

RELAC newsletter

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

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

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

President's Message

by Brian Berger

To the thousands of us RELAC members, spread across this country and a few beyond, the virus issue changes almost by the day. A few months ago things seemed to be easing, mask restrictions were being relaxed, and more stores, restaurants and shops were reopened. Then came the new strain.

I live in Pasadena and all the older restrictions are now back in place. I never go anywhere without a mask. It used to be that having gotten a vaccination, which we did, was enough to do without the mask. Not today. I just hope that each of us is doing our best to vaccinate ourselves and others with whom we have influence, and that the pandemic will pass or come under control as did the flu, polio and measles in earlier years.

In the meantime, RELAC continues to operate. The office is under restrictions, but still handles the small mountain of mail and the many phone calls. Fortunately, many of you now use our website, which eases the strain.

I encourage you to read the messages in this newsletter to see the activities of the many Board committees and LACERA. We should all feel a bit more comfortable that LACERA and its investments are doing so well.

We are still planning for at least one open event in the latter part of this year. We all miss the face-to-face sharing times and want to find a safe way to bring them back.

RELAC Members Recall Pete Schabarum

We asked several RELAC members who served with Pete Schabarum to share their views of the supervisor. Positions shown are those at the time Schabarum was a County supervisor.

Don Knabe, County supervisor chief deputy

Pete was one of a kind! He had a smile and the charisma to light up a room or bring lightning and thunder! Ha! It sure would be fun to watch Pete in this "cancel culture" movement. Oh my! R.I.P. my friend...you made a difference!

Mike Antonovich, County supervisor

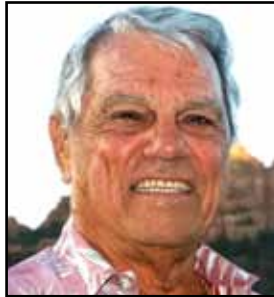
I greatly appreciated his support in my election, his friendship and his quality staff to work with. He was a strong believer in public-private partnerships to enhance public programs and services for the

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Former Supervisor Pete Schabarum, 92, Dies

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor



Former County Supervisor Pete Schabarum, 92, who served on the Board of Supervisors from 1972 to 1991 after more than five years as a state assemblyman, died Aug. 2 following several years of failing health.

A private family funeral service was planned at Calvary Cemetery in East Los Angeles, where Schabarum's wife, parents and grandparents are buried, with a larger celebration of life to be held on Oct. 24.

The Board of Supervisors ordered flags flown at half-mast at County facilities following his death.

Schabarum's three children, Laura (Vandivort), Frank and Tom, were with him at his Indian Wells home at the time of his passing. He was recovering from a crushed vertebrae and began experiencing bad cold symptoms, testing COVID-19 positive five days before his death. A later test was negative, however, so it was not clear whether he actually had contracted the virus. He had been fully vaccinated.

The date of Schabarum's death was widely misreported, with the media listing it as Aug. 1 and a memo from the Board of Supervisors Executive Office as July 31.

Schabarum was appointed to the Board of Supervisors by Gov. Ronald Reagan in 1972 following the death of Frank Bonelli and was elected to the position three months later in a hotly contested special election that pitted him against his former roommate and colleague Assemblyman William Campbell. He was reelected in 1974, 1978, 1982 and 1986. He did not seek reelection in 1990, but served three extra months until Feb. 28, 1991 to allow a special election to be held following a court ruling that redrew the boundaries of his district to provide a better opportunity for the election of a Hispanic.

"Acting as the First District county supervisor for 20 years was a challenging experience and a privilege," he said in an article he wrote for the November 2016 RELAC newsletter.

The Otterbein Regional Park in Rowland Heights was renamed in Schabarum's honor by the Board of Supervisors in recognition of his efforts to improve County recreation facilities for the public. He kept tabs on the park following his retirement, meeting with staff and lobbying for improvements. His memorabilia is housed and displayed in the park's administrative building.

Schabarum and his wife, Gerry, moved to Indian Wells shortly after his retirement and they traveled extensively with groups of friends until her death in 2007. Despite becoming legally blind due to macular degeneration about 20 years ago, Schabarum continued to travel with friends and family, and stayed active swimming, golfing, playing tennis and fly fishing. He became politically active in his community, sponsoring a city charter amendment which passed overwhelmingly. He also kept in touch with his former staff and hosted a pre-Christmas dinner for them for 25 years. A former college and professional football player – he was an All-Conference halfback playing in three Rose Bowls with the Berkeley Golden Bears and played with the San Francisco 49ers -- he also joined his Cal alumni teammates in the fall and his NFL friends at monthly luncheons.

Schabarum is known as the father of term limits, having authored Prop. 130 in 1990 that imposed term limits on California state legislators. Unable that year to persuade his colleagues on the Board of Supervisors to also limit their terms, Schabarum financed and was the behind-the-scenes orchestrator of a successful 2002 ballot measure that limited supervisors to three terms.

Los Angeles Magazine named Schabarum one of the 50 most powerful people in Los Angeles County and the non-partisan California Journal called him one of

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Board of Retirement

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

By the time you read this article, the new LACERA website will be up and running. This has been a project that has been several years in the making and is quite a project. Staff has ensured that the website will work on any device that you may use to view it -- phone, tablet, or desktop computer. This is very important as many times things are lost and difficult to view if this is not taken into consideration. I have had an opportunity to view it prior to its finalization and I am very pleased with it from top to bottom.

Also, if you have not signed up for your My LACERA account on the website, this is an excellent opportunity for you to do just that. Your My LACERA account allows you to view your own personal data and brings things into a clearer perspective. If you can't figure out how to do it, you can call LACERA and staff will be happy to assist you with this.

Prior to the latest resurgence in the COVID-19 situation, LACERA had hoped to reopen our offices sometime in September in a hybrid configuration. We still wouldn't have everyone back on premises with "business as usual" so to speak, but we would have more people working from their usual work locations, which makes things run smoother for all of you in that this lessens the delays in getting back to members when they call. However, I suspect that it is very likely that we will NOT be reopening to the degree that we had hoped because of the serious resurgence in the number of virus cases, almost all of which are amongst the unvaccinated. We have reopened our walk-in service center counter, but that is on an appointment basis only, so please don't drive to LACERA in the hopes that you will get right in because you will be turned away in all likelihood.

Till the next article, please be safe and enjoy your retirement. I can always be reached at my e-mail address, which is Leslasd@aol.com.



Board of Investments

by Joseph Kelly
RELAC Director, LACERA Board of Investments Trustee

Global equities set new highs in June. The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits reached its lowest level since the pandemic struck last year, further evidence that the U.S. economy and job market are rebounding from the pandemic recession. Real gross domestic product increased at an annual rate of 6.5 percent in the second quarter of 2021, reflecting the continued economic recovery, reopening of establishments, and continued government response related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through May, the retirement trust fund performed very well, with a fiscal-year-to-date return of nearly 24% with a total value that topped \$70 billion for the first time in LACERA's history.

Throughout the pandemic, LACERA has continued to pay the promised benefit every month. I thank every LACERA employee whose continued efforts allowed that to happen!

LACERA Pension Fund		May 2021	Total Assets \$70.9 Billion	
Returns:	FYTD	3 year:	5 year:	10 year:
	+23.9%	+10.4%	+10.6%	+8.4%



News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich
LACERA Assistant Executive Officer

Humans are an amazing species. When faced with incredibly difficult challenges, we adapt, innovate, overcome, and survive. When we work together as a team, we can accomplish tremendous things. I would like everyone to keep that in mind as we travel through these strange and challenging times of the COVID-19 battle. A little over a year ago LACERA, like everyone else, was battering down the hatches and hunkering down to protect our staff and members. Here we are a little over a year and a half later facing a resurgence of COVID-19 due to the Delta variant – but this time it's different.

This time we are all better prepared to weather this latest storm. As a society, we know we can beat this if we all act as a team and do our part. As retired Los Angeles County employees, that is one word everyone is familiar with. Being a public servant is all about teamwork. All about working together to protect and serve each other and our fellow community members. And no one does that better than County folks. If we all act as a team, get vaccinated, practice social distancing, and wear masks, we can get through this bump in the road.

Here at LACERA, teamwork is critical to serving you. Everyone in the organization lives and breathes our mission and does their part to provide you the promised benefit. We adapted by improving our technology and finding new ways to connect and provide service to each of you. Over the summer we continued to work together to protect staff and our members, even while we reopened our Member Service Center and started meeting with members in person again. We continued to practice social distancing and ensured staff working together wore masks and followed all of the County, state, and federal health protocols.

Our dedication to teamwork allowed us to reopen our Member Service Center. You can now receive the same great service by making an appointment to interact with us from the comfort of your home or safely and securely in person. However, I do want to remind everyone that we are no longer offering walk-in counseling sessions. Discontinuing the walk-in service option is not only a safety measure, but also a service improvement for all members. Prior to the pandemic, members who

chose to come in without an appointment would often have to wait much longer than reasonable. Moving to an appointment-only service model allows us to ensure we are ready when you are scheduled to meet with us. It also allows us to be better prepared to focus on you when you are visiting us – virtually or in person. To make an appointment, visit lacera.com or if you don't have a computer – give us a call at (800) 786-6464. By the way, if you just need to provide us with a document, you can log on to My LACERA and upload a copy of most documents or you can use our new drop-off box located to the right of the main entrance of our Pasadena office.

Speaking of teamwork, we are so excited to announce the new lacera.com launched on July 30! This capped a two-year project to completely upgrade and redesign lacera.com. Our Systems division worked to create a modern website framework that is easier to navigate, includes an improved search engine, and is adaptable to any screen you choose to view it on (from cell phones to desktops). Our Communications team headed up a project to review every nook and cranny of our website. Every section was reviewed and updated by subject matter experts from throughout LACERA. The Communications team took all of this updated content and organized it into easy-to-understand "families" of related information. There is now a section for active members and one for retirees and families. Everything is at your fingertips. This is just the beginning. Over the coming months, we'll be expanding our Retirement University with new multi-media content. We're also listening to feedback from members and will be making further adjustments as we go.

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Welcome New Members

June - July 2021

Why I Joined RELAC: 18 Years After Retiring

*Sherry Lasagna
Senior Deputy to Supervisor
Mike Antonovich,
Retired 2003
Became RELAC Member in July
2021*



RELAC Director Judy Hammond asked me to join RELAC two years ago, but I can't truly say why I wasn't interested. I have to admit last month's newsletter I read from page to page and found it very interesting. Mike Antonovich sent me the issue and encouraged me to join. After reading and seeing people's names I knew, I kept reading. Sam Collins, a captain for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, was mentioned in the Passages section and I cut and mailed the article to his family. Sam was a really good friend so I knew of his passing already.

I felt bad reading about the drop in membership of RELAC, so thought I should step up and do my tiny part.

I was happy to read Brian Berger is our fearless leader, and enjoyed the article on Cato Fiksdal. I worked on many projects with both of them. I was also very happy RELAC joined in to support the passage of H.R.2337. I paid into Social Security for years.

So there you go: many reasons for joining RELAC.



Happy Birthday RELAC Centenarians

Happy birthday to our members who will be 100 or older in September and October.

September

Doris M. Shepard, 100, Sheriff
Sept. 14, 1921

Hollice A. Favors, 103, Assessor
Sept. 17, 1918

Alberta S. Rich, 101, General Hospital/Nursing
Sept. 29, 1920

October

Lois D. Gourley, 100, Rancho Los Amigos Hospital
Oct. 8, 1921

William H. Barbour Jr., 101, Auditor-Controller
Oct. 11, 1920

John E. Danielson, 101, South Coast Air Quality Mgmt.
Oct. 11, 1920

Arthur Beck, 101, Mechanical
Oct. 13, 1920

- Assessor** – Tracy Harris
- Board of Supervisors** – Sherry Lasagna
- Chief Executive Office** – Michael Samsing
- Children & Family Services** – Diana Back, Shonette Lackey
- District Attorney** – Thomas Wenke
- Fire** – Florine Hill
- Health Services** – Suparb Soonthornpong
- Human Resources** – Burton Wong
- LAC+USC Medical Center** – Teresa Guzman
- Mental Health** – Norma Cook, Robert Krueger
- Probation** – Laurie Pope, Kimberly Wells
- Public Defender** – Charles Mack
- Public Health** – Patricia Gibson, Steven Reyes, Funlayo Thomas, Popoola Thomas
- Public Works** – Jeffrey Clifton
- Sheriff** – Judy Berquist-De Voe, Sandy Dickerson, Robert Kemplowski, Jeffrey Salveson, Joseph Villanueva, Edward Welbourn
- Associates Members** – Cynthia Kemplowski, Pearl Krueger, Bernadine Mack, Anna Sierra, Patricia Welbourn, Alfred Wells, Ellen Wong

Thanks for New Member Referrals

We would like to thank the 11 members who recruited colleagues to join RELAC during June and July 2021. 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 www.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):

- Michael Antonovich**, *Sherry Lasagna*, Board of Supervisors
- Joyce Breslin**, *Florine Hill*, Fire
- Elena Cervantes**, *Michael Samsing*, Chief Executive Office
- Edward Clifton**, *Jeffrey Clifton*, Public Works
- Estella Creighton**, *Sandy Dickerson*, Sheriff
- William Gerth**, *Laurie Pope*, Probation
- Joan Reyes**, *Judy Berquist-De Voe*, Sheriff
- Joseph Mills**, *Robert Krueger*, Mental Health
- Danny Regalado**, *Jeffrey Salveson*, Sheriff
- Andrea Washington**, *Kimberly Wells*, Probation
- Allen Welbourn**, *Edward Welbourn*, Sheriff



RELAC Director Peinado Gets Special County Assignment

RELAC Director Epifanio (Epi) Peinado, who was hired by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk last year to help support preparations for a successful November 2020 general election, is now leading the County's effort to realign services in the Department of Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services. The goal is to establish two independent departments in 2022, one focusing on economic and workforce development, and the other on aging and adults with disabilities. Implementation is expected to begin this October.



Kaplan, Mandel



Melia, Melia



Pak, Tan



Torgersen, Palmer

Scholarship 2021 Awardees Update

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Scholarship Committee

The RELAC Board of Directors is pleased to report that the 2021 scholarship awardees are continuing to pursue their educational goals during these challenges times. We proudly join their grandparents – who are RELAC members -- in supporting and encouraging their achievement of their educational goals and future career goals.

Ryan Kaplan, Patrick Melia, Madeline Pak, Sydney Torgersen, and Amanda Yee received \$1,000 scholarships from RELAC as an investment in their future goals.

RELAC thanks the grandparents who took the time to nominate a family member and to share the educational profiles of these hard-working students.

Ryan Kaplan is the grandson of RELAC member Loren Mandel, who retired from the Public Defender's Office in 1999. Ryan is attending the University of California, Los Angeles. His major is in mechanical engineering and his career goal is to work in the field of technology.

Patrick Melia is the grandson of RELAC members Edward and Jane Melia, both retired probation officers. Patrick is attending the United States Merchant Marine Academy and is looking forward to serving his country as an officer in the armed forces.

Madeline Pak is the granddaughter of RELAC member Veda Tan, who retired in 2002 from the Internal Services Department. Madeline is enrolled in the University of California, Irvine, majoring in public health. She remains interested in business administration, but has a new-found passion for public health and its impact on society.

Sydney Torgersen is the great granddaughter of RELAC member JoAnne Beck Palmer, widow of RELAC member Russell Beck, who retired from the Flood Control Department. Sydney is attending the Southern Utah University, located in Cedar City, Utah. Her major is nursing and her career goal is to be a nurse-practitioner and eventually earn a medical doctorate.

Yee, Yee

Amanda Yee is the granddaughter of RELAC member William Yee, who retired in 1989 from the Public Works Department. Amanda is attending the University of California, San Diego. Amanda's major is in human biology and ultimately to attend graduate school. Her goal is to have a career in the medical profession.



RELAC's Scholarship Program was implemented in 2020 to provide financial assistance to RELAC members and their eligible family members as they prepare for the achievement of their educational goals and future employment careers.

RELAC is Top 2021 March for Babies Team

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair, Community Support Committee

The RELAC Board of Directors and its members are congratulated for their generosity and support for the March of Dimes 2021 virtual March for Babies Walk. As of July 22, the RELAC team had raised \$7,388 and was the County's top team.

The Department of Internal Services was in second place, with \$6,115, and the Public Works Department was in third, raising \$5,258.

The deadline to raise donations for the walk was July 30, so the final tally was not available at the time the RELAC newsletter went to press.

As a participating L.A. County team, RELAC has lifted up communities for health equity, opened doors for moms to have access to medical care, and protected the health of families in need.

A special thanks goes to our many donors and virtual walk sponsors for supporting families at risk and the medical needs of prematurely born babies.

One of our donors, Jackie Guevarra, executive director of the County Quality and Productivity Commission, personally knows the importance of the March for Babies Walk. Both her sons were born premature.

Brian was born three weeks early, and Brandon was six and a half weeks premature.

Brandon weighed only 5 pounds 4 ounces. "We could not hold or carry him the first week because he was connected to so many IVs," said Guevarra. "I broke down each time I saw him and also felt so guilty."

"The hospital sent a social worker to help me cope. After Brandon was transferred to an incubator, I was finally able to hold and nurse him. Although he has lived with asthma his whole life, he is well and stands 6 feet tall today. Brian is even taller at 6 feet 4 inches."



Jackie Guevarra with sons, Brian and Brandon, and husband, Arnold. Photo below: Brian as a baby.

"I thank all RELAC donors for their support of the great work and medical services provided by the March of Dimes."

If you wish to share any March of Dimes experiences or have stories to share, please e-mail Evelyn Gutierrez at egfiero@cs.com.

Thank you for your continued support of RELAC community support events.

Tributes to Schabarum continued from p.1

taxpayers. His leadership in establishing the Foothill Transit enhanced the transit to the San Gabriel Valley, which the MTA had ignored. He was hard-working and proud of his family. His German - Mexican roots are from his grandparents. His grandfather from Germany worked in Mexico, where he met and married his wife and later came to the United States. Peter served his constituents with vigor and was extremely knowledgeable of land use policies.

Harry Hufford, chief administrative officer

Pete was a square shooter. You knew where he stood and where you stood with him. We formed an unlikely friendship. He was a "no" vote on lots of recommendations, but he always supported me personally. We spent many a meal together in the desert after he retired. In Santa Rosa he involved me with "Pappy's Boys," a group of former Cal football players of the Pappy Waldorf era. They were great teams. I will miss our lunches.

Bill Pellman, senior assistant county counsel

Pete was the first county supervisor with whom I had regular contact. I learned very quickly not to stop after having to say "no" to his proposed course of conduct, but to follow it with an offer as to how close we could proceed to his goal. He was more accepting of the "no" if he knew you were trying to help him toward his goal. Pete was a whiz at delivering projects for his constituents. He was very adept at including projects in the annual budget and then personally following up with key people in the various departments to assure that his projects had advanced to a point where they were unlikely to be curtailed if budget issues arose later in the fiscal year. He did that year after year, securing completed projects in his district. Pete appreciated candor if you disagreed with him. I once witnessed a department head engage with Pete from opposite ends of a table in his main conference room in what some might call a shouting match, but it was really an honest dialogue between two leaders.

Mike Lewis, staff member 16 years, nine as chief deputy

Pete Schabarum was always more about action than words. He ran a very successful business, played award-winning football, and created an enviable legacy as a public servant in the Assembly and the Board of Supervisors. He was humble, direct, fiercely competitive, and impatient at the slow pace of government. He broke decades of protocol when he reshaped the Board of Supervisors to implement his better-government vision. The eastern portion of the county is still enjoying the benefits of his aggressive infrastructure plans. He created the Foothill Transit Agency, built parks, fire stations, health centers, hospitals, sheriff stations, courthouses, and hiking trails. He brought the private sector in to manage the County airports, mow the lawns, maintain the vehicles, and make the golf courses profitable. Equally important, he wrote and passed California's term limits, which allowed more minorities to be elected to state office than any other single measure. Pete brought a unique combination of skills to California politics. His impact will be long lasting and not soon duplicated. Public service has lost a vital role model. He was also a dear friend even in retirement. I will miss him greatly.

Tom Hibbard, staff member 18 years, health deputy/chief deputy

Pete was a good boss and a great friend. I admire him because he always worked hard to better serve the people of Los Angeles County. He was a great public servant.

Stephanie Hampton, executive secretary

I really appreciated the time and learning experience I had working with Supervisor Schabarum and staff of the First District. He treated his staff well, and expected good work. More importantly, I enjoyed the friendship my husband, Jerry, and I maintained with him and his family after his retirement and until his passing.

Pam Everett, assistant director of public affairs, Chief Administrative Office

A very special person indeed! One of a kind! His personality probably cannot be translated to the written word.

Judy Hammond, press deputy/assistant chief deputy

Pete was my boss, then my friend. I always had the utmost respect for him. No matter what personal adversity came his way -- and he had a number of them in later life that would have brought many of us to a standstill -- he kept going. If he ever felt sorry for his situation, I never knew it. He told me once that he wished the latter part of his life had been more substantive; I think he vastly underrated himself. He was an inspiration.

John Hammargren, Sheriff's commander and fishing partner

Pete used to use a quote from Herbert Hoover, "Anybody who thinks they're important ought to be a fisherman because all men are created equal in the eyes of the fish."



What's Happening?

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair
Special Events Committee

L.A. County Public Health Update: Face masks required indoors.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is requiring everyone to wear masks in all indoor public places, regardless of their vaccination status. For updates, visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov>.

In compliance with state COVID-19 requirements and protocols, facilities like the County Art Museum, Natural History Museum, libraries and local parks are now open to the public, but will require compliance with current public health requirements.

Bus Service

The Department of Public Works is providing bus service from Altadena, Castaic, Duarte, La Crescenta, Lancaster and Palmdale. Reservations may be made up to 10 days in advance. Beach bus riders must wear a face mask, bring hand sanitizer and clean hands often. For additional information, visit LAGOBUS.com or call (888) 524-6287 for recreational transit services to the beach shuttle, Hollywood Bowl and Ford Theater.

Free beach shuttle services are also available Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. to the Marina del Rey area. Information is available by calling Public Works at (626) 458-5914 or on the department's website at http://dpw.lacounty.gov/pdd/beach_bus/

Civic Art Drive-By Tours

Various County departments showcase amazing public art exhibits for your drive-by enjoyment and a great family outdoor experience.

Visit the:

Carolyn Rosas Park, 18500 E. Farjardo St., Rowland Heights.

"Big Wishes & Magical Birds" acrylic painted artwork by artist Bunnie Reiss.

Fire Station 71, 28722 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu.
"Tapestry of Dreams" tile mural by artist Matt Doolin.

East Los Angeles Library, 4837 East 3rd St., Los Angeles.
"Our Legacy: Forever Presente" tile mural by artist Jose Antonio Aguirre.

Additional public artworks can be seen on the L.A. County Arts and Culture website, <https://www.lacountyarts.org/civcart/objects-1/info/10>.

Arboretum and Botanic Gardens

301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia

Visit the Bamboo Grove, Tropical Greenhouse, Japanese Meditation Garden, Mayberg Waterfall area, the historic Queen Anne Cottage and the Horticultural Library. Free admission on the third Tuesday of each month. Call (626) 821-3222 for additional information.



Pete Schabarum continued from p.1

the 30 most influential persons in California history during the 20th Century. In 1972 he was awarded the Distinguished American Award by the National Football League's Hall of Fame and in 1988 was inducted into the University of California Berkeley Hall of Fame. Pepperdine University awarded him an honorary doctor of law degree.

Letters To The Editor

Write On!

Please correct your records and place me amongst the living. Social Security for some reason was notified I had died in February of this year. This is incorrect, am very much alive. Want to see correction in your next RELAC newsletter. Thanks.
George Ramirez, Valley Center, California

We would like to thank RELAC for honoring our grandson Patrick Melia with one of your \$1,000 scholarships this year. Patrick has been a hard-working honor student, while participating as a competitive swimmer throughout junior and senior high school. He has recently accepted an appointment to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, which he will enter later this summer, to pursue studies in maritime engineering. Your scholarship will aid with his expenses, and he, his parents, and we are grateful for this wonderful award.

Ed and Jaye Melia, Redondo Beach, California

Thank you very much for arranging to have extra copies of the newsletter sent. Your help and assistance is deeply appreciated. I appreciate all the hard work you do for RELAC as well. Always enjoy reading about people I have worked with in the past and a bit sad to read about the passing of co-workers and friends I knew.

Phillip Ow, Lake Forest, California

Thanks so much for the copies of the RELAC newsletter and the opportunity to tell my retiree's story. Most of all, thanks for keeping all of us connected and in communication. Not an easy task!

Ed Anhalt, Genoa, Nevada

I do intend to retire. I do. I do!

Richard H. Llewellyn, Jr.

(who retired as L.A. city administrative officer in July and immediately became acting chief deputy to L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti)

Happy to participate (in the Grandparents Day feature)! Great idea.

Marvin Southard, Avila Beach, California

I will participate (in the Grandparents Day feature). You do a great job on the newsletter!

David Janssen, Poway, California

Thanks for asking (me to participate in the Grandparents Day feature). I would love to be a part of your article. Thanks for all your efforts and time with RELAC. Know myself and countless others appreciate it

Gail LeGros, San Pedro, California

Ms. Armetha Bravo, her organization and I thank

you for adding Los Angeles County African American Employees Association's Juneteenth video to RELAC's website. The directors of the L.A. County Departments of Health and Mental Health have forwarded the video to all their respective employees, along with the County Assessor.
Jason H. Williams, Los Angeles, California

I'm so happy you're celebrating Bob Bush. You did a nice job with your article. Thanks for sharing it with me.

Andrea Carroll, Executive Director, LA County Library Foundation

It sure was a nice surprise to be a winner in the RELAC 2021 Spring Drawing. Thank you and many, many blessings to all. It sure made my day!

Carmen Falcon, Apple Valley, California

Received the unexpected surprise of \$25 (from the Spring Drawing. How delightful to be a winner! Thanks to all for the work and thoughtfulness you give to retirees!

Sarah Overstreet, Monrovia, California

A very big "thank you" to RELAC for such a great and dedicated job done by all to afford the raffle of \$25 I received last month. It certainly came in handy.

Victoriana Silvas-Alonso, Burbank, California

Thank you very much for the \$25 I received as a winner in the RELAC 2021 Spring Drawing!

Beverly Williams, Covina, California

Thank you so much for remembering me on my 91st birthday. Such a nice surprise for me. Please know I truly appreciate it. Very sincerely.

Edith (Edie) Baker, Downey, California

Thank you for the wonderful birthday card I received.

Albert Villa, San Clemente, California

Thank you for remembering me on my 98th birthday. I will have a big [birthday] bash with my 12 children, 29 grands, and 35 greats, plus friends. Thanks again.

Virginia Mouzakis, El Segundo, California



Here is solid proof of my wife Judy's interest in reading the RELAC newsletter ever since you've been its editor. You do a great job, always. Thank you.

Greg Walia, Granada Hills, California

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Diane Sandoval

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9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday - Thursday

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Saturday, Sunday &

Public Holidays



Participants in 2019 safari

Retirees Depart for 17-Day African Safari

by Les Robbins, RELAC Director

On Aug. 31, I will take 18 people to Africa for a 17-day safari starting in Kenya and ending up in Tanzania. Eleven of those going are L.A. County retirees and the rest are their friends and spouses.

Among those going are former Supervisor Don Knabe and his wife, Julie; former Sheriff Jim McDonnell and his wife, Kathy; and former interim Sheriff John Scott and his wife, Alice, a retired captain.

Also from the Sheriff's Department are retirees Pam Shrick, John Voss, Gregg Sabalone, and myself. From the Fire Department are John Lopez and Ray Gorospe, and from the Health Services Department is Nancy Miller.

This safari is 2 ½ years in the making as we had to reschedule from 2020 due to the pandemic, but everyone deposited back in 2019. This is my fourth safari and most of my travelers now come from referrals and word of mouth.

I love Africa. There is no place on Planet Earth that compares to the grandeur and magnificence of Africa. Also, I enjoy taking people to places that they have on the bucket lists and Africa seems to be on a lot of people's bucket lists.

My safaris are luxury five-star. We stay in remote tent camps, have the same drivers every time we go, and the trips are really designed for photographers, but you don't have to be one. I am a pretty good wildlife photographer and that's how I got interested in Africa.

My groups are always 20 people, no more, no less. Most of the teenie safari camps only accommodate 20 people. This way my groups have exclusive use of the camps.

I have also helped retirees plan trips to Alaska and the Galapagos Islands as I have been to the Galapagos once and Alaska over 45 times over the past 33 years.

I don't make any money organizing the trips; I do it for the pure pleasure.



Photos by safari organizer Les Robbins. "I own several zoom lenses, but sometimes you don't need them."



Golf News

by Gil Sandoval
RELAC Golf Director



Los Verdes Golf Tournament July 26, 2021

We had 36 players sign up for play, but the threat of rain kept some players from showing up. Thank you again for supporting RELAC golf. It was a cool, cloudy day, but the rain only slightly touched us. So, most showed up for the tournament and we had a good day for golf.

Don Hughes, last month's winner, repeated the win with a net 73. Carlos Martinez edged out Chuck Adams for his second place in a card off as they both had a net 74, with Chuck taking third place.

Frank DaVanzo had the best day of all the players as he won the "B" Flight with a net 69 for the low net of the day. Al Kelly also played in a steady fashion, coming in with a net 72 for second place. As last month, playing in his first RELAC tournament, Renato Daluyen placed third with a net 73.

In the "C" Flight, Frank Martinez, with a net 72, won in a card off with second place finisher Lee Gustafson, who also scored a net 72. Lee was also playing in his first RELAC golf tournament. Following in third place was Richard Duran, who shot a net 75.

Closest-to-the-par winners were Frank Martinez, #3; Chuck McGlothlin #5; and Robert Bonar #12.

The Ladies Flight was an easy win for Shirley Johnson as she shot a net 73. Shirley had a great day as she won all the closest to the pin prizes. Norma Gutierrez with some great chipping was able to take second place with a net 79. Following in third place was Charlene DeBie with a net 91. We had five women players and we welcome their participation. Thank you all for playing!

Hopefully, those who have friends that play with us and do not have access to the RELAC website will pass on the information about our next tournament so they can sign up to play. We also would appreciate if you could help us recruit new RELAC members who are golfers and help our program grow

The next tournament is scheduled at Lakewood Golf Course on Oct. 18. First tee is at 8 a.m. A reminder: fees have been increased. The entry form can be found on the RELAC website at relac.org under the calendar menu.



Keeping Up With Retirees

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



PHILLIP T. OW

It has been a great honor to serve the citizens and public employees of Los Angeles County. I began working for the Department of Public Health in 1974 and retired in 2005 from the Chief Administrative Office. My background includes a bachelor of arts in geography and a master's degree in environmental health at California State University at Northridge.

As a registered environmental health specialist, I worked from 1974 to 1981 in the Department of Public Health Environmental Management. I conducted health inspections, handled health complaints, and evaluated complaints from the general public. I conducted routine inspections of food establishments, housing units, markets, and handled general complaints regarding public health concerns. In 1981 I changed my career path by joining the Chief Administrative Office as a program analyst. I was responsible for ensuring that County departments were in compliance with state and federal health and safety regulations pertaining to County employees. Handling the work issues and complaints proved to be challenging. For example, how would the County protect its employees from being infected by bats? I investigated potential environmental hazards such as asbestos, lead, mercury, toxic chemicals, noise hazards, indoor air quality, and mold hazards. I had to deal with environmental issues that presented potential legal implications to the County, if not handled to the full satisfaction of management and employees. I was privileged and grateful to have met many wonderful County employees as I traveled the County in responding to issues concerning employee health and safety complaints, and was proud to be named CAO Employee of the Month in 2004.

Before it was fashionable, I stressed the importance of having properly designed ergonomically correct computer work stations. As a member of the Los Angeles County Joint Labor-Management Committee on Office Ergonomics (a collaborative effort of County management and SEIU, Local 660), I fully supported the committee's efforts to educate County employees on the importance of good workplace design.

I served as president of the Los Angeles County Asian American Employees Association (LACAAEA) in 1981-1982 and remained a Board member until I retired. During my many years of service I learned the importance of networking and team building. LACAAEA grew in its membership and promoted the annual Asian American and Pacific Islander

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FRANK DAVANZO

I started with the County Counsel in 1984, after being a deputy city attorney in Santa Monica (1972-75) and in private practice (1975-84). I worked in the General Litigation and Public Services (Health Services, Environmental Health, Public Social Services and Mental Health) divisions and finally Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

I did both trial and appellate work for DCFS, handled homeless litigation brought against the County, as well as health care litigation with contract cities regarding ambulance costs and litigation with the State of California over uninsured adults (age 19-64).

Since retiring in 2011, my wife, Julie, and I have traveled a lot, including extended trips to northern Italy -- Julie is a retired PhD/researcher at the Rand Corporation and twice was a visiting scholar at the University of Bologna. My favorite destinations were Australia and New Zealand, where everyone was friendly. We went to Australia three times and got to see the whole country. We have been to India, Malaysia, Taiwan and Hong Kong, when it was free.

Once, I somehow arrived in London before I realized that my passport had expired. We snuck through the airport to get our domestic flight to Scotland, then I got a new passport at the U.S. Embassy on Grosvenor Square when we returned to London.

We traveled to Costa Rica after my buddy, a retired minister, and I helped build housing in El Salvador for Habitat for Humanity. As volunteers, we dug out the foundation for a new home and on the home being finished, we manually and literally pounded sand to firm up the soil to support the concrete walkway poured around the perimeter of the home. Professional stone masons laid the concrete block walls and installed the tin roof. These people work very hard and, although small, they are tough -- a 140-pound man delivered three sacks of concrete in one shot -- 300 pounds -- carrying it on his shoulders! He did this a half dozen times. We mixed a lot of sand, gravel and concrete to pour into the foundation. They are too poor to mix the concrete in wheelbarrows, but mix it on the ground instead.

Julie and I are naturalists, leading snowshoe tours near Mammoth Mountain. As naturalists, we educate folks on the glaciers that formed the Mammoth Lakes, the different types of pine and fir trees, the history of gold mining in the area and the fact that Mammoth is on the rim of a super volcano, 1,000 times bigger than Mt. St. Helens. We lead the tour up onto Panorama Dome, the glacial moraine (pile of dirt) left by the glaciers over 10,000 years ago.

We are avid skiers. We do lots of hikes in the High Sierra and enjoy weekly bicycle trips on the beach bike path from Marina del Rey to Hermosa Beach.

I enjoy playing golf and find that golfers are a friendly and understanding lot.

The attached photo is from my wife Julie's birthday party. My daughter Lisa and her son, Parker, are on the left. My daughter Karen and her daughters, Betty (6) and Poppy (almost 4), are on the right.

Phillip Ow continued from p.8

(AAPI) Heritage Month to promote the diverse and rich cultures within the AAPI community. Not only have we supported our members to achieve their promotional job goals, but have helped our children and relatives of members heading to college or vocational school with our successful scholarship program.

In October 2013 I was diagnosed with a rare blood cancer known as Burkitt's lymphoma (non-Hodgkin's lymphoma) while on a trip to Utah. Because of the rapid onset of the disease, I immediately returned to Orange County and was admitted to the Kaiser-Irvine emergency room. I spent eight long months at the hospital and was treated with high dose chemotherapy. I have been in remission since June 2014. Throughout my treatment there were many ups and downs, but I have never lost my sense of gratitude, faith, and thankfulness to all those who supported me during my Blood Cancer Journey. I am grateful and want to thank my wife, Lily, for all her loving support, as well as my sons, Gregory and Geoffrey, and all my wonderful friends who stood by me during this journey.

I would like to share a note from one of my nurses: "I think of you as a miracle...you managed to bounce back with such stamina...going through some challenges you did not let them get you down...on the contrary, you remained patient and hopeful...this is why you are an inspiration to many of us. Love, MV"

In 2016 I became a patient and family outreach volunteer for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). LLS is one of the major organizations involved with cancer research in developing new cancer drugs and new treatments for blood cancer patients. I have also provided educational support to patients, caregivers, and family members who have been affected by these deadly diseases by volunteering at Light the Night events, blood cancer conferences, and educational training programs. My goal is to provide hope and gratitude for those patients battling a blood cancer. I am also a RELAC volunteer, assisting the Ad Hoc Scholarship Committee and the Special Events Committee.

I enjoy traveling, photography, learning about new foods and wines, and being with my family and friends. I reside in Lake Forest in Orange County.

I want to wish all the County retirees continued good health and happiness for a life filled with much joy and love. God's blessings to all our retirees!



LACERA continued from p.2

I would like to take a moment and welcome Luis Lugo to our Executive Office as he assumes the role of deputy chief executive officer. Mr. Lugo served as the chief operations officer for the Minnesota Public Employee Retirement Association, which is the largest public pension plan system in Minnesota. He has an extensive background in the retirement pension industry and will be a great addition to our team. Mr. Lugo is my new boss and I'm excited to work with him. He and I have had several great conversations since he joined LACERA about the exciting ways we can improve efficiency and the service we provide to our members.

Catching Up With Former Supervisor Ed Edelman Staff Members



Following the recent death of Gil Gerakos, five of his former colleagues met for lunch to catch up on what has been happening since they left the staff of County Supervisor Ed Edelman (in office 1975-94). They chose El Tepeyac in East Los Angeles for the get-together as it was one of Gerakos' favorite restaurants. We asked if we could share their stories with our readers. Shown in the photo, from left to right, are Joel Bellman (RELAC member), John Stodder, Jr., Rosie Fabian, David Gershwin, and Jim Moreno (RELAC member).

John Stodder, Jr. worked for Edelman from 1983-86 as press deputy and subsequently joined Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley's staff, where he served as press secretary and environmental policy director. After working for several local and global public relations agencies, in 2013 he launched his own public affairs consulting practice, Intrepid Communications. His recent clients include the L.A. County Department of Mental Health, City of L.A. Emergency Management Department, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other public and non-profit entities. Too busy to retire, Stodder says.

Jim Moreno retired from County service in 2005 after 35 years, including more than a decade working for Edelman as health and budget deputy, following previous stints in the Probation Department and the Department of Health Services. After leaving the County, he became active in Democratic Party politics in Orange County and eventually ran for office successfully himself, soon to complete his fourth term on the Orange County Community College Board of Trustees. He has also been active in state and national community-college governance organizations. "Having worked for Supervisor Ed Edelman, I learned governance and the responsibility that comes with being a supervisor, so in 2010 I ran for the Orange County Board of Supervisors, District 2. It was hard work and much fun," Moreno said. Though he barely missed the run-off, "I made my case and knew I was doing the right thing." And he's undoubtedly making his nine grandchildren proud.

David Gershwin interned for Edelman in the summer of 1990, an experience that he says, "unequivocally set the foundation for my career in politics and government." He later worked on Gray Davis's successful campaigns for lieutenant governor and governor, served as communications director for a young rookie councilmember from the northeast San Fernando Valley by the name of Alex Padilla, and a few years later became chief of staff for then-Council President Eric Garcetti. He opened his own public affairs firm, David Gershwin Consulting, in 2010.

Rosie Fabian worked as a senior secretary and field representative in Edelman's office for 11 years, and after his retirement in 1994 continued to build her skills and earn promotions, spending nine years in the Human Resources Division of the Department of Public Health, three years with the Department of Human Resources, and 11 years with the Chief Administrative/Executive Office. Her tenure in Edelman's office inspired her to become directly involved in her own community of Covina, where she was appointed as a city commissioner for the Cultural Arts Advisory Board and later elected as city clerk, where she served from 2005-2009. She retired in 2017 after some 40 years of County service.

Joel Bellman served as Edelman's press deputy from 1989 until Edelman's retirement in 1994, having been recruited to Edelman's staff after nearly a decade as a broadcast and print journalist covering local and state government. He continued in that capacity for 20 years under Edelman's successor, Zev Yaroslavsky, until Yaroslavsky's retirement in 2014. After another year working for Yaroslavsky's successor, Sheila Kuehl, he retired after 26 years of County service to return to his journalism roots. In addition to publishing several dozen freelance articles for state and local publications, since 2015 he has been writing a monthly column on politics and popular culture for Topanga Canyon community publications. Since 1999, Bellman has also taught an opinion-writing course through UCLA Extension. Most recently, he has served two stints as a pollworker for the County, and looks forward to his third assignment in the upcoming September gubernatorial recall election.

Sept. 12 is National Grandparents Day

President Jimmy Carter on Aug. 3, 1978 signed legislation passed by Congress proclaiming the first Sunday after Labor Day as an official national holiday honoring grandparents. The holiday has an official song – “A Song for Grandma and Grandpa” by Johnny Prill – and official flower – “forget-me-not.” In observance of the holiday, we asked several RELAC members to tell us about being a grandparent.



Philip Browning

2017 Retiree, Children and Family Services

What can light up an old man's life more than two beautiful granddaughters -- nothing I can think of! My granddaughters, Katherine and Margaret (ages 3 and 10), bring such joy and happiness when I am with them. The grasp of their little hands in mine, the twinkle in their eyes when we read a book or their tight hug around my neck brightens my day.

They love swimming, biking, basketball and the beach and make any outing such fun. Since they live in another time zone, we use FaceTime or the telephone to keep up to date. Their mother and father send videos of all their fun activities or school accomplishments if my wife and I aren't able to be there in person.

They are part of the generation which will face many challenges and I am proud to have contributed a little to their growth, education and character, but their parents get most of the credit.

As a former child welfare director in L.A. County, I want to thank all the grandparents who so willingly care for their grandchildren in the L.A. foster care program. In my opinion, without grandparents (especially grandmothers) the L.A. foster care program could not exist.

Photo: With wife, Claire, and grandchildren Margaret and Katherine



Marvin Southard

2015 Retiree, Mental Health

One of the chief joys of recent years for Carolyn and me has been watching our grandson Curran grow up. He is 7 now and is handsome, kind, accomplished and possesses an amazing musical sense that allows him to sing from memory (in tune) any song from the Beatles catalogue and most songs from the repertoire of our boomer youth. Our joy was doubled in March with the birth of our second grandson, Van, (yes, named after Van Morrison) in Costa Mesa. Curran is also excelling in learning to be a big brother.

One of the sadder things in recent times is that with the combination of our move to Avila Beach from Los Angeles and the effects of the pandemic, we have not been able to see our grandsons as much as we would wish. Still over this Father's Day weekend, we were privileged to have Curran spend a week with us in Avila Beach. What an adventure! We were able to take an electric scooter back and forth to the beach, watch him go body surfing and kayaking in the ocean with the grandson of our close friends, play games in the pool and take him to a golf driving range to take some shots. Glorious.

We do not know what adventures will come next, but on the horizon (unless the pandemic intervenes once again) is a trip next January to Dingle, Ireland for our older son's wedding. The plan is for all the family to make the journey to Ireland and then spend a week or two. Curran and Van will, of course, be among the stars of such an event. May it be so.



David Janssen

2007 Retiree, Chief Administrative Officer

Next month Jeannie and I will celebrate our 55th wedding anniversary. In addition to our daughter and son-in-law, our granddaughters are the lights of our lives. We are Bumpa and Gigi to two very special young girls. (Being a grandparent is as wonderful as everyone says!) Elyn is 10 and loves to swim, snow ski, golf and play the piano. Kaitlin is 7 and loves to swim, snow ski, play softball, and is learning the guitar. Since they live in Pleasant Hill, California, Zoom and FaceTime allowed us to stay in touch during a very difficult year. But there is nothing like really *being* with them, as the picture shows. I have very fond memories of my time in Los Angeles County; Happy Grandparents Day to all who have served or are serving there now.



Constance Perett

2006 Retiree, Chief Administrative Office

In September of 1998 I attended a baby shower for my daughter, Jennifer. She was expecting her first child and I was about to be a newly minted grandmother. The whole family was very excited about the new "arrival." Jennifer and her husband didn't know the baby's gender. They wanted to be surprised. Well, we all got a surprise when the baby, due in late October, arrived prematurely a few days after the shower. Although she was small, McKenna did well and was allowed to go home the next day. My husband, Ted, dubbed McKenna "Sweetie Face" and to this day that is her nickname. Three years later Jennifer gave McKenna a brother named Cameron. Cameron is autistic and non-verbal, but his story is not completely written yet. He is now a sweet, gentle young man who is able to communicate his feelings and needs through his iPod. Teaching methods and tools for autistic people have greatly improved, so we all look forward to Cam expanding his skills in the future. My son, Evan, also made us grandparents when his three children, Tristan, Kiran and Dominic, were born. Tristan is now a full-time working adult and part-time student, and Kiran and Dominic are young high school teens.

Ted has seven grown children, four adult and two teen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. One precious grandchild passed away in 2011. Ted's many offspring are spread out among Arizona, Nevada, and Oregon. Over the years we have taken wonderful trips back and forth to get as many grandkids together as possible. The kids love every minute of these visits, particularly when they are boating on the Rogue River in Oregon, going horseback riding, or going to Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm.

Over the years we have helped our kids with their children (child care, transportation to and from school, sports events, etc.) when they needed us. Those are simple tasks compared to the more important task of instilling values in our kids. I believe that the most important contribution to our society (and the larger world) that any parent can make is to raise their children to be ethical, industrious, kind, loyal, and courageous. We taught those values to our children and they have "paid it forward" with their children. It's a privilege, a joy, and our responsibility to help keep that generational link strong. We feel very fortunate and love being Grandpa and Grandmama!



Diane Sandoval

1999 Retiree, LACERA

First, thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk about my wonderful daughter, Michele, and grandchildren, Logan, 16, and Amalia, 11, who currently live in Modesto, California.

Logan was born in Wisconsin, and being a first-time grandmother, I flew out the same day and arrived at the hospital around midnight. I was on the last flight and shared the last cab at the airport with three other women. I stayed with my daughter and grandson that first night. I was so excited I did not sleep much. Truth be told, I was up frequently when Logan woke up to be changed and fed.

Amalia (Mali) was born in Modesto, and being a caesarian birth, it was a planned event. It gave me the opportunity to be in the delivery room and I was permitted to stay with Michele and Mali until they were discharged. Once again, I spent a few sleepless nights helping Michele change and feed my beautiful grandbaby.

Over the years my husband, Gil, and I have made it a priority to spend time with them, celebrating birthdays, holidays, and the like. (Any excuse, I say, is good enough for me). In July we even traveled to Kona, Hawaii to be there for Logan's 16th birthday. We found a bakery, ordered a birthday cake and, as our custom, popped a bottle of bubbly to celebrate the event.

Logan is starting his junior year at Central Catholic High School and Mali is going into sixth grade at St. Stanislaus Catholic School. Looking back, being with our grandkids makes being old worthwhile. I never imagined how much we would be enjoying this time of our lives (despite our aches and pains).



Loren Clapp

2011 Retiree, Chief Executive Office

Grandkids are rejuvenating. I have seven: Ethan (18), Wyatt (10), Damian (8), Walker (8), Genevieve (5), Merrick (3) and Jameson (3). My wife and I have enjoyed their company at such diverse places as Disneyland, Puerto Vallarta and Hawaii, but nothing compares with sharing their bouts of silliness right here at home. They can always get this Pop-Pop roaring with laughter. And they seem to have an innate capacity to fill my heart with love. I feel blessed to have lived long enough to see the world anew through their eyes, to be a kid again along with them and to express my gratitude for having them in my life.



Gwen Andrizzi

2014 Retiree, Chief Executive Office

We have been blessed with two angels from heaven in our family – Naomi Christine, who turned 4 in August, and Maya Christine, who turned 2 in May. As with all young children, their inquisitive minds and curiosity continually warm our hearts. Each child is a gift to be treasured and our grandchildren are indeed loved and cherished. This picture was taken at the South Coast Botanic Gardens -- seems appropriate I take the angels to a County facility. They call me Grandma Gwen.



Gail LeGros

2016 Retiree, Board of Supervisors

I am blessed with three amazing grandchildren — twins Madison and Kaleb, both juniors at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School -- and Rylee, a freshman at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School. All three play sports -- baseball, soccer and cross country -- and are very good athletes, along with doing very well academically. Retirement life is amazing, and spending time with my grandchildren just makes it that much better. Blessed beyond is an understatement. This photo was taken at Crater Lake in Oregon.

PASSAGES

Compiled by Judy Hammond,
Newsletter Editor



Rodriguez



Wickham



Woo



Barlow

APPOINTMENTS:

County Supervisor **Hilda Solis** named chair of the Metro Board, the first time that two women of color have led the agency. **Raul Rodriguez**, a 23-veteran of the Department of Animal Care and Control, appointed deputy director of North County Operations/ Public Safety Division. Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, son of RELAC member **Gil Garcetti**, nominated as U.S. ambassador to India. **Rich Llewellyn**, former aide to Supervisor Ed Edelman and District Attorney Gil Garcetti, retiring as L.A. city administrative officer, named Mayor Garcetti's acting chief of staff. **Sharon Woo**, former chief deputy of the San Francisco District Attorney's Office and most recently chief of operations for the San Francisco Department of Police Accountability, named chief deputy to D.A. George Gascón, replacing **Joseph Iniguez**. RELAC member **Laura Zucker**, who retired in 2017 as head of the County Arts Commission, appointed director of the Center for Business and Management of the Arts at Claremont Graduate University. **Luis Lugo**, chief operations officer for the Minnesota Public Employee Retirement Association, named LACERA deputy chief executive officer.



Lugo

RETIREMENTS:

Dr. **Jeffrey Gunzenhauser**, director of the Department of Public Health's Quality Improvement Division who served as interim health officer and medical director from 2014-2018, with almost 18 years of service. **Mary Wickham**, who left her post as county counsel in November 2020 after five years to become a Superior Court commissioner. Former Deputy District Attorney **Christopher Darden**, who assisted in prosecuting O.J. Simpson, granted deferred retirement. **Nai-len Ishikawa**, assistant treasurer and tax collector. **Guy Zelenski**, who ran the Office of Special Investigations in the Auditor-Controller Office.



Gunzenhauser

ELECTIONS:

Los Angeles International Airport Police Chief **Cecil Rhambo**, a former assistant sheriff who retired in 2014 after 31 years, will run against Sheriff **Alex Villanueva** in 2022. **Eliezer Vera**, chief of the Sheriff Department's Technology and Support Division, had earlier announced his candidacy. Social worker **Johnnetta L. Sanders** was the only candidate filing to oppose incumbents **Herman Santos** and **Vivian Gray** for the third member seat on LACERA's Board of Investments and Board of Retirement respectively. Voting, open to active County employees, was Aug. 5-31.



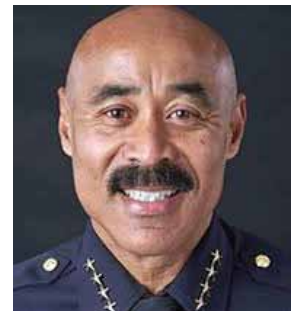
Meister

COURTS:

Muhammad Rauf Ahmed, 45, a County contract worker at a COVID vaccination center at the Pomona Fairplex, charged for allegedly stealing more than 500 blank vaccine cards. Sheriff's Deputy **Nicole Bell**, 27, charged with assaulting a man two years ago while he sat in the back of a patrol vehicle, and deleting video of the incident that was shot on a cell phone by a family member of the man.

DEATHS:

Former County Supervisor **Pete Schabarum**, 92, who served on the Board of Supervisors from 1972 to 1991 after more than five years as a state assemblyman, from natural causes following several years of failing health. **Stanley E. Barlow**, 94, who joined the Fire Department in 1947 as a firefighter and retired in 1980 as chief deputy. Retired Judge **Henry Shatford**, 103, appointed to Pasadena Municipal Court in 1966 and later to Superior Court, who served as a mediator and court-appointed arbitrator, retiring at age 90. He lost his first wife in 1995 after 50 years of marriage, and two years ago married his companion of 22 years, **Adrian Fong**, who clerked in his courtroom. **Hugh C. McDonald, Jr.**, a captain with the Sheriff's Department when he retired in 1994 with 28 years of service, who helped create RELAC's first website in 1996 and served as webmaster for 20 years. **Robert "Bob" Bush**, 77, member of the L.A. County Capital Asset Leasing Corporation Commission, founding and 40-year member of the board of the L.A. County Economic Development Corporation, and member of the Library Foundation's Board of Directors, who served as senior deputy to former Supervisor Kenneth Hahn from 1969-79. **Rhonda Meister**, 72, member of the Advisory Board of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, from cancer. **Richard Van Horn**, 81, who was credited with helping to revolutionize California's approach to mental illness and successfully lobbied against proposed mental health cuts in the L.A. County budget in the '80s, from cancer. Retired Superior Court Judge **Irving Shimer**, 90, who served from 1982 to 1998. Renowned neurologist **Richard Shubin**, 65, who served as a clinical faculty member at LAC+USC School of Medicine and worked there on developing disease models for coronaviruses. RELAC member **Rene Topalian**, who retired in 2004 after 34 years in direct services and administrative roles in the Health Services and Probation departments, diagnosed with congestive heart failure in 2019 and colon cancer in 2020, from organ failure.



Rhambo



Van Horn



Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond
Newsletter Editor

The Board of Supervisors is appealing a Superior Court ruling that Measure J -- approved by voters in 2020 to set aside 10 percent of locally generated county revenues for social services and jail diversion programs -- is unconstitutional. Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who opposed Measure J, voted against the appeal. The ballot measure prohibits the County from using the set aside money on prisons, jails or law enforcement agencies. The lawsuit to overturn Measure J was filed by the Coalition of County Unions. Judge Mary Strobel ruled that the charter amendment improperly restricts the Board of Supervisors from deciding how to spend County funds.

Supervisor Janice Hahn said she was so impressed by Redondo Beach's Homeless Court that she partnered with the City of Long Beach to launch one there; the courts allow homeless residents to get their cases dismissed and get connected with services and treatment.

Supervisors set a minimum wage of \$15 per hour for all workers in unincorporated areas, effective July 1, with an adjustment in July 2022 in accordance with the consumer price index.

The Board is considering establishing new classifications for a "chief well-being officer" and applicable staff for departments to support the mental health and well-being of County workers.

Supervisors adopted a resolution acknowledging and apologizing for the historic mistreatment of California Native Americans, saying the County had inflicted violence, maltreatment and neglect on local tribes.

The County offered free admission tickets to those getting vaccinated at the La Brea Tar Pits and National History Museum.

The Sheriff's Department has opened a substation at the East Los Angeles Sheriff's Station to better serve Maywood and Cudahy.

More than 500 County employees assisted at the Fairplex emergency shelter in Pomona in caring for the migrant children who crossed the border without their parents, with key support from the departments of Children and Family Services, Health Services, and Mental Health, and Office of Education. The number of children at the facility tripled from July 23 to Aug. 4, shooting up to 1,668.

Metro has implemented a new Micro on-demand rideshare service offering short local trips in some County neighborhoods. The vehicles seat up to 10 passengers; the first two rides are free and \$1 thereafter.

The Board of Supervisors is urging state leaders to fund reparations to more than 240 survivors of forced sterilizations conducted at LAC+USC Medical Center between 1968 and 1974, and will explore stepping up if the state does not. Supervisor Chair Hilda Solis said it was time to reckon with the past. "Any intentional efforts to address systemic racism and build more equitable approaches into county services moving forward must confront the most egregious sins of the past," she said. Forced sterilizations began in California with a 1909 eugenics law that allowed doctors at state institutions to operate on people deemed unfit to have children. More than 20,000 people -- including some in their teens -- were sterilized before the law's repeal in 1974.

Excavation for the David Geffen Galleries at the County Museum of Art has uncovered fossils, which have been turned over to La Brea Tar Pits & Museum.

More than 300 residents came out for three "Seniors Fight Back" training sessions at Don Knabe County Park in Cerritos to learn basic self-defense skills to address a rise in anti-Asian hate crimes.

Twenty-seven cities have now adopted resolutions expressing no confidence in District Attorney George Gascon, who is facing a possible recall election. Proponents circulating a petition to recall Gascon have until Oct. 27 to collect 579,062 signatures to get the measure on the 2022 ballot. Meanwhile, two veteran prosecutors in his office have filed suit because they said they were retaliated against because they refused to carry out a controversial directive that limited sentencing enhancements.

The Board of Supervisors has approved spending \$13.56 million to build a 5.6-acre park on the grounds of the former MaLaren Children's Center in El Monte, used by

the County to house foster children until it was closed in 2003 amid allegations of abuse. Groundbreaking is expected in 2022 and completion by the end of 2023.

The Board voted 3-2 to create a Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness, focusing mainly on the structure of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who introduced the motion, said her intent is to reevaluate the governance, mission, leadership and structure of the authority, and that cities need more input into how Measure H funds are spent. Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, who voted against the motion, called creating another commission a waste of time.

L.A. County Superior Court says employees who do not get vaccinated after a COVID-19 vaccine receives final approval will be fired unless they have certain medical conditions or religious beliefs that prohibit vaccination.

The Irvine City Council voted to place a plaque on the site where L.A. County Sheriff James Barton and three of his men were shot to death in 1857 by outlaw Juan Flores and his gang.

L.A. Superior Court was cited by Cal/OSHA and fined \$25,000 for health and safety violations following COVID-19 outbreaks and the death of at least four people who worked in the courthouses.

The Board of Supervisors has approved a pilot project that would prevent Department of Children and Family Services social workers from having access to a child's race, ethnicity or neighborhood when deciding whether to place the child in foster care or with a relative.

One-third of Foothill Transit's 32 electric buses were inoperable at the end of July, prompting the agency to pursue returning the 13 vehicles at a cost of \$5 million. The buses were expected to last 12 years, but lasted only seven to eight.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters has asked the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate whether a group of deputies called the Executioners operate as a violent gang at the Compton Sheriff's Station.

The Sheriff's Department spent more than \$1 million on a 10-day operation in the Antelope Valley that resulted in the seizure of more than \$1 billion of illegal marijuana, 131 arrests -- including 19 for water theft -- and the destruction of 30 grow locations. But since the charges were just misdemeanors, the growers began immediately trying to rebuild their farms. Supervisor Kathryn Barger, whose district includes the Antelope Valley, convinced her fellow supervisors to allocate more money to continue cracking down on the operations. "What began as water theft has exploded to become an infiltration of organized crime groups. They are threatening residents, polluting the environment, trespassing onto private property, and trafficking and smuggling people," she said.

The Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board for the first time has dedicated funding for apprentices in child and family support services. Apprentices will accompany a trained professional making visits to the home of a pregnant woman or new parent to provide guidance, parental coaching and access to health and social services. Apprentices will be paid while they complete their coursework and will receive mentorship, tutoring, and technology training.

The Norwalk Library has reopened after a \$4 million major renovation and refurbishment.

Former Supervisorial Aide and Commissioner Bob Bush Dies



Robert "Bob" Bush, 77, a senior deputy to Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, founding director of the L.A. County Economic Development Corporation, and member of the LA County Library Foundation Board of Directors and the L.A. County Capital Asset

Leasing Corporation Commission, has died. Bush was a journalist before joining Hahn's staff in 1969, serving as editor of *Plane & Pilot* magazine, and writer for the *L.A. Times*, *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner*, *United Press International*, and *South Bay Daily Breeze*.

He served as California press secretary to President Jimmy Carter during the 1976 primary election, and as a lobbyist, public relations director, and governmental affairs consultant since leaving Hahn's staff in 1979.

At the time of his passing in July, Bush ran the Robert E. Bush Corporation, a lobbying firm that worked with cities and public agencies in the Los Angeles area.

He was the longest serving member (40 years) of the LAEDC, where he received numerous commendations for his work and was one of four persons to receive the Lifetime Stewardship Award.

"He was a genuine champion of our mission and a particularly gracious mentor to me during my 15 years as CEO, sharing important perspectives on the organization's roots and history, advocating on our behalf with our County leadership, and making introductions to influential people in the region who could help advance our mission," said CEO Bill Allen.

"A fixture with his devoted wife, Judy, at LAEDC meetings and events for four full decades, both always willing to help welcome new members to our LAEDC family and encourage their support of our mission, Bob will be sorely missed," said Allen.

As a member of the LA County Library Foundation Board of Directors, he was dedicated to promoting literacy and lifelong learning in the County's diverse communities as a pathway for success.

"He put his passion for literacy into action. He served on the LA County Library Foundation board for more than 20 years. He forged connections, developed long-range strategies, and helped shape the Foundation's vision," said Executive Director Andrea Carroll.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned in Bush's honor on July 13 and the LAEDC planned to do the same at its annual Board meeting on July 30. "He will be deeply missed by so many people in the community, so many people throughout Los Angeles County," said Supervisor Janice Hahn, who said she and Bush were lifelong friends.

A resident of Palos Verdes Peninsula, Bush is survived by his wife, three children (Renee, Melisa and Howard), seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Dead or Alive? George Ramirez is Very Much Alive

by Victoria Pipkin-Lane
Chair, Newsletter Committee

It was a typical, balmy Southern California day for L.A. County retiree George Ramirez and his wife, Delia, as they relaxed on their six-acre avocado farm in northern San Diego County.

But then Ramirez literally received the shock of his life. In the mail was a death benefit package addressed to his wife of nearly 50 years. "I saw the package and was stunned," he said. "My wife was upset."

So, what happened to cause this "nightmare" for Ramirez? Apparently, Social Security was notified in February that he was deceased. LACERA was notified as well, and RELAC subsequently included his "death" in its "In Memoriam" column in the May-June newsletter.

But Ramirez was and is very much alive.

Still, getting "resurrected" was no easy task.

Despite numerous communications with Social Security, including "a face-to-face interview," Ramirez had to provide the federal agency with a copy of a physical done by Kaiser Permanente, which fortunately was dated after his supposed death.

While there was no interruption to his monthly Social Security payments, "it was a hassle getting reinstated. I had to be persistent, and could not take anything for granted."

"Social Security has not been forthright," he said. "They provided no cause of death and only gave vague answers" to his questions. One agent informed him that there had been a lot of erroneous reports of deaths due to the COVID pandemic.

LACERA, he said, was much easier to work with during his resurrection journey. He was set up with a virtual interview and the customer service rep (Angel) said, "Yes, you're still alive; we'll put you back to a living person."

Ramirez and his wife are now back to basking in the Southern California sunshine, surrounded by horses and sheep.

The positive twist to the story: "Now that I have 'tasted' death," he said, "life is better!"

The RELAC member spent 40 years at LAC+USC Medical Center, starting as a nurse's aide. He participated in the County incentive program, which funded his nursing education in exchange for a three-year work commitment. Ramirez clearly exceeded that agreement.

"I am grateful to be a retired County employee, and had no idea what a treasure it (benefits) would be," he said. "During my career I saw the new hospital being built, met some really good people, and I think of them and miss them."



RELAC's Hugh McDonald, Jr. Dies

Retired Sheriff's Capt. Hugh McDonald, Jr., who helped create RELAC's first website and served as its webmaster for 20 years, has died.

McDonald joined the Sheriff's Department in 1966 and retired in 1994. He headed the Court Services - East Bureau Division at the time he retired.

Court Services carried out the duties of the sheriff as the chief ministerial officer of the Superior Court by serving and enforcing civil and criminal processes submitted by the courts, attorneys and litigants and by providing bailiffs to the Superior and justice courts. The bureau was also responsible for the custody of prisoners at these facilities and 12 Municipal Court lockups.

McDonald joined RELAC following his retirement and shortly after agreed to help create a website for the organization. The RELAC Board of Directors honored him for his dedicated service at the 2017 Annual Recognition Luncheon following his decision to retire as webmaster in December 2016.

McDonald was a Navy veteran.



IN MEMORIAM

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

Alcohol/Drug Pgms. Admin. - Morris H. Chinkin
Animal Control - Stephen Caballero, Eric Zambrano
Antelope Valley Rehab. Center - James Porter
Assessor - Noshy Bakhoun, Marguerite M. De Silva, Buford Finley, Delores I. Harrison, Consolacion G. Ignacio, Carmelita D. Tolentino, Carol Weissleader
Auditor-Controller - Esther K. Ip, Lyman Mars Jeung, Russell H. Lingo
Board of Supervisors - Patricia R. Clay, Peter F. Schabarum
Burbank Municipal Court - Janith R. Moore
California Children's Services - Betsy J. Blankfield, Isaura C. Rodriguez
Chief Executive Office - Rex D. Ball, Rosemary Bloom, Suryakant Gandhi, Linda F. Sirk
Child Support Services - Ruth M. Adams, Stella C. Lopez
Children & Family Services - Bobbie L. Baker, Emery Bontrager, Michael Broussard, Patricia L. Cieli, Faye R. Johnson, Patrick Meiklejohn, Bob A. Omagbemi, Janet Quach, Thomas A. Riley, Bonnie J. Scales, Barbara F. Schneider, Freddie L. Walker
County Counsel - Paul Hanson, Halvor S. Melom
District Attorney - Stephen Dones, James L. Evans, Wilbon L. Johnson, Patricia G. Oppenheim, Edith D. Perkins, Rosalie M. Riddle
Engineer Facilities - Eugene Bahl, Eugene C. Tarman
Fire - James C. Bateman, Tory B. Carlon, Fidencio Domingo, Neal W. Einfalt, Thomas Estlow, Leonard O. Hammer, John P. Harris, Richard H. Houts, Terry A. Lee, William H. Means, Corydon M. Pieper, George Timothy Sinichak, Jonathan P. Tatone, Robert H. Yuill
Flood Control District - Albert J. Vita
Harbor/UCLA Medical Center - Rose Bungard, Esther T. Isozaki, Helen M. Lancaster, Johnny E. Lockhart, Patricia A. Luse, Sang Oh, Betty Jane Roberts, Catherine Rose, Charles E. Seymore, Lillie Stoudemire, Balistine Thomas
Health Department - Virginia Madison
Health Services Administration - Edward C. Brown, Jesse O. Cade, Enrique E. Ceron, Mary J. Herrera, Abel Martinez, Camille Y. Melendez, Mary K. Salisbury, Juanita Smith, Thomas, Tierney, Rene Topalian, Mary K. Umehara, Rufus E. Wade
Internal Services - Artemio G. Alvarez, Carlos H. Arzaga, James T. Austin, Richard B. Baker, Ronald J. Ercek, George M. Fish, William Earl Gillam, Oliver P. Heximer, Richard L. Hornbeak, Gerald P. Jones, Richard G. Langstaff, James Hardy Meneffe, Wilma Reaves, Clarence Robinson, Lillie N. Tatum, Mary Tynan, Rochelle Williams, Margaret Wilson, Danyo Wong
King-Drew Medical Center - Eufrecino M. Abad, Valerio Bautista, Yvonne G. Bingham, Ruth E. Hines, Jennie Wren Holt, Richard L. Howard, Diana L. Mc Intyre, Ronald A. Nunn, Homizelle D. Robinson, Saisamorn Sintuwong, Sangwarlaya Tiraphatna, Jeanette M. Williams, Margie Young
L.A. Municipal Court Reporters - Terry Mason
LAC+USC Medical Center - Delories Alexander, Pamela Asnoman, Vernell Brooks, Manuel Carvajal, Kathryn R. Challoner, Deogracias S. Delfin, Josephine Dosal, Sandra Jean Hagen, Moses Harris, Jacquelyn Houston, Maggie Elizabeth Humphrey, Marie Luxton, Sheila A. Lynn, Maurice G. Marcotte, Jessie Mae Miles, Mary L. Mimbs, Diane C. Mitchell, Raquel Mitrof, Sindhu S. Morchi, Florence Mosley, Marsha J. Murray, Shirley Nixon, Angeles F. Ocana, Lupe Y. Salazar, Mary T. Sanchez, Lois E. Shepherd, Edna R. Smith, Carolyn Grace Soter, Emma J. Stokes, Stanley K. Tran, Manuel Q. Tran, Mary Elizabeth Ward, Ida O. Watson, Gloria J. Wilson
LACERA - Wantu Robinson
Malibu Municipal Court - Betty A. Schoonover
Mechanical - John Velasco Cook, Robert A. Golden, William A. Rands
Medical Examiner-Coroner - Mark M. Johnson
Mental Health - Hayden Marie Lujan Brown, Lida Malke, Donald W. Verin
Museum of Art - Louis S. Fuller, Ernest G. Tunley
Museum of Natural History - Ralph N. Hollingsworth, Louella R.

Saul, Emma J. Smith
Olive View/UCLA Medical Center - Maria C. Aguirre, Joe D. Blanton, Donna A. Crowell, Elinor Grayer, Marcella P. Hylan, Sandra Levy, Margaret Y. Mishima, Elizabeth R. Stanton, Patricia A. Walton
Parks And Recreation - Andrew L. Jackson, Francisco Lozano, Pedro A. Martinez, David Mesa, Burnell Montgomery Jr., Leo Shumate, Michael Smallcomb
Probation - G. Maurice Beatty, Brenda Coke, Lorraine Dansby, Dennis A. Dumontier, Louis G. Fakhoury, Sharon F. Hatten, Linda Hicks, Stephen Hubert, Ruth Y. Kido, Kenneth M. Lawrence Jr., William F. Malloy, James E. Mathews, Mauricio E. Mijangos, Robert L. Petersen, Rosslyn R. Range, Guy Richardson, Marsha Tichenor, Stan Warren, Mattie R. Wright, Herbert Zipperstein
Public Defender - Sharrel B. Gerlach, Sergio Hernandez, Kathy A. Mendez
Public Health - Paul T. Davidson, Jim S. De Guzman, Patricia Curtiss Hassakis, Marie G. Hernandez, William Hocker, Howard R. Hughes, Dreushon N. Jones, Adrian Marin, Denise M. Mitchell, Patricia R. Mitsuuchi, Thomas Moore, Juana Pina-Torres, Virginia Ross, Irma H. Strantz, Carol T. Thynne, Wilbur A. York
Public Library - Raymond Ramejio Ortiz, Charmaine M. Spurrier, Lajuana Thomas
Public Social Services - Linda S. Adams, Lida Asatryan, Rosalio Batres, Ann Belcher, Jose F. Bermeo, Theresa Bossier, Jean H. Bowie, Claude Arnett Brown, Joyce M. Brown, Jeanette Bryant, John R. Burdick, Joyce M. Cline, Clara R. Cole, Sharon L. Dannels, Maria S. Flores, Cynthia Gent, Gloria M. Guerrero, Betty Irene High, Yolanda C. Higson, Jeffrey W. Hiller, Kim D. Hughes, Rogers E. Munoz, Terri L. Norwood, Delia Parada, Shakuntala V. Patel, Susanna Perez, Margaret Phair, Maria Rodriguez, Javier Sanchez, Sylvia S. Slivchak, Sam O. Srey, Kar Sum, Lan V. Tran, Agustin C. Villegas, Lupe Welbourn, Margaret A. Williams, Frances Ann Wilson, Cedric L. Wilson, Dora Wilson
Public Works - Harry C. Anderson, George F. Caro, Theresa S. Cho, Ramon Cruz, Joe B. Gonzales, John B. Guffey, Ben J. Messina, Ralph Ramos, Barbara A. Salas, Laurence Urban, Marilyn Vena, William J. Voge
Rancho Los Amigos Hospital - Carmelita A. Cabaron, Joseph M. Chavez, Jorge Alberto Cordova, Ann M. Dedeaux, Evelyn Hernandez, Katherine Moran, Maureen M. Moran, Diane Swartz, Geraldine L. Van Dyke, Jon H. Waymire
Regional Planning - Jacqueline Delores Byrd, Donald C. Culbertson
Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk - Daniel A. Adofina, Jose L. Castaneda, Rochelle M. Daisy, Josephine T. Moreno, Maricela Najera
Sheriff - Doris Claudean Adams, Derry Le Roy Benedict, Glendon L. Benham, David S. Bower, Bruce B. Bregger II, Ralph E. Bristow, Thomas H. Brown, James R. Brunkala, Judith A. Caruso, Loremer S. Cross, Susana U. Diaz, Gerald L. Dixon, Margaret M. Dwyer, Frederic E. Glotz, Kenneth L. Grigsby, Michael H. Hansen, Timothy J. Hemphill, Mary K. King, Helen J. Leonard, Selwyn Leung, Rudolph J. Lovio, Eddie Lu, Terry C. Mace, Vanessa L. Toms-Matthews, Hugh C. Mc Donald Jr., Paul T. Mondry, Thomas H. Neal, Randall J. Neitzke, Alonzo I. Payne, Larry Quirol Jr., Cecilia Ramirez, Pete R. Ramirez, Raymond Salazar, Emma G. Savala, Carmen A. Soriano, Theodore Takeshi Toguchi, Mark W. Turner, Albert Verduzco, Mary Lee Waggoner, Harold D. Winters, Bill W. Yocum
South Coast Air Quality Mgmt. - William E. Tinsman
Superior Court/County Clerk - Joe B. Alba, Carlos H. Cetina, David E. Coleman, Glenn L. Covey, Dolores J. Dost, Nancy Dotson, Gertrudes I. Escorido, Roger E. Gates, Kathryn Anne Jones, Richard S. Katz, John C. Le Van, John Lucy, Caleb Mallard, Kiyoko K. Maruyama, Anne S. Motoyoshi, Helen Nelson, Myrna W. Puno, Emanuel J. Sanzo, Catherine Weatherspoon
Treasurer/Tax Collector - Betty Mulkern Brewer, Charles N. Halgren, Marla Leventhal, Jezebel R. Magallanes, Linda D. Williams
Workforce Dev., Aging & Comm. Svc. - Fred E. Hughes, Herman M. Simmons
Unidentified County Agency - Armando Castillo Zumaya



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

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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RELAC Reopens Office

RELAC has reopened its office, located at 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15, in Alhambra, on Mondays -- Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We are mindful of the ongoing concerns about COVID-19 and related variants, and are following recommendations by the County Department of Public Health to require use of masks by all visitors, regardless of vaccination status.

To better serve you, please notify us in advance of your visit either by e-mailing admin@relac.org or calling (626) 308-0532. If you reach our voicemail, please leave a message and your call will be returned on our next business day.

Please help keep our staff safe by wearing a mask at all times during your visit to the office.



Three RELAC Directors Reelected

RELAC Directors Don Fandry, Linda C. Hopkins and Diane Sandoval have been reelected to new three-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2022.

No RELAC member filed a petition to run as a candidate for the Board, resulting in the automatic reelection of the current directors whose terms expire Dec. 31, 2021. All three had been endorsed for reelection by the Board of Directors.



Fandry, a sheriff's deputy when he retired in 1992 after 31 years of service, was appointed to the RELAC Board in May 2010. He serves on the General Membership, Special Events, Newsletter, Benefits, Community Support, and Recruitment and Marketing committees.

Hopkins was appointed to the RELAC Board in 2016 to fill a vacancy. A 37-year County employee, she was a manager in the Department of Human Resources when she retired in 2011. She currently serves as vice president of RELAC, chairs the Ad Hoc Scholarship Committee, and is vice chair of the Community Support and Special Events committees. She also serves on the Office Management, and Recruitment and Marketing committees.



Sandoval was appointed to the RELAC Board in 1999, the same month she retired as LACERA's accounting division manager. She served as president in 2004-05 and was the retiree representative on the LACERA Board of Investments for 12 years. She chairs the General Membership Committee, is vice chair of the Investments Committee, and a member of the Newsletter, Office Support and Budget committees.

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.