



RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

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

May/June 2021 Vol 56-3

Add Your Voice to Get Congress to Change Unfair Social Security Reductions

There's an urgent need for RELAC members to write to their representatives in Congress and urge them to support current efforts to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which adversely affects many of our members.

Rep. Richard Neal of Massachusetts has reintroduced WEP reform bill H.R. 2337 for the 2021-22 congressional session and as of April 2, there were already 139 House members supporting the bill.

WEP has shortchanged affected retirees' Social Security payments by upwards of \$400 a month on average. H.R. 2337 would provide up to \$150 a month in relief for those currently impacted by WEP and fixes the WEP for future

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President's Message

by Brian Berger

I hope we are seeing the cautious beginning of a recovery from what we have all been living through this past year. The tragic impact to anyone in our extended families, or to anyone we knew, will be there forever, but it looks like there is hope in the future as long as we follow guidelines. I was in Pasadena last Saturday night and it was invaded; people in the shops and restaurants up to the new limits, and people just walking the streets. We can all hope that the coming months will see a continuation. So many of us have now received our shots and social interaction with restraints has become a gift much missed.



As we look toward what might be a cautious return to normality, many of the programs you support are continuing. The Scholarship Committee announced that 13 RELAC family members applied for \$1,000 scholarships last year and the number of applicants for this year was at 26 by the March 1 deadline. Many of you continue to support the Food Bank effort with your checks mailed to the RELAC office. The March for Babies was a huge success last year, with Board member Joe Kelly raising more contributions than any other of the participants, making RELAC the second largest contributor. The event will not be the giant downtown walk of past years, but will still allow each of us to participate. Some are simply writing a check or walking through their neighborhoods. If you wish to donate online, visit www.marchforbabies.org/team/RELAC. If you want to write a check, make it payable to "March of Dimes" and mail it to the RELAC office in Alhambra. The deadline has been extended into July.

I urge you to read the status reports in our newsletter, including those from LACERA and from the RELAC Board members who serve on boards with that organization and/or with the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA). I won't try to summarize here since each article provides deeper detail. I will say, though, that they continue to demonstrate our continuing vigilance as your pension and health care watchdog. RELAC will host the statewide meeting of CRCEA members in November, and although it looked somewhat doubtful that it would physically take place a few months ago, things are looking more positive now.

At the RELAC office, staff continues to work on a schedule that sees no more than one of them, normally, in the office on any one day. The large volume of mail and phone calls continue and is monitored and expeditiously processed. Fortunately, the Office Management Committee, under Chair Epi Peinado, is working hard to keep the operation running smoothly, including new computer and systems changes.

And finally, April 15 was the deadline to apply for a seat on the RELAC Board of Directors. You may not want the Board time responsibilities and the Alhambra office may not be sufficiently close to your home – understandable -- but with your backgrounds, contacts, and energy, you may want to consider volunteering to help one of our committees. In the next newsletter I plan to outline what these committees are.

Alice Prouty Resigns from RELAC Board

Alice Prouty, a RELAC director since 2010, resigned from the Board of Directors on Feb. 22 due to family responsibilities.

Prouty was elected as secretary and served on the Executive Committee of the Board in 2020. She also served as chair of the Outreach, General Membership and Recreation committees.



A personnel analyst in the Internal Services Department when she retired in March 2008, Prouty was elected to a new three-year term on the RELAC Board that began Jan. 1, 2019.

In her letter of resignation, Prouty, an Alhambra resident, said she recently became a caregiver for a family member so no longer had time to serve on the RELAC Board.

"I want to thank RELAC for giving me the opportunity to serve as a director for the last 12 years," she said.

RELAC President Brian Berger thanked Prouty for her service. "When I first joined the Board of RELAC," he said, "Alice was already on the Board. She stood out as someone with a caring, welcoming, and large heart."

As head of the Outreach Committee, Berger said, "Alice committed to remember by sending birthday and holiday cards and notes to the thousands of our members who were growing older, but deserved to know they are a part of all of us and are remembered. It is a great and popular program and we promise it will continue."

"I wish her only the best."

Board of Investments

by Joseph Kelly
RELAC Director, LACERA Board of Investments Trustee



LACERA does not make audio or video recordings of its board and committee meetings available to the public on its website. This runs counter to the policy of other large public pension funds in this state and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, which have made recordings of their meetings available on the web for some time. I have been a strong proponent of LACERA revising its policy because accessible video recordings increase the transparency of board and committee deliberations. At its Feb. 24 meeting, the Joint Organizational Governance Committee, a joint committee of LACERA's two governing boards, considered the matter and instructed the chief executive officer to develop a proposal, for the consideration of each board, to make video recordings of LACERA's board and committee meetings available to the public on the web. The motion garnered unanimous support.

At its March 10 meeting, the Board of Investments considered revisions to its Corporate Governance and Stewardship Principles. LACERA exercises the legal rights it has as an investor, and the Principles guide LACERA's proxy votes, engagements with policymakers and portfolio companies, and collaboration with other institutional investors. LACERA believes the board of directors of companies in which it invests drive the strategic direction and oversight of the firm and its management. To this end, the Principles include consideration of a board of directors' composition, independence, and effectiveness. LACERA believes that a diverse and inclusive board is better positioned to deliberate effectively and oversee business strategy. The Principles require boards to establish and disclose policies and processes for ensuring that it identifies and nominates suitable directors from a wide pool of candidates relevant to its business strategy, inclusive of, but not limited to, diverse gender, racial and ethnic backgrounds, gender identities, and sexual orientations. I requested the inclusion of disability status in this list and my fellow trustees agreed. I felt that disability warranted specific inclusion in the policy due to the prevalence of disabled persons in our society and the historic discrimination that persons with disabilities face, as a group, in employment, education and general access to society. Cornell University estimates 12 percent of the population has a disability, the great majority of which are visual, hearing or ambulatory. The landmark American with Disabilities Act of 1990 recognized persons with disabilities as deserving of basic civil rights protections. The revised Principles received unanimous support of the board.

In March, the Council of Institutional Investors (CII) announced that Scott Zdrzil, LACERA senior investment officer, was elected CII's board chair. The CII board includes 15 members representing public, corporate, and labor pension funds. CII promotes corporate governance and financial market policies that enhance long-term value for employee benefit funds and their beneficiaries. Its membership includes over 140 public, labor, and corporate employee benefit plans representing over \$4 trillion in assets, along with asset managers representing over \$35 trillion in assets. LACERA has been active with CII for over 25 years. The Board of Investments nominated Scott to the CII board three years ago. Scott's leadership position at CII will enhance LACERA's advocacy efforts for prudent investor rights and best corporate governance practices. Congratulations to Scott!

LACERA Pension Fund		January 2021	Total Assets \$65.5 Billion		
Returns:	FYTD	3 year:	5 year:	10 year:	
	+13.8%	+7.0%	+9.9%	+7.9%	

Board of Retirement

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



At the March meeting of the LACERA Board of Retirement the new premiums for all of the retiree health insurance plans for the upcoming plan year 2021-2022 were approved. There is very good news to report in that the overall renewal INCREASE was just 1.2 percent. The plan sponsor, Los Angeles County, pays for our retiree health care, and the combined premiums for all of the medical, dental, and vision plans will be nearly \$700 million. Thank you, Los Angeles County!

Here is the premium breakdown by plan:
Anthem Blue Cross Plans I, II, and Prudent Buyer -- Plans I, II, and III (the Medicare supplemental plan), 3 percent increase. Prudent Buyer, 12.1 percent DECREASE.
Cigna Medical--- 1.6 percent increase.
Cigna Dental & Vision---.3 percent overall DECREASE, with the following separate results: 7.8 percent increase for the Basic/Pre 65 Plan, 3 percent DECREASE for the pre-paid dental and vision plan.
Kaiser California--- .5 percent overall renewal DECREASE, with the following separate results: 7.8 percent increase for the Basic/Pre 65 Plan, 9.1 percent DECREASE for the Kaiser Senior Advantage Plan (Medicare Plan), and 1.8 percent increase for the Kaiser Excess Plan.
Kaiser out-of-state: Colorado-- 6.2 percent DECREASE. *Georgia*---1 percent increase. *Hawaii*-- 2.1 percent increase. *Oregon*--- .4 percent increase. *Washington*--- 4.7 percent increase.
SCAN--- 3.95 percent increase.
United Health Care --- 1.2 percent overall increase, with the following separate increases: 2.8 percent increase on the Pre-65 HMO Plan and a 2 percent DECREASE on the Medicare Advantage Plan.

These premiums for the upcoming plan year are really good news, but they are the result of the 2020 pandemic and the resulting fact that many of our retirees did NOT utilize their health care benefits due to their inability to either access health care or their willingness to put off certain medical things until after the worst of the pandemic had passed. The bad news is that we are already seeing a serious uptick in usage of our health care benefits, so don't expect the 2022-2023 premiums to be so modest.

Remember that LACERA allows you to change your health insurance coverages twice a year, unlike what it was when you were working. However, unless you have urgent circumstances, you have a six-month waiting period when you change.

News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich
Assistant Executive Officer



LACERA is wrapping up the "March Madness" season (December - March), when many members retire so they can qualify for cost-of-living adjustments that become available on April 1. We welcomed over 1,770 members to retiree status and over 850 of those in March alone. This is the highest number of new retirees during a March Madness season in the last five years. Congratulations to those new retirees!

Hopefully, we are rounding a corner in our national battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, with vaccines being made available for all age groups as I write this article. This pandemic has been a very rough time for so many members and their loved ones. We continue to keep information updated on lacera.com about how you can get an appointment to get vaccinated. I don't mind sharing that I got my first shot recently with no side effects, and my family has been fully vaccinated as of this weekend.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

February-March 2021

Chief Executive Office – Harvey Kawasaki

Children & Family Services – Jacqueline

McZeal, Dawna Yokoyama

Fire – Clint Kaller

Harbor/UCLA Medical Center – Sheila Mitchell

Human Resources – Sandra Sims

Internal Services – Daniel Means

Probation – Jeffery Eckler, Tanya Ellis

Public Health – Rochelle Lapiers

Public Social Services– Irene Torres

Public Works – Raj Patel

Sheriff – Araceli Pedroza, Heidi Robbis, David

Tateyama, Millie Wang

Superior Court – Catherine Snow

New Associate Members – Charlene Dixon-

Anthony, Annelies Patel, Ted Sims, Chrissy

Tateyama, Stanford Yokoyama

Thanks

for New Member Referrals

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

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

Crystal Cooper-Smith, *Jacqueline McZeal*, Children and Family Services

Margaret Hernandez, *Irene Torres*, Public Social Services

Fred Hungerford, *Harvey Kawasaki*, Chief Executive Office

Ida Leon Ramos, *Raj Patel*, Public Works

Steve Lindsey, *Clint Kaller*, Fire

Chona Navarro, *Sandra Sims*, Human Resources

Laverne Rousseau, *Sheila Mitchell*, Harbor/UCLA Medical Center

Happy Birthday, RELAC Centenarians

Happy Birthday to our members who will be 100 or older in May and June.

May (None)

June

Margie Yoshizumi, 101, Public Social Services
June 7, 1920

Yoshihiko F. Matsuno, 100, Road Department
June 30, 1921

RELAC Annual Report of Assets, Liabilities, Revenue Expense

I. Changes in Assets & Liabilities 2020 vs 2019

ASSETS	44,196	43,830
Checking Account	94,955	61,718
Money Market Account	25,645	2,550
Petty Cash	200	200
Other Assets	6,065	8,599
Security Deposit	2,591	2,591
Office Equipment-Less Depreciation	11,024	1,809
Litigation Reserve	1,713,774	1,576,803
Total Assets	<u>1,854,254</u>	<u>1,654,270</u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities	24,895	14,348
Retained Earnings	1,643,574	1,388,782
Less Net Income	185,785	251,140
Total Equity	1,854,254	1,654,270
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>1,854,254</u>	<u>1,654,270</u>

II. Operating Results

REVENUE

Member Dues	384,624	388,422
Investment Income	22,000 (1)	22,122 (1)
Miscellaneous Income	-	4
Member Events & Misc.	4,512	23,624
Interest	5,799	10,609
Total Revenue	<u>416,935</u>	<u>444,781</u>

EXPENSE

Office Expense	112,998 (2)	112,331 (2)
Personnel & Payroll	126,652 (3)	109,976 (3)
Board of Directors Meetings & Expenses	7,468	7,714
Committee Meetings & Expenses	5,610	7,656
Membership & Conferences	14,057	8,056
Insurance	3,997 (4)	5,850 (4)
Membership Meetings	17,408	29,793
Membership Benefits & Promotions	18,623	58,304
Elections	-	-
Newsletter	55,468	53,970
Website	1,080	823
Investment Expense	15,381	12,920
Total Expense	<u>378,742</u>	<u>407,393</u>

Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	147,593	213,752
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Notes:

- 1) Litigation Reserve is invested in a diversified portfolio pursuant to RELAC's Investment Policy approved by the Board of Directors with the assistance of JP Morgan, RELAC's investment advisor.
- 2) Office Expenses include bookkeeping and auditing, rent, services and supplies, payroll processing and postage.
- 3) Personnel and payroll includes office manager and two clerical personnel with a four day workweek.
- 4) Insurance includes liability and directors & officers

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

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



What's Happening Virtually?

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair
Special Events Committee



Stay Safe by Social Distancing.

On April 1 the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors expanded vaccine eligibility, marking hopeful steps taken to address the health risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, to effectively protect yourself and others, please continue social distancing, wearing a face mask and washing your hands. Together we can help reduce the health risk.

An additional hopeful step has been taken with the re-opening of many County recreational, community service and educational facilities. In compliance with state requirements and protocols, facilities like the County Art Museum, Natural History Museum and local parks may be open for limited attendance and visitor hours.

As a safe and interesting "drive-by" civic art outing, visiting and viewing the following public artworks is suggested by the County Department of Arts and Culture.

"Magical Deer" mural by artist Christine Nguyen. Mural and mobile sculpture inspired by flora and fauna in San Fernando. Sheila Kuehl Family Wellness Center, 919 First St., San Fernando.

"Our Shining Stars" mosaic murals by artist Jose Antonio Aguirre. County Animal Care Center, 5210 West Ave. I, Lancaster. Seven animal murals located on the exterior of the shelter.

"Tree of Knowledge" mural by artist Josefina Quezada (exterior of building). County Anthony Quinn Library, 3965 E. Cesar Chavez Ave., Los Angeles.

"Honoring Helen Keller" ceramic murals by artist Michele Martinez and local youth. Helen Keller County Park pool house façade, includes Keller quotes, 12521 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles.

"Mother Dragon" Starfish, Octopus (six sculptures) by artist Benjamin Dominguez. Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, surrounding Legg Lake, 750 S. Santa Anita Ave., South El Monte.

"Tree of Life" outdoor sculpture in main plaza by artists Einar and Jamex De la Torre. Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, 7601 E. Imperial Highway, Downey (five artworks on campus).

Visit website CivicArt@arts.lacounty.gov for additional information on public art.

March for Babies Fundraising Extended

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Community Support Committee

The RELAC March for Babies Team needs your support and donation to help fight for the health of at-risk moms and premature babies, especially during these difficult times. COVID-19 social distancing, mask wearing and impacted medical services have created additional health care issues faced by families expecting the birth of a new family member.

Families in our communities and throughout Los Angeles County are helped by our fundraising efforts. Families in need are counting on us and we will not rest until we achieve our 2021 donor goal of \$5,000.

With your help, we can encourage our friends, families and RELAC members to join us in raising critical funds needed. Together we are raising funds and awareness of medical research and medical support needed to transform the health of at-risk families.

The March of Dimes has extended the fundraising deadline for our March for Babies virtual walk beyond the original April date. The new deadline will be reported in the RELAC July-August newsletter.

If you have already donated to this special RELAC virtual walk for premature babies, thank you for your support and for making a difference in the lives of at-risk families.

Please visit the RELAC website at relac.org for donation updates.

If you wish to mail a check to our office, please make it payable to March of Dimes and note "March for Babies" at the bottom left of the check. Thank you.

SMART GARDENING

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Newsletter Committee

Smart gardening is an easy way to care for your garden using less water and resources. Following the gardening tips provided by the County Department of Public Works, you can save time and money while improving your garden area and lawn. Composted trimmings are a valuable resource for nurturing your yard.

When you practice smart gardening, you will conserve water and energy, improve your lawn and garden, recycle yard waste and kitchen scraps, and help preserve the environment. To learn about smart gardening techniques, you can join a FREE webinar offered by the Department of Public Works.

The webinars are 45 minutes, with a 15-minute question-and-answer session. Webinar topics include composting, water-wise gardening, organic gardening and small-space gardening.

Webinars scheduled for May include the following:

Water-wise gardening: May 5 at 6 p.m.; May 22 at 10 a.m.

Organic gardening: May 12 at 6 p.m.; May 15 at 10 a.m.; May 20 at 9 a.m.;

May 29 at 10 a.m.

Small-space gardening: May 13 at 9 a.m.; May 19 at 6 p.m.

For additional information and to register, visit <https://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/sg/webinars.cfm>.

Parks and Rec Offers Virtual Classes

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Newsletter Committee

The Department of Parks and Recreation invites you to learn new skills or just enjoy participating in virtual classes from your home. Parks is offering a variety of virtual classes to help get you active, healthier or to enjoy a new hobby.

Virtual classes ranging from yoga, to music and arts have been designed for easy access and participation from the safety of your home. Schedules and start times vary.

A broad range of classes include fitness classes (yoga, Zumba and Pilates), musical instrument lessons, water color painting and calligraphy, poetry, creative writing and health and wellness.

For additional information and registration, visit <https://parks.lacounty.gov>.



RELAC member Debbie Watts a smart gardener.

FOR SALE:

TWO COMPANION MAUSOLEUM CRYPTS at the San Fernando Mission Cemetery. Each companion holds two caskets or urns. Includes one crypt plate each, one insert each, one vase each. Located next to each other, are at prime location height, approximately 5 feet from ground. Asking market price at \$20,000, each companion crypt. If interested, please contact Laura at (626) 222-3040.



Letters To The Editor Write On!

Reflections on Bill Yaney – Shame on you, RELAC, for including this man's statement about his electoral choice. I almost felt sentiments in reading his reflection until I saw his "P.S." and the sentence after regarding his electoral choice. You should never have included his or anyone else's electoral vote preferences in RELAC newsletter during these tumultuous times. Again, shame on you.

Alita Aldridge, Los Angeles, California

Brian Berger: Congratulations!!! The mailman just delivered my copy of the RELAC newsletter and there you are with a wide smile. Happy for you and assured that RELAC will be in good and competent hands. My wife and I are fine. We had our second dose of Pfizer coronavirus vaccine last Wednesday at far-away Magic Mountain. Big load off our minds. Now we are assured somewhat – a bit more relaxed, but still on guard. Having been made president of RELAC suggests you are fine and doing well. Stay that way.

Roger/Rod Peña, Montebello, California

Thanks for all the hard work you do. It's greatly appreciated for over 36 years. Thanks for the pocket secretary – forever grateful.

Albertha Handy, Compton, California

Once again, thank you for my right arm, otherwise known as the RELAC 18-month pocket calendar. I'd be lost without it. Sorry for the slow coming.

Kathleen M. Rivet, Covina, California

Thanks for the 2021-2022 pocket calendar. I didn't get it in December as usual and thought it got lost because I changed my residence. But it seems COVID-19 pandemic affected RELAC as it has affected almost everyone. I'm hoping we will soon overcome its harmful effects.

Jim Ashikawa, San Jose, California

Hoping everyone is in good health. Thank you for the pocket calendar, also for all the informative booklets.

Mary Contreras, Van Nuys, California

I love RELAC representing retired employees of Los Angeles County. We matter, too. Love the meetings and activities. Love my yearly pocket calendar. I'm able to keep up with the Zoom meetings.

Beverly Williams, Covina, California

As a former 11-year employee of Los Angeles County Flood Control District (which certainly exposes my 91 years since it no longer exists), I left my retirement funds in place until I was an age to begin withdrawing them, which has served me well, and, more importantly, kept me connected. I worked those years as Gerald V. Bittman's secretary in the Construction Division, originally on the 4th floor of the Army Engineer's Building at 8th and Figueroa Streets before moving to Alcazar Street. Each year I look forward to receipt of the pocket calendar, and the coming year of 2021 was no exception. Of course, when I did not receive it, I was grateful for the six-month extension that was part of 2020's issue, but wondering how I would improvise after June had faded into "used-up months." Imagine my delight on Jan. 29 when 2021 appeared in my mailbox...ecstatic was more like it! Please accept my grateful thanks and restored happiness in having it handy to jot down important dates. At my advanced age, incarceration has become my "career focus," so I do not have many places to go; nevertheless, I am hopeful that will change and I will again fill up the days with "dates" of joy, family, and medical (as needed)! In the meantime, I try to remain cognizant of important news and events. Bless you for all you do for the Los Angeles County retired folks!

Jo Hunter, Long Beach, California

I'm humbled (at being invited to write a profile for the RELAC newsletter). I'm glad you are writing for the newsletter. You were so good at public relations when I was at the Executive Office.

Mike Cieplik, Sherman Oaks, California

I just read the RELAC newsletter. It was a trip down memory lane. So many familiar names, starting with new President Brian Berger. Congrats and best wishes, and kudos and thanks to Dave Muir, a job done exceptionally. A surprise in Simon Russin's obit. Wilkes College is in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, near Scranton where Hilary Clinton

and Joe Biden were born and near my birthplace of Shickshinny, Pennsylvania. Wish I had known. Then eye candy in notes about Carol Matsui, Tom Hibbard, Sarah Flores, Evelyn Gutierrez, Aaron Lohr, Victoria Pipkin-Lane and more. Old friends. And surprise about the retired department heads. This group was started by Steve Koonce in the 1970s and he called them the "Rat Pack." Joanne Sturges and Lynn Bayer took it over and renamed the group the Retired Department Heads, a little more dignified. I attended their Xmas lunch in 2019 and met Joe Kelly then. His group is probably the fourth generation, all of whom I have never met except for at the Christmas party. Ships passing in the sea. Again many thanks for the calendar and photos of the Board.

Harry Hufford, Santa Rosa, California

You are doing a great job on the newsletter. The cover of the pocket calendar is certainly an interesting choice. After our terrible year of COVID, the usual plain cover, or something peaceful, would also have been nice.

Pam Everett, Burbank, California

I received RELAC's annual pocket calendar and appreciate it. It was great seeing the faces of those who commit so much to the success of RELAC, but personally -- given it is something that is used often -- I would prefer seeing beautiful scenery (sunsets, etc.) more than individuals. Scenic views bring me peace -- which in these times is especially welcome. As always, thank you for all you personally do for RELAC -- your newsletter is always the best and to me, the best part of my membership.

Gwen Andrizzi, Torrance, California

I just received the RELAC newsletter. Thanks for printing my remarks and for recognizing my term as DA. You are the best. This will be included in my scrapbook.

Jackie Lacey, Granada Hills, California

Good job on the RELAC article on Sarah (Flores). I am sure she would be pleased, as I am. It's hard to believe she's been gone over two months. I will forward the RELAC newsletter to Sarah's daughters. Thanks for all your effort on Sarah's behalf. I really appreciate it.

Leida Erickson, Anaheim, California

Thank you so much for sending the extra hard copies of the January-February newsletter. I especially want to thank you for covering (my daughter) Herlinda's swearing-in ceremony in the March-April edition. You do a great job! It was nice to see Irene Hamada's comment as well.

Nick Chico, Whittier, California

Thank you for another excellent edition of the RELAC newsletter. I thought you would enjoy these RELAC memories and photos which were published in the DHS health managers newsletter of March 1, 2021 (editor, Harvey Kern). I am remembering what some of us roster members did at this time last year and am nostalgic for what we lost, as follows. MORAL: If you see an opportunity, jump on it now. Or it may well disappear before you expect.

Barry Hunt, Inglewood, California

I enjoy reading your newsletter; keep up your good work. I am enclosing a donation to the March of Dimes.

Alice Gonzalez, Temple City, California

After seeing the lines of cars at food bank distribution locations, decided this is the best use of my economic stimulus funds. If more is received, will contribute it also.

Helen Y. Masuda, Claremont, California

Thank you for your love and vigilance about protecting our interests and rights of L. A. County employees, past

LACERA from p.2

Our Member Services Center remains closed at this time and a majority of our staff are securely working remotely. However, we have been diligently making plans and modifications to our offices to safely welcome staff members back into the office and open up our Member Service Center for members who wish to visit us. We have not set any concrete dates, but we'll keep you updated via lacera.com and e-mail blasts.

In the meantime, there has been a silver lining to this terrible time. Many of the upgrades we have made to allow staff members to securely work remotely have opened up new channels of service for all of you. Our virtual Member Service Center (one-on-one counseling online) has been a very popular addition. This service will remain after we open up and may be just the option for you to avoid traffic and a trip to the office. For our active members, we now offer webinars, allowing us to reach out and educate more members about their benefits than before.

Another popular service we provide, which was actually planned and launched shortly before the pandemic, is the ability to upload documents via the My LACERA member portal. This is the fastest and most secure way to submit documents to LACERA. Of course, you can still mail documents to us. Or if you wish, you can drop documents off in a sealed envelope at our new drop box located just to the right of the main doors to the LACERA offices. When using the drop box option, please remember to include your name and employee ID number on the envelope or on a document in the envelope so we can image the documents to your account.

We are also changing some of our requirements for document submission. There are times a member has to submit a certificate (birth, marriage, domestic partnership, or death) in order to confirm eligibility for benefits. We have been requiring members to submit an original certificate, which we would copy and then return the original. We are going to be changing this requirement and will be allowing members and survivors to submit photocopies of unaltered certificates, along with an attestation document (available on My LACERA or by request) confirming the copy is an unaltered copy of the original certificate. By the time you read this article, we expect to have rolled out this service improvement. We recognize that original certificates are valuable and precious and many members get nervous sending them to us. This change will make the process faster and more secure than ever.

I'm also excited to announce that we will be launching a completely revamped lacera.com in the next few months (scheduled for July).

RELAC RV Outing Scheduled for September in Newport

CAMPGROUND:

Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort & Marina

1131 Back Bay Drive, Newport Beach (949) 729-3863

DATES:

Camping – **Sept. 12 – 15**, with departure Sept. 16
Early Day – Saturday, Sept. 11

RESERVATION DEADLINE: Aug. 6

COST: Three days - \$143.99; four days \$190.32

For more details and to get a reservation form, contact Mike Reyes at (909) 357-0145, e-mail admin@relac.org, or go online to relac.org/calendar-of-events.

Golf News

by *Gil Sandoval*
RELAC Golf Director

Santa Anita Golf Tournament June 7

We have received great news – our tournaments have been opened for play. Thank you all in supporting RELAC golf as we begin again. I have scheduled Santa Anita for our first tournament on June 7 and Los Verdes for July 27, with others to follow. First tee is at 8 a.m.

All golfers who paid for the La Mirada Tournament that was scheduled in March 2020, you have paid for Santa Anita. If you are not playing at Santa Anita, we can carry the payment to a future tournament. A list will be provided on the RELAC website, or you can check with me or the RELAC office directly.

Hopefully, those of you who have friends that play with us will pass on the information about our next tournament so they can sign up to play.

The entry form for the Santa Anita tournament can be found on the calendar section of the RELAC website at relac.org. Entries must be received by May 17. Only one guest is allowed per member. Make check – at \$33 per golfer – payable to RELAC and mail to RELAC, 1000 S. Fremont Ave. #15, Alhambra, CA 91803-8802.

Social Security from p.1

retirees. The proposal also holds harmless those retirees and active employees with substantial service under Social Security from an inadvertent reduction in Social Security benefits.

The WEP reduces the Social Security benefits of people who spent part of their working career in a job covered by Social Security and another part of their career in a job not covered by Social Security.

Reforming WEP has been nearly 40 years in the making. Over the years there have been many starts and stops, but backers say they don't recall being as close to making it happen as today.

What is different in 2021 is that there are high-ranking members in Congress from both parties in agreement that the WEP law is unfair and must change. Among them are Rep. Neal and Texas Rep. Kevin Brady, the top Democrat and Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee, which Neal chairs.

At the same time, a growing number of retirees across the country are now harmed by the WEP – nearly 2 million – and are angry. The pressure to pass reform has never been higher.

We urge RELAC members to add their voice by contacting their local representative by phone, e-mail or letter. In your own words, ask the following:

1. Please support and co-sponsor H.R. 2337, Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021.
2. Please make the passage of WEP reform a personal priority.
3. Briefly, explain that you are a voter in their district and have been unfairly harmed by the WEP. Offering some brief details about your own situation personalizes the appeal.

You can find your representative's contact information at <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>.



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9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday - Thursday

Closed Friday,

Saturday, Sunday &
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Happy Pride!

Celebrating LGBTQ Pride Month

by Joseph Kelly, RELAC Director, Retired County Treasurer-Tax Collector

The Library of Congress, the nation's oldest federal cultural institution, maintains this nation's list of national observances and commemorative months. The commemorative months include Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month, added through proclamation of President Clinton in 1999. Pride Month commemorates the events of June 1969 when patrons of the Stonewall Inn in New York City staged an uprising to resist police harassment and persecution to which LGBTQ people were commonly subjected. This uprising marked the beginning of a movement to outlaw discriminatory laws and practices against LGBTQ Americans.

I grew up in New York City, and I was 8 years old at the time of the Stonewall Inn uprising. It would be two decades from then before I self-identified as gay, but I did know at the time that I was different. Being different is hard as the difference often becomes a reason to tease, haze and exclude. I remember in Catholic high school not making the track team. I was fine with that, but my older brothers who had gone to the same school each made their teams. Later, a guy who made the team told me to get used to failure because "faggots always fail." I didn't know, or know of, any LGBTQ people so I was unable to frame the legitimacy of that statement.

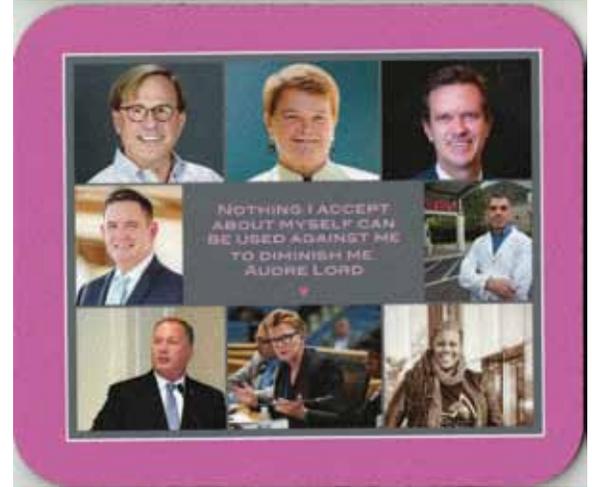
Adrienne Rich, the poet and feminist, expressed the uncharted pathways and obstacles for LGBT persons, certainly of my generation, this way in her "Twenty-One Love Poems from 1977".

*No one has imagined us
we're out in a country that has no language
no laws,
whatever we do together is pure invention
the maps they gave us were out of date*

Since Adrienne Rich put those words – no one has imagined us – to paper, LGBTQ persons began in increasing numbers to self-identify as such, to chart systems, to develop laws and to invent a community in which others did not have to imagine us because they couldn't miss us. Over time, I became more aware of the successes of LGBTQ people, which served to push me to excel in my own career. Prior to moving to Los Angeles in 1994, I worked on Wall Street, where it was understood that gays and lesbians were to stay in the closet. However, a friend told me that government agencies were often the most progressive and supportive employers of LGBTQ persons, so I decided to come out as gay on my very first day of County employment in 1996. At that time, HIV/AIDS had been with us for a decade. I remember colleagues, many of them straight, asking me to sponsor them as they walked in the annual AIDS WALK. I remember how proud I was in August 2003 when the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution put forth by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky to provide survivor benefits to domestic partners of current and future retirees. That action allowed a lesbian couple I knew who worked at the County to retire several years later, with the same survivor benefits as their straight colleagues. The Board's action also led to other revisions in benefit and leaves practices that recognized same sex persons in domestic partnerships. In 2014, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl became the first openly gay or lesbian person elected as a supervisor in the history of the County. Among many policy issues, she has brought a focus to the needs of our LGBTQ youth, who comprise nearly 20 percent of kids in foster care. She also organized the first County employee Pride lunches, which she herself attends. A memorable moment in my County career occurred on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 when Supervisor Kuehl spoke on the massacre of 49 young gays and lesbians, mostly of color, at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, several days prior. At the time, the Pulse nightclub massacre was the deadliest shooting in the United States. Supervisor Kuehl had invited each gay and lesbian department head to join with her in a sign of solidarity. There I, the treasurer-tax collector, stood with County Librarian Skye Patrick, Assessor Jeffrey Prang, Chief Probation Officer Terri McDonald, Health Services Director Dr. Mitch Katz, and Child Support Services Director Steven Golightly. Each of us led departments that, no matter how you sliced them, were the largest, most complex of any municipal government in the entire country. Each of us had not failed, as I had been told with such certainty in high school I would. Rather, we had succeeded and remarkably so, even though those around us had never imagined our success and the maps leading to success were so out of date, if they existed at all. It takes enormous courage and confidence to be open about your sexual orientation, particularly as a leader. My colleagues had navigated this journey with such finesse, with such certainty of purpose, and with such professional dignity. We stood proudly with every LGBT

employee, active and retired, of this County, and it is that collective that allows a young gay man in high school today to say to a bully, "Watch your language. I will not fail. Move on."

I celebrate Pride Month because it, like the other commemorative months, serves to educate all of us about each of us.



As a retirement gift to Steven Golightly, Kelly presented a mousepad with pictures of openly lesbian Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and the openly lesbian or gay department heads with whom Golightly served. Golightly liked it so much that Kelly had one made for each person on the mousepad.

Letters from p.5

and present. Best regards and wishes for all of you at RELAC.

Eva M. Ballo, Studio City, California

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for the great [birthday] card you sent me. I have enjoyed reading it several times.

Pat McGrath, Oro Valley, Arizona

You were so kind to send my mother, Ethel Beauchaine, a birthday card on behalf of RELAC. I wanted to inform you, however, that she recently passed away. Thank you for your kindness and may you stay safe and healthy.

Linda Morin, Riverside, California

I read with great sadness the passing of Mr. Lumpkin in the RELAC newsletter March/April 2021. Please find attached a picture of Mr. Lumpkin and my father, Ken Anhalt. My father was one of the many bomber air crew members that was saved by these heroic men. Dad and Mr. Lumpkin were sharing their war time stories and at the same time Dad was expressing his gratitude to Mr. Lumpkin and to all Tuskegee airmen. I credit Ajay Johnson, a filmmaker and historian of the Tuskegee airmen for arranging this meeting. Also please find attached a picture of the Tuskegee airmen visiting Probation Camp John Munz around 1991. Our family is Air Force, which includes my father, myself and my son. During my life the Tuskegee airmen have been a personal source of inspiration that has impacted our family, reaching three generations. Godspeed, Lt. Col. Lumpkin.

Edward R. Anhalt, Genoa, Nevada



Keeping Up With Retirees

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



CECELIA BUYS

I began my County career in July 1969, right out of high school, as a transcriber typist with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), working in the El Monte office. Soon I was in night school taking courses in computer science, and later became a systems analyst and supervisor with the Computer Services Division. There I led the effort to automate the Medical Eligibility Determination System for our County. I moved to the Probation Department as an information technology (IT) manager, promoted to assistant division chief systems in 1985, focusing on juvenile probation systems. I was one of only four female managers in the department at that time. I joined the Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC) in 2004 as an information technology manager II, implementing the department's first e-commerce system and participating in the IT reclassification study, which helped define and align IT positions throughout the County. In February 2013 at age 62, I retired with 43 ½ years of service.

I have been enjoying retirement with my husband, Alex, of 47+ years. We have traveled to many destinations, the farthest being Indonesia, where my husband was born, and enjoyed a Rhine River cruise that ended in Amsterdam, visiting where my husband grew up. We timed it in the springtime to see the glorious tulip fields in bloom. The last trip before the 2020 pandemic was to Ireland, where I have a large family in Kilkenny and Dublin. It was a lifelong dream to connect with my Irish heritage and visit the property where my grandfather was born.

I continue to keep busy with our two beagles, Lola and Delilah, as well as hobbies found in retirement, including watercolor painting, art journaling, wine tasting (prefer reds), cooking and golf, all of which helped me maintain sanity in 2020. Friday nights usually included dancing to my son Tracy's rock and roll band, which we hope will resume sometime in 2021 as this was a major part of my exercise program and we made friends with so many of the band's regular followers.

We live in Glendora and Tracy lives nearby; we see him often, as he visits patients in the area as a physical therapist. When Tracy attended UCLA, we became die-hard Bruin football fans and tailgated with several of our County family, calling ourselves The Usual Suspects.

Staying in touch with longtime friends has been an important component to a joyful retirement. I have lunched regularly and celebrated birthdays with other retired friends from DPSS Computer Services, and also meet regularly with three best friends from my alma mater, Anaheim's Western High School. Additionally, Joseph Kelly formed a quarterly lunch group of a few of us TTC retirees. Of course, the pandemic prevented in-person meetings this past year. In the meantime, we keep in touch via Zoom and social media, which I feel is most crucial to my healthy mind and spirit.

A quote that I recently added to a page in my art journal, by Derek Rydall: "As your life bears fruit, be sure to stay connected to your roots."

KATHY GLOSTER

My initial career was in banking and it spanned 17 years, much of that time working in distressed commercial loans. I then moved into government, working for the Lassen County Treasurer and Tax Collector as an assistant treasurer and tax collector. After 7½ years in Lassen County, in 2004 I was hired by the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC).

Over my 15 years with the TTC, I managed various sections, starting in an entry level management position (chief tax services) in the Unsecured Section. In 2006 I was promoted to assistant operations chief and assigned to the Payment Exception Processing Section. A few months later, due to the assistant operations chief's promotion in the Unsecured Section, I transferred back to that section. Then in 2008 I was promoted to operations chief and assigned to the Secured Division. In 2010 I was transferred to the Revenue and Enforcement Division. In 2012, after Donna Doss's retirement, I was appointed assistant treasurer and tax collector, managing the Tax Collections Branch.

The transition from working in a small county to Los Angeles County was both challenging and rewarding. I quickly learned that any small problem that a smaller county faces is almost always a much larger issue in Los Angeles County. I enjoyed meeting the challenges and working with the staff, my peers, and the other departments. To me, it was always about serving the public.

I developed good relationships with the three offices involved in the property tax process: Assessor, Auditor-Controller, and Assessment Appeals Board. At my retirement in 2019, Assessor Jeffrey Prang presented me with a scroll thanking me for my contributions. It was an honor that will always make me proud and grateful to have worked with so many County employees whose goal was to serve the public.

The beginning of my retirement was just how I had envisioned it, full of travel, concerts, visiting out-of-state friends, gardening, hiking, and simply enjoying life. I was also able to see friends I had met through the California Association of Treasurers and Tax Collectors. I trained to be a docent at the Los Angeles Arboretum and had my first school tour scheduled for March 17, 2020. Everything seemed perfect. Then COVID-19 intervened.

My husband, Vance, and I had to stay home and stay away from friends and family. Luckily, I had developed several hobbies, so this really didn't slow me down, but it certainly taught me that the key to contentment and happiness is gratefulness. I practice being grateful every day. I also try to keep busy cooking, gardening, hiking, walking, reading, and doing mosaic pieces for the garden.

In November 2020, my husband and I adopted a Labradoodle puppy named Cali. Retirement is the best time to raise a puppy because you can give him--or in our case, her--your full attention. Cali keeps me busy and active and has been a lot of fun. She loves to hike and is a great reason to get up early and hit the hills. She also enriched my social life; she and I know all the doggies in our Arcadia neighborhood and their owners too!

I've also been active on social media while homebound. It's a great way to stay connected and help develop new personal relationships that I hope will grow and deepen when the pandemic is over. I stay in touch with former colleagues Donna Doss, Lourdes Guerrero, Cecelia Buys and Joe Kelly through a quarterly lunch group that Joe put together several years ago. Since the pandemic we've had to stay in touch via Zoom meetings.

In March 2021, my husband retired. Although he loved his job as a software developer, his retirement will give me, Cali, and him more time to be together enjoying our home, friends, family, and hobbies, all while practicing gratefulness for this beautiful phase of our lives.

GIL GARCETTI

With wife, Sukey



I was born in a house a few blocks from the Science Center and the Coliseum in Los Angeles. My mother's family was Mexican. She was one of 19 children. My father was an immigrant from Mexico. He was an only child. In elementary school I wanted to be a sanitation worker. I loved watching the men leaping on and off of the running board of the truck, lifting the trash cans, hurling the garbage into the truck's bin, and setting the cans back down. When my dad told me, "They make good money," that sealed it. One day at my grade school, we had a career day. A man introduced himself as a lawyer. I wasn't sure what that was, but I liked what I heard. When my family gathered for dinner that night, I announced that though I wasn't sure I was smart enough to go to college, I was going to try and become a lawyer.

After graduating from college at USC and then UCLA Law School, I found the dream job, a trial lawyer in the criminal justice system. But I am getting a little ahead of myself. When I graduated from USC, I received a scholarship to the University of Stockholm. The scholarship didn't come with a travel stipend, so I had no idea how I was going to get to Sweden. I talked my way into a summer job with Pan American Airways and started work there in June. That summer, I met and married my wife, Sukey. We got married six WEEKS after our first date! I shifted the graduate work to the London School of Economics. It turned out that my "school" year was also a lovely extended honeymoon.

In law school my goal had been to join the Public Defender's Office. But in 1968, I joined the District Attorney's Office instead, after realizing that the seat of power in the criminal justice system lies there. Prosecutors have the discretion whether to prosecute, what charges should be filed, what plea settlement is acceptable, whether the case deserves incarceration, probation, or dismissal.

I stayed in the office for 32 years, enjoying my experiences as a trial prosecutor, head deputy, chief deputy, and district attorney. As DA, I felt fortunate to be in a position to set the priorities for the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Leaving office after eight years, I was proud of what we had accomplished, especially in the areas of domestic violence, crime prevention, and juvenile justice.

Since leaving the office, I have reinvented myself as a photographer, television producer, UNESCO ambassador, teacher at Harvard, and assisting non-profits with their core missions. I learned that a willingness to take calculated risks can lead to a great life awaiting once your "career" is behind you. That is the beauty of life and of living.

Life hasn't been a completely smooth sail: challenges have certainly arisen.

At age 39, though I had never smoked, rarely drank alcoholic beverages, and exercised daily, I was diagnosed with cancer. My doctor told me I had a good chance of beating it, "about 55-60 per cent." Through surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation I kept working, even though at times I looked like a walking cadaver. But I was determined to prevail. During the medical procedures, I met a man who I did not know. He dared me and others to guess his age. He looked "old," so I guessed 65-66. He smiled and with his thumb, pointed higher. At one point he took off his X-ray gown and we all marveled at his body. Then he did 20 pushups with ease. We were all laughing and I said, "I give up. How old are you?" He handed me his driver's license and to my amazement, he was 88. And then he uttered the words that have always inspired me: "When I was 40, I was told I had less than a year to live. Look at me. I'm still here!" Is there a lesson? Be open to inspiration, even from strangers.

When I ran for re-election as DA in 2000, I lost and lost badly. It was personally and professionally embarrassing. But then I remembered that stranger at Kaiser who inspired me. He inspired me to live in good mental and physical health until I was at least 88. For me, that meant I had at least another 30 good years. I decided to leave the law and try something new. And I did.

I have been very fortunate in another respect, my family. I am the only person who can say that his son is the mayor of Los Angeles. But I am as equally proud of
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my daughter, who is a lawyer with the County, and my wife, who is a poet and the chief financial officer of a charitable institution.

My hope for you is that some of my words might inspire you, as my Kaiser "friend" inspired me.

MIKE CIEPLIK

I began my County career in 1987. I took a test at the Assessor's Van Nuys office, passed, and was assigned to work in the real estate section. The real estate section was downstairs and the business section was upstairs. I was really proficient at computers so the business section had me inputting data. There was always this sort of battle that the real estate section and the business section wanted me. I loved answering questions at the counter and phone in the real estate section, but also loved just inputting data in the computer in the business section. I was about 10 minutes from home — home for lunch, very happy.

A test for appraiser assistant was announced. I applied, passed, and was assigned to the business section. My job was to visit companies and value what they had in inventory. I did get an education. I had a strip club and at another venue had several people walk out, thinking I was ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Later, I was asked to work downtown in leasing. I had no idea what that was, but learned a lot about computer leasing.



I then went back to the Van Nuys business section. The people at Van Nuys were family-oriented and we did a lot of holiday gatherings. There was a vast kitchen with an oven and stove, so people would cook their lunches. One day I was told I would go to Ownership Services to help clear a backlog and assisted in coding transfers of deeds so data processing could input the correct information. I actually enjoyed and learned so much in this section. But then in 1993 the appraiser assistant title was eliminated and I was laid off. I was upset.

In January 1994 I was asked to return following the Northridge earthquake. I arrived with a team of others and we were instructed to set up a computer program to help reduce property valuations due to the earthquake damage. We created the program and received an award that year. I was proud to say that our office, with the help of retired senior appraisers, was very successful in helping reduce and restore values to properties.

After finishing the earthquake project, where was I to go? Thanks to Mr. George Hickert, I got to go to Major Properties Region 30. What a gift! I could not believe that this important revenue to the County was using outdated computers. I asked George for money to update the entire department and set up a library for Region 30, and he went for it! I learned a lot from Region 30, and am still friends with these people.

I saw another opportunity and applied to the Executive
continued on p.11

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY: Like Father, Like Son/Daughter



Former Assessor Rick Auerbach, with daughter, Kelly Hassel. Kelly is an attorney with the County Counsel's Office. She was hired in 1998 after serving one year with Alternate Legal Services and worked in the Dependency Division for approximately eight years before leaving to become a full-time mom after her fraternal twin boys were born. She was rehired by County Counsel in 2016.



Former District Attorney Gil Garcetti, with son, Eric; wife, Sukey; and daughter, Dana Garcetti-Boldt. Eric's government service began in 2001 on the L.A. City Council, where he spent four terms as council president before being elected mayor in 2013 and winning re-election in 2017. Like his father, he did graduate work at the London School of Economics and is a photographer. Dana began her career as a deputy district attorney with the L.A. County District Attorney's Office, worked as a justice deputy to Supervisor Janice Hahn, and has worked in the field of civilian oversight of law enforcement, providing advice, counsel, and constructive criticism to both the Sheriff and Probation Departments.



Former District Attorney Steve Cooley, with daughter, Shannon. Shannon joined the District Attorney's Office in 2009 after serving in private practice for several years out of law school. She was working in the Hardcore Gang Division when she left the office on Dec. 31, 2020. She was elected to the Superior Court in March 2020 and was sworn in as a judge on Jan. 4, 2021.



Former Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky with son, David. David, 38, is a former deputy district attorney in the L.A. County District Attorney's Office and is now a Superior Court judge, serving in the Van Nuys courthouse. Like his father, he has a penchant for crossword puzzles and is a skilled public speaker. David's wife, Katy, is also a political animal: she is policy deputy to Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and is planning to run for the L.A. City Council in 2022.

Three-Generation Air Force Family

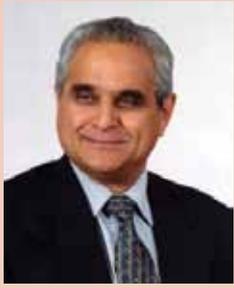


Former Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner/Director Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, with daughter, Dr. Ashwini Lakshmanan and granddaughter, Divya, 5. Ashwini is an attending neonatologist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and an associate professor of clinical pediatrics and preventive medicine, section head for epidemiology and outcomes, and director of the Laboratory for Research in Infant Outcomes at USC Keck School of Medicine. In 2019 she received the award for health care innovation from the American Hospital Association.



Edward R. Anhalt, who was a senior probation director at Camp Gonzales when he retired in 2009 after 34 years with the Probation Department, is from a three-generation Air Force family. He was a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Auxiliary (search and rescue pilot); his father, Staff Sgt. Ken Anhalt, was an aerial gunner, 8th & 15th Air Forces; and son, Lt. Col. Justin "Stick" Anhalt, was a fighter pilot. Photos are of Ken, now 98, at 20 years old. Edward, now 70, receiving the Meritorious Service Award, presented by Col. Alan Ferguson, California Wing commander, at left, and Col. Jon Stokes, Pacific Regional commander; and Justin, 40, standing by an F-22 Raptor, the airplane he flew.

Distinguished Fellow Award Presented to Sathyavagiswaran



RELAC member Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, former L.A. County chief medical examiner-coroner/director, is the recipient of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences 2021 Distinguished Fellow Award.

The award was presented to Dr. Sathyavagiswaran at the recent virtual AAFS business meeting, but he will receive the award in person at the 2022 annual business meeting in Seattle, Washington.

Dr. Sathyavagiswaran was elected into membership in the AAFS Pathology/Biology Section in 1984 and achieved the status of fellow in 1994.

He served Los Angeles County as chief medical examiner-coroner/director from 1992-2013, interim chief medical examiner-coroner from April 2016 to January 2017, following which he was consultant and director of operations to the Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner (DME-C) through Dec. 31, 2018. He has served as a consultant to DME-C since Jan. 1, 2019.

He is a clinical professor of pathology and medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California.

Mike Cieplik continued from p.9

Office of the Board of Supervisors. I had no idea that this would be the job I would love the rest of my career. I thank Robin Guerrero, who hired me. I was told to be respectful and "do whatever the supervisors" wanted. I was hired in the minute section, but my heart was going to the meetings every Tuesday. I met people, important people, and heard important information about the County. Don Ashton was the second in control in the section, but left to move up North. Executive Officer Sachi Hamai looked for his replacement and I was one of three that was selected. The other two people didn't really enjoy being in the Board Room meetings, but I totally loved it. So, there I was -- and continued to help and respect so many people. I do miss that a lot. I have so many fond memories: Supervisors Knabe, Antonovich, Burke, Molina, Ridley-Thomas and definitely Supervisor Solis -- just a great person!

I always was interested in art, even when I was about 7 years old, so after retiring in October 2016, I decided to give myself an opportunity to try it at this stage in my life. I'm back at school studying painting/art and I found I do have some talent and have learned so much.

I live in Sherman Oaks and recently started doing some gardening with flowers and such. I did travel a lot when I was younger, so I mostly will go to the casinos (can't wait for COVID to be over) and the racetrack. My family is back East and I will occasional visit them. I recently received a letter from the Grand Jury that I am being considered to serve (mostly online) this year. I am looking forward to being a part of the Grand Jury.

My health is great and I still smile a lot! My doctor told me that "For an old guy, you are very healthy" -- and I do love being healthy.

RELAC Member Writes Book to Assist Retirees Find Purpose and Enjoyment In Lives

RELAC member Lee Gale Gruen has published a self-help book to assist seniors find enjoyment and purpose in retirement.

Entitled "Reinventing Yourself in Your Retirement Years: Find Joy, Excitement, and Purpose After You Retire," the book offers an individualized, detailed guide to help readers discover activities and pursuits based on their own likes and comfort level.

Gruen, who has been blogging and lecturing on senior reinvention for the past eight years, retired from a 37-year career as a Los Angeles County probation officer.

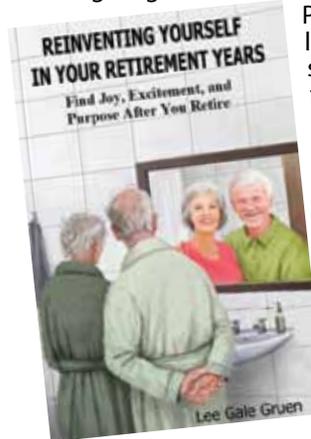
She then went on to become an actress, author, public speaker, and blogger. The story of her transition from retired probation officer to senior actress has been featured in Time Magazine, Los Angeles Times, AARP, and in Marlo Thomas' book, "It Ain't Over...Till It's Over."

Gruen wrote her current book after audience members at her lectures began asking if they could buy a book containing the contents of her talk. The book contains all of the information from the lecture and over six years of posts from her blog.

"Too many retirees and seniors have no idea what to do after they retire. Many sink into depression and isolation," said Gruen. "When I first retired, I had no clue what to do next. My career was over and my children were launched. I struggled for a long time to carve out a new identity for myself."

After trying many different things following her retirement, none particularly satisfying, Gruen mistakenly signed up for an acting class for seniors, thinking it was just a play reading group. She became hooked on acting that first day, despite her lifelong stage fright. Her 85-year-old father soon began attending the class with her and was her scene partner in the class showcases where they performed the humorous scenes she wrote for them. From there, she networked with classmates and learned about going on auditions, eventually finding an agent and booking paid acting jobs. Then, in 2013 she wrote a memoir about it: "Adventures with Dad: A Father and Daughter's Journey Through a Senior Acting Class."

As an author, Gruen learned that she was expected to promote her book. So, she started giving interviews and appearing before groups, talking about her memoir.



People shared their own stories with her about how lost they had been feeling since they retired. Gruen said she realized she had something to give back to the community, showing people how to reinvent themselves in retirement. "I had discovered the secret: find a passion which will motivate you to want to get up in the morning, get dressed, get out of the house, and embrace life," she said.

Both of Gruen's books are available on Amazon.com or can be ordered at bookstores. Her website is at: LeeGaleGruen.com. Her blog is at: LeeGaleGruen.wordpress.com. She can be emailed at: gowergulch@yahoo.com.

District Attorney Staff Departures

Following the election of new District Attorney George Gascón, top aides to former District Attorney Jackie Lacey retired or left the office.

Those retiring were Chief Deputy Joseph Esposito, Assistant District Attorneys Pamela Booth and Sergio Gonzalez, and Special Counsel Devallis Rutledge.

Staff who left were John Neu, chief of the office's Bureau of Investigation; Kevin McCarthy, law enforcement liaison; Teresa Coady, community liaison; and Sandy Jo MacArthur, mental health training coordinator.



Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond
Newsletter Editor

District Attorney George Gascón continues to get pushback from critics of policy changes he has enacted, with several cities passing resolutions expressing no-confidence and the launch of a recall campaign by victim rights advocates, former law enforcement officers, and current and former prosecutors, including former District Attorney Steve Cooley and former Supervisor Mike Antonovich, who is honorary chairman. There has also been backlash from unions representing prosecutors and law enforcement officers for hiring Deputy Public Defender Tiffany Blacknell to an executive position, who they said has called police officers “barbarians” and advocated abolishing prisons. The Board of Supervisors, however, appears not to be among his critics. Supervisors approved spending up to \$750,000 this fiscal year (ends July 1) and up to \$1.5 million annually for up to eight years thereafter to allow Gascón to hire Lawrence S. Middleton as a special prosecutor to investigate, provide recommendations and prosecute cases of police misconduct. Gascón seems undaunted by his critics, saying his reforms seek to enhance safety and reduce racial disparities in the criminal justice system. “Our efforts to transform the dated approach that creates more crime, more victims and inequities are just beginning,” he said.

The appointment of Najeeb Khoury to the Employee Relations Commission brings the commission back to full strength. The commission had been operating with only two members since the resignation of Paul Crost, which has caused matters to be continued and canceled meetings for lack of a quorum.

A new County ordinance, aimed at reducing waste, requires restaurants to provide plastic utensils and paper napkins only upon customer request.

With the closure of the state Department of Juvenile Justice, the County has begun planning how to take over responsibility for the juveniles now in state custody. Supervisors, who are transforming its youth justice system to one centered on healing and growth instead of punishment, said they welcome the new responsibility.

The Department of Beaches and Harbors has installed its eighth nylon mesh mat (the latest in Venice Beach) to make the beaches more accessible to visitors with wheelchairs, walkers and strollers.

Supervisors will have more leeway in making appointments to the Veterans Advisory Commission with the requirement only that members be U.S. armed forces veterans.

The County’s suicide prevention hotline will be connected to Department of Mental Health teams that can be sent directly to those in crisis. The interim measure will be in effect until 9-8-8 becomes the nationwide suicide prevention hotline phone number in 2022, which officials say will be a game-changer.

Pre-pandemic bus and train service will be restored by this fall as a result of \$1.6 billion in federal stimulus funding to Southern California transit agencies.

The Department of Public Social Services won the 2020 Government Innovation Award in the public sector category for a system it developed to track staff telework activity during the pandemic.

County Art Museum Director Michael Govan will no longer be provided housing. In 2020, LACMA, hit hard by the pandemic, sold Govan’s \$6.6 million home in Hancock Park and resettled him in a \$2.2 million home in Mid-Wilshire, but that home was put on the market earlier this year. LACMA reopened April 1 after a year-long closure.

The City of West Covina, unhappy with the way the County handled the pandemic, voted to break away from the County’s Public Health Department and form its own agency.

Supervisors on a 4-1 vote approved a \$5-per-hour increase for grocery workers for publicly traded and larger private grocery store or retail drug companies in unincorporated areas, estimated to affect 2,500 for hazard pay during the pandemic.

Saying it will allow the leasing of entire apartment buildings to house the homeless, the Board approved creating a program to provide landlords with a monthly allowance for property management, repairs, maintenance, and onsite staff.

Federal engineers have found that the Whittier Narrows Dam and two other major dams in Southern California are structurally unsafe and could collapse in a significant flood event. While earthquakes continue to be the greatest threat, they are furthered challenged by a new hazard: “whiplashing shifts” in extreme weather due to climate change.

Black Lives Matter -- L.A. is campaigning to get the County Federation of Labor to sever its ties with the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs and is working on state legislation to decertify police unions.

A federal judge ruled that the Sheriff’s Department had to release the names of the four deputies who are alleged to have taken unauthorized photos at the site of the helicopter crash that killed basketball great Kobe Bryant and eight others.

The Board of Supervisors approved a motion that allows those accused of misdemeanors who have been found incompetent to stand trial to receive community-based restoration treatment instead of jail-based treatment.

The County’s Women and Girls Initiative is developing a “gender impact assessment” tool that will help the County view its policies, practices, and hiring processes through a gender lens.

After the Board of Supervisors approved a motion on March 23 instructing the Public Health Department to set up a program to provide COVID-19 vaccines to homebound residents, Sheriff Alex Villanueva sent a letter to Chair Hilda Solis saying his department had had been providing such a service since January after receiving approval from the governor, using deputy sheriffs who are certified paramedics and emergency medical technicians.

Sheriff Villanueva filed legal action to block a subpoena from Inspector General Max Huntsman to force Villanueva to meet for 90 minutes to answer questions about deputy gangs in the department. Villanueva said the request was “intrusive,” “too broad,” and “harassing.” Villanueva has said that he cannot take action against any deputies belonging to a clique unless it is tied to misconduct.

A plan from the Office of Diversion and Reentry and the Sheriff’s Department presented strategies to allow the closure of the Men’s Central Jail – deemed no longer suitable to house or treat inmates --within two years. The Board of Supervisors must now come up with an action plan, identify funding to demolish the jail and expand alternatives to incarceration.

As of March 31, the LA County COVID-19 Rent Relief Program provided rental assistance to more than 11,000 residents.

A new phone app allows Department of Public Social Services recipients to check their case status and benefit balances, upload documents and download notices.

The County found permanent housing for 72,815 homeless individuals in the past four years and interim housing for another 85,734.

The Department of Beaches & Harbors hosted a family-friendly drive-in movie series in Marina del Rey at a parking lot at the boat launch.

The County Departments of Public Social Services and Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services partnered to host a two-hour drive-thru book giveaway, distributing 300 toys and 230 books to 77 children registered in DPSS’s toy loan program.

The Board of Supervisors approved giving 1 million of the County’s high quality masks in inventory to schools.

The County Park and Recreation Department’s new fee schedule reduces the vehicle entrance fee for senior citizens (65+) and disabled persons with a placard.



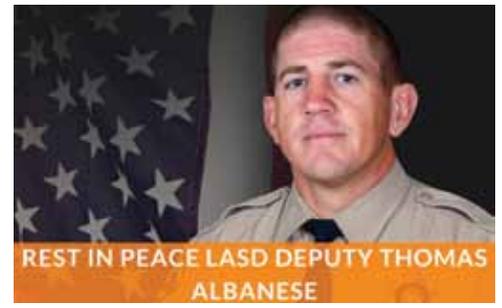
Samuel



Pizzulli



Trujillo



Albanese

PASSAGES

Compiled by Judy Hammond,
Newsletter Editor

RETIREMENTS:

Marisa Lopez, senior human resources manager in the Department of Human Resources. **Reaver Bingham**, chief deputy of adult services in the Probation Department, who began his career as a probation trainee in 1981. **Helen Berberian**, deputy director, Department of Children and Family Services Bureau of Clinical Resources and Services, who served as a deputy to former Supervisor Mike Antonovich, with 26 years of County service. **Tina Herzog**, principal analyst in the Chief Executive Office and former deputy to Supervisor Gloria Molina, with more than 25 years of service. **Benita Trujillo**, director of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's San Fernando Valley office, who began her County career in 1999 as field deputy to Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

DEPARTURES:

Gail Samuel, president of the Hollywood Bowl and chief operating officer of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, to become chief executive and first female president in June of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

APPOINTMENTS:

Vander "Terrie" Hardy, head of Sacramento County's Department of Child Support Services for 14 years, selected as director of the L.A. County's Child Support Services Department, at annual salary of \$285,000. **Cheri Todoroff**, director of community programs at the Department of Health Services and a 32-year County employee, succeeds Phil Ansell, who retired March 31, as head of the County's Homeless Initiative. Animal Care and Control Deputy Director **Danny Ubario**, a 22-year veteran of the department, promoted to chief deputy director, replacing Betsy Webster, who retired. **Howard Katz**, land-use attorney and housing consultant to nonprofits, and husband of Alisa Katz, who was top aide to former Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, reappointed to Assessment Appeals Board by Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. RELAC member **Robert Philibosian**, former County district attorney, reappointed to the County Citizens Economy and Efficiency Commission by Supervisor Kathryn Barger. **Najeeb Khoury**, former director of labor relations for the LA Unified School District and deputy general counsel to the SEIU Local 721, named to the Employee Relations Commission to replace Paul Crost, who resigned. **Lawrence S. Middleton**, a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office who was one of four attorneys who handled the civil rights case against four LAPD officers charged with violating the constitutional rights of Rodney King, named special prosecutor by District Attorney George Gascón to assist in police misconduct cases. **Scott J. Svonkin**, first appointed to the County Commission on Insurance by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky in 1997 and reappointed in 2017 by Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, has been re-elected chairman for the 19th consecutive year. **Ari Ruiz**, appointed in 2017 by Supervisor Hilda Solis, was re-elected vice chairman of Commission on Insurance for the fourth consecutive year. Supervisor Sheila Kuehl named aide **Jessica Orellana** to head her San Fernando Valley district office, with retirement of Benita Trujillo. **Stephanie Wiggins**, CEO of Metrolink, named to replace Phil Washington as CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

DEATHS:

Susan Kerr, 75, former chief deputy director of Children and Family Services Department and Mental Health Department, from colon cancer. **Hector Elizalde**, 74, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's appointee to the County Veterans Advisory Commission, where he served as 2020 chair, and deputy district director and military/veterans liaison for Congressman Grace Napolitano, from complications of COVID-19. **Ben Halpern**, founding board member of the County Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, ICAN Associates. **Evelyn Elizabeth Guenther**, 94, assistant deputy director of food stamp operations in the Department of Public Social Services when she retired in 1988 after 19 years, recipient of the 1984 County Outstanding Employee Award. Rabbi **Allen Freehling**, 88, first chair of the County Commission on AIDS. Deputy **Thomas Albanese**, 41, a seven-year veteran of the Sheriff's Department who recently achieved his dream job of becoming a motorcycle deputy, killed in a motorcycle crash while on duty. Sheriff's Lt. **Harold Fife**, retired in 1981 after almost 31 years of service. Sheriff's Deputy **Pedro Romo**, 49, a 25-year veteran of the department, from COVID-19 complications. **Margaret Roman**, 63, who served 43 years in the Department of Children and Family Services. **Linda Ramos**, who supervised the legal support unit and collection service section of the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office, and eight-term president of a local chapter of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance, a civil rights organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for the obese. **Dominick Pizzulli**, 96, profiled in November 2020 in "Unsung Heroes from the Greatest Generation," produced by the L.A. County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on the 75th anniversary of World War II.



Elizalde



Philibosian



Ubario



Berberian



Bingham

IN MEMORIAM

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

Agricultural Comm./Wts & Meas. - Pedro P. Cartana

Alcohol/Drug Pgms. Admin. - Zayzay J. Gosa

Alhambra Municipal Court - Olive Z. Hutchison

Ambulatory Care Network - Donald W. Williams

Animal Control - Thomas John Horton, Conrado V. Macasero, Phil R. White

Assessor - Wilma G. Andrew, Shirley A. Campbell, Fouad I. Hanna, Julita I. Javellana, Samuel L. Jones, Bobby Kelley, Neola C. Moran

Auditor-Controller - Elaine Barton, Betty M. Benson, Lula B. Brown, Alma A. Chin, Leonard Kaye

Board of Supervisors - Sarah M. Flores, Jessie M. Riggins

California Children's Services - Brenda Orso

Chief Executive Office - Earl Goodwin, Jose L. Macias, Maria T. Rinker

Child Support Services - Gloria L. Prado, Iveth A. Rodriguez, Hylaine Strong, Lois Maurine Wiseman

Children & Family Services - Lilia Abasto, Alicia Avakian, Cheri L. Bickel, George E. Candler, Karyl K. Dinkfeld, Margaret Duffy, Margaret Dyer, Bernadette Echols, Clyde L. Feldman, Eugene J. Hall, Joe T. Harper, Diane Jenkins, Susan R. Kerr, Joan E. Lovell, Veena G. Makhijani, Linda Quintana Mansouri, Jean R. Mc Candless, John A. Metzger, Barbara Mills, Thomas K. Morris, Nora Pardo, Rosemary E. Quick, George L. Ramos, Barbara A. Rathmann, Ralph J. Schoettmer, Rhoda M. Southard, Glenda W. Thomas, Richard Vasquez, Beverly Ann Vcelak

Compton Municipal Court - Alba Barre

Correctional Health - Cecilia Q. Salas

County Counsel - Dana M. Korn, Dennis L. Myers

District Attorney - Monika M. Blodgett, Gilbert J. Flores, Jean J. Harms, John F. Hayes, Steven G. Levine, Olivia R. Navarro, David R. Ross, Harry B. Sondheim, Mildred S. Ward

Engineer Facilities - Aerial M. Gardner, Elvira Z. Gonzales, Kenneth A. Kaku, Bernard F. Wanek

Fire - William F. Bennett, Angelo D. Chiarot, Phillip C. Grana, Terry M. Haines, Garn L. Ingram, Gordon L. Kilburn, Brian Levasseur, Virgil M. Lockhart, Mario R. Lopez, Maria H. Martinez, William D. Mc Kown, Julie S. Ngor, Don G. Oldham, John W. Rantz, Joseph P. Romero, Fred L. Shafer, Roy A. Spear Jr., Donald L. Thompson, Vernon L. Thompson, Nathan J. Wilson

Flood Control District - Thomas Balderrama, L. J. Freiseis, Cesario Morales

Harbor/UCLA Medical Center - Charles F. Alexander, Loyce F. Boyd Plummer, Shirley J. Cash, Thelma M. Crooks, Salvacion B. De Los Reyes, Donald W. Gaines, Miyoko Hirata, Ora Lee Johnson, Marie C. Kezon, R. L. Marion Mullin, Adele B. Perez, Barbara Phillips, Jessica E. Tamayo, Carlton Wilkerson

Health Plan Administration - Leonor Pedersen

Health Services Administration - Truman F. Chaffin, William W. Emmett, Mauro R. Gonzalez, Eusebio Hernandez, Gloria Jean Joshua, Genaro D. Mates, Bennie Gean Mc Neary, Ricardo M. Munoz, Moon Park

Internal Services - Ricardo Arcilla, Robert C. Bowers, R. B. Bryant, David J. Castillo, Betty S. Fite, Arthur A. Garrett, Tanis F. Godines, Donald S. Griffin, Arthur M. Harrell, Lee O. Heard, Wilmer Huggins, Michael W. McGarity, John O. McGortey, Rosendo Paz Jr., Domenic S. Rizzi, Celeste Ryan, Robert K. Swan, Paul Warren, Clois O. Wharton, Bobby J. Whorton

Juvenile Court Health Services - Willie M. Newman, Maria L. Perales

King -Drew Medical Center - Eugene Alexander, Premindra A.

Chandraratna, Josefina A. Gregorio, Irene G. Jordan, Gloria S. Merriweather, Larry J. Moffett, Claude J. Robles, Anna B. Vengoechea, Susie M. Wynn

LAC+USC Medical Center - Linda R. Abundis, Etheleen Bracey, Carolyn J. Caballero, Lawrence Chwa, Deborah A. Conley, Rita Delgado, Ana I. Duarte, Sagrario M. Dubon, David B. Endres, Gladys S. Fields, Patricia A. Garcia, Estela Gould, Viola Harris, Jose A. Hinojos, Robert B. Hutcheson Jr., Mary J. Jefferson, Beverly J. King, Antonia Langley, Clifford R. Leake, Angel R. Lozano, Michelle Marie Machesky, Valentine Victor Mares, Patricia G. Marshall, Thelma M. McDonald, Noriko Minamizono, Angel Morales, Hugo Noyola, David W. Pacheco, Sharon L. Quan, George Ramirez, Josefina Rangel, Teresa Reyes, Ruby R. Richard, Dorothy Thomas, Georgina L. Walker, Janet C. Wang, Thomas G. Wright, Abebash K. Yirdaw, Lylian Chianello, Clarian A. Martin

Mechanical - Patrick J. Joyce

Mental Health - John C. Biag, Annelies Bruhlmann, Ma Cristina J. Dimaano, Rodger K. Farr, Ruth Flack, Shobha Gautam, Joel Hanson, Christell Hicks Marshall, Jeff R. Johnson, Robert Rauck, Adalgisa A. Sanchez, Alma S. Sanders, Donna J. Schraeder, Edgar Soto, Alice A. Yamada

Museum of Natural History - Walter L. Boyd

Office of Public Safety - Daniel Garcia, Joseph Merlin Sampson

Olive View/UCLA Medical Center - Margaret Altman-Blaz, Soledad Caballero, Judy A. Cruz, Lucreasie Dailey, Joseph Estrada, Eloise Franklin, Nechama Handel, Burr C. Hartman, Ronald E. Huber, Wanda M. Kelly, Eleanor R. Lopez, Jose Miranda, Gwendolyn Moore, Joanne C. Potochan, Deborah R. Schallert, Dora E. Silva, Betty L. Stout, Gloria Travis, Lionel Zuckerbraun

Parks and Recreation - Leon Grant Arnold, Linnea S. Benetts, Thomas Cushing, Willie J. Gossom, Judith E. Jones, Thomas J. Owens, Charles E. Sorrell, Sylvester Thomas Jr.

Probation - Marco A. Alvarado, David Alan Annett, Marjorie W. Breunig, Ada H. Chen, John A. Clark, Eugene A. De Soto, Juanita Constance Hartfield, Bruce E. Jackson, Michael A. Labbib, Loretta L. Lawrence, Waynard E. Liggins, Walter L. Mc Griff, Richard Ramos, Michael E. Sanchez, Ingalls L. Summerhays, Jacqualyynn Young

Public Defender - Alfred Cohen, Amy Ibarra, Roy J. Mason, Elaine Mcdermott

Public Health Program - Virginia A. Bourbonnais, Helga Bullard, Dongju J. Choung, Russell E. Furnas, Napoleon Gould Jr., Marie G. Hernandez, Clifford L. Howell, Irene Johnson, Lucine Krikorian, Sarah J. Kropp, Tom I. Ohgi, Pablo J. Olivera, Marion G. Poulter, Nelia G. Regalado, Rosario Sandu, Robert Sherman, Beverly J. Williams

Public Library - Honorah M. Nash, Joseph F. Robinson, Gloria Santiago Seifert, Judith Valcho

Public Social Services - Clara J. Ackerman, Sunday E. Adewale, Marlene Allen, Mina Andalibi, Ruth M. Atchley, Wilfredo C. Aviles, Pauline W. Bauman, Ruby L. Berry, Graciela Biancardi, Barbara J. Brantley, Marsha D. Broyard, Virda J. Bryant, Delores M. Burdick, John R. Charlton, William Chiong, Josie Clark, Joanne K. Combahee, Pauline Craig, Lorna D. Custer, Thu T. Dang, Anahid Danielian, Luanne C. Davis, Helen R. Davis, Georgia Debeers, Ralph S. Doster Jr., Olimpia C. Gaubert, Mary Josephine Gomez, Carmen Y. Gonzalez, Samuel Grigorian, Evelyn E. Guenther, William Hampton, Henry M. Hesse, Jennifer R. Hill, Sandra R. Holyfield, Maria G. Huerta-Merri, Sandra J. Jefferson, Sillin Johnson, Patricia R. Kellogg, Angele S. Ketefian, Young

Susan Kerr, 41-Year County Employee, Dies of Cancer

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

Susan Kerr, who was chief deputy director of the County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) when she retired on June 1, 2010, died March 21, two weeks after being diagnosed with colon cancer. She had pulmonary fibrosis, which limited her cancer treatment options.



Kerr, 75, began her County career as a social worker on Dec. 30, 1968, and served in increasingly responsible positions, including as assistant director of the Department of Public Social Services and chief deputy director of the Department of Mental Health.

Daughter Kimberley Schultz said her mother "was passionate about her work, but her family was always her priority. She survived almost 12 years after a diagnosis of pulmonary fibrosis, and was able to see both her grandchildren graduate from college. She was surrounded by her husband, children and grandchildren when she passed away."

Schultz said the average survival for patients after being diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis is three years. "The fibrosis limited her cancer treatment options, but still she showed remarkable tenacity in fighting the disease."

Kerr's career included serving as an appeals hearing specialist, program analyst for Adult Protective Services and In-Home Supportive Services, management analyst and assistant division chief in the Chief Administrative Office, and principal analyst in the Department of Human Resources.

"Susan worked in many areas, probably none more important than as the chief deputy of the DCFS, which was the largest child welfare program in America," said RELAC member Philip Browning, who knew Kerr, but served as director of the department after she had left. "Her consummate administrative skills and dedication to excellence left a lasting legacy at DCFS which benefited thousands of families and children served by the department."

RELAC member Marvin Southard headed the Department of Mental Health when Kerr was chief deputy there. "Nothing is more important to a department head's success and survival than a great chief deputy. Susan was certainly that, but more than that she became a friend and confidant. I will miss her greatly," he said.

"Susan was a very positive person and always had a calm demeanor, even under the most stressful situations," said RELAC member Kathy House, a friend and former colleague when she was a budget analyst in the Chief Administrative Office. "She was patient and a wonderful mentor."

"I loved this lady," said RELAC member and friend Marion Figueroa. "She kept things real. I'm glad she is at peace and in heaven."

In addition to her daughter, Kerr is survived by her husband, Lance; sons, Adam and Aaron; and grandchildren, Andrew and Emily Schultz.

Born in Fresno, she lived in Sylmar. She graduated from UCLA in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in international relations.

Ouk Kim, Patricia M. Kouns, Gwendolyn D. Lang, Frank A. Langston, Tricia Jo Leaming-Fuhrman, David Lizaola, Connie Lopez, Socorro R. Lopez, Stephen A. May, Yvonne Mc Adory, Le Venia McClendon, Martin Minott, Hue Nguyen, Margaret Patton, Beverly F. Pennington, Mary B. Peterson, Sonia F. Planas, Lois E. Polak, Elodia Portillo, Elizabeth A. Reyes, Ulysses S. Richardson, Evaristo Rivera, Anita F. Robinson, Fredrico F. Rodriguez, Samuel G. Salcedo, Seth Jay Sherman, Rosemary Solis, Sharon A. Stoffer, Doris S. Stubblefield, Serena D. Thompson, Phi Tonthat, Ann M. Trumbore, Sandra J. Valdivieso, Ruth M. Valentine, Rudy Vargas, Ruby Vasquez, Isabel Wagner, Sharon Washington, James J. Whitney, Mamie Williams, Virginia F. Wiltz, Helen T. Ying, Maxine E. Young, Miao Ling Zhou

Public Works - Leon E. Barnes, Harold P. Battle Jr., Frank Baxter, James Ralph Butner, Pedro C. Calderon, Eric J. Castrobran, Alan Ying Chan, Robert Coburn, Manuel Correa, Talman H. Edwards, Irene M. Fisher, Alberto Gomez, Rodney J. Gueringer, Anthony Gutierrez, Robert Holderness, Tuan T. Huynh, Alfred Inge, Gerall V. La Rowe, Michael J. Lemus, John S. Lovrensky, Phillip R. Martin II, John T. Maykulsy, Randall J. O'Laughlin, James M. Pianalto, Raynor R. Pollack, Gilberto Rivera, George Y. Sanchez, William K. Sato, Mike Seif, Gordon K. Slead, Warren D. Warner, Fred Waterworth

Rancho Los Amigos Hospital - Gertrude Doris Banks-Taylor, Frank M. Barton, Vincent M. Castillo, Estelle D. Durham, Ben T. Galindo, Joe S. Guzman, Erlinda G. Icasiano, Mary F. La Velle, Ghabima F. Mari, Keiko H. Matsunaga, Geraldine Mitchell, Geronimo Moreno, Allan G. Redeker, Chinda Savanapredi, Nelly Shaw McMinn, Thilma M. Sheleby, Alynn A. Wilson

Reg. -Recorder/County Clerk - Karen Butler, Shirley J. Eason, Anita M. Starr, Latanya Taylor

Regional Planning - Nora S. Flynn, Mildred J. Howard, Ines M. Mitchell

Sheriff - Kim V. Aboudara, Derrick J. Adams, Thomas J. Albanese, Edward I. Araiza Jr., Jamie J. Arakawa, Miguel Arriola Jr., Mable M. Austin, Ethel Bellas, Robert J. Bouffard, Reveille Diane Brown, Marlene L. Buckman, James Burns, Cynthia K. Carey, Joseph N. Castorina, Michael J. Churney, Edwin F. Coffeen, James Craig, Dondra D. Cullins, Lara A. Damole, Peter Clay Decoud, William A. Ellis, Theodore Gaylord Flint, John C. Graham, Stuart Dennis Heller, John I. Hong, Wilfredo V. Jalandra, Donald A. Kalberloh, Rafael N. Kenealy, Thomas Lambrecht, Peter D. Larato, Ralph M. Le Sieur, William E. Lewis, Beverly R. Lindsey, Solomon T. Little, Fernando R. Martinez, Charlie McClain Jr., Frank E. McKay Jr., Jeffrey R. McKee, Armando F. Meneses, Regina F. Mims, Loretta M. Murrrieta, Michael D. Nelson, Marciano M. Pedraja Jr., William Warren Peters, Terry L. Potter, Marie J. Ramirez, Robert Ramirez, Brian K. Reams, Pedro Romo, James L. Rowley, Robert J. Skopeck, Thomas J. Smith, Donald Stovall, E.L. Swanston, Jeanne Templeton, Jane K. Urata, Mark G. Ward, Richard L. Wilabee

South Bay Municipal Court - Beverly A. Licht

South Coast Air Quality Mgmt. - George Ames

South Gate Municipal Court - Beverly M. Ward

Superintendent of Schools - Anne M. Hornyak, Shirley Salaam

Superior Court/County Clerk - Scott C. Blunk, Eugene S. Brown, Phyllis Grace Ehrenberg, Lori Ann Fournier, Jeremy Gallaher, Albert Garcia, George E. Gladstone, Rita Kleinerman, Andrew Lopez, Helen F. May, Joel C. Morales, Josephine V. Moreno, Kenneth T. Naito, Lynn M. Roller, Paul Sakurada, Donna F. Temmesfeld, Ventura Torres, Brenda Joyce Wilson, Robert W. Zakon

Treasurer/Tax Collector - Arthur L. Graham, Ruth C. Millar, Linda D. Ramos, Samuel John Riggio, Ida M. Robertson, Harry Sager

Workforce Dev., Aging & Comm. Svc. - Cristina K. Cantos, Virginia O. Carpenter, Marguerite R. Spears

Unidentified County Agency - Stephen J. Howard, Donald Y. Kim, Yvonne D. Mitchell



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

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Recruit New Members and Win Cash

The Board of Directors has decided to have a cash drawing to reward and encourage members who recruit other retirees to join RELAC.

Twenty \$25 prizes will be awarded at the end of the year, with multiple prizes to the same individual allowed.

Members will receive one entry in the drawing for each referral they make in 2021.

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

RELAC Board members and staff are not eligible for prizes.

The easiest way to sign up as a new member is to go to RELAC's website at relac.org and fill out an online application. If you would rather send in a printed application, you can download the application from the website or contact the office and an application form will be mailed.

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

WHERE ARE YOU?

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



From California:

Norman E. Parham, Trabuco Canyon; Marsha Pedersen, Quartz Hill; Rudolph M. Rincon, Canoga Park; Joan D. Schiefelbine, Mammoth Lakes; Lois Selby, Lancaster; Teresa Sheehey, Vista; Charlotte K. Shick, Palm Desert; Helen B. Slem, Quartz Hill; Juanita Smith, Compton; Roger R Steinbeck, Valley Village; Keiko Tanaka, Laguna Woods; Darcus Taylor, Compton; Maria Todoroff, Fallbrook; Cesar I. Uy, Chino Hills; Tom Wehling, Covina; Marcia Williams, Lancaster; Orrie Wilner, Oak Park; Elizabeth Wilson, Encino; Lorna M. Wilson, Oceanside; Anna Wooster Wilson, Van Nuys; Herbert Zipperstein, Santa Barbara.

From Arizona:

Barbara Vonborstel, Bullhead City; Ruth Williams, Dewey.

From Nevada:

Richard L. Callen, Las Vegas; Carle W. Stewart, Las Vegas.

And from various states:

Stuart L. Hansell, Gig Harbor, Washington; Charles Schwarz, Whitefish, Montana; Anna Sparks, Plains, Montana; Sharon E. Steadman, Cedar City, Utah; Melanie Wilds of Celina, Texas.

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

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

RELAC
1000 S. Fremont Ave.,
Unit 15 Alhambra, CA
91803-8802 or
Phone:
(800) 537-3522
(626) 308-0532
Fax: (626) 308-2901
Email:
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.