey**, 93, who served as chief curator of history at the County Museum of Natural History.



Ow



Tretsven



Lim

APPOINTMENTS:

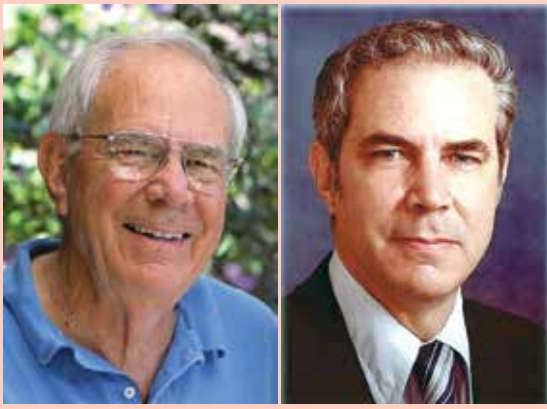
David J. Carroll, who has 15 years of experience working for nonprofits focused on supporting youth development in marginalized communities, named director of the new Department of Youth Development at annual salary of \$235,000. **Patti Paniccia** named by Board of Supervisors to be third member of the Employee Relations Commission to replace Anthony Miller, who resigned. Former Sheriff **Jim McDonnell**, a RELAC member, named director of the Safe Communities Institute, part of USC's Sol Price School of Public Policy. **Va Lecia Adams Kellum**, president and chief executive officer of St. Joseph Center, a social service organization in Venice that offers outreach services and housing to the homeless, begins March 26 as CEO of the countywide Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency, earning \$430,000. She replaces Heidi Marston, who resigned in April 2022. **Patrick Gadut**, a Marine and 24-year veteran of the Sheriff's Department who is an expert on the transition from U.S. Armed Forces to post-military career, elected president of the L.A. County Military Veteran Employee Association.

COURTS:

Beverly Hills developer **Arman Gabae** (AKA **Gabay**), 61, sentenced to four years in prison for bribing ex-County Chief Executive Office employee Thomas Shepos from 2010-2017 to get lucrative County real estate leases, attractive rental terms and nonpublic information



Murakami



Health Care Advocate Robert Tranquada Dies

Dr. Robert E. Tranquada, 92, a former medical director of the LAC+USC Medical Center who was instrumental in increasing access to health care for underserved communities

during his 40 years as a public health advocate, died Dec. 4.

Tranquada was named medical director in 1969. When the Department of Health Services was formed five years later, he served two years as director of the Central Region, which included LAC+USC Medical Center, Rancho Los Amigos, a dozen public health and mental and health clinics.

A RELAC member, Tranquada said in a 2017 RELAC newsletter profile that when he became medical director of LAC+USC Medical Center and associate dean of the Medical School, there were 2,100 beds and more than 100,000 patients admitted. "I saw the inefficiency in our care for emergency patients and in 1970 invited Dr. Gail Anderson to create a Department of Emergency Medicine, one of the first in the nation."

Tranquada was a long-time member of the USC faculty and dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC from 1986 to 1991. Early in his career there, he led the creation of the Department of Community Medicine. As associate dean of the Keck School, he was the architect of consolidating various departments into the L.A. County Department of Health Services and played a key role in developing the health administration program at USC. As dean, he negotiated a new master agreement with the County for the provision of care at LAC+USC Medical Center, adopted a new faculty governance model that empowered the medical facility and significantly increased enrollment of underrepresented students. He also led the creation of a new private teaching hospital – Keck Hospital of USC. As a nationally recognized leader, he chaired the American Association of Medical College's Council of Deans.

After leaving Keck in 1991, he joined the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and served as chair of USC's health administration program until he retired in 1997. After retirement, he continued serving on many community boards. He said in 2017 that he was slowly resigning from those commitments.

Tranquada headed the L.A. County Task Force on Access to Healthcare in the wake of the 1992 civil unrest, which led to the creation of Community Health Councils, the non-profit that works to promote health and wellness in under-resourced communities.

He was one of the founders and first director of the South Central Multipurpose Health Services Center in 1965 (today's Watts Healthcare Corp.), one of the country's first community health centers. He was an advocate for increasing the number of women and people of color in medicine, serving as a long-time member of the board of National Medical Fellowships, a member of the founding board of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, and a member of the board of Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital.

In addition to his career in public health, Tranquada played a leadership role in higher education, philanthropy and other areas. He was chair of the Pomona College Board of Trustees, chair of the board of the Claremont University Consortium, and served on the boards of the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, the Good Hope Medical Foundation, the Huntington Medical Research Institutes and the Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences. The student health center that serves The Claremont Colleges bears his name as the Robert E. Tranquada Student Services Center.

Tranquada passed away at Mt. San Antonio Gardens, a full-service continuing care retirement community in Claremont where he and his wife had moved. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Jan; children John, Jim and Kate; three grandchildren, and sister, Carolyn Prestwich. A memorial service was held Jan. 28 at Pomona College, from which Tranquada and his wife graduated in 1951.

Memorial gifts can be made to the Robert E. '51 and Janet '51 Tranquada Scholarship Fund at Pomona College or The Michael J. Fox Foundation for

Parkinson's Research.

Tributes from RELAC members

Robert Tranquada is to be remembered as a physician for all seasons -- always selflessly contributing to his community. Both Barbara and I had the privilege to know him as friends and healthcare colleagues. *Richard Marciniak*

Dr. Tranquada was a very special man. My late husband, Aaron, and I knew him at LAC+USC Medical Center. He accomplished so much and did so much to help so many. He was always a shining personality when we met at the hospital or the retiree luncheons. He was always so kind and heartfelt. *Kathy Lohr*

Bob Tranquada was truly an inspiring leader for all of us over the decades. It was a pleasure working with him on numerous projects. *Barry Hunt*

De la Garza continued from p.1

De la Garza served as president of the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA) in 2007 and 2008. The executive committee of CRCEA, which represents 20 associations, adjourned in de la Garza's memory on Jan. 18 and directed that the CRCEA conference in April be dedicated in his honor to recognize his many years of service. CRCEA President Skip Murphy served on the CRCEA executive committee with de la Garza. "Bill's leadership was soft and easy going, while yet forceful enough to carry out what needed to get done. He was liked by all he dealt with, even when in disagreement with them. As I worked with him, I tried to take on some of his style. It didn't always work, but I tried. His passing was a loss to us all. He will be remembered for all the good he accomplished and all those he helped and all those he befriended."

RELAC Director Diane Sandoval, who lived close to de la Garza and would ride with him to meetings, said de la Garza was her best friend and mentor. "I will never forget his sense of humor and the laughs we shared during our drive to RELAC meetings. He felt a deep responsibility to RELAC and its members. He was committed to protecting our pension and medical benefits and serving all members, both active and retired."

De la Garza was president of RELAC when Ida Leon Ramos became a RELAC director in 2006. "He was held in high regard by all the Board members because of his commitment to RELAC objectives, strong leadership skills, and knowledge of LACERA operations and policies. My experience with Bill was that he was respectful and open to the ideas of others, both professionally and personally. I am deeply saddened by our loss of this intelligent and kind man."

De la Garza was born in Laredo, Texas, but grew up in Los Angeles County. He lived in Hawthorne when his son, John, was born in 1968. The family moved to Westminster in Orange County about 1974-75, where he lived until his death, and John now lives. His wife, Rachel, died 15 years ago. John, de la Garza's sole survivor, said he believed his father always worked for the Parks and Recreation Department. "I know he loved his job."

In recent years de la Garza had suffered a heart attack and had prostate cancer, but his son said he had tested negative for cancer since having surgery several years ago. "I think he just died of old age."

IN MEMORIAM

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

Agricultural Comm./Wts. & Meas. - Ibrahim M. Abdel-Fatah, Scott E. Hunter, Henry Ishikawa, Carmen Maldonado

Ambulatory Care - Rudolph K. Abdul-Karim, Jimmy A. Stewart

Antelope Municipal Court - Betty Jane Boeldt

Assessor - Betty L. Bowman, Raymond F. Fisher, Angela Gadsden, Robert John Peter Joslyn, William J. Leonard, Selva M. Lofgren, Cheryl A. McKnight, Bonifacio M. Rosario

Auditor-Controller - Pathermilla Alexander

Board of Supervisors - Ric Macaisa

California Children's Services - Mary Leola Johnson

Charities - Mss. - Jeannette C. Kidneigh

Chief Executive Office - Donna C. Austin, Phillip Ow

Child Support Services - Paula A. Antelo, Julie French, Lois R. Gressman, Jason R. Hunter, Amelia A. Lopez, Romelia Romero, Christine Tavaglione, Annie N. Taylor

Children & Family Services - Marilyn K. Brown, Carmen C. Conroy, Jimi Corona, Marie J. Curry, Carmen V. Golden, Patricia A. Hendryx, Linda M. Holzwarth, Rita N. Janos, Arleen Lindsay, Martha T. Martinez, Susan L. Martinez, Ethel McLaughlin, Nhan T. Nguyen, Susan E. Pender, Frances L. Roberts, Cynthia L. Rowland, Dorothy P. Sandifer, Archie O. Tatum, Gloria White, Marla Wiley, Bess Yuen-Fun Wong

Correctional Health - Dora B. Meeks

District Attorney - Dennis E. Ferris, Sarah J. Gamboa, Guadalupe I. Gutierrez, Sharon C. Miller, Sherron A. Trawick

El Monte Municipal Court - Betty J. Young

Fire - Jack I. Butler, Hershel Clady, Don Donnelly, Frank J. Fitzpatrick, Roland R. Hall, Lawrence M. Hicks, Ali Kashi, Robert W. Klar, Thomas P. Lally, Jere B. Moody, Richard L. Myer, Santiago E. Perez, Ausie B. Trucks

Flood Control - Norman D. Behm

Harbor/UCLA Medical Center - Yvonne Booth, Lolita A. Bowden, Elizabeth Briones, Nancy S. Edwards, Dorothy M. Foster, Cecelia Merrill Hatcher, Michael Larue Huff II, Mehdi Jam, Maurice Lippmann, Carolyn Ann McKee, Helene Saunders, Kenny T. Star, Louise Tiscareno

Health Services Administration - Crispin M. Abad, Noshii L. Boutros, Douglas B. Coffee, Norman G. Collins, Joan I. Farris, Edna L. Gin, La Vaughn Harris, Patricia A. Hertz, Gayle M. Jones, James F. Jones, Patricia Karnstedt, Joe Lozano, Patrick McCoy, Laverne H. Spirlin, Mary C. Thompson, Georgina Torres, Robert E. Tranquada, Nenita C. Valdez

Internal Services - Gloria M. Abalos, Dennis M. Donnelly, Richard A. Forrest, Richard Gonzales, Jaquelynn Y. Hawthorne, Marie E. Journey, Roger M. Levine, Jose A. Morales, Tony J. Newman, Katrice L. Patterson, Samuel L. Taylor, Charles R. Thorson, Ruth E. Vaughn, Diana L. Viveros

King/Drew Medical Center - Harriett Wilda Canister, John G. Diaz, Antonia V. Garcia, Doris Gavin, Rebecca Haley, Jean Harris, Daniel Shields, Bessie K. Toole, Hazel P. Triggs, Robert Williams

LAC+USC Medical Center - Audrie M. Adams, Edmundo M. Alvarez, Cristeta P. Ancheta, Michael A. Arenas, Federico Chavez, Albertha M. Collier, Arnaldo L. de los Santos, Jewell Haynes, Winnie Ho, Mangaleswa Krishnadasan, Larry Longmire, Rene G. Malca, Nereida Medina, Beatriz Mojarro, Michiko Nimura, Christiana I. Olumba, Anthony Placeres, Miguel R. Ramirez, Ernie Ramos, Veneta Reeves, Ines Rivera, Francisco D. Rosales, Sydneta Jean Ross, Rosemary Sambrano, Bonita R. Scaife-Brown, Mars Tang, Velma Terrell, Maria E. Venzor, Jaime E. Vivas, Carol A. Wimberly, Vertenis Ruth Shephard

Los Cerritos Municipal Court - Steven C. Burtnett

Mechanical - Arthur J. Beck, Robert A. Forrest, Bobby E. Whitaker

Medical Examiner-Coroner - Timothy Dutra, Isabell Roberson

Mental Health - Burton L. Alperson, Lula M. Bragg, Pearl L. Coleman, Mary Allen Crosby, Charles N. Davis, Alita T. Del Barrio, Nidia Labrada, Alejandra Lizarraga, Steven G. Lubeck, Lawrence P. Reyes, Marilyn Seide, James Smith, Lonell Thompson, Paul J. Wine, Joyce W. Yeh

Museum of Art - George Kuwayama

Museum of Natural History - Harry Kelsey

Olive View/UCLA Medical Center - Dora M. Calero, Aaron Chavira, Wanda J. Cody, Josephine G. Combs, Limeo B. Fernandez, Eleanor J. Hayworth, Albert Jackson, Gloria L. Jones, Joe L. Joyner, Nilda R. Nieto, Josephine K. Singh, Tawanda J. Tompkins

Parks and Recreation - William de la Garza, Michael Johnson, Dennis E. Kucera

Probation - Alphonso K. Barnes, Barbie J. Bostick, Carmen Gonzales, Richard R. Heuck,

Willie D. Jackson, David E. Lee, Carla D. Mancha, Ruby M. Mathews, John A. Metcalf, Hannah O. Ogunpola, James N. Poulos, Elena Preussler, Linda Quintero, Martha Y. Rolon, Charles H. Rose, Sofia Sao, Virgil V. Saunders, Reginald Streetz, Fayette M. Westfield, Vera J. Wilkerson

Public Defender - Patricia C. Landers, Michael J. Masterson, Phyllis Meshack-Bennett, Alan Sharpe

Public Health - Albert G. Chaney, Carletta J. Juniel, Jane A. Knox, Marian Damian Lambey, Mauricio Marchesini, Ina Martinez, Frances Verna Miles, Marguere Moore, Leonard Mushin, Gilbert R. Rodriguez, Bertha H. Solis, Patricia A. Sollenberg, Julia Candanedo Tovar

Public Library - Alicia G. Alvarez, Judith N. Babka, Norman N. Dilley, Diane L. Hitchman, Alfredo Melendez, Hercilia Thompson

Public Safety - Zubevi A. Khalfani, Junelle Moore

Public Social Services - Lydia Alcantar, Donna Mae Alvano, Fredy Alvarado, Melvin Anderson, Carolyn E. Browning, Lovey J. Buhl, Maria Caralos, Theodore Francis Carter, Elaine F. Chappel, Adela M. Chariano, Gloria J. Cuevas, Joyce Wrenn Curtis, Virginia B. De Leon, Florence P. Dunn, Cristina Elida England, Jorge Antonio Garza, Magaly Gil, Sylvia Gonzales, Joan E. Hoffer, Helen Elaine Holsey, Araceli Inda, Elva Luisa Kiel, Mary Jean Kirks, Classie L. Latchison, Stanley Leszczynski, Elaine C. Lince, Alice Lopez, Tai Ping Lu, Natividad Magdirila, Virginia Lee Maguire, Catherine Matthys, Madelina McGrue, Irma R. Mitchell, Janice Molenrich, Irene Y. Morris, Henrik Mushegian, Carlos E. Neyra, Binh H. Nguyen, Lynn Nguyen, Carmen E. Ochoa, Rolando Orantes, Rosita Pagadora, Sokim Paing, Kimberly Patterson, Grace A. Pepis, Victor M. Perez, Varnu Rhea Perryman, Hilda Pileghar, Ernie Porras, Evelyn J. Ramsey, Barbara A. Reid, Rosalie Rodriguez, Ruth L. Stark, Will M. Stewart, Perfecto S. Sunico, Libnos M. Tadeja, Patricia A. Thompson, Thuy Th Tran, Khang Truong, Eli Tseng, Nieves C. Vela, Harriet Walker, Paul D. White, Barbara J. Wood, Ramona Yang

Public Works - Jerrold Abernathy, Lucia A. Adams, Leslie Armstrong, James M. Benjamin, Benjamin E. Cortez, Sherri L. Hearn, Anwar G. Hedjazi, Pablo S. Hernandez, Thomas H. Kreyer, Amber J. Martinez, Luisa M. Mendoza, Ruben V. Montes, Andres A. Perez, George J. Schultz, Harry V. Sirk, Linda A. Smith, David L. Smith, Jackie F. Wong, Jeanne Yori

Rancho Los Amigos Hospital - Angela Duran, Jacqueline F. Goodwin, Irma M. Hernandez, Lois M. McCarrell, Donald R. Perkins, Geraldine Sambrano

Regional Planning - Sylvia A. Scharf

Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk - Joyce A. Johnson, Roberto M. Magsino, Ted Viduya, Louise Wiley

Sheriff - Malcolm N. Agee, Sharon Y. Brown, Jonathan W. Buchan, Anthony T. Cappadona, Francisco J. Carreon, Ralph J. Chapman, Mark A. Clair, Doyle R. Davidson, James W. Davis, Lillian A. Decoud, Robert F. Dixon, John W. Doolittle Jr., Gregory D. Eidecker, Fay F. Ferris, Mildred A. Freeman, Harold G. Freeman, James Loren Garvey, Mary J. Grant-Williams, Gary M. Hailey, Elizabeth V. Hainey, Charles B. Harris, Maria C. Hernandez, Robert Madan Kaushal, George A. Konrad, Martha M. Larue, Reginald Lawson, James A. Leslie, Steve J. Lim, Jesse P. Loera, Edward J. Lopez, Curt Steven Makert, Robert Martinez, Daniel F. McCann, Barry N. McCrummen, Allan M. Melendez, George G. Miner, Ruth B. Mkhize, William L. Monroe, Lee Moore Jr., Joseph H. Morphew, Doris Jean Morse, Laura E. Olivares Gonzalez, George L. Pennington, Bradley Reinford, Sally N. Ross, Olivia Sikman, Robert E. Simms II, Kurt C. Sloman, James E. Solar, Willis W. Sperry, Jessica J. Swanson, Robert J. Taliento, Johnnie B. Theus, Kathleen Travis, Albert Leroy Valentine, Robert E. Vaught, Margaret M. Walsh, Richard B. Wenig, Michael B. Willoughby, Michael E. Wilson, Gloria M. Zubiate

So. Cal. Air Pollution Control - Stephen M. Perez

South Gate Municipal Court - Mollie Cabrera

Superior Court/County Clerk - Choi Chu Bach, Mary K. Bilodeau, Donald M. Brostoff, Michael Dennis Cline, Roy Dankman, Katherine L. Darnell, Virginia C. Degrado, Virginia M. Estrada, James G. Hunter, Angela K. Johnson, Susan Aisley Juster, Terry L. Kuhl, Joanne Montgomery, Gerardo F. Olivarez, Jesus I. Rodriguez, Dorothy C. Simmons

Treasurer/Tax Collector - Dorothy P. Barrow, Jean S. Hunter, Pete R. Juezan, Violet M. Sims

Women's Hospital - Beatrice H. Garcia

Workforce Dev., Aging & Comm. Svc. - Mary L. Calhoun, Norman N. Goldberg, Shirley D. Hassell, Lawrence Simpson Willis, Ellie K. Wolfe

Unidentified County Agency - Eleanor Samardzich, Camille Walker



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Spark of Love by RELAC Members

RELAC members once again generously donated to the L.A. County Fire Department's Spark of Love Toy Drive for children during the holidays. These are just a few of the toys donated at the RELAC luncheon in December.

Contest Drawing Winners for Member Referrals

Congratulations to the 20 winners of RELAC's second cash drawing to thank members who recruit colleagues to join RELAC. Each will win \$25. We appreciate your efforts in growing our membership, so will have another drawing next January for those making referrals in 2023. Those who made referrals in 2021 and 2022 but whose names have not been drawn will be automatically reentered. You may win multiple times – one ticket is awarded for each referral. Ask Walter Tubbs; he won \$25 last year and again this year. Way to go, Walter!

There were 55 referrals by members (exclusive of RELAC directors and staff, who are not eligible for the drawing) in 2022 and 89 in 2021, so that means 104 get another chance at winning next year.

Winners of the 2022 drawing are:

Christine Aleman
Gwen Andrizzi
Elizabeth Baca
Meredith Barrett-Wilkins
James Bertolina
Joyce Breslin
Linda M. Brown
Elena Cervantes
Edward Clifton
Estella Creighton



Kindra Elliott
Mary L. Harrison
Steven Lindsey
Ofelia Lopez
Joseph Mills
Marvin Southard
Walter Tubbs
Lena Virgil
Beverly Williams
Jason H. Williams

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

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portion of this
newsletter, correct it
and mail to:

RELAC
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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.