



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

# RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

www.relac.org • e-mail: admin@relac.org

## President's Message

by Dave Muir



This is our final issue of the newsletter for calendar year 2019. A major focus of our activities during the year focused on increasing our membership through "branding" efforts. Many County employees have never heard of RELAC and don't know what we do. We believe that greater participation by RELAC in County activities will make LACERA members aware of RELAC and more interested in joining us as they retire.

Here are some examples of our "branding" efforts. We participated in retirement planning-related activities arranged for current County employees. We mounted a team that participated with the County in the March of Dimes "March for Babies," and exceeded our goal by raising over \$5,000 in 2019, and we intend to march again in 2020. We participated in Supervisor Kathryn Barger's "Tribute to Veterans and Military Families" and staffed a booth at this annual event. We were proud to support the County's "L.A. Found Program" by funding five tracking bracelets worn by individuals with dementia, autism or Alzheimer's disease that help the Sheriff's Department locate missing or wandering individuals. For the second year in a row, we were one of the sponsors of the 2019 Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Awards luncheon, a widely publicized and well-attended event that honors County employees and departments for innovative programs. And we will again support the County Fire Department's annual "Spark of Love" holiday toy drive and collect toys from our members at our December General Membership meeting.

We have extended our scholarship pilot program to the year 2020 and have reserved \$5,000 to fund five \$1,000 scholarships in the coming year. We hope to award these scholarships to members and/or their family members, including grandchildren. If successful, we will consider making the program permanent. The program is designed for members and their families interested in exploring their continued educational goals, and their enhanced personal development.

And, of course, we have carried on with our regular activities and events. Our **Annual Recognition Luncheon** regularly attracts a sell-out crowd of over 300 members and guests. Over 200 members and guests attend our **Annual Picnic**. Our **Dodger Game Outing** includes excellent reserved seats at subsidized prices. Our **Holiday Meeting** in December features entertainment, usually a band and singer with sing-along participation and many door prizes. We hold **General Membership Meetings** four times a year featuring speakers addressing topics of interest to the membership. And we hold **Regional Meetings** that include lunch and a speaker scheduled at locations where members are able to attend without having to travel long distances. Typically, these locations are outside Los Angeles County to accommodate members who live in adjacent counties such as San Bernardino and Orange County.

In closing, I want to again thank our members for supporting RELAC. Maintaining a strong membership base allows us to be vigilant in protecting the rights of County retirees.

**YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT KEEPS RELAC STRONG AS YOUR PENSION AND HEALTH CARE WATCHDOG.**



### Oldest Picnic Attendee

Manuel Navarrete, 94, was the oldest attendee at RELAC's Annual Picnic, held in September at Santa Fe Recreational Area in Irwindale. Navarrete is a retiree of the Building Services Department. Navarrete was accompanied by family members. More photos of picnic are on page 4. (Photo by Linda C. Hopkins)

## Scholarship Program Gets Second Year of Funding

The RELAC Board of Directors has voted to provide second year funding in 2020 for a scholarship program for members and their immediate families.

Up to five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to recipients to advance their education and personal development.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 2. Information and application forms are available on RELAC's website at relac.org and at RELAC's Alhambra office.

"Current reports on the increasing level of household debt in America cite that student educational loans are now the second-largest category. I believe the RELAC scholarship program will be an important benefit to our members and/or their family," said President Dave Muir.

Two scholarships will be reserved for RELAC members and three for immediate family members (children – including adopted children and stepchildren, grandchildren or great-grandchildren).

Funds may be applied toward tuition, fees, books, supplies, or equipment required for the courses necessary in the degree program.

RELAC Board member Linda C. Hopkins, as chair of the Benefits Committee, heads the scholarship program.

# Retirement Board

by Les Robbins  
Member, RELAC Board  
Vice Chairman, LACERA Board of Retirement



As many of you know, the LACERA boards terminated the chief executive officer (CEO) in June. She had been employed less than six months at the time that she was terminated. Since that time an ad hoc committee has been in the process of looking for a new CEO.

We enlisted the help of an executive search firm and are now in the latter stages of this process. Both Dave Muir, our RELAC president, and I are members of the ad hoc committee and we have been working diligently to come up with a short list of finalists, who will be interviewed by the entirety of both the Board of Retirement and Board of Investments very soon. It is our intention to make a job offer soon and have a new CEO in place by mid-November.

I am very confident, based on the responses that we have received as well as the preliminary interviews that have already been conducted, that we will find an excellent group of finalists to choose from.

LACERA has a great reputation in the public sector pension world and I am not surprised at the quality of applicants that we are currently dealing with in our search process. Hopefully we will have an announcement to make by the early part of November.

# News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich  
Assistant Executive Officer



I hope everyone enjoyed the summer. I am glad this summer was not as hot as the last one.

In the last issue I shared that we were receiving many calls from our retired members who received their benefit payments by check, reporting their checks were late. At the time I wrote the article, we had not determined what caused the checks to be delayed and were focusing on getting members paid as quickly as possible. While we have already communicated to all of the impacted members, I wanted to share with all of our retired members what happened and how LACERA has responded to this problem. I want all members to know that paying your monthly benefit is the most important thing we do at LACERA and any delays in this process are taken seriously.

Shortly after I wrote last issue's article we determined the problem was with the vendor that prints and mails our checks. The vendor had some weak process controls that caused the checks to be printed and mailed late. We worked with the vendor to make sure that they strengthened their controls and put into place several required checks during the process that will help alert us to any problems in time to correct them and ensure timely delivery of the checks. Additionally, we have issued a request for proposal for a new printing and mailing vendor.

As I mentioned, delivering the promised benefit is part of our mission and we are taking all steps possible to make sure that members' checks arrive on time without any interruptions.

I also shared that most LACERA members receive their benefit payments by direct deposit. In fact, 97% of our members receive benefit payments by direct deposit. Direct deposit is the safest and fastest way of getting your monthly benefit payment. Over the next few months we are going to be conducting a campaign to encourage as many of the remaining 3% to sign up for direct deposit. We know everyone has a reason for receiving checks, but we feel the safety and security of direct deposit is important enough for us to encourage as many as possible to sign up.

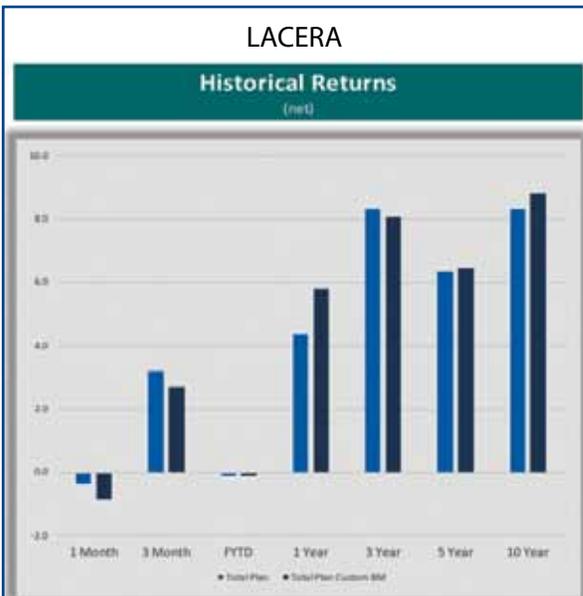
Signing up is easy to do. You can visit [lacera.com](http://lacera.com), log in to the My LACERA member portal, and sign up online. You can download the form from our brochure section of [lacera.com](http://lacera.com). Finally, you can call LACERA's Member Service Center and get set up right away. It is easy to do and helps ensure that there are no delays in getting that monthly benefit payment.

During the October 2019 Board of Retirement meeting, members of the ad hoc committee overseeing the recruitment of our next CEO announced they were in the interview stages of the process. The ad hoc committee has diligently worked to find the best candidates for both of LACERA's boards to interview and make a selection. The current plan calls for the final candidates to interview with the full boards later in October, with a final selection meeting in early November.

In the meantime, LACERA has been moving right along on some big projects. We are currently about halfway through the process of completely revamping our website. The infrastructure is completed. The new design will be modern looking, cleaner, and easier to navigate. The team working on this project is focusing on the content review phase. During this phase, subject matter experts from just about every division within LACERA are reviewing and updating all of the written content. I am so proud of our staff members working on this project. Their dedication and teamwork shines through. Our target date is March 2020.

We are also in the process of redesigning our Retirement Benefit Estimate & Election form. Most of you signed a version of this form when you elected

*continued on p.7*



This graphic depicts LACERA's historical investment returns, net of fees, as of August 2019. LACERA's funding schedule assumes a long-range investment of 7.25 percent. Based on the latest 10-year period, returns are ahead of schedule.



## RELAC Recruiting for Office Manager

RELAC is seeking an office manager to replace interim manager Ida Leon Ramos, who last March agreed to help us out for six to 12 months. Here's Ida's take on the job:

The office manager reports to the chair of the Office Management Committee. He/she responds to e-mails and other correspondence from members and other interested parties on behalf of the Board of Directors. Also responsible for providing Board members with needed documents in advance of monthly Board meetings; takes notes, records and transcribes summary minutes of monthly Board meetings and quarterly General Membership meetings; maintains RELAC's Facebook page, and oversees office operations. Works with accountant to ensure bills are paid and charged correctly to established cost accounts. Records and reports hours worked by staff to third-party administrator of payroll.

Ensures Board members receive necessary support to promote events and membership meetings, including receiving and tracking payments when required and attending events to help Board members. Oversees the production of flyers for events and other information for publication in bi-monthly newsletters.

Very capable and congenial staff. Processes and procedures in place... though Board members are open to and encourage new ideas. Office manager leads the team to ensure RELAC members' and Board members' needs are met. Knowledge of Word, people skills and writing skills are musts. Working knowledge of Excel and Access are desirable. Supervisory experience desirable. Team possesses expertise in Word, Publisher, Excel and Access. We maintain existing database in Access consisting of members' names, dates of birth, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses and other information.

**PERKS:** Easy access to location: Fremont Avenue and Mission Road, Alhambra – just north of the 10 Freeway and east of the end of the 710 Freeway. Ideal hours for part-time employment: Monday through Thursday -- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All County holidays are observed on an unpaid basis except that Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day are paid if holidays fall on a scheduled workday. Paid on an hourly basis. Reserved parking in proximity to the office. Across the street from several great eateries for your half-hour lunch break; ATM also conveniently located across the street. Car wash on premises where you can leave your car and return for it after work.

Interested? Contact RELAC office at (626) 308-0532 or e-mail us at [admin@relac.org](mailto:admin@relac.org).

### For the Record:

We apologize for incorrectly identifying two members in photos taken at the RELAC General Membership Meeting in Whittier, which appeared in the September-October edition. The photos, with the correct names, are shown.



Carmen G. Lemus



Elizabeth Eberhard

## RELAC Supports Toy Drive

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair  
Community Support Committee

As we approach the holiday season, we have a number of opportunities to help others and children in need. Last year RELAC members generously donated toys at their local County Fire Department station in support of the annual "Spark of Love" toy drive.



RELAC Director Linda C. Hopkins presents toys to firefighter.

RELAC has again partnered with the County Fire Department and asks that our members consider donating new, unwrapped toys and sports equipment for teens to provide low-income families with holiday gifts for their children and teens.

Starting Monday, Dec. 2 through Dec. 24, toy donations can be dropped off at any local L.A. County Fire station or at the RELAC office at 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15, in Alhambra.

RELAC members attending the Dec. 10 General Membership meeting in Diamond Bar are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toy donations to the meeting for pickup by County firefighters attending.

Thank you for your generosity and community support, especially during the holidays. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

## Bylaws Amendment Adopted

Individuals who receive LACERA pension benefits will no longer be allowed to join RELAC as associate members.

A bylaws change was approved at the Sept. 24 General Membership Meeting that requires such individuals who join the organization after Jan. 1, 2020 be eligible only for regular membership.

Current associate members are grandfathered and will not be required to change their status.

The change affects spouses, partners, widows, widowers and surviving partners who receive a pension benefit from LACERA.

President Dave Muir said in most cases only one member of a married couple is a LACERA retiree, but there are a number of cases where both spouses receive LACERA benefits.

"The RELAC Board of Directors believes that in those cases, both spouses should be enrolled as regular members of RELAC," he said. Both spouses will be entitled to full voting rights.

Dues for associate members, who have no voting rights, are \$1 per month. Regular members pay \$2.50 monthly.



# RELAC Members Enjoy Annual Picnic

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair, Special Events Committee  
 Photos by Linda C. Hopkins

RELAC members and families enjoyed a country-western themed picnic and barbecue at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area in Irwindale on Saturday, Sept. 28. A few sprinkles did not dampen this fun and festive gathering of County retirees.

Great country western tunes by the Bobby Z Band entertained everyone and ended with over an hour of line dancing.

Thanks to Party Services and Sharon Patt, everyone had a memorable time!!

## Name that Tune winners



Guadalupe Valenzuela



Kathi Ferguson



Kim Fuentes



Sandra Martinez



Richard Standish



Joan Yakushiya



Mariana Gurola



Ebony Jenkins



Perla Sanchez



Earleen Powell



Lupe Allen



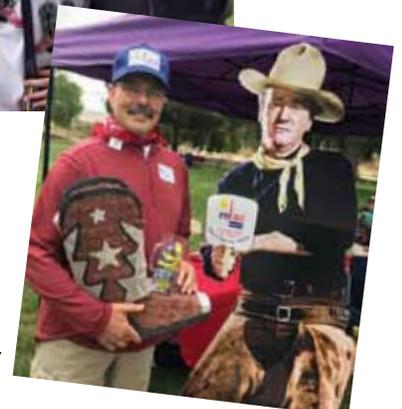
Anna Price



Shirley Donoho,  
Steve Pettee

## Lucky Prize Winners

Martin McNutty



## What's Happening?

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair  
Special Events Committee

Getting ready for the holidays? There are a number of special events scheduled for your enjoyment.



### Music Center Plaza Reopened

This newly renovated accessible outdoor urban space has reopened as a major public square in L.A. County. The restart of the historic fountain and the launching of two new LED screens which feature a platform for living video art highlighted the reopening. Music Center Plaza: 135 N. Grand Ave., L.A.

**"Moonlight Forest"** – Arboretum in Arcadia  
Nov. 9 - Jan. 12, 2020 Senior Discount Tickets  
Polar Dreams and Ocean Visions theme the Chinese lantern displays lining garden pathways.  
301 Baldwin Ave., Arcadia

**"Winter Glow"** at the Grand Park - FREE  
Dec. 6 – Dec. 25 - 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
Light displays and illuminated art are featured.  
L.A. County Grand Park: 210 W. Temple St., L.A.

**"Marina Lights"** – Marina del Rey – FREE  
Dec. 7, 21, 28 – Saturdays at Burton Chace Park  
Stroll through the park and enjoy the holiday light displays and entertainment.

**"Holiday Boat Parade"** – FREE  
Dec. 14 evening – Join spectators and watch lighted boats on parade in the main channel.  
Near the Burton Chace Park in Marina del Rey.

**60<sup>th</sup> Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration**  
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion – FREE Admission  
Dec. 24 - Tuesday 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. – FREE Parking  
135 N. Grand Ave., L.A.  
Performances by diverse L.A.-based artists and community groups. Also live broadcast on PBS SoCal. (KOCE).

**New Year's Eve Fireworks – FREE**  
Dec. 31 - Marina del Rey Fireworks & Glow party  
Call (424) 526-7900 for information.

For additional information on special events, visit [www.relac.org](http://www.relac.org).



## SAVE THE DATE Annual Recognition Luncheon

Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020

Almanson Court, 200 Almanson St., Alhambra

Keynote Speaker TBD

\$25 Per Ticket

Entrée Choice of Prime Rib, Baked Garlic Chicken or Vegetarian Pasta Plate

No-Host Cocktail Hour: 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Luncheon and Program: 12 Noon – 3:30 p.m.

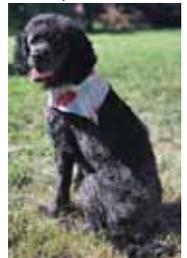
For additional information, please visit our website

**RELAC.org or Call Us at (626) 308-0532**

Cody



Derby



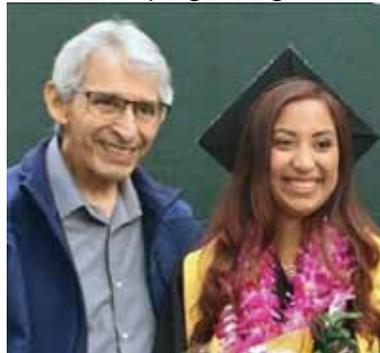
## Looking for More Paws-itive Volunteers

by Evelyn Gutierrez

RELAC member Richard Quinones reports that his granddaughter Adriana has been volunteering as a foster parent for animals in need of temporary care prior to placement in a permanent, loving home. In the last two years, Adriana has fostered seven dogs. Currently, she is fostering two dogs that have back and hind leg injuries. In order for them to walk and function normally, they were fitted with a two-wheeled harness, given physical therapy and vitamin supplements by a local organization, Bichon Rescue Brigade.

Adriana has now adopted the dog named Derby, who has fully recovered. She also continues to care for Cody while he receives the additional therapy needed for his recovery and placement in a permanent loving home. RELAC commends Richard and his granddaughter for sharing their homes and time to help our "furry" friends in need of loving care and a permanent home.

The County's Animal Care & Control Department also promotes foster care programs, like the older adults kitten foster program located at the Downey Center. The program's goal is to find foster homes for kittens in need and to also provide companionship to older adults.



If you are interested in being a "paws-itive" volunteer, please contact or visit a county animal care center near you. They are located in Agoura, Baldwin Park, Carson/Gardena, Castaic, Downey, Lancaster and Palmdale.

For additional information visit the County Animal Care & Control Department website at [www.animalcare.lacounty.gov](http://www.animalcare.lacounty.gov).

## CASA Volunteers Wanted

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers make a difference for children in foster care. CASA volunteers are paired to work one-on-one with a child and ensure they have the services and support needed in the areas important to all children: a stable home, education, and health care. There are more than 30,000 kids in the foster care system in L.A. and many need the support of a CASA volunteer. CASA is also actively seeking bilingual (Spanish-English) volunteers. No prior experience required. Learn more about how you can make a difference in a young person's life at one of CASA's information sessions or webinar. A calendar of upcoming sessions in different locations throughout the county can be found on CASA's website. To learn more or RSVP for an upcoming session, visit [www.casala.org](http://www.casala.org) or call (323) 859-2888.

# RV Outing Notes

Jeanne Klauk,  
Assistant Coordinator of the  
RV Club



Newport Dunes saw the arrival of our RELAC RV group descending onto the waterfront on Sept. 8. We had 10 rigs, and instead of a club room, we reserved a campsite and did all of our socializing there. Those in attendance were: Dave and Jan Coleman, Martin and Gloria Mc Naulty, Gus and Sandra San Miguel, Paul and Stinne Ladefoged, Chickee and Norm Nelson, Mike and Veronica Reyes, Bob and Linda Reyes, Elroy and Terri Morris, Peter and Joan Hansen, and, of course, our wagon masters, Dian and Leon Stegall. We were visited by Fred Weinberg, and Mike and Veronica's daughter, Roberta.

Dian nearly singlehandedly created some great breakfasts. It was rather tricky, as our most important

coffee pots kept tripping off the breakers. We were successful, though, and managed to eat her delicious spread. Dian and Leon brought two pop-up shades to provide shade for us. Our potlucks were good, too, as usual. We managed to play cards as well as spinner dominoes. On our dinner night out, we went to Guac Amigos, where they make guacamole to your specifications at your table—quite fun.

Peter won the gas card, and Gloria won the 50/50, donating it back to the club. Emerald Desert was scheduled for Oct. 20. Then, our next event is our RV Christmas luncheon at the Luxa Buffet in Ontario on Dec. 3. We bring unwrapped gifts for the CASA Kids, honoring Sarah Campbell's commitment to helping children in the court system.

We will be at Pechanga Casino and RV Park from Jan. 26-29, 2020. Then March 22 will find us in Banning Stagecoach KOA. It is quite a nice park, and we are looking forward to visiting there again. Come join us; it is a lot of fun. Contact Mike Reyes, our leader, at (909) 357-0145 or me at (562) 896-8904, or just fill out the coupon on the RELAC website (relac.org) and join us in Banning!

## RV Club Members Kick Off Season

Members of RELAC's RV Club started their season at the Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort and Marina in Newport Beach. Shown, from front, left to right, are Norman Nelson, Chickee Nelson, Dian Stegall, Stinne Ladefoged, Veronica Reyes, and Janice Coleman.



In second row are Peter Hansen, Joan Hansen, Paul Ladefoged, Leon Stegall, Sandra San Miguel, and Gus San Miguel. In third row are Gloria Mc Naulty, Martin Mc Naulty, Terri Morris, Elroy Morris, Jeanne Klauk, Mike Reyes, and Dave Coleman.

## FOR SALE:

**CEMETERY PLOTS** -- Rose Hills Memorial Park, Carnation Lawn section, Lot 6717. Graves 1-2-3-4. Asking \$5,750 each. Additionally, buyer pays transfer fee and endowment fee. Complete transaction will be at Rose Hills location. Contact Mike or Karen Hoag at (909) 519-5224.

**CEMETERY PLOT** -- One plot. Rose Hills Memorial Park. Asking \$5,600. Includes transfer and endowment fees. Complete transaction will be at Rose Hills location. Contact Shirley Robinson at (323) 792-4382 or (713) 876-9226.

**CEMETERY PLOT** - Inglewood Park Cemetery, one double grave and vaults, Plot 309 Woodlawn section. Asking \$12,000. Additionally, buyer pays transfer fee and endowment fee. Fee may be negotiated. Complete transaction will be at Inglewood Park Cemetery location. Contact Raymond and Tamara O'Sullivan (951) 675-3110.



## Happy Birthday, RELAC Centenarians

Happy birthday to our members who will be 100 and older in November and December.

**Ted Lumpkin**, 100, Dec. 30, 1919,  
Community Development.

**Isabel Estrada**, 101, Nov. 17, 1918,  
Health Services.

**Hadassah M. Snider**, 101, Dec. 15, 1918,  
Community Development.

**Irene B. Baker**, 101, Dec. 31, 1918,  
John Wesley Hospital.

**Naomi Brown**, 102, Nov. 16, 1917,  
Health Services.

**Ivo Lazzeroni**, 102, Dec. 5, 1917,  
Communications.

**Virginia J. Weaver**, 102, Dec. 5, 1917,  
Public Social Services.

## RELAC NEWSLETTER

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Retired Employees  
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Office Hours

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday - Thursday

Closed Friday,

Saturday, Sunday &

Public Holidays



## Letters To The Editor Write On!

Thanks for the lovely birthday card and the thoughtfulness. Celebrated my 96<sup>th</sup> with my grandsons, great grandsons and some of my 12 children. It's nice for you guys to send the cards; some people are lonely. Very nice.

**Louise Mouzakis, El Segundo, California**

I thank you so much for having the article by Dave Muir explaining the effect WEP and GPO could have on one's Social Security benefits. I am pleased and grateful to have this informative information. With sincere appreciation for all your hard work.

**Joan T. Zousel, Tustin, California**

YOU have certainly brought RELAC to life!! I hear about the newsletter from so many folks. People eagerly await the next one!! I can join now, right?! I'm not retiring for another three years, but it couldn't hurt to get news now.

**Kerry Silverstrom, Chief Deputy Director, Beaches and Harbors**

Hi to all of you and thank you for being there for all of us. I retired effective Sept. 9, 2019 after 45 years, but have been a RELAC member for many years.

**Yolanda Roybal, Glendora, California**

I enjoyed reading "Keeping Up With Retirees." To Ms. Maureen Moe Sheridan, your article was inspiring. Thank you for sharing with your readers. Stay strong and keep the faith.

**Cecilia Tapscott, Los Angeles, California**

Thanks for the RELAC newsletter. You do a great job! I want to update my e-mail address. Hope this helps you update your records, and thanks for bringing this to my attention in the newsletter.

**Mariam M. Smith, La Habra, California**

In reading the September-October RELAC newsletter -- specifically the article on updating contact information -- I thought I would take a few minutes to make sure you have my most current contact information. I, like all members, appreciate all the hard work that goes into maintaining a first-class organization. Therefore, please note my contact information below. Thank you, everyone, for all your hard work and especially Judy Hammond, who by far as editor puts together an award-winning newsletter with every single publication. Have a great day and smile!

**Gwen Andrizzi, Torrance, California**

Thank you, Ida (Leon Ramos), for asking your granddaughter to take pictures of the sitting area at the July Dodger game where my granddaughter, son-in-law and I were sitting, and posting in the newsletter. So nice of you, appreciate it.

**Ruben Ramirez, Los Angeles, California**

Dear Board of Directors and Gift Donors, thanks for such an enjoyable picnic on Saturday! I met new people and shared a table with them, especially in the welcomed rain. I am so grateful for having won a \$50 Walmart/Visa debit card. It was totally unexpected. Can't wait until next year's picnic.

**Shirley A. Donoho, Cerritos, California**

You are doing a great job with the RELAC newsletter. It is so informative, and my husband and I read it front to back. It's a good way to keep us retirees in the know about the County after contributing so many years with our careers, and to still feel a connection to our past.

**Georgette Dame, Ingram, Texas**

Thank you for thinking of me in such a thoughtful way by sending a birthday card for my 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday in August!

**Rose Becerra, Los Angeles, California**

I like the newsletter. As a future retiree, it has great info -- especially the ad for a burial plot.

**Tony Bell, Assistant Chief Deputy/Communications Deputy, Supervisor Kathryn Barger**

Thanks for mentioning me in the latest RELAC newsletter. To paraphrase Mae West, ".....it's better to be mentioned than not mentioned at all!" Judy, with that

great column of yours where you "mention" all kinds of things going on in Mother County.....I think you should have in retirement a brand new title "The Great Mentioner" as we all look forward to reading all your "mentions" in each newsletter. Thanks for a great column.

**Bill Yaney, San Pedro, California Program Manager, Community and Senior Citizens (retired)**



### LACERA continued from p.2

to retire. While this is all in the past for our retired members, I still thought it might be good to share with you what we are working on. The new form, which we are calling the Retirement Application, will feature expanded information about the member's retirement account. It will explain all of the factors that go into calculating a retirement benefit and include information about any purchases that a member may consider making to maximize their benefits. The application will also include an expanded explanation of the retirement benefit options, including a snapshot of the characteristics of members who most often choose each option. In addition, the new application will be accompanied by a new Retirement Guide, with more detailed information about member's benefits and the retirement process. Our goal is to continue to provide members with as much information as possible so that everyone can make the best choices possible. Once this process is complete, we will focus on accepting retirement elections online.

Other projects in development: making it possible for members to send LACERA documents electronically through the website portal, updating the security of our login process, redesigning the Annual Benefit Statement, and many more. LACERA is continually looking towards the future and improving the services we offer our members.

Well, that's it for this month. Until we chat again, I hope you enjoy every day of your retirement. You earned it!

# Keeping Up With Retirees

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

With daughter, Leslie



## ANGIE MONTES JOHNSON

I began my County career in the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors in 1982 as a 17-year-old student worker fresh out of high school and retired after 32 years as division chief of Board Operations. I grew up in the Executive Office, although I'd left twice to work in other departments. I was a deputy clerk with the Municipal Courts (five months) and as a staff assistant for Supervisor Kenneth Hahn just before his retirement (10 months). I kept gravitating back to the Executive Office because I felt that, that was my place. I met a lot of wonderful people there, some of whom I still keep in contact with.

During my years of service I had opportunities to participate in various projects to improve processes which aided the County supervisors in providing access to information to the constituents of the County. This included the way the agendas and minutes are generated, to providing electronic access to the Board's records, and the televising of the Board's meetings, all of which provide constituents with a complete record of the Board's proceedings.

Working in the Executive Office afforded me the opportunity to learn and grow, to be mentored and mentor others. Because of this, I knew that upon my retirement I would be volunteering in some aspect. So immediately after retiring in March of 2014, my husband, Bill, and I moved to Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Shortly thereafter I began volunteering for the Western Arizona Humane Society socializing the dogs, assisting in getting them adopted. I was also able to participate in raising funds for the Humane Society by donating a handmade blanket, which was auctioned for \$375. In October 2019 I began volunteering with the Arizona Attorney General's Office, which opened a new satellite office in our town. I will be providing consumers with information related to fraud and assisting in the filing of consumer and civil rights complaints.

When people ask me if I am bored now that I am retired, I have to laugh! Because there is never enough time in the day.

My day begins very early in the morning so that I have time to do everything that I want. Attending regular CrossFit classes, hiking three to four times a week (except for the summer months -- it gets too hot here), volunteering, playing in a pool league (I've even been to Las Vegas to play in the ACS National Pool Championships), and spending time on my hobbies (crocheting and baking). I also belong to a local social group that gets together once a week for lunch and/or dinner. Weekends are spent with close friends out on the lake, getting together for barbecues or pool parties.

During these past few years I've been able to travel to the Caribbean, Canada, Texas, Kansas, Iowa and Idaho to visit with family and friends. My children, Marvin, Marleen and Monica, live a distance from me, along with their children (I have a total of six grandkids), so I am not able to see them as much as I'd like. However, we are able to keep in touch through social media.

I am right now living my best life being retired. To anyone thinking about retirement, do it! Retirement is indeed wonderful. Do what you love! Do what inspires you!

## KENNETH DILLARD

I am 87 years old. I never believed I would last this long.

I graduated from high school in June 1949. I was employed as a merchant seaman by the Department of the Navy and assigned to a U.S. Navy troop transport stationed in Yokohama, Japan. I went on the ship March 1, 1950 and the Korean War started in late June. I spent the entire war in Korean waters and returned to the States in June 1954. I joined the U.S. Marines in March 1955 and served five years on active duty. The last two were spent in Oslo, Norway, serving as an embassy security guard.

I entered college in 1960, graduated in January 1965, and was hired by L.A. County to work for the Department of Charities at L.A. County General Hospital in a systems and procedures unit. We studied the feasibility of computerizing hospitals. I was promoted in one year and reassigned to handle the hospital budget production and control the equipment purchases annually for the hospital, working for Robert Thomas, administrator, and Liston Witherill, associate administrator. I was also involved in the Medicare and Medi-Cal start-ups.

I received several promotions and job changes in General Hospital, including seeing the hospital undergo a name change to L.A. County/USC Medical Center. I was moved to the Department of Hospitals and promoted to assistant director, Hospital Fiscal and Program Services. In January 1972, I was promoted by Donald Avant, Harbor Hospital administrator, to associate administrator, and was promoted in October 1974 to administrator.

I have never been happy blowing my own horn, but I have thought about it and can say that one of the things I accomplished was getting the County to change from buying expensive x-ray and lab equipment to leasing. That change occurred with the able assist from Bill Breckinridge, chief radiology tech at County/USC Medical Center, and Waldo Perez at Purchasing and Stores. When I moved to Harbor, I installed the same program and we modernized the two departments in two years.

In June 1978 I was recruited by a search firm to become CEO of two hospitals in northern San Diego County, where I spent the next 18 years.

I had 23 years of service when I left the County (including 10 years of federal time I purchased from the retirement system), but deferred my County retirement until February 1982.

When I retired from employment in 1995, my wife, Lucie, and I took many driving trips around the Country as there were many areas we had not seen. I was nominated and served on boards, including the San Diego County Dental Society and two retirement facility boards. My wife began having problems with the onset of dementia in 2010. I became her caregiver. We sold our home and moved to Houston into a retirement facility in November of 2016 to be near our daughter and our two grandchildren. I lost my wife in September of 2017. I am now occupied with activities offered by my retirement facility, such as shuffleboard and Wii bowling. I also attend the Government Committee's offerings. I miss California and L.A. County and San Diego, but I see my daughter and grandchildren regularly.

I remember my years of service to L.A. County with great fondness. In my whole 37-year career, the best years were spent at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, and the people I worked with and for in hospitals were absolutely wonderful. I often wished that I had not left.

My life has been impacted by Los Angeles County Health Services from the beginning; I was born in County General Hospital on Feb. 5, 1932.

## ED FOLEY

As an Army Korea vet just landing a sheepskin from the Business School at the University of Minnesota in 1957, I was ready for work. An L.A. County recruiter searching for engineers at the U of M in Minneapolis spent an afternoon interviewing potential County management trainees. By July, I was a personnel trainee working for the County's Civil Service Commission. Passing muster in that position, I was appointed assistant personnel officer at the Bureau of Public Assistance (now the Department of Public Social Services). During that time, I had a very wonderful change in my life when I married Colleen, my Minnesota sweetheart.



Then I had assignments in the Personnel Office at General Hospital (then known as Big General and now as LAC+USC), as chief of the 500-strong Housekeeping Department, and from 1963 to 1967 as personnel officer at Harbor General Hospital (now Harbor-UCLA Medical Center). Along the way I picked up a master's in management at UCLA.

While I loved personnel assignments, administration was the lure. In 1967 I moved over to the County's Long Beach El Cerrito Hospital as assistant hospital administrator. This began a decade of career changing assignments.

In succession, I spent a six-month rotation at John Wesley County Hospital, then I was the director of a federal grant program related to affirmative action, then in 1972 I became the personnel officer for the newly organized Department of Health Services. In 1974 I became the associate administrator at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital.

In 1975 I was appointed administrator of Rancho, a truly world class and world-renowned rehabilitation hospital. My four-plus years at Rancho were some of the most satisfying of my career. Rancho's multidiscipline approach to patient treatment and patient care was a stimulating and rewarding experience.

In December 1980 Department of Health Services Director Bob White said he wanted me to leave Rancho, which I loved, and become CEO of Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance. That change was huge. Rancho's patients came in for long stays with serious medical conditions such as strokes, spinal injury, head trauma, and cleft palate. Harbor-UCLA is different. It is a modern, first class acute hospital and trauma center with hundreds of top doctors, intern and resident physicians and a large and productive research program. Harbor is a fast-paced dynamic academic medical center serving a vast part of Los Angeles County. This assignment was exciting every day, with challenges from unions, state regulators, budgets, construction, and on and on. My 10-plus years at Harbor was a whirlwind I was privileged to be a part of.

One of my greatest honors was when DHS Director Bob Gates appointed me director of hospitals over six county hospitals. It was a career-defining position which I held until my Colleen finally got her wish when I retired in 1993.

Post retirement began with a two-year hitch with the Hospital Council of Southern California as its Orange County vice president.

We moved to Palm Desert and also got a small place in Signal Hill to avoid the hottest desert months. We got involved with many activities, including a reading program for youngsters at local schools, a food distribution program in Mecca, and various classes at the local college. For 20 years both of us were significant volunteers at the Indian Wells Tennis Tournament, where I was the chairman of the Administration Committee.

Traveling has been a big part of our retirement that we really enjoyed. We have been to 85 countries, including many stops in Asia. Visiting all 50 U.S. states showed us the amazing beauty of our country.

We are blessed with four daughters and eight grandkids and have loved every moment of our time with all of them. We are extremely fortunate to enjoy a full and happy retired life.

## JEAN GRANUCCI

As my twin sister, Jan, and I drove from Long Beach to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District for a job interview before we had even graduated from high school, we had no intention of accepting a job there as we had our sights set on going to college. We had taken the County exam in typing class and thought the interview would be good experience. However, as it turned out, on June 8, 1964, the Monday after our high school graduation, we both began our careers at the District in different divisions as typist-clerks. It was one of the best decisions I've ever made, particularly because I met my husband, Gene, on a blind date set up by one of the engineers I worked with there.



*With husband, Gene*

I moved up the clerical/secretarial ranks and in July 1976 was promoted to the top secretarial position as secretary to the chief engineer. In 1985 the Flood Control District became part of the new Department of Public Works. As part of a career development program, I was given the opportunity to change career paths and moved into the Public Affairs and Advocacy Office as public information coordinator, where I continued to progress. In December 1988 I became head of Public Affairs and Special Services in the Personnel and Public Affairs Division, with responsibility for media relations and employee programs. I thrived in that role, enjoying interaction with employees at all levels of the department while becoming very familiar with the challenges our engineers faced in maintaining the infrastructure for millions of County residents. I had the privilege of helping to promote, through media releases and press conferences, the innovative achievements of our department that enhanced our roads and improved maintenance of our flood control channels. I never drive in traffic or over a pothole without realizing what a good job L.A. County has done in this regard as compared to other jurisdictions -- something we shouldn't take for granted.

I retired in March 2001. Soon after that, Gene and I moved to San Diego from Cypress, where we had lived for almost 30 years. We were ready for a change and wanted to be closer to our older son, who was going to be getting married that June. It had always been our dream to retire by the ocean and that has become a reality as we lived in Del Mar for 10 years and now in Leucadia for the past eight years. A by-product of living there is that we have enjoyed the Del Mar horse racing seasons with family and fellow retirees from Public Works. Opening days-- hats and all --always bring really fun times. Our travels for the most part have also revolved around the ocean, including Hawaii, St. Marteen, Puerto Vallarta, and Cancun.

Enjoying the beauty of the area where we live, spending quality time with family and friends, and attending women's Bible study at our church have been some of my most enjoyable pastimes. We have two grandsons, ages 15 and 16, and being close to them and being able to attend all of their various sporting activities has been the best of all.

Retirement has not been without challenges, though. Gene has been dealing with kidney disease for several years. He was on kidney dialysis for over five years and endured much pain and suffering. We faced the challenge head-on and kept our ritual vacations -- even when it meant locating a facility where Gene could get his treatments while we enjoyed our time together. Then in late March 2018, a miracle occurred, and he received a kidney transplant. He suffered many complications afterwards though and spent many weeks in the hospital. He is doing better now, and he looks great, but we knew that transplant is not a cure, just another form of treatment that allows patients to live a more normal life and it comes with its own set of challenges. Being Gene's caregiver is my top priority. Life is even more precious now and we make the most of every day. We celebrated our 51st wedding anniversary this past June. We are particularly grateful for our great County retiree health insurance!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

August 2019 – September 2019

**Assessor** – Tracy Okida  
**Alternate Public Defender** – Louise Gulartie  
**Board of Supervisors** – Angie Montes Johnson  
**Children & Family Services** – Laura Chiara, Leslie Myers, Donna Taylor  
**County Counsel** – Manuel Valenzuela  
**Health Services** – Charee Johnson, Betty Lacy O'Neil, Vithal Rambhatla  
**LAC+USC Medical Center** – Fernando Avina, Jewelene Waller  
**Mental Health** – Christopher Fierro, Suhasini Shah, Judith Weigand  
**Probation** – DeWitt Roberts  
**Public Social Services** – Doris Enoch, Olga Lopez-Soliman, Opal Roberts  
**Public Health** – Willie Watts-Troutman  
**Public Works** – Martha Fonseca-Espitia  
**Registrar/Recorder** – Martha Plaza  
**Sheriff** – Keith Edey, Todd Kubela, Bryan Oatman, Gino Reale  
**Active** – Steven Shirvanian  
**Department Not Designated** – Liduvina Garcia, Cheryl Harris  
**New Associate Members** – Maria Avina, Kelly Edey, Natalia Fierro, Oscar Armando Garcia, Rita Kubela, Sandy Okida, Rajyasree Rambhatla, Laurie A. Reale, Freeman Troutman, Guadalupe Valenzuela, David Weigand

### Thanks for New Member Referrals

We would like to thank the six members who recruited colleagues to join RELAC during August and September 2019. 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](mailto:admin@relac.org) or go online at [relac.org](http://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):  
**Sandra Duran**, *Christopher Fierro*, Mental Health  
**Judy Hammond**, *Angie Montes Johnson*, Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
**Dorthea Morris**, *Doris Enoch*, Public Social Services  
**Ida Ramos**, *DeWitt Roberts*, Probation  
**Delia Lily Tapia**, *Suhasini Shah*, LAC+USC Medical Center  
**Irlene Terrell**, *Willie Watts-Troutman*, Public Health

## Drawing Winners

Lucky prize winners at RELAC's General Membership Meeting at the County Arboretum in Arcadia included Erica Malcolm, Olga Lederer, Mike Thompson, Kiku Nieda, Terry Tanner, Joan Lewinners, Richard Midgley, Eufrocina Valdez, Yoshichi Ogata, Junko Ogata, Bob Porlier, Gretchen Kirk, and Bob Anderson.

(Photos by Linda C. Hopkins)



# Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond  
Newsletter Editor



Groundbreaking is scheduled this winter on an athletic and academic campus on 80 acres of County land in Carson that is now the Victoria Golf Course. It will include 52 tennis courts, five soccer and multi-purpose fields, and a 25,000-square-foot state-of-the-art learning center with a focus on science, technology, engineering and math. Tiger Woods and Chris Evert foundations will be among those partnering with the County to offer programs at little or no cost.

Supervisors canceled a \$1.7 billion contract to build a jail-like mental health treatment center to replace Men's Central Jail, and asked staff to come up with a new strategy.

A new nine-member oversight panel for the Probation Department will assess policy priorities, investigate issues of concern, conduct unannounced inspections of facilities, and design a new grievance process for the public and probation clients.

Supervisors are considering once again restructuring health services, eliminating the Health Agency created in 2015 under Dr. Mitch Katz, who has since relocated to New York City.

Reacting to a \$63 million deficit in the Sheriff's Department budget, supervisors put a hiring freeze on non-critical civilian personnel, asked for a repayment plan, and controls to keep future spending within the adopted budget.

The Mental Health Department has expanded its School Threat Assessment Response Team to 42 staff from 10 to better prevent school violence.

A mock election was held at 50 sites in September to show off the new voting equipment the County plans to use in the 2020 presidential primary.

Sheriff's Deputy Andrew Rodriguez was awarded \$8.1 million by a jury that found he was subjected to "severe and pervasive" harassment after protesting illegal orders while a trainee assigned to the Industry Station.

Eight deputies sued the County, saying they were routinely harassed by a clique of East Los Angeles sheriff's station deputies who wear a tattoo of a skeleton with a sombrero.

A lawsuit filed by three Muslims accuses the Sheriff's Department of engaging in a "systematic effort to disfavor Muslim inmates and their spiritual needs over those of other inmates of other faiths."

An audit of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority says the City/County agency failed dramatically in meeting its goals.

A \$41 million renovation raised the Music Center Plaza to make it more accessible to pedestrians.

County Fair officials, trying to keep the heat from affecting attendance, installed shaded structures and misters this year and will add even more for the 2020 event.

A Superior Court judge ordered Sheriff Alex Villanueva to remove a deputy he had reinstated who had been fired before he was elected for violating department policies and lying.

The County Office of Child Protection found that despite the death of a 4-year-old Palmdale boy whose parents have been charged with his murder, social workers and their supervisors acted appropriately in leaving him at home after receiving permission from the court to remove him.

Mold found in a room used to sterilize surgical equipment, caused by a water leak, forced the cancellation of elective surgeries at County+USC Medical Center for several days.

The number of hate crimes in L.A. County in 2018 reached its highest point in nearly a decade, with blacks and the LGBTQ community most frequently targeted in the 521 attacks. Supervisors instructed the Medical Examiner – Coroner to begin tracking gender identity and sexual orientation, with specific focus on LGBTQ suicide rates, violent deaths and hate crime incidents. The suicide of a transgender youth also prompted supervisors to ask for recommendations on how to improve services for LGBTQ youth in foster care.

More than 1,000 girls aged 11-18 attended an empowerment conference Oct. 5 hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

A contract has been signed to extend the Gold Line light rail to Pomona from Glendora.

Supervisors have directed that Campus Kilpatrick, closed last November after being extensively damaged in a wildfire, be repaired as quickly as possible. The probation facility had only recently opened at the time of the fire.

The Board has approved funding to begin the phased implementation of a body-worn camera program for all sheriff deputies.

Taix French Restaurant, a favorite hangout for County managers since the '60s, has been sold and will be converted into condos.

The Dodgers will partner with the Department of Mental Health in a "Playing for Keeps" campaign to promote mental health awareness.

The County is leasing the site of the former South Whittier Library, which is close to Rio Hondo College, to a developer for \$1 a year for 66 years to build 27 affordable apartments for students.

A criminal investigation is being conducted by the Sheriff's Department to determine if its chief watchdog, the Office of the Inspector General, unlawfully obtained internal records.

The County is setting up an eviction defense and prevention program to help keep residents from becoming homeless.

The Fire Department has added fingertip pulse oximeters, glucometers and nasal Naloxone to its basic life-support inventory to enhance treatment of residents in need of medical help.

Forever homes were found for 195 pets during the Department of Animal Care and Control's annual Clear the Shelters event.

The Department of Public Social Services' new toy loan center at a residential facility in Wilmington brings the total number of centers to 55.

The Natural History Museum led a two-week expedition to explore the urban waters of the coast of Los Angeles to dramatically improve knowledge of Southern California marine biodiversity, and showed off its findings at a pop-up exhibit at the Port of L.A.

The Department of Public Social Services conducted a donation drive to get personal care supplies for homeless individuals and families.

Citing the negative impact of the "no-kill" approach, the Animal Care and Control Department adopted the term "Socially Conscious Animal Sheltering" to describe its philosophies and procedures. The department mission is to maximize live outcomes for animals, while also balancing animal well-being and public safety.

The County will spend \$4 million to renovate the Don Knabe Park Gym and Community Room at what was once Cerritos Park but was renamed in honor of the former County supervisor.

The County Democratic Party, which endorsed Sheriff Alex Villanueva in his bid for office, is concerned about actions since election and passed a resolution asking him to make significant changes to restore trust in the department.

Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Supervisor Janice Hahn to the California Film Commission.

# RETIREE NOTES

## Angelo Bellomo Honored at Retirement Ceremony

The Board of Supervisors honored Angelo Bellomo in recognition of his retirement after 21 years of service with Los Angeles County. Supervisor Hilda Solis presents scroll to Bellomo, who was deputy director for health protection in the Department of Public Health at the time of his retirement. At left is Dr. Barbara Ferrer, director of public health, and at right is Bellomo's wife, Sophia. Bellomo first joined the Public Health Department in 1974, but left after nine years and then rejoined the department in 2008.



## Retirement?

### Not Yet, They Say 35 Years and Still Going Strong

Three employees of the Los Angeles County Development Authority were honored for 35 years of service, all with the LACDA (formerly known as Community Development Commission/ Housing Authority). Receiving awards, from left, are Kathy Vega, Grace Thamawatanakul, and Becky Yee.



## Retiree Afaf Assad Dies Following Casino Attack

Afaf Assad, who was division chief of the Assessment Appeals Board under the Board of Supervisors when she retired in 2007, has died after being robbed and attacked in a casino bathroom. Two women have been arrested.



Assad, 84, was attacked shortly after entering the Pechanga Resort Casino near Temecula with her husband, Youanness, 94, at 7:30 a.m. on Aug. 31. Casino surveillance video showed two women followed her into the bathroom. Four minutes later Assad was found unconscious. She died several days later on Sept. 4.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned in Assad's memory on Sept. 17. Supervisors Chair Janice Hahn said Assad "never met a stranger. She greeted everyone with a smile. She always had a sense of style and wore her signature hats everywhere. Her light shines on the lives she touched and the hearts who will remember her." Celia Zavala, Board of Supervisors executive officer, said Assad was a dedicated County employee with more than 31 years of service and a valued leader in the Assessment Appeals division. "Afaf was known for her kindness and in-depth knowledge of the appeals process. She had many long friendships in the Executive Office."

Assad, who lived in Long Beach at the time of her death, was born in Cairo, Egypt in 1935. She studied business administration at Ain Shams University in Cairo. Following graduation, she got a job as supervisor of computing systems at Banque Misr, and there she met her husband. When they heard that the United States needed graduates with accounting and business degrees, they decided to emigrate. At first they worked at various banking jobs and then both went to work for the County, with Assad beginning her County career as a clerk. Their daughter, Mary, was born in 1972, and four years later the couple became naturalized citizens.



Barry Hunt, shown at start of career in 1972 and at retirement in 2010, recounts the numerous restructures during his 40 years with County health.

## REFLECTIONS:

### Health Services May be Reorganized...Again

In 2015 the Board of Supervisors created the Health Agency, a new department to oversee the Mental Health, Health Services and Public Health Departments. But, with the recent retirement of Health Agency Director Fred Leaf, the supervisors decided it was time to review the organizational structure again.

Perhaps, they said, it might be better if the Health Agency were eliminated, and Mental Health, Health Services and Public Health once again made independent agencies. Staff was given 60 days to return with recommendations.

It's déjà vu for RELAC member Barry Hunt, who went through a number of restructures during his 40 years with County health.

"If you ask me, here we go again," he said. "We have seen this many times before, beginning in the early '70s. When in doubt, reorganize."

At Hunt's retirement party in 2010, he summarized his 40 years of Health Services reorganizations in one sentence: "Be flexible." And he suggested to his colleagues that with history as a guide, they could expect several organizational restructurings during their career.

"Since joining the Department of Hospitals in 1972, we have been regularly centralized, decentralized, and organizationally reformatted. More specifically, historical records show we were "merged" in 1973 with other departments (e.g., Public Health, Hospitals, Mental Health and Veterinarian) to become the Department of Health Services.

"We were then "regionalized" in 1974, then "disentangled" from other departments in 1981, then "realigned" in 1984, then "networked" in 1988, then "clustered" in 1993, then "reengineered" in 1996, then "SPAed out" in 1999. In 2006 we were "de-siloized" and Public Health was "separated" from DHS. All of these adjustments brought us new programs, acronyms, and bosses."

Hunt, who was area administrator and chief financial officer of Community Health Services in Public Health when he retired, says his advice to colleagues then remains solid today: "These biggest departmental decisions are beyond their control, so the best approach is to be flexible, stay positive, and understand and support the department's mission, and make it your own."



Bragdon



Epstein



Flynn



Aspaturian

## Appointments:

**Arlene Barrera**, acting auditor-controller following retirement of John Naimos. **Chad Smith**, 48, chief operating officer of Los Angeles Philharmonic, named chief executive, replacing Simon Woods, who resigned unexpectedly in September.

## Retirements:

County ocean lifeguard **Bill Cross**, 48 years. **Fred Leaf**, who "unretired" for six months to serve as the head of the Health Agency. **Karen Weiner**, long-time aide to former Supervisor Gloria Molina who joined the County Counsel's Office after the supervisor's retirement, 28+ years. Chief Probation Officer **Terri McDonald** will retire in January 2020.

## Departures:

Los Angeles Opera General Manager **Placido Domingo**, 78, resigned amid numerous sexual harassment allegations and withdrew from scheduled performances. Sheriff's Deputy **Angel Reinoso**, 21, fired after admitting his claim that he was shot at by a sniper outside Lancaster station was a hoax.

## Honors:

Monument erected at Acton Park in honor of Fire Capt. **Ted Hall** and Firefighter Specialist **Arnie Quinones**, who were killed when their vehicle tumbled to bottom of a canyon while they were battling the Station Fire, the largest wildland fire in County's history, in 2009.

## Deaths:

**Tom Tidemanson**, 87, first director of public works, retired in 1994 after 38 years of service. **Anna Soto**, 58, who worked for more than 20 years as administrative assistant for the Health HIV/AIDS Division, and prior to that as field representative for former County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. **Loverine Butler**, 91, the County's first female coroner field investigator and thought to be the first in the nation. **Afaf Assad**, 84, who retired in 2007 from the Assessment Appeals Division of the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors after 31 years of service, who died after being assaulted in a casino bathroom during a robbery. **Nancy Lee Aspaturian**, justice deputy to Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and former deputy public defender, who had battled lymphoma for the past two years. Marina del Rey developer **Jerry Epstein**, 96, former member of Economy and Efficiency Commission and chairman of the Energy Commission for the Cities and County of Los Angeles. **Jim Hardy**, 96, general manager of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum from 1973-86. **Russell D. Walker**, 72, assistant chief of the County Fire Department's Lifeguard Division at retirement in 2005. **Margaret Farnum**, 92, former Coliseum Commission chief administrative officer, serving 40 years on Coliseum staff before retiring in 2008. Sheriff's Sgt. **Ernie Barbosa**, 30 years of service, whose wife, Rachel, served as aide to Supervisors Hilda Solis and Mark Ridley-Thomas. Deputy County Counsel **Damien Rosen**, who in 2017 was presented the Court Service Award by Court Appointed Special Advocates in recognition of his outstanding service to CASA and the Children's Dependency Court. **Emma Lee (Em) Johnson**, 91, retired in 1985 as personnel director of the Department of Health Services. Retired L.A. Superior Court Presiding Judge **James Bascue**, 79, who also served as a deputy district attorney and chief deputy to District Attorney Robert Philibosian, after a brief illness. **Lois Stone Erburu**, 88, former member of the Music Center Board of Governors and Blue Ribbon Executive Committee. Sheriff Sgt. **Joseph Mileham**, who retired in 2006 after 33 years of service. **John Gunn**, 93, who was a L.A. Superior Court judge for several decades. **Paul Flynn**, 80, appointed L.A. Superior Court judge in 1989 and served for 20 years, after 10-month battle with esophageal cancer. **Alice Noda**, 93, administrator at Harbor General Hospital for 12 years until her retirement. **Cynthia Lombard**, 78, who retired in 2003 as principal human resources analyst after 38-year County career, from Alzheimer's disease. **Clyde Bragdon, Jr.**, 90, named fire chief in 1977, the first to be appointed by the Board of Supervisors instead of civil service testing.

## Courts:

Former Sheriff's Deputy **Giancarlo Scotti**, 33, sentenced to two years in prison after pleading no contest to engaging in unlawful sexual activity with six female inmates two years ago at Century Regional Detention Facility in Lynwood. Sheriff's Deputy **Neil Kimball**, 46, sentenced to three years in prison for sexually assaulting a minor in 2017.

## Elections:

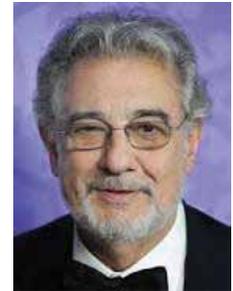
**Shawn R. Kehoe**, Sheriff's Department, elected to three-year terms beginning Jan. 1 on LACERA Board of Retirement and Board of Investments. **Will Pryor** of Fire Department elected as alternate safety member of the Board of Retirement.



Barrera



Bascue



Domingo



Johnson



Kehoe



Pryor

## First Public Works Director, Tom Tidemanson, 87, Dies

Tom Tidemanson, a 38-year County employee and the first director of the Department of Public Works, has died at age 87.

Tidemanson, a RELAC member who lived in Whittier, passed away on Sept. 17 and was buried at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier on Oct. 5.

Following the 1985 consolidation of the Los Angeles County Road Department, Flood Control District and County Engineer, Tidemanson was named director of Public Works, where he served until retiring in 1994. Following his retirement, the department's headquarters in Alhambra was named for him.

Mark Pestrella, current director of the department, said Tidemanson was a dedicated public servant and instilled a culture of responsiveness, customer service and technical expertise.



"Director Tidemanson was a highly respected member of the engineering community. He served a term as president of the County Engineers Association of California and was once named among the nation's Top 10 public works leaders of the year by

the American Public Works Association. On a personal note, Mr. Tidemanson was the director when I began my career at Public Works 32 years ago and I found him to be an outstanding leader."

RELAC member Harry Stone, who succeeded Tidemanson as director of the department, said Tidemanson will be missed. "His leadership in putting together the L.A. County Department of Public Works from the Road Department, Flood Control District and a large part of the County Engineer was outstanding. The melding together of departments with different missions, cultures and over 100 different funding sources was something few people could have done. I was proud to work with Tom."

RELAC member Harry Hufford, who served as chief administrative officer during Tidemanson's tenure, also praised him. "Tom was quick, bright, and a shining beacon. He managed that complex organization with flair, while maintaining a great relationship with the Board."

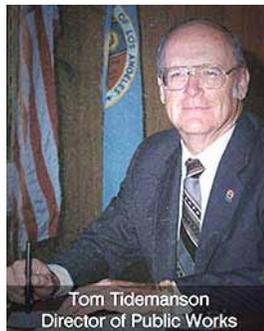
"Tom was one of the more pleasant and professional people I dealt with over the years on the Board," said former County Supervisor Pete Schabarum, also a RELAC member. "A real pleasure as a fellow worker, but also a friend at the same time."

RELAC member Mike Antonovich, who was a County supervisor throughout Tidemanson's time as department head, agreed. "Tom was a true professional. He was dedicated and responsive to serving the needs of the taxpayers. It was a pleasure for my staff and me to work with him and the Public Works staff."

"I loved Tom," said Sherry Lasagna, Antonovich's senior deputy in the Antelope Valley from 1980 to 2003, "Honest man and always tried to help me with hard issues in the AV."

Tidemanson was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado on Aug. 23, 1932, the eldest of three boys. He attended the University of Colorado, earning a degree in engineering. He joined the ROTC, graduated as a second lieutenant and served 10 years in the Army Reserves. The County recruited Tidemanson from college to work in the Road Department, where he later became road commissioner.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Loletta (Lolie); two adult daughters, Linda Parker and Deborah Lightner; three grandchildren, and brother, Bill.



## Loverine Butler, County's First Woman Coroner Field Investigator, Dies at Age 91

Loverine Doreatha Butler, the first woman coroner's field investigator in California and believed to be first in the nation, has died at age 91.

Butler retired in 1991 after 33 years of service to the County, the first 11 years in Health Services and the remaining 22 with the Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner. She was named a field investigator in 1974 by then-Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner Thomas Noguchi. At the time, Jet Magazine said it was believed she was the first woman in the nation appointed to such a post.

Butler was born Jan. 13, 1928 in Love County, Oklahoma. She attended Langston University in Oklahoma for two years, then moved to San Francisco in 1945, where she graduated from San Francisco College of Mortuary Science in 1949. She later attended Rio Hondo College in Whittier, where she majored in police science.

A resident of Long Beach at the time of her death, Butler is survived by a grandson and eight great-grandchildren.

## How Loverine Butler Became Coroner's First Field Investigator

*(As fondly remembered by her professional colleagues—and RELAC members -- Thomas Noguchi, Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, Craig Harvey and Scott Carrier.)*



After Dr. Theodore J. Curphey's retirement as chief medical examiner-coroner, Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi was appointed to head the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner office in 1967. Dr. Noguchi left the office in 1983 and accepted a teaching faculty appointment in pathology at the Los Angeles County + USC Medical Center. During their tenures, the office began to reclassify the job of trained mortuary personnel. These staff members were engaged in the removal of coroner cases from the field. They also worked with law enforcement, contacted the next of kin, and gathered pertinent information on the terminal circumstances of the death, medical, and social history. They were then tasked to provide a written report to the deputy medical examiner, who conducted the autopsy/investigation on the decedent. They transported decedents to the Hall of Justice, assisted medical examiners at the autopsy table, took photographs, etc. They became the invaluable eyes and ears for the office of the Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner. This medical examiner-coroner investigator job reclassification program was first begun in 1965 and later Civil Service was amenable to make this a permanent civil service item for the County of Los Angeles. On July 1, 1965 seven mortuary personnel successfully passed civil service requirements and were reclassified as coroner investigators.

Dr. Noguchi, as chief medical examiner-coroner, insisted a female staff member could be appointed to be a coroner investigator. In the beginning, there were concerns for the coroner investigator's safety as she would often be alone during field calls at any hour of the day or night and was required to make removal of the body from the scene. Everyone that worked alongside Ms. Butler knew that she could and did handle many different situations with great skill and assisted families as a professional, garnering many accolades. Dr. Noguchi was certain that Ms. Butler was capable of doing the job just as well, if not better, than her colleagues. She was also one of the few coroner investigator candidates who had a college degree. Ms. Butler got her appointment in 1974.

Investigator Butler absolutely met her expectations and handled her assignments well. She later became senior investigator and was assigned to dispatch as a shift leader. After she retired she continued to support the office through Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran's tenure.

We will all miss her and her wonderful laugh.

# IN MEMORIAM

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

**Ambulatory Care Network** - Susan L. Finch, Jessie J. Jaime-Hong

**Animal Control** - Tammy L. Howlett

**Assessor** - Leona M. Evans, Munira Botros Straub, Ronilo N. Telebrico, Leonard J. Wheeler

**Auditor - Controller** - John S. Rasmussen, Robert A. Rives

**Beaches & Harbors** - Lawrence N. Charness

**California Children's Services** - Yeon S. Oh

**Chief Information Office** - Geneva Hildreth

**Child Support Services** - Lydia Davila, Patricia Ann Wood

**Children & Family Services** - Anthony S. Bazley, Thelidria Calhoun, Robert Marvin, Clark, Harold L. Daley, Audrone Giedraitis, Marian E. Hardy, Helen R. Johns, Sharon Liston, Zeda Moore, Vountria T. Moss, Elisa J. Parrish, Bessie Mae Patin, Gerald Raznick, Fernando M. Reyes, Carole J. Simpson, James J. Walsh, Annis M. Washington, Mark A. Zuniga

**Communications** - Audrey P. Beck

**Correctional Health** - Diana O. Medrano

**County Counsel** - Damien S. Rosen

**District Attorney** - Missie J. Haff, Brenda J. Le Blanc, John N. Perruzza

**Engineer Facilities** - Ruben C. Garcia, Roy M. Hamilton, Charles F. Snelling

**Fire** - Elida G. Cantu, Juan D. Carbajal, Orlando S. Co, Clyde W. Cotner, Virginia T. De Zell, Carlos Estrella, Cecil E. Faircloth, Ronald E. Fry, Thomas F. Grogan, Bert Edward Hayman, Daniel L. Horton, Neal John Mc Neal, Dennis R. McCoy, Renaldo A. Mescudi, Ervin Y. Nelson, Jack Charles Rumfola, Robert L. Sanford Jr., Russell D. Walker, Robert F. Wieser

**Flood Control District** - John L. Duke, James L. Revis

**Harbor/UCLA Medical Center** - Dennis M. Braggs, Elsie Caprio, Cynthia S. Cardenas, Jewel Carter, Mary L. Chumley, Marilyn Mallen Daron, Michael Duffy, Daryl V. Edwards, Hazel R. Estes, Janet Ford, J. Francois, Esther Hardy, Grant B. Hieshima, Loraine M. Johnson, Gwendolyn L. Jones, Ruth Kumaric, Alice T. Noda, Patricia Sandoval, Ronald Shepperson, C. Todd Sherman, William H. Swanson

**Health** - S. G. Allen, Patricia Ann Weaver

**Health Services Administration** - Robert W. Bowman, Paralee H. Burns, John Celentano, Oddie Davis, Yolanda P. Delgado, Amanda L. Doss, Elidia V. Haro, Emma L. Johnson, Violet M. Kirk, Sherman Maddox, Jesus I. Quintero, Ralph S. Robles, Michael Thornton

**Human Resources** - Cynthia Lombard

**Internal Services** - Louis Adams Jr., Macario V. Almanza, Gilbert P. Arellanes, Nathaniel A. Boone, Madeline D. Castro, Pagie Cheng, Mai-Fong Chou, Al W. Day, Stanley K. Inase, Charlene A. Kelley, Levoskar E. Kerner, Jose A. Serrano, Gilbert E. Sotelo, Burton L. Young

**Juvenile Court Health Services** - Elizabeth Mata

**King/Drew Medical Center** - Velma Edwards, Lorene Jones, Richard Siegler, Linda Darnell Simmons, Edgar L. Surprenant, Daniel J. Wooten

**L.A. Municipal Court Reporters** - Arnold Figueroa Jr.

**LAC+USC Medical Center** - Gaylord Eugene Ailshie, Briggett Allen, Arvella L. Barber, Gloria Chavira, Benjamin Cutshall, Rafaela Derbonne, Gustavo Fonseca, Helen R. Franse, Ralph Garcia, Karin D. Goebel, James Goff, William Griffin, Irene Haro, J.R. Kent, Gerald N. Kleebe, H. Richard Lamb, Ida Lopez, Henrietta, J. Loya, Gary E. Mills, George K. Owens Jr., Florentina N. Pacete, Lena Reno, Rebecca Rivera, Maria A. Rivero, Curtiss L. Robinson, Eugene M. Robinson, Melvin Rowlett, Gloria Secrest, Michael D. Spencer, Charla R. Toedt, A. F. Turner, Sylvia M. Williams

**Mechanical** - Foster D. Sparkman

**Medical Examiner-Coroner** - Bernadine L. Blucher, John E. Decker, Adrian Dersidan, Arleen Graff

**Mental Health** - Jere Alhadeff, James H. Barger, Md, Gerard A. Knappik

**Olive View/UCLA Medical Center** - Patricia L. Ashley, Kenneth Cullen, Jerzy M. Leja, Jeffrey M. Miller

**Parks and Recreation** - Suzanne L. Granger, John C. Kaiban Jr., David K. Okihara

**Probation Department** - Lauro Arroyo, Beatrice A. Baray, Benjamin H. Barragan B. Beckwith, Geneva Brown, Margaret K. Brown, Edward Comeaux, Yvonne J. Davies Gregory R. Dean, Carole E. Detora, Jay R. Frey, Willie W. Gantt, Denise M. Govan, Martin Luther Hall, Burdette L. Harris, Shannon M. King, Charles E. Krauser, Emanuel R. Lester, David L. Levine, Patrick J. Mc Mann, Melvin W. Outlaw, Sharon Pickett, Kenny Stones, Ocie B. Tolson, Ann L. Winton

**Public Defender** - Damon R. Swank

**Public Health** - Carmen Berges Pico, Yealanda E. Charles, Kalamo Dunzo, Arkady Gantman, Aleta Kay Hermes, Cleitus Hilliker, Richard Landon, Barry L. Morgan, Gerard Schoettel, Anna M. Soto, Arlene B. Wns, Elvie L. Tuttle

**Public Library** - Juanita J. Montoya, Denise L. Reedy, Peggy R. Young

**Public Social Services** - Socorro O. Alfonso, Alberta D. Bradley, Gloria J. Brinson, Frank T. Bui, M. Margaret Caldwell, Chieko Cano, Gladys L. Clark, Nelva Cordova, Constance L. Dix, Donald C. Driehaus, Ngoc Cong Duong, Pearl M. Eliff, Marco Fabrega, Edgar J. Flemming, Karen L. Goodloe, Marjorie E. Gromme, Co T. Ha, Patricia Anne Hardy, Andre B. Hill, Eunice M. Iraheta, Helen L. Jones, Frances Macias, Rita Jean Madden, Lavonnie Mc Dowell, Josephine Moore, Debra D. Morris, S.Mildred Nabeta, Xuancan Nguyenphuc, Miyeko Nishimoto, Rodger Duane Rieth, Leticia Rodriguez, Sergio C. Rodriguez, Peggy E. Romero, Misi Savea, Beryl D. Shapiro, Heros Siraki, Ilene Morgan Tyler, Mary J. Vigil, Jean C. Walker, William T. Walters Jr., Vivian D. Westbrook, Mary T. Williams

**Public Works** - Jewell Blake, Irene T. Chen, William E. Cristiano, Rudy D. Del Valle, Lorenzo Esqueda, William G. Harshman, Stacy L. Harvey, Jason Hill, Robert S. Jezek, Arlene, Lawson, Austin Mereno, May J. Quan, Richard R. Roberts, Robert J. Sarasua, Joe Gilbert Valenzuela, Supot Ying

**Rancho Los Amigos Hospital** - Mary H. Boone, Mary E. Carpenter, Johnie Leonard, Brenda R. Lunsford, Roberta D. Navales, Elly Parker, Beulah Mae Prudhomme

**Reg-Recorder/County Clerk** - Nancy L. Flores

**Sheriff** - Jesus A. Arzadon, Ernie Barbosa, Robert James Barrier, Estella Mae Beaver-Thomas, Lawrence S. Bertram, Phillip Busch, Dale K. Chandler, William Clelland Iii, Steven G. Contreras, Ramon Covarrubias, Richard A. Dana, Deborah Ann Dereszynski, Thomas W. Farr, Steven D. Harbeson, Thomas W. Heller, Beverly J. Henry, Charlotte M. Holdridge, David L. Jelletich, Charles L. Johnson, Delvin Lee Kely, Barbara H. Kemp, Robert A. Lees, Eddie C. Leung, Lareda S. Marks, Joseph P. Mileham, Robert A. Miller, William .E Montgomery, Lenn Norman, Kenneth L. Parker, Henry A. Pegeron, Philip Puritsky, Barbara S. Rock-Lewis, Deena Rosen, Alexia J. Rudometkin, Anna B. Stump, Hallett B. Sullivan, Violet Shizuka Tomei, Marion D. Warmack, Lionel B. Woodforde

**South Coast Air Quality Mgmt.** - George H. Sanderson

**Superior Court/County Clerk** - William L. Acker, John E. Chemeleski, America Del Rosario, Marilyn Fishman, Marion D. Hoggard-Raymo, Dale E. Jackson, Reubie Jones, Alice M. Martin, Shirley A. Mesick, Thomas H. Parrott, Eleanor A. Siegrist, Yvonne C. Simmons, Thelma Strobel, Vichheka Thong

**Treasurer/ Tax Collector** - Ann Furnas

**Women's Hospital** - Myrtle L. Broussard, Betty J. Howard, W. T. Jones, Estela Vega, Jewel L. Woods

**Unidentified County Agency** - Ruth Evelyn Chilcott, Edward R. Collins, Lillian Faralla, Alan Snyder



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Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

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## Upcoming Events

### RVer's Christmas Party

Dec. 3 (Page 6)

### Diamond Bar General

Membership Holiday Meeting

Dec. 10 (Page 16)

### Annual Recognition Luncheon

Feb. 20, 2020 (Page 5)

# General Membership Meeting

Mary K. Rodriguez, Chair, Program Committee

**Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019**

**DIAMOND BAR CENTER**

1600 S. Grand Ave., Diamond Bar



## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Provided by the Always Enjoyable

**Bobby Z Band**

9 a.m. - COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS

10 a.m. - HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES BEGIN

Your donation of an unwrapped toy for the County Fire Department's "Spark of Love" Toy Drive is appreciated.

**A SPECIAL GIFT FOR ALL ATTENDEES**

**LOTS AND LOTS OF DOOR PRIZES** ~ Please bring your RELAC membership card.



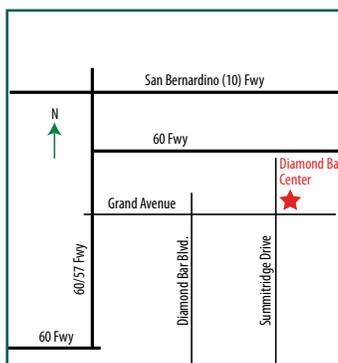
**IMPORTANT!**  
*Are you moving?  
Did you change your  
name, address or  
e-mail address?*

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.



### Directions to the Diamond Bar Center

From the eastbound Pomona (60) Freeway or the northbound Orange (57) Freeway  
Exit Grand Avenue toward San Antonio College  
Turn right onto Grand Avenue  
Turn left at Diamond Bar Center

From the westbound Pomona (60) Freeway or the southbound Orange (57) Freeway  
Exit Grand Avenue  
Turn left onto Grand Avenue  
Turn left at Diamond Bar Center

The Center is located in Summitridge Park at the corner of Grand Avenue and Summitridge Drive. The entrance driveway to the Center is located on Grand Avenue.