



## President's Message

by Ed Morris

This is my final message as your President. Over the last three years I found serving RELAC as President to be rewarding and meaningful. Our number one priority has been, and will continue to be, maintaining and protecting the pension and medical benefits of our members. I have enjoyed working with RELAC's officers, its Board of Directors, office staff, all the volunteers and you, the members, on whose behalf everything happens.



### Officers for 2009

At the business meeting held on September 25, 2008 your board elected the below named officers for 2009. I know you will give Greg and the Board of Directors the same support as I received over the past three years:

**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**

**Greg Walia**  
**Ida Leon Ramos**  
**Mary Lou Bangar**  
**Ed Morris**

### 1958 through 2008 and on into the future

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year was successful. Our Installation Banquet started it off with the Featured Speaker, Bill Fujioka, who returned to Los Angeles County as the CEO. The TSA chorus (Transportation Security Authority) added excitement along with the harmony. This same chorus will be performing at the upcoming Installation Luncheon, to be held on Thursday, January 22, 2009.

I'm again honored to join Bill de la Garza on the Board of Retirement for the next three years, along with Diane Sandoval, who will serve for the same period of time on the Board of Investment. With the support of RELAC we have been elected to represent all Los Angeles County retirees

*Thank you for the opportunity of serving all of you.*

### Latest Word on LACERA Finances

Despite media reports about the impact of the downturn in the value of investment assets on the LACERA fund, the word from LACERA is that very good performance for the last several years helps our pension fund to weather the current downturn and remain strong. For example, in fiscal year 2007 investments earned 19.1% LACERA has a history of successfully weathering market downturns.

*For more information see Diane Sandoval's Investment's Board Report on page 4,*

## INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER



January 22 is the date of the the Annual Installation Luncheon. The featured speaker will be Gregg Rademacher, LACERA's CEO and the Transportation Security Authority Chorus will again entertain. The excellent lunch is a major bargain.

**get all the details on page 3**

Another big event coming up is the Christmas Membership Meeting at Saint Sophia Cathedral on December 9. Join in the holiday fun.

**you will find information on the back page**

Legislation Committee Chair Bill de la Garza reports on RELAC's legislative priorities for 2009.

**see the article on page 13**

Get an introduction to Los Angeles County's state of the art new Medical Center.

**you will find it on page 2**

Governor Schwarzeneger has signed into law the state program for combating infections which patients contract during their hospital stays.

**the story is on page 13**



## Retirement Board

by Bill de la Garza  
Your Elected Retirement Board Trustee



Dear Retirees,

I recognize the importance that we place on our County sponsored, LACERA Administered, Pension and Medical Plans. Accordingly, through this RELAC Newsletter byline, I have continually attempted to keep you informed on any important changes or issues related to our plan benefits. As your elected Retirement Board Trustee, and a Director of the RELAC Board, the enhancement and protection of our benefits is, and will continue to be, our top priority.

### **Stock Market Plunge Emphasizes the Merits of Defined Benefits (DB) Plans:**

For the past several years many elected officials and private sector administrators have recommended and sought legislation that would change our retirement system from Defined Benefit Plans to Defined Contribution Plans. Can you imagine what would have happened to our DB plan during the recent stock market plunge? A very wise article, entitled Did You Know? appeared in the September issue of the LACERA Spotlight Newsletter on Retirement. In my opinion it is worth repeating:

#### **Defined Benefit (DB) Plans**

LACERA provides a lifetime benefit

- You will receive your monthly benefit payment for the rest of your life

#### **Defined Contribution Plans**

401 (k) and 457 Plans are savings accounts

- Your benefit payments (withdrawals) stop when your money runs out

**Governor Signs PEBC Bills:** I'm pleased to inform you that Governor Schwarzenegger signed both of the Post Employment Benefits Commission bills that will regulate retirement systems and protect benefits for retirees. As I mentioned in a previous article, the PEBC Commission recommended "**Pre-Funding**" as a workable method for the purpose of reducing the unfunded liability in retiree health and pensions plans. Los Angeles County has developed a plan which will be implemented in the very near future. The RELAC Newsletter will keep you posted.

**Happy Holidays:** As 2008 comes to a close and the holiday season approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and health holiday season. As customary, I leave you with this thought:

*"The greatest test of courage on earth  
is to bear defeat without losing heart."  
R.G. Ingersoll*

## New Medical Center Replaces Old County Landmark

At long last Los Angeles County has a new, state of the art Medical Center. It replaces the East Los Angeles Medical Center complex. Of course the old complex is dominated by what has long been County government's most prominent landmark, the imposing old General Hospital building.

The old building has served its patients and staff well since it opened back to 1933. The new Medical Center has been designed to put the County's premier medical facility on the cutting edge. It will house the latest in diagnostic equipment and laboratory facilities. And it will make possible highly efficient and effective services to patients.

The new facility has been built very close to the old. It consists of three linked buildings, united by a corridor, gardens and a central amphitheater. The buildings are the Outpatient Building, the Emergency Services Building, and the In-patient Building. The facility will provide 600 patient beds. Nearly all in-patients will now be housed in private rooms rather than in wards, providing both greater privacy and a quiet environment conducive to more rapid recoveries.



*Behind the new streamlined, cutting edge Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center can be seen the 1933 County General Hospital. Another view of the Medical Center appears on p. 15. (photo courtesy L.A. County CEO)*



**RELAC 2009**  
*Annual Installation Luncheon*  
**January 22, 2009**

All members, their spouses and guests are invited to RELAC's 2009 Annual Installation Luncheon, which will be held Thursday, January 22, 2009, at the Quiet Cannon Restaurant (Montebello Golf Course Clubhouse), 901 North Via San Clemente, Montebello, California. RELAC will subsidize 50% of meal costs for members and their spouses. Choices of entrees – either Beef or Chicken – with complete luncheon, tax and tip included in price.

***The Featured Speaker is Gregg Rademacher,***  
Chief Executive Officer, LACERA  
**Topic: Retiree Issues and Financial Crisis**

RELAC has the honor of presenting the **Transportation Security Authority Chorus** again this year due to popular demand. They were a hit last year and are back with their upbeat chorale renditions for you to enjoy prior to lunch. We will, again, have with us the **Los Angeles County Sheriff's Honor Guard** to present the colors.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and may be picked up in banquet room entry. No host cocktail hour 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Luncheon and Program 12:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Free Parking.  
Make new friends – Have a good time.

***Reservation Form***

Quiet Cannon Restaurant – January 22, 2009

Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Attach additional sheets, if necessary)

**A. ROAST BEEF**

Members/Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 10.00/each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 15.00/each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**B. CHICKEN**

Members/Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 10.00/each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 15.00/each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check/money order payable to "RELAC" and mail to:

RELAC  
1000 So. Fremont Ave., Unit 15  
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802  
NO LATER THAN JANUARY 9, 2009



## Investments Board

by Diane Sandoval  
Retiree Representative,  
LACERA Board of Investments



If I had a time machine I would send myself into the future and not come back until these financial markets have settled and my IRA portfolio had recovered its losses. I know most of you are wondering if the LACERA portfolio has been affected as a result of the uncertainty in the financial markets. Like all investors, LACERA has been affected by the current market turbulence.

There is no doubt that recent events in the U.S. financial system are creating tremendous volatility in the global stock market. These events are the result of some financial institutions over-extending their firms' resources during the recent housing boom. Notwithstanding this volatility, LACERA remains a financially strong organization with \$37.8 billion in assets. As of the fund's last actuarial valuation, LACERA was 94% funded. This means that for every dollar of liability owed, LACERA has 94 cents saved.

During times of significant market turmoil, such as now, there are few places for institutional investors (like LACERA) to successfully invest large sums of money. Rest assured, as fiduciaries the LACERA Board of Investments has always adhered to a long-term Asset Allocation Policy which emphasizes a broadly diversified portfolio to help mitigate the risk associated with market volatility.

The Board is fortunate to have an experienced and knowledgeable investment staff who carefully monitor market activities and keep the Board informed of any notable events. Even with all these concerns LACERA will continue to pay member benefits as promised.

Additional information on LACERA is available at their website ([www.lacera.com](http://www.lacera.com)). As always I thank you for your support and wish you all a Happy New Year.



## General Membership Meetings... Purpose and Benefits

by Greg Walia, Co-chair, Program Committee

RELAC, in accordance with its by-laws, holds **four** General Membership meetings each calendar year in different cities within the County of Los Angeles. As I indicated in the last issue of this Newsletter, we strive hard to hold these meetings at locations that will attract maximum numbers of our members.



Friends, the purpose of holding these meetings is rather simple. And that is to try to present issues of current concern (except politics) to members by inviting interesting (and that always is a challenge!) and knowledgeable speakers on these issues.

Our recently concluded surveys at the last two meetings reveals that health related issues are the top priority with those that participated in the survey. Other topics of interest include fraudulent schemes, credit card scams, wills and trusts, etc. (Additional details on the survey results will be presented in our January-February 2009 Newsletter). Based on the results of these surveys, we will focus on addressing these issues at our membership meetings in 2009. In addition to benefiting from these presentations, members who attend these meetings can win some interesting door prizes.

**One final word.** We hope you can attend the membership meetings which are announced well in advance of the meeting date. But if you cannot, then please send us your comments/suggestions on our programs. You may do so by calling, writing or just sending us an e-mail. Your input is important to us in continuing to address your interests and concerns. Thanks and Happy Holidays.



Marvin Schachter, Member of the Executive Council and California Chairman of AARP, was featured speaker at the General membership meeting at the Santa Clarita Sports Center on September 16, 2008. (photo by Sol Fingold)

# REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

by Diane Sandoval

Co-Chair, Regional Support Committee

In my last article I briefly mentioned the **Annual Luncheon Meeting** scheduled to be held at the **Tuscany Suites & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada on Thursday, March 19, 2009** and promised to provide details in our next article. **Guess what?** This is RELAC's next article and here are the details:

## LAS VEGAS LUNCHEON MEETING

We hope you plan to attend our luncheon meeting. Our featured speaker is Lisa Mazzocco, LACERA Chief Investment Officer. By mid-March we will have a new President of the United States and the Government Rescue Plan has been passed. There is no one better than Lisa to tell us from an insider's perspective how these recent events have impacted the investment performance of the Retirement Fund.

In addition to this timely presentation we are looking forward to a slew of door prizes and our infamous Las Vegas Split game of chance wherein three attendees will reap the rewards of bettors turned winners. And that's not all! While you are with friends and co-workers you will be enjoying a delicious three entrée buffet luncheon for just \$20.00 per person.

Just **complete the registration form** and send it to the RELAC office with your check payable to RELAC by **March 13, 2009**. Tickets will be given out at the door.

## DO YOU PLAN ON STAYING AT THE TUSCANY?

RELAC has great news for you! RELAC has successfully negotiated a great rate for anyone interested in staying at the Tuscany Suites & Casino. Tuscany is located at 255 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89169 (just beyond Bally's and the Las Vegas strip).

The cost will be just **\$75.00** per guestroom plus applicable taxes (now 9%) per night Sunday through Thursday, single or double occupancy. If you decide to extend your stay, the cost will be **\$135.00** per guestroom (plus applicable taxes).

Simply call the Tuscany Room Reservations Department at **877 887-2261** and ask for **RELAC 2009** group rates. Tuscany has agreed to honor these special rates until **February 16, 2009 5:00 P.M.** Reservations received by the Tuscany after this date will be confirmed on a space available basis at the prevailing rate available.

## RELAC LAS VEGAS GOLF TOURNAMENT

In addition to our luncheon meeting we are once again planning to hold a RELAC Las Vegas Golf Tournament on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 starting at 12:00 (noon). The Golf Tournament will be held at Wild Horse Golf Resort located at 2100 Warm Springs Road, Henderson, NV 89014. The golf fee is just \$75.00 including cart. Please call the RELAC office at **800 537-3522** if you have any questions.

This being the last issue of our Newsletter for 2008, I would like to take a few moments to thank Mary K. Rodriguez, (my Co-Chair) and the committee members for their participation and support throughout the year.

Stay safe and may you have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

## LAS VEGAS LUNCHEON MEETING

Thursday, March 19, 2009 – 11:30 a.m.

Tuscany Suites & Casino

255 E. Flamingo Road

Las Vegas, NV 89169

(877)887-2261

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

#Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check (NO CASH) for the above amount, and mail to:

RELAC

100 So. Fremont Ave., #15

Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

**Deadline is March 13, 2009**

For Office Use:

Date Rec. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt.\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_

## For Your Information Only

by Greg Walia,

Chair, Retiree Benefits Study Committee

Every now and then we come across certain useful information that in our humble opinion might be of some benefit to our members. Here are a couple of government internet web sites that you may wish to log on to get free copies of government publications.

### A. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

This site gives you information on a host of articles on transportation and auto safety. Here is how to access this site:

After you click on the above site you will see a box on the left hand side of your screen where it says "Quick Clicks". You may then click on any of the topics shown there that might be of interest to you. Information on additional related topics is also available by clicking on the down arrow (v) in the "Information box ...."

### B. Federal Reserve System

[www.federalreserve.gov](http://www.federalreserve.gov)

This site provides useful information on identity theft; consumer guide to mortgage re-financing; leasing vs buying a car, etc. After opening the website click on Consumer Information near the top of the page. There you will find links to a variety useful topics.

**Drop us a line to let us know your opinion/experience about these sites.**



RELAC Members

**Southland**  
CREDIT UNION

**7.00%**  
APY\*

**7-Month Certificate**  
*(maximum deposit of \$1,000)*

Open a 7-Month Certificate and watch your money add up!

A 7-Month Certificate Special is a smart and easy way to earn more.

Plus, you can open your account with as little as \$100 and earn the

highest rate in town! This offer is good for a limited time only, so

don't wait. Open your 7-Month Certificate Account today!

\*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. 7-Month Certificate Account rate special quoted effective 9-15-08. Offer is good through 12-31-08 and is subject to change without notice. Certificate is available to new members or existing members who refer a new member to Southland. Minimum deposit of \$100 is required to open and a maximum amount of \$1,000 to qualify for special rate. AcceleRate and Add-On features are not available on this certificate special. Unless directed otherwise, upon maturity certificate will rollover into a standard 6-month AcceleRate Certificate. Excessive withdrawal penalties may apply. Membership is subject to eligibility.



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Downey, CA 90241

**Los Alamitos**  
10701 Los Alamitos Blvd.  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

**Los Angeles**  
300 N. Los Angeles St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**www.SouthlandCU.org • 800.426.1917**

## RELAC NEWSLETTER

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Number 6

Retired Employees of  
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Unit 15, Alhambra, CA  
91803-8802

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308-2901

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Office Hours

9:00am - Noon &

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Monday - Thursday

Friday: 9:00am - Noon

Closed Saturday,

Sunday &

Public Holidays

website: www.relac.org

## Golf News



### Lakewood Golf Course Golf Tournament 9-29-08

by Gil Sandoval

RELAC Golf Director

It was an unusual day to play golf as it rained then it became very hot at Lakewood. Bob Bogawa won the "A" flight again at 65. In 2<sup>nd</sup> was Alan Bato followed by Shig Yonamine in 3<sup>rd</sup> by card off. Yosh Fukumoto won the "B" flight at net 69 in a card off against Ed Acosta and Yosh's brother Kiyo. Jerome Clayton won the "C" flight with a net 65. The Women's flight was an easy victory for Nancy Signer as her net 63 was the best of the day. She outplayed everyone.

#### Flight "A" (0-19 Handicaps)

1<sup>st</sup> Bob Bogawa (65)

2<sup>nd</sup> Alan Bato (68)

3<sup>rd</sup> Shig Yonamine (69)\*

#### Flight "B" (20-27 Handicaps)

1<sup>st</sup> Yosh Fukumoto (69)\*

2<sup>nd</sup> Ed Acosta (69)\*

3<sup>rd</sup> Kiyo Fukumoto (69)

#### Flight "C" (28-38 Handicaps)

1<sup>st</sup> Jerome Clayton (65)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Corneluis (66)

3<sup>rd</sup> Phil Sandoval (75)

#### Ladies "All"

1<sup>st</sup> Nancy Signer (63)

2<sup>nd</sup> Judy Pachciarz (75)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sue Danbara (79)

\* Won in card off.

#### Closest to the Pin on Par 3's

Men # 3 Jim Abbott

# 5 Tom Hoagland

# 9 Harlan DeBie

# 12 Bob Bogawa

# 17 Jerry Nottke

#### Women # 3 Charlene DeBie

# 5 No One

# 12 No One

# 17 Judy Pachciarz

**Save the Date: Las Vegas Tournament** March  
12, 2009 Wild Horse Golf Resort - Henderson, NV  
Entry forms available in Jan/Feb Newsletter.

## RELAC Golf Entry Form

Diamond Bar Golf Course  
22751 E. Golden Spring Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765



**Monday, December 1, 2008**

Please Print

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fees: \$31.00 PER GOLFER - CART EXTRA

If possible, place me in a foursome with below listed  
golfers. Addresses of all golfers MUST be included.

If possible, we would prefer an  
Early \_\_\_\_\_ Late \_\_\_\_\_ starting time.

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Only ONE GUEST per member.  
Enclose check for \_\_\_\_\_ golfers @ \$31 per  
Golfer. Make checks payable to RELAC  
Golf. Mail entry to RELAC GOLF, 1000  
So. Fremont Ave., #15, Alhambra, CA  
91803-8802

Entry Deadline

**November 17, 2008**

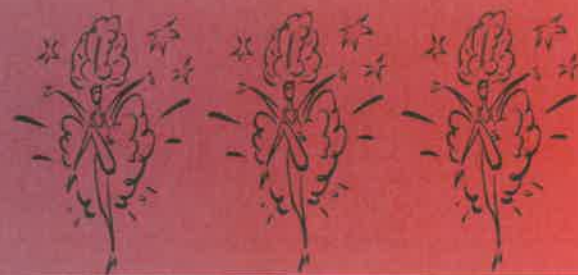
**ALL CHECKS MUST BE  
IN RELAC OFFICE**

For Office Use:

Date Rec. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt.\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_



# Members Spotlight



## Los Angeles Public Library Seeks Volunteers to Lead Tours of Central Library

The Los Angeles Public Library docents are looking for volunteers interested in leading tours for adults and school groups through the historic Central Library, at 630 W. Fifth St., in downtown Los Angeles.

The docents are recruiting now for their next ten-week training program, which will begin in January 2009. Volunteers will learn about the history, art, architecture and garden of the Central Library as well as how to conduct the different tours offered. Experienced docents also mentor trainees while they lead practice tours.

After completing training, docents are expected to give 24 tours per year for a two-year period. Tours are conducted throughout the year on daily basis. Sign ups for specific dates and kinds of tours are done throughout the year, one month in advance, which gives each docent scheduling flexibility. Free parking is provided for docents.

For an application or to learn more including exact dates of training, interested volunteers can call (213) 228-7283 or visit <http://www.lapl.org/central/tours.html>.

## LACMA Seeks Docent Volunteers

The Docent Council of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is seeking volunteers to lead tours of the museum's diverse collections. An art background is not required; however, prospective docents should have an interest in learning about art, working with students, and facilitating positive museum experiences for visitors. In addition to giving tours, docents enjoy special opportunities including behind-the-scenes tours at LACMA, invitations to view private collections around Southern California, and attend lectures given by leading scholars. Upon completion of the interview process, new docents have the benefit of a one-year training course in art history and touring techniques.

Application information for the next docent training class can be obtained by emailing a request to [Admissions@lacmadocent.org](mailto:Admissions@lacmadocent.org) or by phone at (323) 857-6119. Applications are due no later than March 12, 2009.



## WE ARE GOING PAPERLESS!!!

Special Notice Regarding Management Council Seminars

In response to the County's efforts to decrease paper communications, the Management Council Educational Committee would like to reduce the number of hard copy flyers. For members who have an active e-mail address, we will no longer be sending flyers. Notifications will continue to be e-mailed to our e-mail address. If you are not currently receiving e-mail notifications and would like to be included in the e-mail notifications, please contact D'Nedra Fox. Her contact information is as follows:

D'Nedra Fox – LACMC Membership Assistant

Department of Public Social Services  
12860 Crossroad Parkway South  
City of Industry, CA 91746-3411  
<http://www.D'nedrafox@dpss.lacounty.gov>



## CHRISTMAS SEASON'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

by Greg Walia, Co-chair, Program Committee

It's really hard to believe that the Christmas Season is just a few weeks away! I don't know where all these years have gone by, but staying healthy and happy makes the time go by much quicker. And that reminds me to remind you about an upcoming happy event. RELAC's Christmas Season General Membership meeting this year will be on Tuesday, December 9, 2008. We plan to make this year's event even more interesting by inviting Christmas carolers from a local university and provide continuous background music appropriate for the occasion. Dancing is optional !!

**Please see the back of this Newsletter for details and directions to the meeting place.**



## News From LACERA

by Janice Golden  
Assistant Executive Officer

In order for LACERA to keep improving its business operations, we need to know how we are doing at any given time. Therefore, we continually track how many, how much, how soon, how well, etc. One area we monitor is our system's availability; that is, how consistently our member online records system is up and running.



Our system's availability or "reliability" is 99.8 percent. That means if staff needs to process a member's request, such as a service purchase, or if a member calls in, we can *immediately* access their LACERA records -- 99.8 percent of the time. Within the industry, this is a very high standard of system's "up time".

We've come a long way in our ability to access member records instantaneously. When I first came to LACERA in 1992, each member had a traditional paper (hard copy) file record which was stored in a large file room. Accounting for 140,000+ individual paper files was quite a challenge; to handle this we employed a couple of different tracking methods. Initially, if a Retirement Benefits Specialist needed a member's file, the specialist had to sign it out so we would know where the file was at any given time. We later improved this process by barcoding the files so they could be scanned in and out to staff. However, neither of these tracking systems was particularly efficient or prevented files from being misplaced.

So in the mid-90's, LACERA created an online member record system that included a Member Document Library to house images of all documents associated with each member's account; paper documents could be scanned in and attached to each member's online record. This eliminated the need for hard copy files. With no hard copies to hand back and forth between staff, there were no files to misplace. Online records also allow several staff access to the information at the same time. Therefore, a staff member in the data input section can update a member's address while a Retirement Benefits Specialist in the call center can simultaneously speak with the member and also access their account. This online member record system uses Write-Once, Read Many (WORM) technology, which

continued on p. 10



## RV Outing Notes



Janell Clifton & Ed Clifton  
Co-ordinators of RV Club

Is there anything better than being at a great campground with old friends and new ones, latter being Jim and Betty Butner. Marvin and Earline Powell were able to join in on all the fun we had at Chula Vista. We hope to see both couples again. Sam and Pat Jackson were Wagon masters with Don and Shirley Egbert as their Assistants.

At our Tuesday morning business meeting it was voted to come back next year. It was also discussed to make arrangements for 2010 and 2011. Jerry Moore and Paul Lagefoged were the winners of the RELAC gas cards.

The Reyes brothers and their wives were Wagon Masters at our campout at Shadow Hills in Indio. Don and Shirley will be Wagon masters at our campout at Pechanga. That is located in Temecula at the casino. Very nice campground and with a little gambling thrown in for good measure. There are wineries to tour and to be sure a golf course will be found.

There will be shared hors d'oeuvres at our Monday evening fun time. Bingo will be played so don't forget gifts. Table service will not be provided by club. Coupon follows. Christmas Party will be December 1<sup>st</sup>, at the winery. Letters will be sent to campers. If you have any questions or suggestions call us at 562-428-3360

### R.V. CAMPOUT RESERVATION

CAMPGROUND: PECHANGA RV RESORT  
45000 Pechanga Parkway  
Temecula, CA 92592

DATES: January 19, 20, 21, 2009

Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (Retiree) (Spouse)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(No.) (Street)

City: \_\_\_\_\_  
(State) (Zip)

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

#### DEADLINE: December 20, 2008

Make checks for \$89.40 payable to Don Egbert and mail to:

Wagon Masters: Don and Shirley  
31920 Trail Road  
Agua Dulce, CA 91309

Telephone: (661) 251-0755

Additional nights through Resort Office \$28.80 per night.

CALL IN ADVANCE 1-877-997-8386

Motor Home \_\_\_\_\_ Trailer \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

## New Members



**AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2008**

### Chief Executive Office

Brea, Carlos

### Community & Senior Services

Wong, May

### District Attorney

Caulton, Elois

### Health Services

Llamas, Mary

### Probation

Rigmaiden, Zelo K.

### Public Social Services

Dershewitz, Gail

### Public Works

Yi, Khin Hnin

Karaelias, George R.

### Rancho Los Amigos

Molina, Angela A.

### Superior Court

Bowling, Judith A.

### Affiliate Members

(Active County Employees)

### Health Services

McGhee, Norma L.

### Sheriff

Tibbett, Brian

### Department Not Designated

Allen, Ronald M.



LACERA continued from p. 9

prevents the online document from ever being altered. Finally, the online system is backed up every night, so data is secured on a daily basis.

Transitioning from paper files to online records was a large undertaking, but it has proven to be a secure and efficient way to maintain LACERA records. We continue to measure and monitor our operations to identify further opportunities for business improvements.

## Touring With Great Western

626-578-1161 • 800-344-7090

Don't forget to ask for your RELAC discount !

CST# 1016229-40

### San Antonio Texas



Double Per Person: \$1029.00 Single: \$1279.00

Checks only - credit card add 3%

**Tour San Antonio- Cruise the Riverwalk - Alamo - LBJ Ranch - Visit Fredericksburg**

\* Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation

\* 8 nights lodging including 4 consecutive nights in the San Antonio area

\* 14 Meals including: 8 Continental Breakfasts and 6 Dinners

**MARCH 21: SAN ANTONIO TEXAS 9 DAY LAND TOUR**

\*Price Includes RELAC Discount • Checks only - credit card add 3%



### Pacific Coast Spring Rail and Sail

**Cruise & Amtrak Bedroom (private facilities & shower)**

Category	Stateroom	Double Per Person
F	Ocean View (obstructed)	\$1799.00
BC	Balcony	\$1899.00

### Cruise & Amtrak Roomette Bedrooms

Category	Stateroom	Double Per Person
F	Ocean View (obstructed)	\$1499.00
BC	Balcony	\$1569.00



**MAY 15: PACIFIC COAST SPRING RAIL & SAIL - 7 DAY RAIL/CRUISE TOUR**

### Black Hills of South Dakota



Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation

• 14 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 6 Dinners

• 8 Nights Hotel Accommodations

Double Per Person: \$999.00

Single: \$1299.00

**MAY 23: BLACK HILLS OF S DAKOTA - 9 - DAY LAND TOUR**

\*Price Includes RELAC Discount • Checks only - credit card add 3%

### Chicago It's our kind of town.



Double Per Person: \$1295.00

Single: \$1455.00

**Tour Price Includes:**

Roundtrip Air LAX/Chicago • 4-Nights Lodging

9 Meals: 4 Deluxe Continental Breakfasts, 4 Dinners

• Chicago City Highlights Tour • Cruise Lake Michigan

**JUNE 22: CHICAGO - 5 DAY - AIR/MOTORCOACH**

\*Price Includes RELAC Discount • Checks only - credit card add 3%

## Letters To The Editor



Thank you for the 2009 Pocket Secretary. This little book is a treasure. I keep it in my purse. I would be lost without it. I am including names of friends I would like you to contact to become RELAC members. Thanks again.

Christina Fuentes  
Los Alamitos, CA

*Thank you, Christine, for sending RELAC the names of your friends as prospective members. They have been contacted.*

RELAC Board: I cannot tell you how much I appreciate receiving the pocket secretary. I worked for the Los Angeles Marshal's Office for 30 years. I will celebrate my 87<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 15 and I have so many happy memories of those 30 years. I still keep in touch with several of the deputies and their dear wives. I look forward to the RELAC Newsletter so much. So much good information for all of us retirees. Maurine Blakely  
Glendale, CA

With Gratitude and many thanks for my 2009 Pocket Secretary and the newsletter!

Dolores Parrish  
Diamond Bar, CA

Dear Faithful: I am so grateful for your untiring remembering us (me) for your precious gift of a Pocket Secretary. I know I am not a good recipient many times, but I really appreciate all you do for us (me). This year I reached my 84 years of life on 08/16/08. I do consider this Pocket Secretary a Birthday Gift. Thank you. I still am volunteering in my church as "contact person" for our church missions; we support some missionaries in Cambodia, Nepal and Philippines and some local missions in Rosemead where my church is. Thank you.

Maresa B. Santos  
Los Angeles, CA

Dear RELAC – Thank you for 2009 "Pocket Secretary". At my age, 90, I need all the help I can get. I use them all the time. I volunteer at our local hospital "Eisenhower Medical center" and we are so big now I can't remember all the info I need. So thanks again.

Margaret Cumming  
Rancho Mirage, CA

Greetings – the pocket secretary arrived a few days ago; a reminder that days and months move along in a rapid fashion; thank you. Thank you also for your care and thoughtfulness twelve months a year.

Fenna J. Cooper  
Seal Beach, CA

Thank you very much for the nice things that you do for all of the retirees. I am 80 years old. I ask that you please waive my payment of dues. Thank you for mailing us an annual pocket secretary.

Marjorie B. Nicholson  
Pasadena, CA

Many, many thanks for my 2009 Pocket Secretary. Please keep on helping us in every way.

Florence Permaul  
Oakland, CA

Thank you so much for my Pocket Secretary. I appreciate so much for all that you do to make our lives a bit more happier. So keep up the good work. We truly love you for it. Graciously,  
Betty Brand  
Westlake Village, CA

Thank you for my very nice 2009 Pocket Secretary. I very much appreciate your thoughtfulness.  
Irene Marquez  
El Paso, TX

Again, thank you for the pocket secretary. It gets much use. Keep referring to it for appointments, notes, etc. One location for much information.

Kenneth L. Pavlick  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Dear Peggy – That was really nice of you to remember all the birthdays. They seem to come around so fast now-a-days. It's always nice to be remembered. Thanks again.

Mabel L. Markham  
Los Angeles, CA

*The Peggy to whom the above letter from Mabel Markham is addressed is Peggy Peck a valued volunteer member of RELAC's Outreach Committee. The Board appreciates all those who serve.*

I retired from L.A. County March 31, 1978. Been retired 30 years. My wife is 89 and I am 92. We live in a place called "The Forum" in Peoria, AZ. There is an independent living section with apartments, assisted living section and a health care section. It is the most perfect place to live I have ever seen. My benefits from the County are far better than anyone here has.

Bob Disterdick  
Peoria, AZ

I am renewing my membership in RELAC for another year. I always enjoy reading your Newsletter and I enjoyed attending your 50th Anniversary luncheon this year. I am still working and am an "active" Employee. I am enclosing \$10.00 for my renewal.

Gerald Billard  
Long Beach

*Editor's note: A hearty you're welcome to all of the writers of the above letters who thanked RELAC for the 2009 Pocket Secretary. The board is pleased that they meet our member's needs.*



## Is Your RELAC Information Up-To-Date?

You don't want to miss the bi-monthly RELAC Newsletter and the important information contained therein.

If you haven't already done so, please make sure your address is current. We do not get information from LACERA when you change your address. It has to come from you.

Just drop us a note, call (800) 537-3522 or email us at [admin@relac.org](mailto:admin@relac.org) and become aware of the many activities RELAC sponsors for our members.

*If you know of an active or retired county employee, who is not a member of RELAC, pass this on and let them know who's looking out for their well-being.*

RELAC  
1000 South Fremont Avenue, Unit 15  
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802  
(800) 537-3522

Retired ☐ Active ☐

*Please send me an application for membership in RELAC.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



## For Sale

**FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL PARK**, Covina Hills, CA. Two internment spaces in lot 2283, Honor Section. Asking price \$3500 for both. Owners will split transfer and recording fees. Please call Geoff or Donna at 760-244-3097 or email [sikorski3@hotmail.com](mailto:sikorski3@hotmail.com) and reference Forest Lawn.

**CAMPING MEMBERSHIP** at Silent Valley 5 Star Park located in Banning, CA. Membership paid until November 8. Guaranteed 6 weeks a year. Dues \$600 per year, just pay transfer fee of \$400. Florence Davis (541) 472-9496; email [bigtandflo@clearwire.net](mailto:bigtandflo@clearwire.net)

**THOUSAND TRAILS**. Owner and life member, may use all over the United States. Legal documents available, annual dues paid up to January 2009. \$4500 or best offer. Contact Patricia Murry (323) 582-5559.

**RESURRECTION CEMETARY**, Monterey Park, CA. 2 side-by-side grave sites. Valued at \$7,000 each. Will sell for \$6,000 total for 2. Call Michael Kapic, Retired Sheriff at 626-282-8658.



## Travel To China Next Spring With RELAC

*"It was an amazing tour and an incredible value."  
– Josephine Starr (5/23/08 RELAC Tour)*

- This incredible \*10 day/7 night tour starts from Los Angeles (also San Francisco or New York) on **May 15, 2009**.
- Next presentation/planning meeting is Saturday, December 6, 2008. Call Jeff to reserve your seat.
- All-inclusive – Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, & Suzhou – all flights, hotels, meals, professional English speaking guides, ground transportation, transfers, sites, and entertainment tickets ^ (airport tax, China visa, & insurance are separate).
- **Call Jeff for a FREE 2009 tours catalog!**
- Tour Presentation Online:  
<http://www.chinadiscoverytours.com/sp-relac/index.html>



**Contact Jeff Adkins**

TF: 866-992-4462 x. 117 D: 310-802-7117  
[www.chinadiscoverytours.com](http://www.chinadiscoverytours.com)  
[jeff@chinadiscoverytours.com](mailto:jeff@chinadiscoverytours.com)  
20407 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503

**China Discovery Tours**  
Asia travel specialist for  
over 20 years



CASOT#1021060-10

\*Including international travel dates.

# California Governor Signs Hospital Infection Control Act into Law

On September 25 the Medical Facility Infection Control Act finally became the law in California. This new law will save lives, reduce suffering and save the state millions of dollars. General acute care hospitals are now required to implement certain procedures for the screening, prevention, and reporting of specified health care associated infections.

There are many cases of patients, especially seniors and children, who enter a hospital without any infections, and leave seriously ill. Many die from contracting these infections. During the last several years 25 states have created laws that address this problem. As a result lives have been saved and suffering prevented. The Chicago Tribune recently stated that the occurrences of hospital acquired infections were reduced 70% following the enactment of the law in Illinois. This could also result in more than \$2 billion savings to the California state budget if similar results are achieved.

Passing a law to protect patients from hospital acquired infections proved challenging. Attempts were made in the years 2004 and 2007 to create such a law without success. Last October, at the annual California Senior Legislature Session at the Capitol, a proposal was made and recommended to the Legislature to try again. Leadership on this issue was provided by Sol Fingold, a member of the RELAC Board and of the Senior Legislature. Subsequently Senator Elaine Alquist presented Senate Bill (SB) 1058 which was passed by both the Senate and Assembly by wide margins.

Congratulations are due to the California Senior Legislature and to Sol Fingold for this signal achievement.



## LEGISLATION CORNER

by Bill de la Garza, Chair  
RELAC Legislation Committee

As noted in my Retirement Board Report, Governor Schwarzenegger signed both of the Post Employment Benefits Commission (PEBC) Bills that will regulate retirement systems and protect benefits for retirees. This was very good news for California Retirement Systems. Just as important, the PEBC report emphasized the need for **Pre-Funding** as a workable method for the purpose of reducing the unfunded liability in retiree health and retirement plans. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, County Management with the assistance of LACERA, have developed a workable pre-funding implementation plan specifically designed to address and manage unfunded liability and rising health care costs.

Your RELAC Legislation Committee will be meeting in the near future to discuss our legislative position and plans for 2009. Some of these include:

- Oppose proposals which mandate Social Security and Medicare coverage of state and local government employees.
- Support proposals which would increase the portability of government pension and deferred income plans, including by allowing Section 457 transfers to purchase retirement service credits, and relax limits on contributions to and benefits from such plans.
- Continue to support proposals to repeal or deduce the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision which reduce the amount of Social Security benefits received by many Federal, State, and local government retirees and their spouses.
- Support legislation intended to eliminate billing fraud in the workers' compensation system.
- Oppose any type of legislation that attempts to undermine Defined Benefit Retirement plans in favor of Defined Contribution plans for government employees.

**5% Increase in Survivor Benefits – Still our No. 1 Priority:** In June of 2002, through the collective bargaining process, active county employees were given a 5% survivor benefit increase from 60% to 65%. The State Legislation that supported the increase included active employees and **retirees**. During the collective bargaining process the unions, namely local 660 of SEIU got together with County management and eliminated retirees from the 5% survivor benefit increase. RELAC attended the combined Board of Retirement and Board of Investment meeting when the increase was approved as submitted for active members only. RELAC strongly objected to the increase because it did not include retirees. RELAC still feels that this was an unfair and poor decision and will continue to lobby and fight for the 5% increase for retirees who retired prior to June of 2002. Unfortunately, this is not a favorable period to be asking for benefits. We will keep you posted on our efforts.

I will like to recognize and thank the following members of the 2008 RELAC Legislation Committee: **Mary Lou Bangar, John Fleming, Martin Golds, George Hernandez, Fred Miller and Simon Russin.** Legislatively speaking, I leave you with the below listed thought:

*" Never vote for the best candidate; vote for the one who will do the least harm."*

Frank Dane



# IN MEMORIAM

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

*\* denotes RELAC members*

## Adoptions

Gonzalez, Elvira\*

## Alcohol/Drug Pgms. Admin.

Russo, Anthony\*

## Assessor

Ferguson, Frances M.\*

Marks, Helen L.\*

Miller, Robert F.\*

Morgan, Leonard H.\*

Rainville, Katharine M.

Wilder, Willie A.\*

## Beaches & Harbors

Campbell, Jack E.\*

## Building Services

Matthews, Willie\*

## Child Support Services

Ballard, Aalice

Mitchell, Mary L.\*

## Children's Services

Galvan, Oscar L.

Ross, Evelyn\*

Wyatt, Rosie

## Communications

Taylor, Florence A.\*

## County Clerk

Marquis, Olga M.\*

## County Counsel

Parker, Jeanne E.

## Data Processing

Broker, Ruth

Fuston, Oberdee W.

Hagen, William A.

## District Attorney

Lewis, Frances E.\*

Lundquist, Donald L.\*

## Engineer

Terranova, Gasper\*

## Engineer/Facilities

Warren, David C.\*

Matsuoka, Matsuo\*

## Fire

Bartlett, Ray W.\* (Forestry & Fire Warden)

Cash, Raymond O.\*

Conway, Ronald L.\*

Hansen, Gerald L.\*

Padilla, Randall S.

Underwood, Manford M.

## Flood Control

Perry, Robert G.\*

Shinoda, Seiichi\*

## Harbor/UCLA Medical Center

Echavarria, Guadalupe

Komatsu, Tokiye

Slettevold, Juanita L.\*

Smith, Maurice

Spoon, Doris\*

Stitt, Elizabeth A.

## Health Services

Helm, Minna R.\*

## Internal Services

Mc Connell, Maurice D.\*

Mueller, Erwin K.\*

Whitehurst, Keith D.

## King/Drew Medical Center

Brown, William

Cornelius, Ruth H.

Erivez, Hilda

Jordan, Emma J.

Macnair, Cynthia\*

Pope, Leo A.

## LAC + USC Medical Center

Brooks, Mary A.\*

Burge, Jo A.

De La Rosa, Leonida C.

Fisher, Geneva P.

Flores, Elias\*

Harrod, Frances\*

Harvey, Pearl M.\*

Jimenez, Manuela M.

Jones, Robert E.\*

Lovinger, Louise K.\*

Maronde, Robert F.\*

McLaren, Dorothy K.\*

Ransom, Hereward W.\*

Tomer, Dorothy R.\*

## LACERA

Whitmore, Marie C.\*

## Mechanical

Nickel, George I.\*

## Military & Vetrans Affairs

Clayton, Robert L.

## Municipal Court

Spada, D. J.\* (Los Angeles)

Jackson, Glenna J. (South Gate)

## Museum of Natural History

Snelling, Roy R.

## Parks & Recreation

Miles, Mary A.

## Pediatric Pavillion

Lawson, Lorenzo

Ollie-Rich, Mary A.\*

Redmond, Minnie

## Probation

De La Cerna, Helen L.\*

Fisher, David M.

Hardy, Albert\*

Hayes, Robert R.

Heidenreich, James F.

Kohnhorst, David C.\*

Kyle, Fredric D.\*

Jenkins, Frances R.\*

Mercer, Mabel L.\*

Oziel, Solomon\*

Sanders, Jesse\*

Schmidt, Richard D.

Wong, Joseph T.

## Public Defender

Vasquez, Louis F.\*

## Public Health Program

Burch, Edythe M.

Chalfin, Larry D.

Entz, John W.\*

Harding, James H.\*

Morgan, Christine H.\*

Patterson, Joyce

Sanchez, Grace\*

## Public Library

Christensen, Elma\*

Jump, Betty E.

## Public Safety

Ramirez, Thomas

## Public Social Services

Anselmi, Genevieve M

Block, Doris H.

Cooper, Frank W.

Fernandez, Francisco E.

Finney, Paul\*

Flores, Rose

Gray, Cecilia A.

Gilbert, Charlene V.

Heavens, Marie J.\*

Hill, Julia A.

I, Mac

Johnson, Bernice E.\*

Kafesjian, George N.\*

Mays, Audrey V.

Myers, David M.\*

Reichenecker, Frank E.\*

Reyno, Annette J.

Shirokawa, Mariko\*

Su, May-Ring Y.

Thomas, Betty L.\*

Whitman, Rosalie\*



## IN MEMORIAM

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

### **Public Works**

De Rosa, Edward A.\*  
Duarte, Andrew R.\*  
Leizeruk, Gregory  
Quintero, Dario  
Wells, William R.

### **Rancho Los Amigos Hospital**

Chaffin, Dorothea F.\*  
Kelly, Letitia  
Robledo, Betty L.\*

### **Reg-Recorder/County Clerk**

Garza, Ramona  
Hammond, Colleen

### **Road**

Hamilton, Billy  
Lewis, Calvin E.\*  
Loya, Ernest\*  
Thomas, David O.

### **Sheriff**

Brazier, J. B.  
Buchler, Steven J.\*  
Corrington, Diana M.\*  
Dalbis, Anthony P  
Gage, Richard H.\*  
Griffin, Ronald H.  
Hall, David B.  
Harvey, Vincent B.  
Klein, Nathan

Love, Jon R.\*  
Marcotte, Mary L.  
Mc Millan, William D.\*  
O'Dell, Joseph W.  
Oneal II, James L.  
Patricio, Gumersindo D.  
Sheets, Gene A.  
Spencer, Boyd C.\*

### **So. Coast Air Quality Mgt. District**

Terzo, Daniel F.\*

### **Superior Court**

Gielow, Lucille\*

### **Superior Court/Co Clerk**

Nelson, Robert B.\*

### **Superior Court Officers**

Jules, Sylvia D.  
Mc Coy, Mimi  
Tam, Corrie Y.

### **Department Not Designated**

Adams, Frederick  
Adkins, Victoria M.  
Andre, Thomas L.  
Babcock, Adeline H.  
Boriskin, Eunice J.  
Bridges, Joseph E.  
Brotzmann, Edna E.  
Brown, David C.

Burchfield, Mary Lou  
Carter, Mary J.  
Casey, Bernadean E.  
Cathcart, Marjorie E.  
Clark, Imogene W.  
Desmond, Olive M.  
Fortune, Frances E.  
Garcia, Ines R.  
Gedstead, Ellen P.  
Gomez, Jesse  
Greben, Marjorie J.  
Gueringer, Delcie L.  
Gussman, Edward R.\*  
Kiever, Arlene M.  
Klok, Estelle B.  
Massey, Blanche A.  
Medina, Mary  
Meyerhofer, Steven J.  
Risica, Frank  
Roberts, Vera  
Smitman, Marjorie  
Sena, Opal  
Sterling, Marguerite R.  
Warren, Alpha  
Whipple Sr., Doyle H.  
Whitehead, Ralph E.  
Woods, Anderson  
Zansler, Ernest E.



*A view of the new, soon to open, Los Angeles County - USC Medical Center (photo courtesy L.A. County CEO)*

# General Membership Meeting

Greg Walia & Fred Miller, Co Chairs, Program Committee



**IMPORTANT!**  
Are you moving?  
Did you change your  
name?

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

### CHRISTMAS CAROLERS

*From Citrus College*

**Tuesday, December 9, 2008**

### St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral

1324 So. Normandie Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90006

(Southeast corner of Normandie & Pico Boulevard)

9:15 a.m. – Complimentary Coffee and Donuts

10:00 a.m. – Holiday Meeting Begins

--Retiree Information from LACERA & RELAC

--GREAT DOOR PRIZES....

--Come and visit with friends and Co-workers

Please bring your RELAC Membership Card



Greg Walia



Fred Miller



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.



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**  
PERMIT #66  
PASADENA, CA