



RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

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President's Message

by Brian Berger

It has been exciting, mostly, to watch the Dodgers. There are times when I think we need a special way to cheer them on; oh wait, we do! On Sept. 22, RELAC will be having its special Dodger Night at the stadium. There is a big turnout every year, and this year looks to be even larger. Our attendance will be publicly acknowledged.

Speaking of special events, the Recognition Luncheon, held at Almansor Court on Aug. 10, was again special. We were fortunate to have a former County supervisor, a former chief administrative officer, and a number of former and current department heads. Lots of happy conversations. The presentation by Santos Kreimann, the chief executive officer of LACERA, brought us current on the many important activities impacting that agency and all of us. It was and is also special to recognize the special contributions, supported by so many of you, to important community programs, and to spend a few moments congratulating this year's scholarship recipients. Each of these scholarship winners has a link to, and was recommended by, a RELAC member.

This is a high energy time for both the staff at RELAC and for the Board members. The office is a very busy place and our website is equally busy. A lot is going on. Please take a look at the calendar section. The Board has scheduled a retreat for Sept. 12. This will be a focused gathering where we take a moment to look at all our activities and determine if/when/and how to make changes or improvements. It is an important time and we try to do it every year.

Finally, as I say each time, please take a moment to go through the informational reports in this newsletter and let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions.



Robbins Elected; Harris and Martin Need Your Vote

RELAC Director Les Robbins has been elected to a third term as retirees' representative on the LACERA Board of Retirement. No other person filed for the seat, resulting in Robbins' automatic election.

The RELAC Board of Directors urges members to vote for Debbie Martin and J.P. Harris to fill the remaining retiree seats on the LACERA Boards of Investments and Retirement. Both are RELAC directors. LACERA members who were retired on or before April 15 are eligible to vote in the election. Voting closes Aug. 31.

Martin faces one challenger for the Board of Investments seat now occupied by Joseph Kelly, who is not seeking reelection. Harris also has one challenger in his bid to win a third term as the alternate retiree representative on the LACERA Board of Retirement.

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

Robbins has served on the LACERA Board of Retirement and Board of Investments for 25 years, initially representing active employees and then retirees. He first served as an elected member of both boards, then as an appointed member of the Board of Retirement and then as an elected member of the Board of Retirement.

He was a sergeant in the Sheriff's Department when he retired in 2004. A RELAC director since 2017, he writes a popular blog on LACERA retirement issues.

"I feel very fortunate and humbled by the fact that I have no opponent in the upcoming election!" said Robbins.



Letter From the Editor:

I have advised the RELAC Board of Directors that I will be resigning my position on the Board and as editor of the newsletter no later than the end of the year.

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve on the Board since 2014 and newsletter editor since 2016, but family responsibilities require more of my time. As some of you know, my husband had a major stroke five years ago and lost the use of his left side as a result. Being bedbound, he requires my full-time assistance. While I have managed to continue my RELAC responsibilities during this time, he has developed some additional health issues in recent months and I feel I can no longer do the newsletter and provide the level of care and attention that he needs.

I will continue to serve as editor and web manager until the Board can find a replacement. I will help with the transition as well, providing all the assistance I can in knowledge transfer of the processes and procedures.

The Board has asked if I might consider continuing to write my "Inside LA County" and "Passages" columns because members seem to enjoy reading them. I don't know the answer to that yet. I need to see how the next few months go.

Know that this decision was not an easy one, and is in no way a result of any dissatisfaction with the organization. I just feel from a personal standpoint, this is the right thing to do at this time.

I want to thank not only the Board of Directors but the membership for the overwhelming support I have received during my tenure as editor. I have enjoyed getting to know retirees I did not know during my County career and getting reacquainted with others, and appreciate that many of you have allowed me to share your stories in the newsletter. You are my second family.

*With utmost respect and friendship,
Judy Hammond*

News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich

Assistant Executive Officer



Autumn greetings from your LACERA family! Hopefully, by the time you read this, we'll be in the fall season and the air will be a bit cooler compared to the July temperatures when I wrote this article. We're excited to bring you some significant updates on our ongoing efforts to ensure your well-being and enhance the member experience as you engage with LACERA. We're thrilled to unveil new projects and developments at LACERA, like the Board of Retirement's strategic plan for the next several years and a new addition to the way in which members can opt to receive their retirement benefits, which we'll be debuting later this year, as well as a note of caution about possible phishing campaigns against LACERA members and what we're doing to protect you.

The Board of Retirement has approved the strategic plan, titled "Building a Better Tomorrow." The strategic plan includes invaluable ideas and inputs from various stakeholders – including feedback gathered from our first-ever member survey, staff at all levels, and the Board of Retirement. It represents the culmination of over two years of careful planning and meticulous research. The plan serves as a comprehensive roadmap, composed of five key priorities that will guide LACERA through the next five transformative years.

Though the strategic plan has been years in the making, our journey is only just beginning. It's now time to roll up our sleeves and delve into the implementation and execution stages. The plan outlines five robust goals we aim to achieve: (1) Superior Member Experience, (2) Innovation Through Technology, (3) Investing in People, (4) Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management, and (5) Fiscal Durability. To meet these ambitious goals, we'll leverage the decades of experience within our team while also harnessing new technologies and ideas to enhance our services. We're committed to crafting innovative strategies to connect with our members, offering accessible and actionable information, and introducing modern, user-friendly self-service tools. To complement these efforts, we're continuing to invest in our staff to ensure we continue to deliver the best service possible, equip them to mitigate risks, and safeguard your funds effectively. It's all part of our pledge to build a better tomorrow. We'll be talking a lot more about this in the future, but you can always stay updated by checking out our new Strategic Planning section on LACERA.com (click on About LACERA then Board of Retirement and you'll see a link in the left-hand navigation bar).

Speaking of serving members and mitigating risks, we are running an informational campaign to help prevent phishing. A recent phishing attack against a LACERA member highlighted the need to provide our members with more knowledge to help them avoid phishers and other bad actors online. Remember, phishing is a cybercrime in which attackers trick individuals into revealing sensitive information (usernames, passwords, financial details) by disguising themselves as trustworthy entities through deceptive e-mails. It can be challenging to differentiate between legitimate and phishing e-mails. To help you better recognize and avoid such threats, here are some additional steps and guidance:

Verify the sender's e-mail address. Official LACERA communication will always come from one of the following addresses: welcme@lacera.com, notifications@lacera-email.com, or healthcare@lacera.com.

LACERA does not send unsolicited e-mails scheduling counseling or asking for your personal information. If you receive an e-mail of this nature, it is a phishing attempt. Beware of unsolicited requests for personal information. If you receive an e-mail asking for any sensitive information, it is likely a phishing attempt.

Remember, if you're ever in doubt about any communication you receive from LACERA, you can always call us at (800)786-6464 to verify that we are trying to contact you.

For decades LACERA has offered two methods of payment for members who receive a monthly benefit: direct deposit (the preferred method) and physical checks. We are excited to announce we are finalizing an agreement to offer a new option—a pre-paid debit card! This new method is designed to be a safe, easy, convenient, and more reliable alternative to the physical check payment process for members to receive and access retirement benefits.

In the next few months, you will hear more about this offering, but here are the major details. When offered, if you elect to receive your retirement benefits this way, the pre-loaded debit card can be used to make purchases anywhere a MasterCard is accepted, including in stores and online. You can also get cash through ATMs, pay bills, and monitor your account through a secure online portal.

You may wonder why we're offering this new service. First and foremost, it is part of our disaster preparedness planning. During the COVID pandemic, some of our members who opted to receive physical checks each month faced payment delays that, in some cases, especially for our members living internationally, were quite significant. We could generate the checks, but due to mailing restrictions and quarantine protocols, we couldn't mail them. Once a member has the pre-paid debit card, payments become entirely electronic. This ensures members have full access to their funds, regardless of their location or any emergent natural disasters.

There are additional benefits as well. Pre-paid debit cards allow members to receive their benefits on the day they are paid, rather than waiting for a check that is subject to normal mailing delays. Due to changes with the postal service, we have seen an increasing trend of longer mail delivery times, which has caused some members to receive checks later and later in the month. In addition, the debit cards are more secure! Nationwide crime statistics reveal an increase in mail theft. Every month, we receive reports from members who haven't received their checks, leading to further delays in delivering their benefits as we need to reissue the checks. Furthermore, not all members are eligible for a U.S. bank account, which can make cashing checks and accessing their benefits challenging. The pre-paid debit card circumvents these issues, granting

continued on p.8

Board of Retirement

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



By the time everyone gets this article, it is highly likely that you will have already received your ballots for the upcoming LACERA election and may have already voted. Please let us know how the vote by mail ballot worked as we worked hard to get this method of voting reinstated. Many of you may remember that three years ago in our last election it was vote via e-mail, and for those of you who don't have e-mail addresses or who may not be adept at using a computer, it did present some problems. This time, hopefully, this problem was solved.

You already may know that I was not on the ballot for the primary retiree spot on the Board of Retirement as no one filed to run against me. Because of this, I have been automatically reelected and will start my new three-year term on Jan. 1, 2024.

However, there is still work to do and two other retiree spots that need to be voted on. We still have business on both LACERA boards and that business is reelecting the alternate member on the Board of Retirement and the primary spot on the Board of Investments. J.P. Harris is running for reelection for the alternate spot on the Board of Retirement and Debbie Martin is running for the spot on the Board of Investments that is currently held by Joe Kelly, who chose not to run for reelection.

I am very confident that both J.P. and Debbie will be victorious in their efforts and RELAC will, once again, be well represented on both of the boards at LACERA. There are some real challenges ahead for all retirees, and RELAC needs to have a spot in the game here. So, if you haven't voted already, please remember to vote for J.P. and Debbie.



RELAC Members Commended for Their Community Support

Members of RELAC were commended at the annual Recognition Luncheon in August for their generous donations to the organization's two major charitable-giving campaigns this year.

RELAC has raised \$10,200 for the L.A. Regional Food Bank, making it the top fundraising team in 2023. It was one of the top five County teams and among the top 10 overall in fundraising for the March of Dimes' March for Babies, raising \$5,022.

Representatives from both organizations attended the Recognition Luncheon to personally thank members for their efforts.

RELAC President Brian Berger offered his appreciation as well. "It is my pleasure to applaud and thank RELAC members for their generous donations. I also thank Vice President Linda Hopkins and her team for spearheading these successful fundraising campaigns."

"RELAC members fully support giving back to the community, as evidenced by the generous donations to the Food Bank and the March of Dimes," said Berger. "We will continue to do our part to help those in need, and contribute to programs that ensure healthy babies."

For more information on or to support RELAC's charitable-giving efforts, visit the website at relac.org.



President Brian Berger; drawing winner Randi Tahara, a retiree of the Board of Supervisors; Vice President Linda C. Hopkins and Director Nora Jackson.



Guest Speaker Letha Williams-Martin

Medicare Presentation Highlights Meeting

by Victoria Pipkin-Lane, Chair, General Membership Committee

An informative and well-received presentation on Medicare for retirees by Letha Williams-Martin, senior retirement benefit specialist for LACERA's Retiree Healthcare Division, highlighted RELAC's summer general membership meeting, held June 22 at the Carson Event Center.

Although it is a complex issue, Williams-Martin used a PowerPoint presentation to explain the wide range of eligibility standards for Medicare. As a subject matter expert on the federal health insurance program, she presented information on Medicare Parts A and B and answered questions from attendees.

Key points of her presentation:

- Medicare is a fee-for-service plan.
- Eligible persons must be age 65 or older, or under age 65 with certain disabilities, and any age with permanent kidney failure.
- LACERA-administered Medicare plans (Medicare Parts A and B required): Kaiser Senior Advantage, United Healthcare Medicare Advantage, SCAN (California, Arizona, Nevada – certain counties), Cigna Medicare Select Rx plan (Arizona only), and Anthem Blue Cross-Medicare Supplement Plan.
- If you don't sign up for Medicare Part B when first eligible, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty.
- LACERA requires proof of Medicare Parts A and B or Social Security ineligible letter; and annual proof of Medicare Part B premium, as needed.
- Prescription drug benefits under LACERA-administered group plans are creditable and retirees need not sign up for a non-LACERA Part D plan as it may jeopardize one's enrollment. The LACERA-administered group Medicare HMO and Medicare Supplement plan includes prescription drug benefit. (The complete PowerPoint presentation by Williams-Martin is posted on RELAC's website at relac.org.)

The general membership meeting also included remarks by two RELAC-endorsed candidates for the LACERA Board elections in August: J.P. Harris for a third term as an alternate for the Board of Retirement and Debbie Martin for the Board of Investments. Incumbent Les Robbins was unopposed and therefore reelected.

Harris and Martin have pledged, respectively, to remain "solely focused on ensuring your continued financial security that your County pension provides" and "to safeguard our pension plans and uphold decisions prudent to the best interest of retirees and beneficiaries."

All three candidates received endorsements from the Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs and the Professional Peace Officers Association.

Nora Jackson, chair, Special Events Committee, invited County retirees who are sports fans to join RELAC at its annual Night at the Dodgers on Friday, Sept. 22 at Dodger Stadium. RELAC Vice President Linda Hopkins, chair of the Scholarship Awards Program, reported that the six 2023 scholarship awardees were to be honored at the annual Recognition Luncheon on Aug. 10 at Almansor Court in Alhambra.

RELAC Director Debbie Martin; drawing winner Roger DeHaan, a Sheriff's Department retiree; and President Brian Berger.



Aliyah Hodges

Anaya Harrison

For the Record

We apologize for mixing up the names of Aliyah Hodges and Anaya Harrison in photos of RELAC's 2023 scholarship winners in the July-August newsletter. Here are the correct identifications. We corrected the error in the version of the newsletter that is posted online on RELAC's website at relac.org.



RELAC Annual Recognition Luncheon-Aug. 10,2023

Celebrating 65 Years of Dedicated Service to Retirees



Ruben Marquez, Brian Berger, Santos Kreimann



Gail LeGros, Steve Saracco, Pam Everett, Loren Clapp, Judy Hammond



Carol Moss-Kirkwood, Diane Sandoval



Toni Simmons, Sheila Simpson, Brenda Stephens



Caroline Rhee, Christine Rufolo, Vicky and Ron Hansen, Barry Hunt



Joel Bellman, Linda Tarnoff



Don Knabe, David Janssen, Debbie Martin, Bobbie Fesler



Philip Browning, Tanya Adolph, Julianne Jaynes, Brian Berger



Cheryl Rogers, Nora Jackson



JJ Popowich, Pastor Herrera, Jr.



Les Robbins, J.P. Harris, Patricia Wright, Russ Guiney, Lakshmanan Sathyvagswaran (standing)



4 (top) Teresa Madero, Monica Cervantes, Anna Laura Cervantes, Isabel Cervantes. (bottom) Irene Natividad, Anna Elena Cervantes, Sandy Davis, Maggie Avila



Don Fandry, Marianne Reich

Golf News

by Gil Sandoval
RELAC Golf Director



Los Verdes Golf Tournament July 31

What started out as a beautiful day turned hot and humid halfway around the golf course, but still, Los Verdes is the most photographic course we play! Michael Pearson played well enough to win the "A" flight with a net 70. Second place went to Dave Runke as his steady net 73 was an easy five shot lead over Eddie Otero, who finished in third with a net 78.

The "B" flight was won by Frank Davanzo with a net 71. Second place finisher was Jeff Phillips at net 73. The hero of the day was Andy Mendoza, who took third place with a net 76. Andy found a wallet belonging to Frank Martinez, which was a blessing as some of us who have lost a wallet can attest.

The round of the day belonged to Art Morris as he won the "C" flight with a net 65. Nice going, Art! It looks as he is moving to the "B" flight, just as Andy Mendoza did. Guest Ray Magdalena followed with a net 75 to take second place. Frank Martinez, Richard Duran and Terry Black followed at net 79, with Frank winning third place in a card off.

The Ladies Flight was an easy win for Cari DeBie as she brought in a net 74. Cari had a very good day, winning three of the four closest to the pin competitions. Last month's winner Shirley Johnston came in with a net 75 to take second. Norma Gutierrez brought in a net 81 for third place.

Closest to the pin winners in the men's category were: Dave Runke, #3 and #5. Eddie Otero, #12. No winner in #17. In the women's category, Cari DeBie won the #3, #5, and #17. Shirley Johnson won the #12 pin.

Lakewood Golf Course Tournament – Oct. 16

The next tournament will be held at Lakewood Golf Course on Oct. 16. Entry forms are on the RELAC website at relac.org under the calendar section and must be received at the RELAC office by Sept. 25.

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

Happy Birthday, RELAC Centenarians

September

William David Dyer, 101, Agricultural Commissioner
Hollice A. Favors, 105, Assessor
Alberta S. Rich, 103, General Hospital/Nursing
Doris M. Shephard, 102, Sheriff

October

William H. Barbour, Jr., 103, Auditor-Controller
Arthur Beck, 103, Mechanical
Lois D. Gourley, 102, Rancho Los Amigos Hospital
Shirley Hiler, 101, Sheriff
Chiyeko Nosco, 101, Southeast Municipal Court

Welcome New Members

June-July 2023

Assessor – **Wendy Oday**
Children & Family Services – **Stephanie Sanchez**
Coroner – **Sylvia Fierro**
Environmental Health – **Iris Aguirre**
Fire – **Christopher Palmer**
Health Services – **Elvia Delgado, Derniece Fuller**
Human Resources – **Antonio Martos Sanchez**
Internal Services – **James Fujimoto, Elizabeth Howard**
LAC+USC Medical Center – **Jay Black, Extrellita Gerona**
Library – **Evelyn Escatiola**
Mental Health – **Debra Gordon, Kathleen Villagomez**
Parks & Recreation – **Kandy Hays**
Probation – **Andres Gimenez, Peggy May**
Public Health – **Jose Jesus Jaime, Ashutosh Ryparelic**
Public Social Services – **Veronica Chu, Linda Violeta Del Angel, Nasaria Gonzales Mason, Carl Rodriguez**
Public Works – **Marco Andonaegui, Keith Jackson**
Superior Court – **Ellnor Laskey, Patricia McNeal**
Associate Members – **Mario A. Cejudo Jr., Jimmy P. Chu, Gilberto Delgado, Richard Howard, Carmen Jaime, Diana Karg, Lawrence McNeal III, Pricella Polk-Jackson, Judith M. Rodriguez, Depti Ryparelic, Nicole Vettel**

Thanks for Referrals

Our thanks to these seven members (shown in bold) for referring new members (shown in italics) in June and July.

Alice Abrams, *Peggy May*, Probation
Doretha Dillon, *Jay Black*, LAC+USC Medical Center
Debbie Martin, *Kandy Hays*, Parks and Recreation
Lydia Martinez, *Evelyn Escatiola*, Library
Norma Nieto, *Stephanie Sanchez*, Children & Family Services
Josephina Mendoza, *Extrellita Gerona*, LAC+USC Medical Center
Ed Trevino, *Debra Gordon*, Mental Health

Fire Museum Commemorates Hotshots Crew

The Los Angeles County Fire Museum in Bellflower hosted a ceremony June 30 to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the entrapment of the Granite Mountain Hotshots Crew, whose members died while battling the Yarnell Hill wildfire in Prescott, Arizona.

Former L.A. County Fire Department (LACoFD) Explorer Kevin Woyjeck was one of the 19 crew members who was overrun by fast-moving flames. The 2017 "Only the Brave" movie told the story and depicted the lives of the Hotshots Crew.

"On behalf of the Woyjeck family, I want to thank everyone for all of the thoughts and prayers that have been sent our way since the loss of our 21-year-old son, Kevin, and his 18 Granite Mountain Crew mates," said retired LACoFD Fire Captain Joe Woyjeck and his wife, Anna. "It is hard to believe that it has been 10 years since their passing on June 30, 2013. Sometimes, the loss feels like yesterday – and sometimes, it feels like decades ago. The Fire family and the community put their arms around us, showering us with love and kindness, and I guarantee you that we would not be where we are today without that support."

In honor of Kevin Woyjeck's life and sacrifice, the Woyjeck family created a nonprofit organization to help aspiring firefighters. For more information about the Kevin Woyjeck Explorers for Life Association, visit explorersforlife.org/.



Keeping Up With Retirees

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



KERRY (GOTTLIEB) SILVERSTROM

This comes to you not because I have anything of value to say, but solely because I did not wish to disappoint Judy Hammond, soon-to-be emeritus RELAC newsletter editor par excellence. How we will miss your service, Judy!!

I retired from the County last year after serving over 33 years in only two capacities/departments. I left private practice as an attorney in 1988 to serve as deputy to former Third District Supervisor Edmund D. Edelman. In my fifth year with the supervisor, I was approached by Stan Wisniewski, then director of the Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH), to become part of his management team. It took over a year, but I arrived at DBH in October 1994 as Stan's de facto second-in-command. I didn't become the de jure chief deputy director until January 1997, once the position had been added to DBH, but I had the distinction to be in service long enough to be on the only classified chief deputy position in the County; all other chief deputy positions had been removed from Civil Service in 2000. I served Stan for 15 years, and then my two subsequent directors (Santos Kreimann and Gary Jones) were stuck with me for my remaining 13 years!

In retirement, I have been supremely happy and actually quite spectacular at doing absolutely nothing of purpose! Well, that is, unless you consider it purposeful to schlep my son and his friends home from high school, nag him to make certain he's completing his assignments, and to generally make his teenage life the hell all teenagers think their parents do. My husband is my savior in taking the morning duty, thus enabling me to sleep late and then leisurely drink my morning coffee while figuring out the day's sudoku puzzles. I otherwise fill my time with reading; lunches; cultural, artistic, and architectural outings and events; watching TV (not my thing while working); reading; walking our dog; taking advantage of my backyard oasis in Brookside just west of Koreatown; exercising to the extent my arthritic body parts allow (I desperately need the 2.0 body upgrade); learning Mahjong (all my wins are purely by luck); catching up with friends; did I say reading; or, frankly, nothing at all!!

As for travel, we went on five, five-day trips in 2022 – Chicago (an architectural tour every day), Convict Lake in the Mammoth area (didn't catch one fish), Philly (along with a day trip to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater an hour outside of Pittsburgh), Puerto Vallarta (scuba diving for the first time post COVID),



With Pastor Mike Broyles and San Luis Obispo District Attorney Dan Dow

JACKIE LACEY

On Dec. 3, 2020, I left the District Attorney's Office for the last time. I had a total of 34 years of service. I lost my reelection bid and as a result, I had to retire from county service. While I was disheartened, in the end, my freedom from work became essential to surviving the most difficult time in my personal life.

During the 2021 pandemic, I spent a lot of time quarantined at home. My husband, David, retired several years earlier. We were empty nesters. We "binge watched" our favorite shows, assembled jigsaw puzzles, and talked on the phone with our adult son and daughter.

Just when I was getting used to being away from criminal law, I was summoned to serve on a federal grand jury in downtown Los Angeles. I can't write about the cases I heard because the grand jury proceedings are secret. Suffice it to say, it was an out-of-body experience listening to testimony from the perspective of a factfinder.

In March 2022, I noticed my husband was rapidly losing weight. The whites of his eyes were yellow. His doctor ordered a scan. The next day we got a call from her telling us that he had been diagnosed with stage 3 pancreatic cancer. The prognosis was not good. My mother was also battling breast cancer. I became caregiver for my mother and my husband. While my mother was recuperating from a mastectomy, David began receiving chemotherapy. The infusion center overlooked our church (Shepherd Church in Porter Ranch). I sat there on many days praying and looking at the cross affixed to the building.

Despite our prayers, the cancer progressed. David passed away at home on Sept. 5, 2022. We were surrounded by our immediate family. He was 68 years old. We were married 42 years. I felt lost. I honestly did not know how I was going to "recover."

I found a grief counselor through a company called "Psychology Today." I went to church every Sunday. I formed an informal support group with others in my neighborhood who had also recently lost a spouse. All these things helped give me the strength to re-engage with life.

On impulse, I signed up to take a trip to Israel led by my pastor. There were more than 200 other people on the tour. Israel is a beautiful scenic country. We visited several historical sites, but my favorite was sailing on the Sea of Galilee at sunrise. I was astonished by the archaeological evidence of the stories in the Bible. Visiting Israel restored my faith.

In terms of the future, I am planning to do work with a nonprofit. Having worked in the government for so long, I am able to help others understand the county bureaucratic system. I also look forward to traveling. I am currently scheduled to travel to Greece in the fall. I am focused on living my best life.

Being district attorney was a rewarding job. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to serve, and I am grateful for the support I am receiving in retirement. I want to write a book about my experiences as the first woman and the first African American district attorney of Los Angeles County. I think there are some who might be interested in the "back stories" behind some of the controversial decisions and the politics or lack thereof involved in the cases. What do you think?

BETTY J. MACKENZIE

I was born just a few miles outside of Fort McPherson U.S. Army base in Atlanta, Georgia, where my father was serving as a medical officer during World War II. At the end of the war, my parents -- who now had two children -- moved to Wilmington, Delaware and then we took the long trek across country and settled in Downey, California. My sister Patty and I went to all the Downey schools and then my youngest sister, Judy, came along to join our family. My parents bought the home that I currently live in in 1953.



While attending Downey High School, I took all the regular business classes and the shorthand class teacher recommended we take a civil service exam for typist clerk and stenographer. Since I would be graduating that June (1962), I thought this was a good place to start to look for a job. I passed the test for stenographer with a shorthand speed of over 90 wpm. At 17 years of age, I was so excited when I was offered a position in the stenographer pool with the Sheriff's Department at the Norwalk Station as a student worker with hours from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. (after school, of course). This began my 25-year County career, even though at 17, I had no intention of staying on my "first" job that long.

Since I was still attending Downey High School on the corner of Firestone Boulevard and Brookshire and did not drive a car, as soon as school was let out, I walked across the street and caught public transportation down Firestone to Pioneer Boulevard, where I ate my dinner at Douglas Burger and then walked across the street to the now-referred-to-as "the old" Norwalk Station on Firestone.

Stenographer work back in the Sixties was so very different. We did NOT have computers or fancy photocopy machines, fax machines, cellphones, etc., etc. We typed the handwritten police reports that needed to be sent to the downtown headquarters on a Teletype machine, where you actually typed the words on a keyboard and it was transferred coded onto a paper strip appearing as dots. When finished, you would place the strip of paper into the outgoing machine, dial a phone number and the report was delivered as a typed script to headquarters. What an experience that was.

If the report did not need to be teletyped, it was typed on an old "standard" (not electric) typewriter onto mimeograph paper, which was placed onto the mimeograph machine, ink side out so you could manually run as many copies as you needed to finish processing the report.

Another memorable experience was when the steno pool girls would relieve the switchboard operator on her breaks and lunch hour. We had to plug in the white cords to answer calls, then place color-corresponding cords in the board at the extension for the intended receiver. If the call wasn't immediately picked up, we had to use an intercom to page the person. Emergency 911 calls were also answered by us and forwarded to the dispatchers with a three ring-back to indicate it was an emergency.

I loved working for the Sheriff's Department and at one time thought about becoming a deputy. It was an exhilarating time and career opportunities with the County kept presenting themselves. I was with the department for almost 10 years when I was promoted and transferred to the Long Beach Superior Court District Attorney's Office and within a couple of years promoted to supervising legal secretary and transferred to the Los Cerritos Municipal Court District Attorney's Office, where I met my future husband. Again, I was promoted and transferred to the Norwalk Superior Court District Attorney's Office, where I retired in 1987. I have lots of great memories and friendships from those 25 years.

After retirement I stayed home with my 7-year-old son for a while and then decided to go into the real estate field part time. I spent the next 25-30 years working for the real estate agent that sold my husband and I our home in Bellflower.

During this time, I was very active in our community, joining Soroptimist International of Bellflower and serving on the Executive Board and as president. I attended the organization's biennial convention in Kyoto, Japan. I also became a member of the Soroptimist Village Foundation as a director and eventually president. After 30 years, I am still active on that board. One of Soroptimists' major service projects, it is supported by several local clubs and provides housing for low-income senior citizens in our community in collaboration with the Norwalk Housing Authority. We have been in operation for over 60 years and we do make a difference in our community.

I love community service, and in retirement I stay active with my Soroptimists and also as a member of our local Eagles Aerie and local Moose Lodge. I am a member of RELAC and enjoy the benefits of LACERA.

continued on p.11

ANITA BRYANT-AZMAR

I started working for the County in November 1974 at Harbor General, now called Harbor-UCLA, on the night shift in the neonatal unit of pediatrics. I watched the sun rise for about eight months with my hands in two port holes, feeding, changing, and comforting humans that came into this world weighing less than 4 pounds. I had just passed my state boards and I was ready to go.



My goal after finishing college at CSULA was to get a job with the city, state, county, or feds. My mindset was to get "good money" but also to get a pension and benefits after working for 25 years.

I first went to John Wesley Hospital at Adams and Figueroa. I wanted to work in labor and delivery because my highest scores on the state boards were in maternal child care. I interviewed and I was told that the busy "season" was May through September. To prepare for this, the staff was required to wash gurneys, wheelchairs, cabinets, floors, and restock shelves with formula for the "season." At the time, John Wesley had the second highest birthrate next to the Med Center. When I thought about the four years that I had just spent studying, writing, and training in diverse facilities, while sometimes working four jobs (none of which yielded 40 hours a week), I said, "No, Thank You."

I hated the night shift at Harbor, but I was ecstatic to have a job working for Los Angeles County with benefits. After two years in neonatal, I moved to the pediatric ward. I liked this better because I was on the day shift and my patients could talk to me. They mostly cried, but at least I could sometime console them and cajole them with toys, etc.

I always watched the promotion board. My goal was to become an assistant nursing director II (ANDII). A year later I was promoted to head nurse over the neuro unit. It had 54 beds with a mixture of ENT, overflow urology, neuro med., and neuro surgery. We had five beds reserved for moms who had stillbirths so they wouldn't be on the maternity ward.

I then took the exam for ANDI and the position was at Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center in Downey. I had never been there and wasn't quite sure where it was. I took the position as the ANDI with five spinal cord units. This was interesting; they assigned me to take the spinal injury course, which was amazing. In addition to an education, it gave me an appreciation for the journey that these patients must face. I was just loving my job. It just got better and better with each turn of events. I spent about four years in the spinal cord units and then saw an opportunity at the Med Center for an ANDII position, so I transferred.

I was at "Big G," as it was affectionately called, for three years, in charge of the 7th floor medicine, before I transferred back to Rancho to work in the education department. We provided entry level basics of need-to-know to all employees. This was a challenge. I was the assistant director and we had 17 instructors who provided policies and procedures to all departments. While in this department I was offered a promotion to the administrative department. My lifelong dream. I was to be the administrator for the skilled nursing facility. The immediate goal was to discharge all 40 of

continued on p.12

Keeping Up With Retirees

Thank You to Recent Retirees With 40+ Years of Service

We salute the following recent County retirees who served 40 or more years. A special nod to Sharon Wright of the District Attorney's Office, who had more than 50 years of service.

AMBULATORY CARE NETWORK: Cynthia Spears
ASSESSOR: Debi A. Rosas
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Lynn M. Hilton
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Sandra Becton, Ofelia Cardena, Shawn D. Greene
CORRECTIONAL HEALTH: Charlene Ho
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Sharon Wright
FIRE: Anne M. Leroy, Kathy A. Johnson
HARBOR/UCLA MEDICAL CENTER: Florence Cabotaje
HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION: Dolores M. Alcaraz, Rosalinda Rodriguez, Connie M. Warren
INTERNAL SERVICES: Debra A. Salinas, Rick L. Sorensen
LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER: Rosemary Bustamante, Eloisa V. Ridad
MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER: Denise Thompson-Wea
OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER: Carmen Holguin
PROBATION: Timothy F. Bryant, Gustavo Mojarro
PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS: Maria M. Agosto, Denise L. Walters
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Carmen L. Carerre, Jennifer G. McCray (from deferred), Janice M. McGehee-Owe, Paula E. Miller, L'Kenya K. Smith Wiggs, Hulda M. Winston
PUBLIC WORKS: Guadalupe C. Carrillo, Darrell Daniels, Manoushak Gyulasaryan
RANCHO LOS AMIGOS HOSPITAL: Sandy Conners, Terri L. Fears
REGIONAL PLANNING: Jonathan Sanabria
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Sonia C. Ramirez
SHERIFF: Diana L. Bliss, Yolanda Cardenas, Rosa M. Martinez, Joanna Scrima
SUPERIOR COURT/COUNTY CLERK: Yvonne Lucero
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AGING, COMMUNITY SERVICES: Deidrea Hazure (from deferred)

LACERA cont. from p.2

members easy and timely access to their benefits. It offers significantly more flexibility than a physical check.

We expect the debit card program to deploy in October, so stay tuned for more information on how to enroll. We hope all members currently receiving a check will convert to this safer and more convenient method to receive monthly benefits.

To wrap up: I'd like to convey our sincere appreciation for your contributions to the citizens of Los Angeles County and extend a warm welcome to all our new retirees. Well, that's it for this month. Stay secure, savor the beauty of fall, and embrace the retired life – you've earned it!



With husband, Peter

Greetings from Nantucket Island

MARY WAWRO

Greetings from Eat Fire Spring Road on Nantucket Island. After 28 years living in New York and 32 years in Los Angeles (25 working in the County Counsel's Office), I retired in 2005 and, with my husband, Peter Morrison, moved to our house on a dirt road near a spring named after a drought. Our house overlooks a marsh and a harbor. Weather permitting, at 6:45 every morning I can watch the car ferry sail slowly in the distance on its two-hour trip to America.

Peter and I "discovered" Nantucket from a plane window in 1984. We had never been to this island 30 miles out to sea. The next year we spent a long weekend on Nantucket, rented bikes and explored. We found a deserted road far out of town that led to a point of sand, and the following year rented a tiny beach shack along the road. The realtor said, "There isn't anyone out there." Magic words. We went back every year. In 1997, we found an irresistibly ramshackle house with a widow's walk near our beloved beach shack and bought it.

We moved to Nantucket, which is part of Massachusetts, in 2005 and eased into the community. Coming from a jurisdiction with 10 million people to one with 10,000 was interesting. Nantucketers like to call themselves "stewards" of the island -- 44 square miles and something like 60 miles of sandy beaches. Stewardship, of course, is complicated. They don't all agree. Issues like coastal erosion, open space, development, short term rentals, affordable housing, water quality, wind turbines, owls, bats, and sewers rage in public debate. Laws are made by actual voters at Annual Town Meeting. Pure democracy is a challenge.

Nantucket is a place where you can have an impact. One citizen convinced Town Meeting this year to enact a "dark skies" initiative to protect against light pollution and preserve our view of the Milky Way.

We've served on civic groups and met amazing people. Peter (a card-carrying demographer) has chronicled the diversity of our population and how they settle. Drawn from all over the world, visitors arrive and never leave. I've been on the governmental accountability front battling for access to public records, open meetings and against conflicts of interest. Who knew that life as a gadfly could be such fun?

More important -- our extended family gravitates here for summer visits and our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and their children love Nantucket -- kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, the beach, beach plums, wild grapes, fishing for stripers, dredging for bay scallops, the organ crawl, and YES -- birdwatching! I'm waiting for the day the kitesurfing gear arrives. Jam making is my favorite and I'm fast friends with Sheila, who owns the yarn store.

We keep up with County Counsel, CAO, DHS, ISD and other County folk and friends -- many of whom have also made the journey out to our elbow of sand, as Melville put it.

Our tiny condo in Pasadena allows escape from East Coast winters for a few months. I like to view snow from a safe distance. We hang with L.A. family and friends and shop at Trader Joe's. Despite my affection for the Milky Way, I still love to fly into LAX at night and watch that on-the-ground light show for an hour before the plane touches down.

My old boss -- DeWitt Clinton -- occasionally observed, "It's not a perfect world." True, but once in a while, when we get to stand on our widow's walk and watch a simultaneous moonrise in the east and sunset over the harbor to the west, we know there are perfect moments we've gotten to savor.

RELAC NEWSLETTER

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Closed Friday,

Saturday, Sunday &

Public Holidays

Letters To The Editor Write On!

Thanks for sharing [the RELAC newsletter article on the death of Gloria Molina]. Gloria's illness and passing was a real shock to me. Despite our legendary arguments, I had the deepest respect for her independence and integrity. It is missed in today's political scene. I'm gratified she lived long enough to hear and see how this community valued her service. Thanks, again.
**Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles, California,
Former County Supervisor**

Thank you very much [for the extra copies of the newsletter]. I am sure the family will greatly appreciate the recognition for late Assistant Chief Ed Winter's service to the community by RELAC. You are always so nice to recognize the dedicated hard-working staff of the Department of Medical Examiner/Coroner in the newsletter. Best wishes.
**Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, Arcadia,
California, Retired Chief Medical Examiner-
Coroner/Director**

Thank you so very much for the extra copies of the RELAC newsletter [with the article on the passing of Bob Muench]. I have sent the copies to Bob's brother Richard Muench.

Sandy Davis, La Quinta, California

Thanks for the extra copies of the RELAC newsletter and the article on my father's 100th birthday. Best,
Ed Anhalt, Genoa, Nevada

Thank you for the invitation [to the Annual Recognition Luncheon]! Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the luncheon. I am in the process of moving to New Jersey for school during that time. Please send my regards to the team and gratitude for this honor! I am able to focus exclusively on my studies with less burden about covering school fees due to the support of RELAC. Feel free to share these thoughts on my behalf. Have a blessed week. Warm Regards.

**Zina Ogunnaya, 2023 RELAC Scholarship
Recipient (Daughter of RELAC member Cyril
Ogunnaya), Carson, California**

I want to thank you for honoring my granddaughter, Brooke Bushong, with a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Texas-Christian University. Unfortunately, we will not be able to attend the [Annual Recognition Luncheon] presentation. Thank you again.

**James Jakubal, Korean Vet,
Wenatchee, Washington**

Sheriff's Department Celebrating Anniversary

The L.A. County Sheriff's Department is looking back at its humble beginnings as it celebrates its 173rd anniversary this year.

Now the largest sheriff's department in the world, there were only three members on staff when it was formed in 1850: an elected sheriff, a deputy sheriff and a jailer.

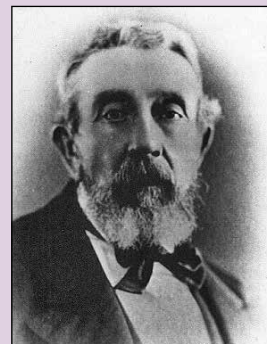
The department, responsible for law enforcement from as far north as Santa Barbara to as far south as San Diego, operated out of a room at the Bella Union Hotel, which today would be located near Main and Temple streets in downtown Los Angeles. The county jail was nothing more than a small adobe building which sat atop Fort Moore Hill.

The first decade were some of the most turbulent times in department history. Both Sheriff James Barton and Sheriff William Getman were killed in the line of duty, trying to keep the peace in Los Angeles. Barton had been on the job three weeks, Getman seven days. The City of L.A. was then known as one of the most violent cities in the U.S.

By the 1920s the Sheriff's Department had progressed from a frontier town style office to one of the most modern and well-respected law enforcement agencies in the United States, known as an innovator in police science, aviation, and investigative techniques.



Entrance to sheriff's office and county jail at the northwest corner of Sprint and Franklin.



Third sheriff, David Alexander,
1856



Current sheriff, Robert Luna

Zev Yaroslavsky served on the Los Angeles City Council from 1975 to 1994 and on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors from 1994 to 2014. In a 40-year public service career, he was at the forefront of many of the major issues facing the city and county, including transportation, the environment, land use, health care, and cultural arts. He is currently the director of the Los Angeles Initiative at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and the Department of History, focusing on the intersection of policy, politics and history. He is also affiliated with the National Democratic Institute in Washington, D.C., engaging in election observation and democratization projects in new and emerging democracies. Yaroslavsky's wife of 47 years, Barbara, passed away in 2018 as a result of complications related to West Nile virus. A civic leader in her own right, she served on the Medical Board of California, the State Board of Nursing, the City of Los Angeles Children and Families Commission, and several non-profit boards.

Former Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Writes Political Memoir

Former County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky has written a political memoir, "Zev's Los Angeles: From Boyle Heights to the Halls of Power," and it is earning rave reviews.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass calls it a "compelling history of our city's last half century, as conveyed through the life of one of our most impactful leaders. ..." U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla says it is "an uplifting and inspiring journey of personal faith, public service, and the shaping of Los Angeles."

Yaroslavsky is the son of Ukrainian Jews who immigrated to the United States 100 years ago. The book details how, fiercely independent, he combined an activist's passion with a seasoned politician's skill to challenge the region's powerbrokers. He fought the L.A.P.D.'s excessive force and political intelligence gathering policies; led the effort to ban local taxes from funding the 1984 Olympics; teamed with President Clinton to avert a catastrophic county bankruptcy; helped develop L.A.'s modern transit system; won a bruising battle with real estate interests to save the Santa Monica Mountains from rapacious development; and was pivotal in the development of Walt Disney Concert Hall and the modernization of the Hollywood Bowl.

"I may be part of the establishment," Yaroslavsky said on the day he was first sworn into office, "but the establishment is not part of me."

The book, published by Cherry Orchard Books, an imprint of Academic Studies Press, is available on Amazon.com and at bookstores.

The following is excerpted, with permission, from the memoir.

"Ever since it opened, my family and I have enjoyed memorable nights at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. People come from all over the world to savor performances by great classical musicians. But the tone in the hall was decidedly different on a mild November evening in 2014. That night, more than 1,000 guests came to celebrate with me as I retired after four decades of public service to the City and County of Los Angeles. Business, political, cultural and community leaders, as well as colleagues, staff, friends and family mingled in the glittering concert hall—an institution which had transformed the cultural life of the city, yet didn't exist when my career began.

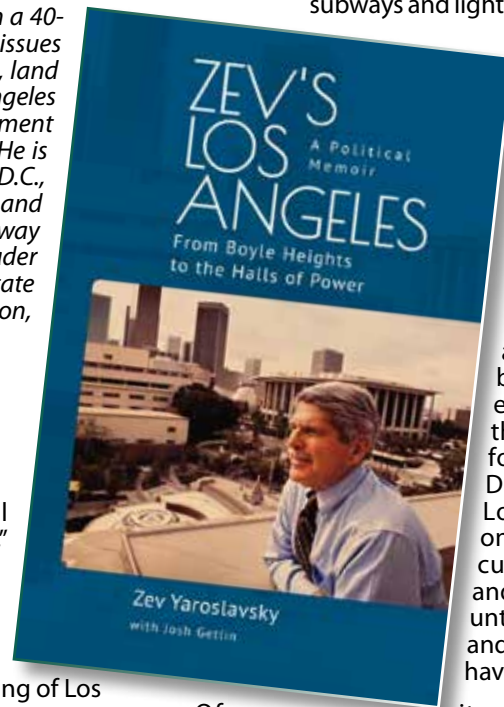
The contrast between Los Angeles then and now was striking, and as the evening went on I couldn't help but reflect on the changes in my own life that brought me to this moment: More than sixty years before, I was a toddler growing up in Boyle Heights on the east side of the Los Angeles River. As a teenager living in the Fairfax neighborhood, I became a social activist fighting for civil liberties, battling to free three million Jews from Soviet oppression, and marching against the war in Vietnam. By 1975 I was walking precincts on the city's Westside, heading to an upset victory in the race for a vacant city council seat. Two decades later I was elected to the county Board of Supervisors, where I served for another twenty years. It had been quite a ride.

The child of Jewish immigrants from Ukraine, I grew up in an exceedingly modest household where books were our most prized possessions. My parents lived from paycheck to paycheck, and we rented a small apartment in a duplex in Boyle Heights, a community of immigrants in East Los Angeles, at 724 N. Breed St., where my sister and I shared a small bedroom. Although you could see the lights of the civic center from our home, they might as well have been a million miles away. What were the odds, I thought, that a kid like me could end up helping to govern the largest county in America and its second largest city?

Just as important, who could have imagined how dramatically Los Angeles would grow and change in the same period? Although traffic was as bad as ever that night,

the city was in the throes of a transit revolution, with new subways and light rail networks crisscrossing

the region. The county, which nearly went bankrupt twenty years earlier, was in its best fiscal condition in nearly four decades. Although the physical city had long been a punch line for jokes about urban sprawl, it had become one of the world's great urban centers—even as our neighborhoods, beaches and mountains enjoyed strong protections that would preserve them for generations to come. During these eventful years, Los Angeles had become one of the world's premier cultural centers. All of this and more would have been unthinkable decades earlier, and I was lucky and proud to have been a part of it.



Of course, it wasn't all good news. Los Angeles' homeless population had exploded, and Skid Row was a national embarrassment. Income inequality was preventing vast numbers of people from enjoying the fruits of our economy, threatening our social cohesion. Racial tensions still flared across the region, and the troubled county jail was riddled with corruption and sickening abuse. The streets were patrolled by a police force that, after decades of racial turmoil, was still struggling to transform itself into one that valued constitutional policing and respected the people it served, regardless of the color of one's skin. Immigration, which helped build Southern California, was now a flashpoint for economic tensions and increasingly contentious debate. There was still work to do, but I took pride that I had been in the thick of battles on the most compelling challenges facing our region.

That's the story I'll be telling in this book. But it's not just an account of my personal journey, or the growth of Los Angeles. The message I hope to convey is that local government is more important today than ever and that we can make it work. The stories I'm telling aren't just vivid historical moments. Each one offers lessons about how to use power, how to make government listen to the people it serves, and how to bring about change—all without sacrificing one's values or integrity.

From the beginning I had one foot planted inside the halls of government—pushing the system to change and bend to my agenda—and the other on the outside, challenging the powers that be when they moved too slowly. For me, that's not a contradiction. Being consistent for its own sake was never my objective. I resisted attempts to pigeon-hole me on an ideological spectrum and took comfort in French mathematician Blaise Pascal's observation: "We do not display greatness by going to one extreme, but in touching both at once."

I'm a progressive who believes in paying his bills, so I joined forces with conservative and liberal colleagues to prevent a county bankruptcy. I fought hard for the rights and dignity of working people, but never hesitated to differ with public employee unions when I thought their demands overreached. I partnered with powerful business and real estate interests when we shared common goals, fought them vigorously when I

continued on p. 11

Yaroslavsky cont. from p.10

thought they were wrong, and went over their heads, directly to the people, when they gave me no other choice. I was one of the few straight politicians who took up the cause of gay and lesbian rights in the 1970s, an issue that was uncharted territory and perceived to be fraught with political risk for most elected officials. It didn't matter. Then as now, I was determined to be a champion for those who most needed one. I was fortunate to be in public office, and felt obligated to take risks and get things done on behalf of the people who put their confidence in me—big things and little things.

During these years, an arc stretching from the 1950s to the present, Los Angeles has been transformed from a sprawling and parochial city into a diverse, international metropolis. The sky's the limit in a region where constant, inevitable change is part of our DNA. And my journey is living proof of this.

I never shied away from taking on the status quo, because voters didn't elect me to just mind the store or keep the lid on. They wanted me to move heaven and earth to turn ideas into results. But to me, that was not an obstacle. Barbara understood this clearly when she hung a sign in our kitchen: "A pessimist has no motor; an optimist has no brakes."

Unfortunately, we live in an age when millions are skeptical about government, and it's hard to blame them. The once solid foundations of our democratic institutions have come under attack as never before, and support for them is at an all-time low. It's easy to be cynical, but I've lived my entire life convinced that holding public office is one of the most important callings in a democracy—a singular opportunity to improve the lives of those we are elected to represent."

Fish Magnet

RELAC associate member Cindy Robbins shows off the 39-inch-long, 22-pound lake trout she caught July 25 in a remote lake in Lake Clark National Park in Southcentral Alaska. The trophy fish will go on to grow even larger; she released it right after the photo was taken. Lake trout have a 20 to 25-year lifespan. Two days later, Cindy landed a 250-pound, 70-inch halibut out of Homer. This is the 35th year in a row that she and husband, Les, a RELAC director, have taken the Alaskan fishing trip. "She's a fish magnet!" said Les of his wife.



NBC TV Series Highlights County Fire Department

The L.A. County Fire Department is featured in a television docu-series that premiered June 21 on NBC and provides a behind-the-scenes look into the daily operations of the agency. Officials hope it will spark the same recruitment surge that "Emergency!" did more than 40 years ago.

Emmy award-winning Dick Wolf and 44 Blue Productions filmed the eight episodes of "LA Fire & Rescue" in 2022 using handheld and mounted camera equipment specifically designed to help bring the audience along for the ride.

Fire Chief Anthony C. Marrone said the department was proud to participate in the production to show all the ways its employees help people daily, positively impacting the communities and residents they serve.

"We are not just frontline first responders, our team members are very much a part of the fabric of the communities where they work, serve, and live," he said. "Firefighters and lifeguards are more than just your everyday heroes on the job, they are also moms, dads, and mentors. "LA Fire & Rescue" will capture that and show that human side to our first responders."

He said "Emergency!" did a great job in recruiting paramedics and firefighters into fire service, and he expects "LA Fire & Rescue" to do the same.

"Emergency!" aired for seven seasons on NBC between 1972 and 1979. As of Aug. 1, there had been no announcement whether the new series would be renewed.



First Branch of County Library Established 100 Years Ago

The LA County Library was established in 1912 under authority of the County Free Library Act, with the first branch opening on April 23, 1913 in one room of Belle Jenks' home in Willowbrook -- with a collection of 50 books. In the image at right, Jenks, the County Library's first librarian, kneels in front of the small library. Today the LA County



Library is one of the major libraries of the nation, providing service to more than 3.4 million residents in unincorporated areas and 49 of the County's 88 cities, with 86 libraries spread across 4,084 square miles. Supplementing its 7.5 million volume book collection, the Library also offers magazines, newspapers, government publications and many specialized materials, including online databases. Skye Patrick, the current librarian, was appointed on Feb. 1, 2016.



Mackenzie cont. from p.7

As I look back, I am so thankful and blessed to have had it all: career, family and community service. I am thankful for the time I had to spend with my parents in their Golden Years and the opportunity to still live in the Downey home in which I was raised. I enjoy gardening; my dog, Baxter; karaoke, and all my friends and family. THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES.

Silverstrom cont. from p.6

and Winslow, Arizona (to stay at the restored historic La Posada Hotel). This year, I had a few-day visit with retirees Wendy and Dennis Watanabe in Henderson, Nevada along with retiree Randi Tahara, and my family and I had an extended trip to New York, Israel and Greece in the spring. My husband and I are planning a scuba diving trip to Moorea come spring, sans son.

I live my life post County without fanfare but with extreme gratitude, especially to the County. The County was my longest-term employer. The County is where I met my husband (he once served as an employment lawyer for DBH), to whom I have been married 19½ years. We adopted our son as a Safely Surrendered Baby through the County in 2006. I had the privilege and honor of working for over three decades with incredibly dedicated County professionals, many of whom I continue to engage with now simply as friends. And, the majority of our income is my County pension. I had purpose in life pre-retirement and I now feel especially lucky to continue life merely as a slug.



With husband, Jed, and son, Gus, on vacation.

With late husband, Amir



and was now determined to be positive for tuberculosis, we were required by law to do an immediate tracer and contact of every possible contact. Sometimes this took days, but we got it done.

This was my last assignment. It culminated in 30 years and six months of service. I was ready, willing, and able to leave the "Ranch."

Since then, I have travelled to nine national parks (hiking and camping), and skied the Swiss, French, Canadian, Italian, and New Zealand Alps. My husband and I visited 19 countries, including Japan, China, Costa Rica, and Cuba. I continue to ski, mainly at Mammoth, Colorado, Utah, Montana, and Wyoming. During all of these travels, my bestie, Ann Geer, was by my side. She now has Alzheimer's and is in a memory care facility.

My husband, Amir, succumbed to salivary gland cancer in 2018. We were married for 28 years. He had four children when we got married. I now have three granddaughters. One is an attorney in Texas, specializing in misdemeanors. As I write this, I am training to walk in the Los Angeles Marathon. I am also planning and looking forward to having an 80th birthday party next year.

I thank God every day for the life that I have lived and for the employees, co-workers, and friends that I have met along the way.

Bryant-Azmar cont. from p.7

the residents to family, friends and/or other institutions. We accomplished this in 18 months. It was an amazing journey. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the help that I had from Director of Public Social Services Bruce Hume. When the last resident was discharged, I was offered the position of director of infection control. This was more than a challenge. By this time, I was married, and my husband couldn't understand why, if my hours were 8 to 4:30, I came home at 6 or sometimes 8 p.m. I tried to explain that if the hospital received a call that a patient had been in our facility

Understand the Risks of Non-Bank Payments Apps

*by Joseph Kelly, RELAC Member
Retired County Treasurer*

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), a federal agency that implements and enforces federal consumer financial laws and regulations, recently released a report in which it highlighted the risks of holding funds with online payment apps like Venmo, CashApp or Paypal. The CFPB stated that these funds may not be safe in the event of financial distress, since the funds may not be held in accounts with deposit insurance coverage provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

The CFPB noted the significant growth in recent years in the use of these non-bank payment apps, with total transaction dollar value of approximately \$900 billion in 2022. When users of these apps receive funds, the funds are not usually swept automatically to the recipient's linked bank or credit union account. Instead, companies hold and invest client balances, earning a return on the investments. These activities are not typically subjected to the same oversight that an insured bank or credit union faces.

This past spring we were all reminded of the importance of deposit insurance, as we witnessed the failure of the Silicon Valley Bank, Signature Bank, and First Republic Bank. These banks experienced a run, but insured depositors had confidence their money was safe. However, similar protection would not be guaranteed to customers who store money on these non-bank apps. To lessen this risk, it would be prudent to transfer all balances from these non-bank apps to your linked bank or credit union account as soon as practical after the balance accrues.

You can find the report at <https://www.consumerfinance.gov>. The CFPB is a great resource for all consumer lending products from mortgages to prepaid cards. I find the website is easy to use and understand, and I recommend you visit it if you are interested in information on consumer financial products.

PASSAGES

Compiled by Judy Hammond,
Newsletter Editor



Benavides



Cruikshank



Berman



Iniguez



Parker

DEATHS: Former Sheriff's Cmdr. **Gregory H. Johnson**, who retired in 2012 from Custody Operations. **Stephen Jay Berman**, 83, who served as spokesman for L.A. District Attorney Joseph Busch in the early '70s and managed the 1978 state attorney general campaign for Yvonne Brathwaite Burke; after long battle with cancer and myelodysplastic syndrome. Former Sheriff's Capt. **Beto R. Kienast**, who retired from the Inmate Reception Center in 1989 after 32 years with the department. **Michael Neely**, 74, a former homeless veteran who went on to become a homeless and drug treatment leader, and served on the L.A. County Commission on Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs and the County Commission for Older Adults. Mexican Mafia member **Michael Torres**, 59, said to control drug and extortion rackets in the L.A. County jails, stabbed to death in prison on July 6. **Lois Starr**, director of the Housing Development and Preservation sections of the L.A. County Development Authority, where she worked for 15 years. **Arthur Ragazzi**, who worked for the Chief Administrative Office and Health Services, where he was chief of budget management. **Park Wayne Wagers**, 91, of Pasadena, a highly regarded physician at LAC+USC Medical Center. **Jeannette Rowe**, 72, who served 20 years as the director of homeless services for the L.A. Services Homeless Authority, retiring in 2016. **Alejandro Martinez**, who was among the cadets injured Nov. 16, 2022 by a wrong-way driver who crashed into a group of sheriff academy recruits while they were on a run in Whittier. Dr. **Odanthi C. Kitridon**, who retired in 2008 as director of clinical rheumatology at LAC+USC Medical Center, after long illness.

APPOINTMENTS: Retired Judge **Songhai Armstead**, interim director of the Justice, Care and Opportunities Department since September 2022, named permanent director at \$341,771 salary, charged with reducing the County's reliance on incarceration for those involved with the justice system. **Oscar Valdez**, who had served as interim auditor-controller since the retirement of Arlene Barrera, appointed to the permanent position at annual salary of \$329,389. **Jessica Kronstadt**, deputy district attorney for 10 years, named to the L.A. County Superior Court. RELAC Director **James P. Harris**, a Sheriff's Department retiree, reappointed by the Board of Supervisors to the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission.

RETIREMENTS: **Ann Rowland**, with the County Museum of Art since 1985 and chief financial officer since 1997, rescinded her planned retirement. **Jon Sanabria**, deputy director of Regional Planning who had served as acting director of the department, with more than 47 years of service. Assistant County Counsel **Adrian G. Gragas**, with more than 24 years of service. Principal Deputy County Counsels **Brian T. Chu** (24 years of service), **Eva Vera Morrow** and **Steven E. Henry** (both with 23 years of service). **Elayne Doucette**, manager of revenue and systems development section in the administrative services division of Beaches and Harbors, with almost 28 years of service.

COURTS: Former County Supervisor **Mark Ridley-Thomas** lost his bid for a new trial and is awaiting sentencing for conspiracy, bribery and honest services mail and wire fraud. He was convicted of donating \$100,000 in campaign funds to USC, which USC was to give to a nonprofit run by his son, in exchange for his assistance with a county contract sought by the university. **Joseph Iniguez**, chief of staff to District Attorney George Gascon, settled his federal civil rights lawsuit against the City of Azusa and one of its police officers over his 2021 arrest for public intoxication in exchange for an undisclosed amount of money, which he said he will donate to the Law Enforcement Action Partnership. Supervising Deputy Probation Officer **Oscar Cross**, 59, has been charged with assault under the color of authority for allegedly using excessive force as he and four other deputy probation officers attempted to restrain a juvenile at Camp Kilpatrick in Malibu in 2020.

ELECTIONS: Rancho Palos Verdes Councilman **John Cruikshank** will challenge Supervisor **Janice Hahn** in the 2024 primary. Hahn is seeking reelection to a third term, which would be her last due to term limits. Proponents trying to recall District Attorney **George Gascon** have filed a lawsuit to get recall petitions submitted a year ago certified, alleging tens of thousands of valid signatures were incorrectly and unlawfully rejected. Supervisor **Lindsey Horvath** elected chair of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

POST RETIREMENT: Retired County Fire Chief **Daryl L. Osby** is serving as vice president, emergency preparedness, safety, and security of the California Water Service Group, the parent company of California Water Service, Hawaii Water Service, New Mexico Water Service, Washington Water Service, and Texas Water Service, which provides water to more than 2 million people.

HONORS: Dr. **Barry Jordan**, chief medical officer at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey, inducted into the New York State Boxing Hall of Fame for his work in promoting brain health and safety for boxers. The outdoor amphitheater at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center renamed in honor of **Carlos Benavides**, a member of the county's Commission on Disabilities since 2014 and its president the past five years. Deputy D.A. **Stephen Gunson** selected by the federal Department of State Anti-Terrorism Taskforce to be a member of a team of police, military bomb technicians and lawyers to train Kenyan law enforcement officials and prosecutors on the investigation and prosecution of terrorism. Head Deputy D.A. **Stephanie Pearl Mire**, who leads the office's Family Violence Division, received the Nicole Parker Foundation Award for Protecting Children.

HEALTH: RELAC member **Richard Marciniak**, retired County+USC Medical Center administrator, recovering from emergency heart quad bypass surgery.



Doucette



Gunson



Kronstadt



Sanabria



Ragazzi



Torres



Rowe



Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond
Newsletter Editor

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office found itself in the headlines in recent months, the subject of two high-profile lawsuits. Proponents trying to recall District Attorney George Gascon allege that tens of thousands of valid signatures were incorrectly and unlawfully rejected. And the U.S. Department of Justice is accusing the County of repeatedly failing to ensure disabled voters could access the polls during voting and ballot drop boxes. Many of the issues cited deal with the physical layout, parking, and cross slope on sidewalks or walkways approaching locations used for in-person voting. Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean Logan said in order to expand its voting sites to provide greater access, it has had to use facilities that it does not own or operate.

The Health Services Department reports that more than 53 percent of its patients prefer to speak a language other than English and 51 percent of the patients request their services in Spanish.

Animal Care and Control, which curtailed visitation at its seven animal care centers during the pandemic, has increased visiting hours from 23 hours to 36 hours weekly.

Two of the 14 tennis courts at Don Knabe Regional Park in Cerritos were converted into 10 dedicated pickleball courts after Supervisor Janice Hahn received a petition signed by more than 300 community members asking for the courts.

The Board of Supervisors has created the Prevention and Promotion Systems Governing Committee to deter discrimination in County operations. It is charged with implementing 14 recommendations of a task force that studied the issue for 18 months. Estimated cost, including hiring an executive director, is \$4 million annually.

As of Dec. 1, jail inmates will no longer have to pay for phone calls, the Board of Supervisors decided, a move that CEO Fesia Davenport estimates will cost the County between \$27.6 million to \$30 million. Supervisor Hilda Solis says the action will ease the burden on inmates' families, one-third of whom go into debt trying to maintain contact with those who are incarcerated. "We should not be in the business of burdening families already struggling to cope and survive," she said. Supervisor Holly Mitchell asked for a delay to study the financial implications, saying supervisors had approved two dozen motions recently with unspecified funding.

The Board of Supervisors -- with Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Janice Hahn abstaining -- voted to support legislation that would allow the County to increase the current sales tax up to one-half cent for homeless services.

The FBI is looking into two Sheriff Department incidents, one in which a deputy punched a woman in the face while she was holding a baby and one in which a deputy threw a woman to the ground by her neck after she started recording an arrest with her cellphone. Both incidents were captured on video.

The County Fire Department has added Julia, a golden retriever/labrador mix, to its arson unit to detect accelerant and ignitable liquid. One-eighth of a canine's brain is dedicated to scent processing, giving Julia up to 300 million olfactory receptors (compared to a human with up to 6 million receptors), allowing her to sniff out minute traces of accelerants such as gasoline and lighter fluid.

The new name of LAC+USC Medical Center is the Los Angeles General Medical Center -- not Los Angeles Medical Center, as was erroneously reported in this column in the July-August edition.

A typo in last month's column resulted in the wrong figure for the County's population. It is 9,861,224.

The Board of Supervisors has revised policy to make it clear that only County Counsel is authorized to retain legal counsel on behalf of the County, its elected officials, agents and employees.

Samuel Bonner, 62, who spent 37 years in prison before being released in 2019 after his conviction was overturned due to prosecutorial misconduct by the D.A.'s Office, was awarded \$3 million by the Board of Supervisors to settle his lawsuit.

Despite millions of dollars being spent to provide housing, homelessness went up another 9 percent countywide since 2020, according to the L.A. Homeless Services Authority.

The Internal Services Department has installed 26 electric vehicle charging stations at Rosemead Library as part of its goal of adding 5,000 such stations at County facilities by 2025. Lancaster Library received one in 2022.

The Center Theatre Group has "paused" shows at the Mark Taper Forum at the Music Center due to financial issues

The County has expanded its BREATHE guaranteed income program, providing \$1,000 monthly for two years to 200 randomly selected former foster youth from the Department of Children and Family Services.

Metro has put a cap on riders' fees: fares are free after \$5 per day or \$18 within seven days.

Two lifeguard towers on a portion of Will Rogers State Beach known as Ginger Rogers Beach have been painted the colors of the Progress Pride flag. Beginning in the 1940s young men have frequented the beach and it has become a safe haven for members of the LGBTQ+ community.

The County has reached a settlement with the American Civil Liberties Union in a lawsuit over jail conditions, following remedial actions taken by the County in recent months to improve waiting times, overcrowding and unsanitary conditions at the Inmate Reception Center.

The use of illegal electronic "skimming" devices to clone EBT cards resulted in \$21.1 million being stolen in 2022 from L.A. County clients -- more than a 20-fold increase from 2021 and more than \$25 million as of June.

The 2023 Assessment Roll increased by 5.91% over last year, hitting \$1.997 trillion in total net value, which translates to about \$20 billion in property taxes.

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall was placed on lockdown and additional security issues taken -- including allowing the use of pepper spray -- following a major disturbance at the facility involving 13 youths on July 29. Interim Probation Chief Guillermo Viera Rosa said he would ask the County to accelerate the hiring of safety and security specialists, a new job classification that will allow the department to hire off-duty or retired peace officers for external security purposes.

The County's new Alvarado Health Care Center will serve as a primary care provider for Medi-Cal patients in the Westlake District and surrounding neighborhoods. Services will be offered in English, Spanish and Korean.

The County's Youth Climate Commission, the first of its kind in the nation, held its first public meeting June 9. Supervisors have created the LGBTQ+ Commission to help ensure needs of the LGBTQ+ are met.

A new clinic building is going up to the west of Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, scheduled to be completed in fall 2026. The six-floor building will house the hospital's outpatient clinics and associated services, conferencing and education space, and physician and administrative offices.

The Los Angeles County Office of Labor Equity, within the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, announced the largest settlement since the County's minimum wage ordinance went into effect in 2016. The \$667,414 settlement involved allegations of wage violations over four years affecting 309 employees at two independently owned and operated restaurants.

Century Regional Detention Facility held its first yoga class in July, using instructors from a volunteer organization that brings yoga and meditation to inmates in correctional facilities throughout the state. The goal is to provide weekly classes on Saturdays.

Drivers using the express lanes on the 10 and 110 freeways will no longer receive a ticket if they don't have a transponder. Instead, they will receive a bill in the mail that includes a congestion toll and processing fee.

IN MEMORIAM

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

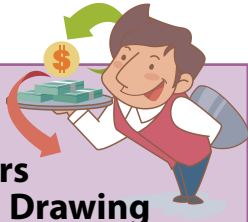
Agricultural Comm./Wts. & Meas. - John H. Caston, Gary P. Mork
AIDS Program - Corliss Tillman
Alcohol/Drug Programs Admin. - Chandra Shaker
Ambulatory Care Network - Treva C. Brown
Antelope Valley Rehab. Center - Beverly J. Grant
Assessor - Matthew P. Azzara, David E. Fischer, Tom J. Fitzpatrick, Betty H. Holland, Robert L. Olson, Patsy Phelan, Iranetta D. Roberson, Maria G. Rodriguez, Stanley H. Rosenthal, John Ryan, Carol D. Sweet, Naahath Williams
Auditor - Controller - Paul G. Jow
Beaches & Harbors - Emilio Chavez
Board of Supervisors - Richard D. Simmons
Burbank Municipal Court - Caroline M. Patterson
California Children's Services - Patricia J. Locksley
Chief Executive Office - Virginia R. Vasquez
Child Support Services - Clementene Adams, Nathan A. Garren, Robert Holmes, Vivion L. Parhm
Children & Family Services - Angela M. Charlot-Case, Mildred J. Davis, Lois P. Greene, Marie Grimando, Aram H. Haroutunian, Denise Harrell McMillon, Deloris Jackson, Mark A. Moton, Robert S. Nakamura, Rodolfo Porlas, Esther M. Ramos, Roxanna Rice, Catherine A. Saei, Rose Torres
Correctional Health - Alfredo Alonso, Mary L. Bruce
County Counsel - Joel V. Fisher
District Attorney - Barbara K. Bacon, Deborah A. Castruita, Olivia Hazel Dlugos, Daniel L. Lieberman, Duane M. Lloyd
Fire - Joe A. Adams, Pedro Borrego Jr., Arvel A. Chappell Jr., Joseph Chavez, Leonard Lyons, Rafael Ortiz, William Paternostro, Theodore Pearson, George M. Peterson, Leonard Rohaley, Linda F. Seltzer, Charles L. Willey, Horst W. Zimmermann
Flood Control District - Ronald L. Brook, George Lewis Burt, Herman M. Duffer
Harbor/UCLA Medical Center - Filomena B. Acejo, Fatmeh A. Azzam, Mary Christianson, Deeann Geich, Leonard E. Ginzton, Ceferina A. Hernandez, Kenneth A. Narahara, Ban S. Nguyen, Apolinario N. Nuesca, Reiko Sugahara
Health Services - Verna Pink
Health Services Administration - Lini Bennett, Brenda J. Doyle-Paul, Curtis Fletcher, Epsie D. Grant, Yvonne Odom, Jean Rodgers, Peter Roebuck, Bertha M. Smith, Genetha Thompson, Park W. Wagers
Internal Services - Edwin Bean, Fred Benson, Gertrude E. Betcher, Abraham B. Folman, Jose R. Garcia, Nancy Johnson, Marques Lewis, Eva M. Lumm, J. C. Pye, Cesar E. Romero-Retes, Wanda V. St. Julien, John Benjamin Thorne, Willie Weaver
King-Drew Medical Center - Kirby Brice, Robert William Eason, Gene C. Holloman, Barbara McCowan, Ruby L. McGee, Betti Jo Warren
LAC+USC Medical Center - Hilaria V. Barajas, Mattie Breakenridge, David Castillo, Jerry Cockrell Jr., Grace M. Corse, Stephen Cota, Dwight Cowen, Keeps V. Forrest, Kyoung S. Ha, Willye Mae Harkness, Daisy E. Hoggro, Dorothy R. Jones, Shaul G. Massry, Maria Rosario Perez, Ronald C. Phelps, Maria H. Pita, Elena O. Romo, Agnes Royal, Rita L. Ruiz, Antonia Saavedra, Aubrey C. Saxon, Irene T. Takemori, Helen Wyche
Mechanical - James R. Bretthauer, E. R. Gourley, Emmitt Pirtle
Medical Examiner-Coroner - Michael A. Joseph
Mental Health - Roslyn Barouch, Morton B. Bramson, Marie Christine Estrada, Norma Eulano, Marc D. Graff, Cecilia Carroll Graham, Judith Harris, Chester Hoyt, Rose M. Leilua, Edgar A. Moran, Arthur F. Schlichting, Carol M. Shauger, E. N. Ward, Nicholas W. Williams
Museum of Art - Anna Marie De La Torre
Olive View/UCLA Medical Center - Joanne Bradley, Linda C. Briery, Isabel Cardenas, Sheila A. Cristal, Phoebe L. Davidson, Anabella D. Knapp, Nussara Masermsin, John V. Mendoza, Susan C. Mirich-Miller, Barbara J. Montgomery, Barbara J. Murray, James E. Pruitt, Joan Salamone

Parks and Recreation - Elias Campos, Tomiye Hatanaka, Heriberto Sandoval Jr.
Probation - William T. Banks II, Gaston A. Bastanchury, Lettisse R. Bell, James M. Campbell, Gary Ferandell, Willie D. Fredrick, Florence J. Gillard, Jeanne R. Greene, Singapore Huynh, Gilberto M. Ortiz, John M. Ritchie, Dennis J. Schultz, Debby L. Westcott
Public Defender - Rita A. Downing, Suzanne M. Dunne, Richard P. Guluzza
Public Health - Lawrence Cabus, Kaylee K. Chiang, Masue Danbara, Grace Flores, Paul E. Hughes, Khan M. Ikram, Robert Kilman, Rita Miller, Barton Slutske, Shirley L. Smith-Ennen, William F. Speicher, Adolph Torres, Donna E. White, Mary G. Wilcox
Public Library - Winona Allard, Jean E. Hunt, Mary C. Sanchez
Public Safety - Rienzi T. Davis, Brian Decker
Public Social Services - Sahib Aleem, Ricardo Anaya, Diane P. Blake, Maurine J. Bloom, Annis Burgos, Louise Coleman, Gloria J. Connolly, Clemmye Crawford, Johanna L. Davidson, Eunice M. Davis, Shirlee P. Davis, Verleaner Dixon, Rita L. Dunn, Ivan K. Edelman, Josephine Fierro, Natalya Gorelova, Tawanna Green, Gwendolyn S. Irving, Ronnie G. Jackson, Stephanie R. James, Trinell Johnson, Vessa Jones, Salvador Leon Jr., Margarita Lopez, Jose Magdaleno, Gloria M. Martinez, Petra Medelez, Margaret Jo Moore, Josephine Perez, Shirley A. Pone, Shirley A. Richardson, Janet Schaeffer, Catherine Solomon, Kate C. Sun, Sharrion Y. Thompson, Margarit Vardanyan, Edwina J. Westbrooks, Donald J. White, Catherinell Williams
Public Works - Elizabeth Barilla, James E. Brahler, Juan A. Cabrera, Jeffrey T. Chase, Amos Curry, Samuel R. Heredia, Erik Jonathan Macias, Joseph W. McCoy, Massie Munroe, Peter Rogers, Fawzia M. Shehata, John M. Sidwell, Robert I. Yokoyama
Rancho Los Amigos Hospital - Rosalind June Alemany, Mary Ashcavai, Joseph Chersky, Sandy Connors, Melly L. Fabro, Vicente T. Garciano, Manuel J. Manard, Thelma H. Orr, Mark A. Patterson, Noemi Rabina, Aiko Y. Sakai
Regional Planning - John D. Calas
Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk - John H. Davis, Mary Louis Gutierrez, Donald Ray
Sheriff - Gregory M. Aguirre, Mose F. Akens, Nicole O. Avila, Sarah L. Branche, Danny C. Bullocks, John A. Camacho, Hugh David Crissman, Archie E. Cross, Douglas R. Daley, Frank J. Demilio Jr., Stanley S. Eng, Steve V. Eschagary, Neil E. Farrell, Cheri C. Flaherty, Clifton C. Hartfield, Henry A. Hoppe, Jack G. Hughes, Roger A. Jewell, Gregory H. Johnson, Heja K. Lee, Arthur H. Luna, Edgar L. Matthews, Wesley D. McBride, Dianne McHenry, Deborah J. McPherson, Terry Michael Meddock, Richard L. Milton, Wiley M. Newman, Gerald T. Olmsted, David A. Parker, Richard L. Pierce, Donald R. Pitt, Anthony Ponce, Thomas P. Reynolds, Victor D. Riesau, Jason D. Rooney, David M. Rosenberger, Vincent Matthew Rupp, Marsha N. Scurlock, Robert Lee Sinclair, Johnnie M. Smith, Jay R. Stroh, W. R. Strong Jr., Leo R. Summerhays, Eric J. Taylor, Glenn H. Thompson, Joyce A. Thompson
Superior Court/County Clerk - Sallie S. Alkano, Maria L. Anderson, Rodolfo B. Bejec, Elsie Louise Boyd, Frances Cohen, Marlene R. Cohon, Michael Cowell, Darlene J. Essery, Cheryl Gordon, Evelyn M. Hernandez, Howard R. Hicks, John A. Ingeme, Beverly F. Modica, Gary A. Polinsky, Collette N. Serio, Dorothy Swain, Dorothy H. Tate, Vernita Elizabeth Turner, David E. Williams
Treasurer/Tax Collector - Eva C. Penton, Judith L. Swayne
Women's Hospital - Verniece Burton, Paul Y. Wu
Workforce Dev., Aging & Comm. Svc. - James E. Bragg, Joann Gaines, Valerie Maisner, Lester A. Pink, Roland Yorke
Unidentified County Agency - Melvin D. Plank, Clifford Priestley



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

Return Service Requested



Recruit New Members and Qualify for Cash Drawing

Dec. 31 is the deadline to qualify for a cash drawing for recruiting new RELAC members.

Members receive one entry in the drawing for each referral they make. Twenty \$25 prizes will be awarded, with multiple prizes to the same individual allowed.

The Board of Directors decided to sponsor the drawing to reward and encourage members to recruit other retirees. Be sure to tell the new member to list your name on the application as making the referral. You win, they win, RELAC wins.

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

To be eligible for the drawing, the application must be e-mailed or postmarked by Dec. 31. Good luck, and thank you for your support of RELAC.

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Five RELAC Directors Reelected

RELAC Directors Brian Berger, J.P. Harris, Dyanne Nelson, Victoria Pipkin-Lane and Les Robbins have been elected to new three-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2024.

No RELAC member filed a petition to run as a candidate for the Board by the July 6 deadline, resulting in the automatic election of the current directors whose terms expire Dec. 31, 2023. All five had been endorsed by the current Board of Directors.



Brian Berger
1999 Retiree
Children and
Family Services
RELAC Director, 2017



J.P. Harris
2010 Retiree
Sheriff
RELAC Director, 2012



Dyanne Nelson
2011 Retiree
Auditor-Controller
RELAC Director, 2017



Victoria Pipkin-Lane
2018 Retiree
Board of Supervisors
RELAC Director, 2020



Les Robbins
2004 Retiree
Sheriff
RELAC Director, 2017

UPDATES!

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

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

RELAC
1000 S. Fremont Ave.,
Unit 15 Alhambra, CA
91803-8802 or
Phone:
(800) 537-3522
(626) 308-0532
Fax: (626) 308-2901
E-mail:
admin@relac.org
website:
www.relac.org

Note: It is important that you mail this to RELAC or contact RELAC by phone as we DO NOT receive your address change from LACERA.