



RELAC newsletter

Celebrating 50 Years of Dedicated Service to L.A. County Retirees

Nov./Dec. 2009 44-6



President's Message

by Greg Walia

I can hardly believe that 2009 is almost at its end. This year has been a whirlwind of activity at RELAC with the relentless efforts of our remarkable Board members. This is a good time for me to publicly thank each of them for their hard work and support. Remember these folks are volunteers -- so whether they are planning events, working with vendors, scheduling speakers, attending meetings, giving public presentations, addressing birthday and holiday cards, drafting articles and letters, developing strategies, helping in the office, or sharing their wisdom and advice -- it is done in the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to our organization and to you, its members.

At the end of this year, we say goodbye to three of our most valued Board members.

John Fleming retired from the Sheriff's Department in 1977 after having served the County for 25 years. He became a RELAC member in 1980 and was elected to the RELAC Board in 1985. John served as RELAC President from 1999 to 2000 and has been our legislative guru for many years. His many contacts in the State Capitol have been invaluable throughout his tenure. In addition, John served on the LACERA Board from 2000 to 2002. Known to have an opinion on just about everything and not hesitating to let it be known, he has been a key contributor to many initiatives taken on by RELAC in the past 25 years. He will be missed at our Board meetings but we hope he will continue to attend events and to support RELAC.



Fred Miller retired from the Flood Control District in 1985 after 29 years of County service as an engineer. A RELAC member since 1986, Fred has been on our Board for the past 14 years. He served as Chair of our Program and Regional Support Committees. Soft spoken but articulate, Fred always brings reason to the table. His attention to detail and promptness in completing tasks have been Fred's hallmark of his work ethic. Thank you, Fred, for your dedicated service to our members.



**TAKE A LOOK
AT WHAT'S INSIDE
THE NEWSLETTER**

Don't miss the festive Holiday Membership Meeting. Join in the carols on December 8 at St. Sophia's. *You can find out all about it on the back page.*

And on January 21, 2010 is RELAC's Annual Installation Luncheon. It will be at the Quiet Cannon and will feature a hearty bargain lunch, an outstanding speaker and great entertainment. *It's all on page 3.*

For the latest information about the progress of legislation to restore fairness in Social Security for public sector retirees, *See Page 5.*



Lastly, Sol Fingold has recently advised that he will not seek re-election for his term beginning 2010. A retiree from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 1993 after 26 years of service, Sol is an active advocate for all issues of concern to seniors. Sol

served on RELAC's Board for eleven years. He has represented us well at the Congress of California Seniors Convention. He continues to serve on the County's Area Agency on Aging. He is most proud of his key role in the passage of the Hospital Acquired Infection legislation (SB 1058) signed by the Governor in 2008. Thank you, Sol, for all you've contributed. We wish you well.

continued on p. 2



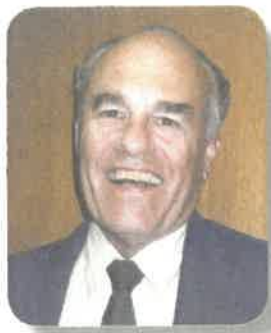
Retirement Board



by Bill de la Garza

Your Elected Retirement Board Trustee
and Ed Morris

Alternate Board of Retirement Member



As this year comes to a close the second McCauley petition, which would require additional taxes on income over \$40,000 for retired pensioners, failed to obtain the required 433,791 signatures. Beware of things to come from the persistent enemies of public employee pensions, Keith Richman and Paul McCauley, in 2010.

On the bright side, we continue to remind you that your pensions will be payable for life. Until any healthcare reform program is signed by the President of the United States for all the people, your health benefits will remain as they are now. Hopefully they will remain as they are after the President signs a healthcare reform bill.

We are honored to serve you on the LACERA Board of Retirement and the RELAC Board of Directors. You and your family have a happy and healthy holiday season.



President's Message continued from p.1

The coming year will bring us two new Board members -- Alice Prouty, a 2008 retiree of the Internal Services Department and Raul Solis who retired from the Probation Department in 1998. Both are already busy serving on committees and have landed on their feet running! We welcome them and look forward to working with them in coming years. More about each of them in future newsletters.

The holidays always make me take pause and consider the things achieved in the fleeting year and think about goals for the upcoming year.

Budgetary Prudence. During these tough financial times, your Board continues to be extra vigilant in our review of RELAC's budget and investment portfolio. As a result we have eliminated certain expenditures and have invested in technological tools that will result in providing more efficient service to you. This effort will be an on-going process in 2010.

Raising the Volume of Our Voice. To address issues that might affect your retirement and health insurance benefits, we established an Ad hoc Public Information Committee. This committee will develop strategies to respond to negative press and commentaries critical of public pensions. We will advise you periodically of our efforts through articles in future issues of our Newsletter.

Strengthened Programs. As a result of surveys conducted at General Membership meetings in 2008, we are inviting expert speakers to keep us informed on topics identified by our members as areas of interest. These topics include senior health issues; credit card and identification theft; fraudulent schemes and senior scams, etc. We expect to continue addressing these and other topics requested by our members at our 2010 General and Regional Membership meetings.

Enhanced Group Benefits. Group insurance benefit programs offered to RELAC members and their spouses has shown a 40% increase in enrollment from last year through August, 2009. Components of this program include: AD&D, Delta supplemental dental insurance, Pet insurance, Hearing Aid coverage and Legal Assistance. (For information, please call Pacific Group Insurance at (800) 511-9065). As our members become more aware of this benefit program, we expect an expanded enrollment in the coming year.

Membership Recruitment. Despite proactive efforts on the part of our Membership Committee, as of writing of this message, 2009 new member recruitment has fallen short of what we would have liked to see. This is an area we will continue to concentrate our efforts in 2010. Increasing membership and making the RELAC name a familiar term amongst retirees and impending retirees is essential to the future of our organization.

The holiday season will be just around the corner by the time you get this Newsletter. On behalf of my colleagues on the RELAC Board, I wish you and yours a blessed holiday season -- a time for all of us to recognize how fortunate we are, given the security of our LACERA pensions. May you enjoy the best of all good things in 2010. Remember, we would love to hear from you if you have any comments or suggestions to help us serve you even better.

Stay Happy and Healthy.

RELAC

Installation Luncheon

JANUARY 21, 2010

Quiet Cannon

Keynote Speaker:

**Ray Gonzales, Journalist and
KTLA's Director of Community Affairs (Retired)**
Will make a thought-provoking presentation:



"RE-EVALUATING YOUR LEGACY"

Also featured will be the uplifting voices of

THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (TSA) CHORUS

All members, their spouses and guests are invited to RELAC's Annual Installation Luncheon, held Thursday, January 21, 2010. Quiet Cannon Restaurant (Montebello Golf Course Clubhouse),

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.



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 21, 2010

Member _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Guests(s) _____

(Attached additional sheets if necessary)

A. ROAST BEEF

Members/Spouse _____ \$15.00/ea = \$ _____

Guest(s) _____ \$15.00 ea = \$ _____

TOTAL A \$ _____

A. CHICKEN

Members/Spouse _____ \$15.00/ea = \$ _____

Guest(s) _____ \$15.00 ea = \$ _____

TOTAL B \$ _____

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 7, 2010

If you cannot get the reservation form in by January 6, call the RELAC office for reservations.
(626) 308-0532 or (626) 800-537-3522

Investments Board



by Diane Sandoval
Retiree Representative,
LACERA Board of Investments



Would you believe we are approaching the Holiday Season AGAIN? What happened to 2009? Although given the economic uncertainty we experienced part of me is glad this year is almost over!

As you all are aware, June 30, 2009 marked LACERA's fiscal yearend. The market value of the portfolio as of that date was \$30.6 billion and returned -18.2%. Yes that is a negative 18.2%. The market value of the portfolio as of August 31, 2009 (latest data available) is \$32.5 billion. Thankfully the market value is heading in the right direction.

Although LACERA's portfolio's return was a negative 18.2% on June 30 it did better than other Public Pension Funds. The CALPERS portfolio returned a negative 23.5% and the CALSTRS portfolio returned a negative 25.0%.

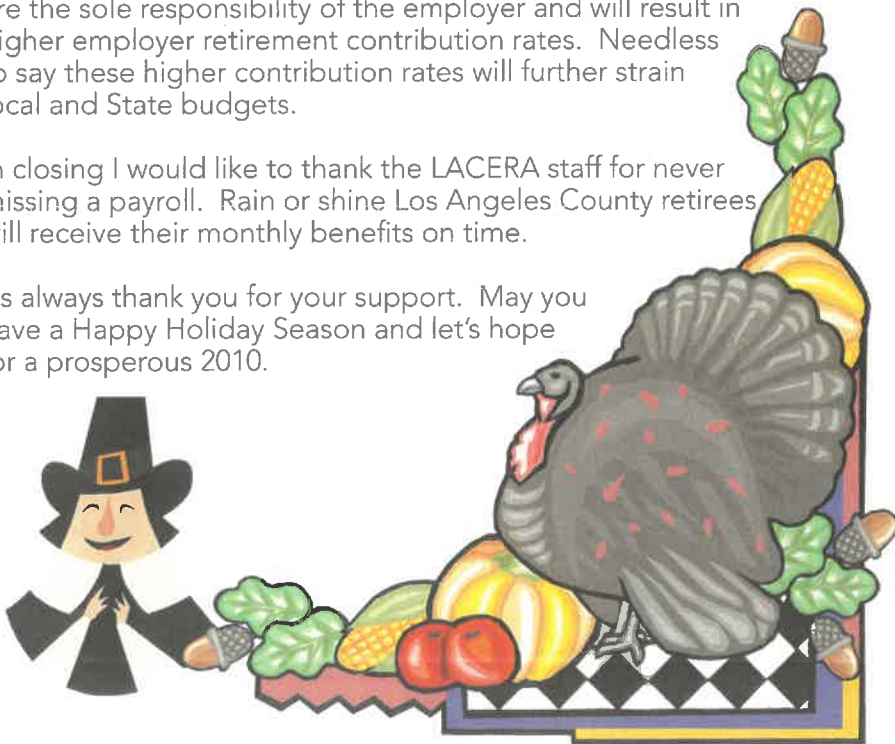
I find it difficult to believe that our local newspapers continue to vilify anyone receiving a public pension. They continue to report that anyone receiving a government pension is enjoying the life of Riley (an old saying depicting a carefree life). Boy – wouldn't that be great?

Would you like to know the average monthly benefit of Los Angeles County retirees? It is \$3,150.00. That's only \$37,800.00 per year. Why isn't the media focusing on those retirees? We all know the majority of us who served the public our entire careers aren't newsworthy because our pensions are fair and reasonable.

As I mentioned in my last article the shortfalls in investment earnings are the sole responsibility of the employer and will result in higher employer retirement contribution rates. Needless to say these higher contribution rates will further strain local and State budgets.

In closing I would like to thank the LACERA staff for never missing a payroll. Rain or shine Los Angeles County retirees will receive their monthly benefits on time.

As always thank you for your support. May you have a Happy Holiday Season and let's hope for a prosperous 2010.



County Assures that Senior Interests Will Not Be Harmed by Merger of Agencies

by Ida Leon Ramos
RELAC Vice President



In our September/October Newsletter, RELAC advised you that we formally expressed concern to the County's CEO that the merger of the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging (LACCOA) and the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) might have a negative impact on advocacy services for seniors outside the County jurisdiction due to restrictions on the use of the former Agency's funding.

In a letter dated August 28, 2009 Bill Fujioka, the County's CEO, assured RELAC that service to our senior community remains of utmost concern to his office and the County. He pointed out that the role of both LACCOA and the AAA is to advise the Board of Supervisors on issues impacting seniors and to advocate on their behalf. The consolidation of both groups, he reports, will "provide our seniors with one voice, strengthen the advocacy role, eliminate duplication and create a single vision to address the needs of the County's growing community." Driven by economic crisis, the Board approved the merger on September 22.

In follow-up phone conversations with Jackie White, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and Cynthia Banks, Director of Community and Senior Services, RELAC reiterated its concerns. These concerns are heightened in the face of the State Budget paring down so many services to seniors despite the ongoing growth of that segment of our population.

We received assurances that the consolidation of these two bodies resulted in a reduction in operational costs but that funding for services and advocacy were not curtailed and remain under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. County funding, under the administrative direction of the Department of Community and Senior Services, provides for delivery of in-home care and meals, nutritional and health education, and other resources for seniors residing in Los Angeles County. Advocacy services extend to issues affecting all seniors and are conducted at the City, State and Federal levels.

2.00%
APY*



- Free Checking that earns 2.00% APY* with no minimum balance requirements
- ATM fees reimbursed up to \$20 per month
- Free Online Banking
- Free Identity Theft Insurance
- More surcharge-free ATMs than the largest banking network

RELAC Members
Join and receive a
free gift."

[illegible]

Hello everyone! It's hard to believe how fast 2009 is slipping away. Fall has arrived, Thanksgiving is approaching, followed quickly by winter and then the holiday season d the corner. Unbelievable!

It has been a busy year with RELAC's day at the races at Hollywood Park on June 8, RELAC's fireworks Dodger Night on June 30, and the Oak Tree Races at Santa Anita on October 8. All of these events were very well attended. Each event was great fun -- enjoyed by all. Many requests have been received to repeat these fun times in 2010.

THANK YOU -- to each and every one of you who attended these events. Your support and attendance is greatly appreciated. Needless to say, without your continued interest, these RELAC activities would not take place.

I am in the process of securing dates for future events in 2010, so watch your upcoming newsletters for information, dates, etc.

It has been a great year and I am looking forward to seeing you again next time.

Take care -- and enjoy a blessed happy holiday season!

Until next year --

In a letter to the RELAC President dated September 1, 2009, Senator Diane Feinstein acknowledged our recent communication with her office in support of the Social Security Fairness Act (SB 484).

Recognizing the importance of this legislation to many retired county employees, she expressed appreciation for our assistance and advocacy for this bill. She went on to advise that, currently, the Social Security Fairness Act has 28 co-sponsors, and the companion bill in the House of Representatives, introduced by Howard Berman has 303! This bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Finance and the Senator hopes the Committee will move quickly to report the bill to the full Senate for a vote.

RELAC will continue to provide you with updates. But in the meantime, we again encourage you to contact your Senate and Congressional representatives in support of this bill which, if passed, would reverse a gross inequity to recipients of public pensions. For more details, see RELAC's website at www.relac.org.

RELAC NEWSLETTER

Vol 44 - Nov/Dec 2009

Number 6

Retired Employees of
Los Angeles County
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Fax (626) 308-2901
E-mail: admin@relac.org

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9:00am - Noon &
1:00pm - 4:00pm
Monday - Thursday
Friday: 9:00am - Noon
Closed Saturday,
Sunday &
Public Holidays
website: www.relac.org

Golf News



Diamond Bar Golf Tournament

by Gil Sandoval
RELAC Golf Director



This Newsletter went to press before the October 26 tournament at Lakewood Country Club took place. The results can be found on the RELAC Website, www.relac.org

We are going to have our December Tournament at Diamond Bar and we will be handing out some door prizes for the occasion. This is an opportunity to wish all RELAC golfers the Happiest of Holidays and to thank you for your participation in our tournaments.

I look forward to seeing you at Diamond Bar and through 2010.

NEXT TOURNAMENT –
Monday, Dec. 7, 2009
Diamond Bar Golf Club: 8:00 A.M. start
Entry Deadline Nov. 16, 2009



RELAC Golf Entry Form

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

Monday, December 7, 2009

Please Print

1. Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Fees: \$32.00 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 @ \$32 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 16, 2009
ALL CHECKS MUST BE
IN RELAC OFFICE

For Office Use:

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

Members Spotlight



For Sale

Time share in Tamarack Beach Resort by the sea in Carlsbad Ca. 1 week, all seasons. 1 bedroom condo with all amenities. Asking \$6,500. Negotiable. Call (562) 861-8678. Ask for Mina.

Welcome New Members



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2009

Assessor

Hanno, Shirley A.
Mullaney, Mary H.

Citrus Municipal Court
Betschart, June

Fire

Horner, Gene
McIntyre, Bradley J.

Health Services

Rufolo, Christine R.
Ruiz, Linda A.
Wallace, Maclovia

Human Resources

Kocar, Carol Ann

Pathology

Timberlake, Oma

Psychology

Sotelo, Guadalupe

Public Social Services

Bratincevic, Sylvia P.

Public Works

Johnson, Gary

Sheriff

Morgan, Steve J.

Affiliate Member

(Active County Employee)
Harbor-UCLA Hospital
Frazier, Lorrene F.

See's Candies Discount Continues



Some holiday traditions are just too good to abandon! As in the past, See's Candies will honor your RELAC Membership Card to confirm eligibility for special holiday discount rates for their products. These discounts apply to pre-boxed candies of milk chocolates, dark chocolates, soft centers, nuts and chews in one pound or larger quantities. Significant discounts also apply to their Fancy gift boxed candies and specialties which make great gifts for the kids!

Call (800) 877-7337, tell the See's representative you are a RELAC Member, where you live and ask for the location of the quantity order shop nearest your home. Be prepared to show your RELAC Membership Card at time of purchase. Our organization's discount eligibility is confirmed beginning December 1, 2009 through October 31, 2010.



Retired Probation Staff Monthly Meetings

L.A. County retired Probation Officers and personnel meet the last Friday of each month at 11:30 AM at the Woodland Hills food court. Please join us for lunch, reunion, and great conversation. (Topanga Canyon & Oxnard Street)
Edith Singer
North Hills, CA



By-Laws Amendments Approved

by George Hernandez, Chair, By-Laws/Nominations/Elections Committee

On September 23, 2009, at our General Meeting at Diamond Bar Center, the membership ratified two by-law changes. The are as follows:

1. Allows the President to be an ex-officio of the Nomination and Elections procedures Committee.
2. Changes the Board of Directors meetings from not less than 12 times per year with at least one meeting per month to read to meet not more than twelve (12) times per year. For the exact wording and full text of these changes, see your Sept/Oct 2009, Vol. 44-5 RELAC newsletter.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

by Diane Sandoval
Chair, Regional Support

Huntington Beach
Mayor Keith Bohr in
the center, with RELAC
President Greg Walia
and Regional Support
Chair Diane Sandoval
(photo by Ida Ramos)



The Regional Support Committee held its final meeting on August 31, 2009 at the Huntington Beach Library and Cultural Center. I am pleased to say that it was an overwhelming success. RELAC hosted over 100 members who enjoyed a great continental breakfast.

The Honorable Keith Bohr, Mayor of the City of Huntington Beach, welcomed us to his City. He then shared a slide show prepared in honor of the City's Centennial Celebration and ended his presentation with a picture of his son, Duke, who was born during the month of July.

Rob Hill, LACERA Executive Assistant, gave us an update on the "Latest Happenings" at LACERA. Rob reminded us that LACERA's primary objective is to make sure all retirees receive their checks timely and accurately. He told us our pension benefits are protected by the California Constitution. In other words, our pension benefits are protected by law – WE OWN IT!

Here are a few interesting facts he shared with us –

- The oldest retiree is 112 years young
- 25 years ago the Plan's funded ratio was 58%
- As of June 30, 2008 (date of the latest valuation) the Plan's funded ratio was 95%
- LACERA's assets are \$32 Billion
- Approximately 75-80% of pension costs are paid out of the investment earnings generated by the portfolio
- The remaining 20-25% is paid by the employer (County of Los Angeles) and the active members (employees). While we were working we also contributed contributions to pay help pay pension costs.

He acknowledged we all expect President Obama's plan for health care to change significantly before implementation. It is only certain that the cost is currently estimated to be approximately \$1 trillion. So far President Obama continues to assure us we will be able to remain in our current plans.

My comments from the Peanut Gallery – My advice to all of you is to remain informed and current with the latest developments as they occur. Be prepared to contact your State and Federal representatives if you believe the final changes to Healthcare will negatively impact you and your family.

Serving you as Committee Chair. I'd like to send a "Special Thank You" to the RELAC Board of Directors for their support and trust in allowing me to chair this Committee.

MEETINGS IN 2010

LANCASTER REGIONAL MEETING

Donna Livermore has once again agreed to host our first meeting of the year in April. The exact date is unknown at this time but you can be assured we will give you the exact date and venue as soon as the arrangements are finalized.

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE – Our second meeting of the year will be in San Diego and is scheduled on May 18, 2010. Details will follow in the next Newsletter. **WE HOPE YOU PLAN TO ATTEND!**

VENTURA/OXNARD MEETING

Our third and final meeting is tentatively scheduled during the month of September. Once again the exact location (Hotel) is unknown at this time – we'll let you know as soon as plans are finalized.

We hope you are able to attend one or more of our meetings. We promise to make it worth your time plus you have the opportunity to meet new friends and catch up with former co-workers.

Permit me to take this opportunity to thank the members of my committee for their support and for their dedication. It was a pleasure. Most of all thank you for taking time to attend our meetings throughout the year. It's been a pleasure serving you. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



RELAC members Joe Orosco, retired from Rancho Los Amigos, and Carole Moss Kirkwood, former L.A. County Library department head, enjoy a fabulous continental breakfast at the Huntington Beach regional meeting. (photo by Ida Ramos)



RV Outing Notes

Ed Clifton
Coordinator of RV Club



Twenty-two rigs enjoyed a great outing at the Chula Vista RV Resort. The weather was perfect and the comradery was even better. Jesse & Phyllis Murph were wagon masters and, as usual, they did an outstanding job. With everyone pitching in to help, wherever the need, makes the wagon master's job so much easier. Two new members joined us in Chula Vista; Bill & Janice Hayhurst and Ken & Janet Cerato. We would like to welcome them into our camping club. The two women also happen to be twin sisters. Another sister and her husband, Leon & Diane Stegall, joined us at our last outing in Lake Elsinore, way to go. Also, R.J. Thomas and friend Joyce were again able to join us. We are always glad to welcome new members as it helps our club to grow.

The usual activities were enjoyed; old town San Diego, Tijuana, Sea World, the zoo and a multitude of other things to do kept everyone busy. A couple days of golf were also on tap for our golfers. Our next campout will be on January 25-26-27 at the Pachanga RV Resort in Temecula. Wagon masters are Don & Shirley Egbert. Coupon follows.

For those that want to come down a day early or stay a day late, you need to book through the wagon masters; include the fee (\$32.00) for each day and indicate the day you want to stay either, Sunday or Thursday.

Remember your table service as the club no longer supplies it.

R.V. CAMPOUT RESERVATION

CAMPGROUND: Pachanga RV Resort

DATES: January 25-26-27, 2010

Names: _____
(Last) (Retiree) (Spouse)

Address: _____
(No.) (Street)

City: _____
(State) (Zip)

Telephone: () _____

DEADLINE: Monday December 21, 2009

Make checks for \$99.00 payable to Don Egbert and mail to:

Wagon Masters: Don & Shirley Egbert
31920 Trail Road
Agua Dulce, CA 91390

Telephone: (909) 661-251-0755

Additional nights through Resort Office \$32.00 per night.

CALL IN ADVANCE 1-800-926-5593

Motor Home _____ Trailer _____ Length _____

News From LACERA

by Janice Golden
Assistant Executive Officer

CONTACT LACERA:
Call, Email, Write, Visit
LACERA offers several ways for our members to contact us when they have questions or concerns, or if they need to make changes to their personal account information.



CALL US: 1-800-786-6464

Some retirees prefer to call in to speak directly with a Retirement Benefits Specialist. Our Call Center is open from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding holidays). LACERA receives approximately 14,000 calls each month from members seeking information. The Call Center is staffed by Retirement Benefits Specialists who have been trained to answer retirement questions and assist members with their requests. In addition to answering questions, staff can help members who need to update their personal account information -- such as address change, direct deposit enrollment, beneficiary information update, etc. -- right over the phone.

Please note, to protect member records and ensure privacy, staff will ask questions to validate the identity of the caller prior to disclosing private information.

EMAIL US: welcome@lacera.com

WRITE US: LACERA, P.O. Box 7060, Pasadena, CA, 91109-7060

LACERA has a dedicated Correspondence Unit to respond to email inquiries and letters from members.

VISIT US: LACERA is located at 300 N. Lake Avenue, Pasadena, 91101

The Public Counter is open to meet with members between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). No appointment is necessary.

No matter which communication method you prefer, our retirement specialists will help answer your questions and assist you with your requests.



Touring With Great Western

626-578-1161 • 800-344-7090

Don't forget to ask for your RELAC discount!

CST# 1016229-40

MONUMENTS & CANYONS



OF THE SOUTHWEST



Air Tour Rates:

Double Per Person \$1799.00 - Single: \$2099.00

Air Tour - Tour Price Includes -

Airport transfers, Round Trip Airfare, Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation, Full Time Escort, 7 Nights Hotel Accommodations, Tax & Baggage Handling
11 Meals: 7 Breakfasts & 4 Dinners,
Sightseeing & Admissions per itinerary

Departs: April 24th - Return: May 3rd

- Rail Tour Pricing -

Double Occupancy/Roomette Per Person - \$1799.00

Single Roomette \$2259.00

Double Occupancy/Bedroom Per Person - \$2199.00

Single Bedroom \$2999.00

9 Night Rail Tour - Price Includes - The Land Tour +
Rail Station Transfers, Amtrak Rail Transportation including
2 Nights Selected Sleeper Accommodation Round Trip,
2 Dinners & 2 Breakfast

- Tour Highlights -

Aztec Ruins National Monument Tour - Four Corners Monument
Mesa Verde National Park Tour - Arches National Park Tour
Canyonlands By Night Evening River Trip - Colorado National
Monument Tour - Canyonlands Needles Overlook
Edge of the Cedars State Park Tour - Shiprock - Fisher Towers
Gooseheads State Park - Utah
Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park Tour
Navajo National Monument - Navajo Museum & Trading Post - Hopi
Reservation - Cultural Center - Sipaulovi Indian Village Tour
Canyon de Chelly National Monument Tour - Navajo Nation Museum
& Visitors Center - Hubbell Trading Post & Home Tour

APR 25: MONUMENTS & CANYONS OF THE SOUTHWEST - 8 DAY AIR OR APRIL 24: 10 DAY RAIL - MOTORCOACH TOUR

Pacific Coast - Spring Fling

LOS ANGELES - VICTORIA - VANCOUVER - SEATTLE



8-Day Cruise - Rail - Motorcoach Tour

Coral Princess * Coast Starlight

Departs May 6, 2010

- Tour Price Includes -

- 4-Night Cruise - Coral Princess (all meals and entertainment aboard ship)
- Two Night Hotel Accommodations with two Breakfasts
- One Way AMTRAK Seattle/LA (choice of sleeping accommodations, all meals, complimentary reception, "Welcome Aboard" amenities)
- Victoria • Vancouver • City Tour of Seattle • Dinner at Space Needle
- Port Charges and Government Fees • Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- All Transfers • Tax & Baggage Handling

STARTING FROM \$1469.00

Pacific Coast Spring Sail & Rail

LOS ANGELES - VANCOUVER - SEATTLE



7-Day Rail/Cruise Tour

Island Princess • Coast Starlight



Departs May 14, 2010

- Tour Price Includes-

- 3-Night Cruise - Island Princess (all meals and entertainment aboard ship)
- Two Night Hotel Accommodations with two Breakfasts
- One Way AMTRAK Seattle/LA (choice of sleeping accommodations, all meals, complimentary reception, "Welcome Aboard" amenities)
- Vancouver • City Tour of Seattle • Dinner at Space Needle
- Port Charges and Government Fees • Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- All Transfers • Tax & Baggage Handling

STARTING FROM \$1399.00

Christmas at the Castle



Hearst Castle

Per Person Double: \$459.00 Single: \$569.00

Visit Hearst Castle at night and experience the blazing displays of lights and decorations in celebration of this special time of year.

- Tour Includes -

- Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- 2 Nights Hotel Accommodations
- 5 Meals: 2 Continental Breakfasts 1 Lunch, 2 Dinners • Hearst Castle Evening Tour • Elephant Seal Viewing
- Visit to Solvang & Cambria • Luffa Farm - Lunch & Tour • Tax & Baggage Handling • Driver's Gratuity
- Edna Valley Vineyards - Tour & Tasting
- Green Acres Lavender Farm

DEC 3: CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY EXCURSION - 3 DAY MOTORCOACH - HEARST CASTLE - SOLVANG - CAMBRIA

Rights of Retirees Governed by the "County Employees Retirement Law of 1937" (The 1937 Act)

There are 20 counties in California, including Los Angeles County, which operate under the Retirement Law of 1937. Several retired members from these counties have inquired as to what are the rights of retired members. The following information concerning the rights granted to retirees of the 20 counties by the 1937 Act is excerpted from an analysis prepared for the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA) by George Shoemaker. George is the President of the Retired Employees of San Diego County and is past President of CRCEA. Anyone interested in reading the entire document may find it on the CRCEA Website at www.crcea.org. It will be posted in early November.

The entire document, including the following excerpts, identifies specific rights that have been found to be best protected by knowledgeable and vigilant members of county retirement systems.

The excerpts from the CRCEA analysis follow.

The purpose statement of the Act in Section 31451 specifically recognizes a "public obligation to county and district employees," and that "retirement compensation and death benefit(s) (are) additional elements of compensation for future services."

I) Retired County employees have a vested right to a pension for life under the terms of the defined benefit plan in effect during their active employment.

A retired County employee's vested pension rights are as protected as the original right to be paid a salary. Both are based upon the contractual exchange of the employee's services for a financial benefit. The only difference is the timing of the payments. The California Supreme Court in Kern v. City of Long Beach, 29 Cal 2d. 848 (1947) observed at page 853:

"...public employment gives rise to certain obligations which are protected by the contract clause of the Constitution, including the right to the payment of salary which has been earned. [4] Since a pension right is "an integral portion of contemplated compensation" ... it cannot be destroyed, once it has vested, without impairing a contractual obligation. Thus the courts of this state have ... uniformly held that pension laws ... establish contractual rights."

Under the California Constitution, a "law impairing the obligation of contracts may not be passed." (Cal. Const., art I, § 9.) Likewise, our Federal Constitution provides: "No state shall . . . pass any . . . law impairing the obligation of contracts . . ." (U.S. Const., art. I, § 10, cl. 1.)

Pension is defined in Government Code Section 31471 as "payments for life."

III) Retirees receiving Health Care benefits from their county or retirement system are entitled to notice to their recognized representative organization and an opportunity to comment prior to changes.

Government Code Section 31693 provides:

"In any county, district, or county retirement system providing benefits under this article, the county, district, or county retirement system shall provide any organization that is recognized by the retirement system of the county or district as representing the retired employees of that county or district reasonable advance notice of any proposed changes in employee health care benefits affecting those retired employees and the organization shall have a reasonable opportunity to comment prior to any formal action by the county, district, or county retirement system on the proposed changes. As used in this section, "proposed changes" means significant changes affecting health care benefits, including, but not limited to, changes in health care carriers, plan design, and premiums."

IV) If the Board of Retirement contemplates any changes to the benefits of retirees, or the use of any excess retirement system funds, then notice must be provided to any organization that is recognized by the Board as representing the retirees. The organization shall then be afforded an opportunity for comment prior to any formal action by the Board.

This right was added in Government Code Section 31592.5:

"The board shall provide to any organization that is recognized by the board as representing the retired employees of the county or district reasonable advance notice of any proposed changes to the retirement benefits offered by the system or the use or uses of excess funds of the retirement system. The organization shall have a reasonable opportunity to comment prior to any formal action by the board on the proposed changes."

V) Retirees have a right to know the financial condition of the trust funds that pay their benefits. The Retirement Board must file an annual financial statement.

This right is codified in Government Code Section 31597 for a Retirement Board using calendar year accounting:

"Before June 30th of each year the retirement board shall file in the office of the county auditor and with the board of supervisors a sworn statement that shall exhibit the financial condition of the retirement system at the close of the preceding December 31st and its financial transactions for the year ending on that day."

Continued on p. 13

VI) The Retirement Board is responsible for the investment decisions and administration of the retirement system, and must administer it to assure the prompt delivery of benefits to participants and beneficiaries. The Board's duty to participants and beneficiaries takes precedence over any other duty.

Voters passed Proposition 162, the "California Pension Protection Act of 1992" in order to strengthen the protections for retired public servants. It amended Section 17 of Article XVI of the California Constitution, and provides in part:

"(b) The members of the retirement board of a public pension or retirement system shall discharge their duties with respect to the system solely in the interest of, and for the exclusive purposes of providing benefits to, participants and their beneficiaries, minimizing employer contributions thereto, and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the system. A retirement board's duty to its participants and their beneficiaries shall take precedence over any other duty."

VIII) Active employee unions may not negotiate away any pension benefits already earned by retirees.

A retiree is entitled to the pension benefits earned while working. As noted by the Court of Appeal in Pasadena Police Officers Assn. v. City of Pasadena, 147 Cal App.3d 695 (1983) they have earned a "contractually vested right to a fixed pension which cannot be reduced."

Because retirees are no longer employees, active employee unions have no grounds to represent their interests in negotiations with a County on pension related issues. The MEYERS-MILIAS-BROWN ACT, beginning at Government Code Section 3500, governs local public employee organizations relations with their employers. Section 3504 provides: "The scope of representation shall include all matters relating to employment conditions and employer-employee relations, including, but not limited to, wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment..."

NOTE: The issue of employee unions undermining other retiree benefits has been raised by commentators and in passing in several cases, but no case definitively resolves the issue in the context of a 1937 Act county.

A Tribute to Mary Ann Gutierrez

RELAC and friends were saddened to hear of the passing of Mary Ann Gutierrez who died on August 7, 2009 -- she was 98 years old.

Mary was born in New Mexico on February 23, 1911 and came to California with her husband, Roland Gutierrez, in the early 30's. They raised four children in Los Angeles and, in 1938, she began her career with Los Angeles County at "Big General". She retired in 1970 with 32 years of service. She served on the RELAC Board from 1974 to 1995. She is credited for establishing our Outreach Program which maintains contact with retirees who are 90-years old and over.

Mary is remembered by current Board members, our staff, her family and many friends with deep affection and respect. An avid volunteer, Mary contributed her time and energy to the Good Shepard Home for Homeless Women, Boy Scouts of America, Neighborhood Watch, Florence Critendon Home for Unwed Mothers, and served as a Precinct Officer for elections. In the words of her granddaughter, Mary Anne McDonnell, "Thank you [Mary] for inspiration and doing it right!" You will be missed.

RELAC Supports Orange County Retiree's Appeal in Health Insurance Premium Case

by Ida Leon Ramos
RELAC Vice President

On September 4, 2009, the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA), of which RELAC is a member, joined with the California Federation of Teachers, the Faculty Association of the CA Community Colleges and the CA Community Colleges Independents' Organization in filing a friend of the court brief.

The brief was filed in the US Court of Appeals (9th Circuit) of the judgment of the US District Court (Central District). It was filed in support of the appeal by the Retired Employees of Orange County of a lower court decision to allow Orange County to disregard its 22-year practice to include retirees and active employees in the same insurance premium pool. Although this longstanding practice included the consideration of benefits to retirees in their collective bargaining process, Orange County unilaterally separated retired employees which resulted in significant increases-- up to 19% -- in premiums for retirees beginning January 2009.

It is vitally important to all public sector retirees that the courts uphold their interests in protecting the benefits to which an employer has been committed. In addition to its membership in CRCEA, RELAC supported the filing of the brief with a financial contribution.

Los Angeles County has a contractual agreement with LACERA regarding the payment of premiums for retired employees. Premium rates are negotiated with health care insurers separately than those for active employees. Bill Fujioka, current CEO for Los Angeles County, has publicly assured RELAC membership that provisions are being made to ensure the County's long-term ability to continue to honor that agreement. RELAC remains vigilant in monitoring that commitment.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Affirmative Action

Campbell, Carolyn L.

Animal Control

Kawaski, John F.*

Assessor

Burrill, John G.
Irvin, Donald A.*
Laughead, Percy A.
Munoz, Felipe A.*
Pope, Alexander H.
Rybicki, Julian

Auditor – Controller

Bigham, Robin X.*
Lambert, Herbert W.

Board of Supervisors

Estrella, Emelita F.
Ryfle, Patricia*

Beaches & Harbors

Clifton, Norma

Chief Administrative Office

Kelly, Walter J.*

Chief Information Office

Grant, Willie M.
Torrance, Wilbert J.

Child Support Services

David, Beverly*

Children's Services

Chatman, Elaine
Coe, Irma-Jean*
Friend, George E.*
Jimenez, Manuel
Martinez, Sulpicio P.
Norton, Betty
Schwarzbach, Sidney*
Vega, Virginia B.

Community & Sr. Citizens Svcs.

Leon, Julian H.*
Merana, Quinciano D.

Data Processing

Robinson, Jon

District Attorney

Anacleto, Africa P.

Engineer/Facilities

O'Dell, Woodrow B.
Ross, Leroy

Facilities Management

Anderson, R. Louis*
Spruill, Jack L.*

Fire

Bienhoff, Ralph M.*
Cervantes, Louis D.*
Crow, William R.*
Kelly, Joseph W.

Martin, Orvel L.*

Neuhalfen, William L.

Weatherbie, Michael

Flood Control

Pelmear, Robert L. *

Harbor/UCLA Medical Center

Chambers, Edna*
Cord, Elizabeth T.*
Green, Dorothy
Ichino, Paul T.
Mc Daniel, Georgia L.
Rogers, Martha J.
Van Hook, Richard
Turner, Jewel L.*
Zipser, Robert D.

Health Services

Arnold, Alyce C.*
Little, Myrtle J.*

High Desert Health Systems

Edwards, Juanita R.
Gutierrez, Jovita
Von Rettberg, Bernice M

Internal Services

Abdelmeseh, Khairy S.
Anderson, James E.
Blocker, Barry K.
Green, Esther J.
Hunt, Mary A.*
Ito, Michiko*
O'Connell, Eugene R.
Williams, James E.

King/Drew Medical Center

Abeyta, Jenny M.
Preston, Richard
Scott, Henry A.
Threats, Pauline D.*

LAC + USC Medical Center

Aguirre, Guadalupe*
Campbell, Wanda
Garcia, Ester I.
Garcia, Hazel M.*
Gutierrez, Mary A.*
Huang, Juei H.
Hughs, Halbert M.
Hunn, Dorothy L.
Inzunza, Stella
Laine, Marjorie
Moss, Richard L
Poczatek, Mary
Quinones, Geneva
Royal, Rose M.
Taranto, Alfred*
Wing, Alice N.

Local Agency Formation Comm.

Benell, Ruth R.*

Marshal

Fenton, Frances L.*
Green, Helen*

Mechanical

Norris, Max A.*

Mental Health

Haugen, Ruth M.
Paul, Louis P.
Weiman, Patricia K.

Municipal Court

Gray, Inez L.* (Citrus Court)
Meigs, Suzanne F. (Malibu Court)

Museum of Natural History

Nash, Daniel J.*

Olive View Hospital

Rennie, Jean M.*

Parks & Recreation

Collins, Willie
Kruse, Stanley W.
Martin, Richard A.*
Martinez, Raymundo*
Valle, Ignacio*
White, Lavern H.

Regional Planning

Barlow, Frederick J.

Plant Management

Hayes, Louis S.

Probation

Abkin, Irving A.
Brady, Barbara W.*
Maltrotti, John S.
Mc Graw, Victor G.*

Public Defender

Buffington, Kathryn J.
Watts, Hugh E.*

Public Health Program

Bartok, Magda*
Connolly, Barbara J.
Harpuder, Ralph*
Hsieh, Paul*
Krauel, Ernest W.*
Murray, Alice D.*
Omansky, Susan O.
Shook, John B.*
Solomon, Robert L
Tagashira, Ayako*
Tuero, George J.*

Public Library

Barrera, Berta H.
Bohlin, Laverne M.*

IN MEMORIAM

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

Public Social Services

Basconcillo, Theresa M.
Boylin, Lois*
Buffington, William B.*
Cheeseman, Kenneth M.*
De Guevara, Alfonso
De Salvo, Michael R.
Goodman, Beatrice B.
Grijalva, Helen*
Hancock, Gwendolyn L.*
Johnson, Wanda J.
Jones, Ella M.
Lamar, Barbara
Lyde, Pauline R.*
Metz, Elaine C.*
Miller, Goldie
Reed, Sheila E.
Rubinfier, Beatrice*
Rutan, George A.
Thompson, Yvonne
Toliver, Angela*
Vazquez, Magali
Williams, Katie*
Wilson, Katherine

Public Works

Aceves, Manuel
Devers, Jack A.
Rosado, Felipe
Smith, Clyde E.*

Purchasing & Stores

Downton, William R.

Rancho Los Amigos Hospital

Brooks, Rose A.*
Charuwatsuntor, Yindee*
Denard, Phyllis M.
Jones, Miriam E.*
Lucas, Ester R.
Mac Quarrie, Martee

Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk

Gage, Othenia R.
Gordon, Abe*

Road

Peckovich, Nicholas
Reynolds, James B.*

Sheriff

Alexander, William E.*
Bardwell, Mary Louise*
Barnes, Claude J.*
Cole, Michael D.
Dilbeck, Argus W.*
Douglass, Harry S.
Forbes, Evelyn
Garlinger, Christing M.

Gill, Richard E.
Grillas, Zoe L.
Humphreys, Richard I.*
Kee, Dennis D.*
Kehoe, John T.*
Knight, Marshall M.*
Kwong, Kuo H.*
Lowd, Glynis A.
Matthews, Lent E.*
Meyers, John E.*
McLeod, James T.
O'Mullen, Patrick D.
Patrick, Leroy*
Pokrajac, Patricia E.*
Sanders, Seymour
Sebek, Frank G.
Sims, Joe E.
Stassinis, John*
Truesdell, George
Van Horne, Errol J.

So. Coast Air Quality Mgmt.

Schreckengos, Melvin A.
Stazer, Alan K.

Superior Court/County Clerk

Glarum, Rose M.

Superior Court Officers

Juster, Sherman*
Lenox, Linda L.
Stanley, Alan M.*

Treasurer & Tax Collector

Blanco, Benjamin I.

Women's Hospital

Kodmur, Ayleen M.*

Department Not Designated

Anderson, Jessie E.
Au, Ellen Y.
Bond, Phyllis M.
Briones, Henry
Contreras, Mike L.
Driskel, Georgia M.
Flanders, Robert L.
Fontes, John G.
Holman, Christine
Larsen, Gladys M.
Loken, Archie R.
McLean, James E.
Naftali, Leah
Phelps, Arthur D.
Preuitt, Eddie M.
Sawaki, Yasue
Shafer, Wilbert T.
Shenkman, Dorothy M.
Sudduth, Robert O.*
Vanderpol, Robert L.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My mother, Frances V. Hill, passed away on August 10, 2009 at the age of 94 in McMinnville, Oregon. She is the wife of retired deputy sheriff Charles E. Hill who passed away in 2000. She had been receiving, reading and enjoying the RELAC newsletter for many years. She had several letters of appreciation published in your newsletter. I know she would have wanted me to contact RELAC when the time came. She and all the family are proud of my dad's service with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department. She appreciated the services your organization provides to its retired employees and their families. A mass and small service was held on August 17, 2009.

Daughter of Frances V. Hill

Dear RELAC friends – one and all – for the lovely birthday card I received from you. So meaningful and much appreciated (on my 96th!!!). In these trying times it is so wonderful to know we are part of a great organization that has our best interests at heart and looking after us. Thank you for caring!

*Lorraine Lipman
Los Angeles, CA*

Hello everyone at RELAC: Enjoy the newsletter and all your hard work that you do there. I turned 80 years of age on April 11, 2009. Thanks for everything you all do.

*Stanley Massey
Colorado Springs, CO*

Have meant to write many times to "Thank you" for the yearly calendar and for the news, local updates. Just hard for me to write these days, but the thought is there. Hope you can read this.

*Jane S. Low
Sun City, CA*

I was so delighted to hear I am remembered. It has been so many years ago. I never expected to be around at "95" years of age, still active and handling my life and busyness. Walking about a mile a day and staying happy. My regards to all there and a big "Thank You" for the Birthday card.

*Naomi Kearney
Arcadia, CA*

Thanks for the help in keeping retirement checks coming. At 85 I enjoy my time after each year.

*Leona Hyams
Encinitas, CA*

General Membership Meeting

George Hernandez, Chair, Program Committee



Holiday Entertainment

Christmas Carols

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral
1324 S. Normandie Avenue Los Angeles, CA
(Southeast corner of Normandie & Pico Blvd.)

9:00am - Caroling, Coffee and Donuts

10:00am - Holiday Festivities Begin

Featuring Citrus College Women's Ensemble

Retiree Information from LACERA & RELAC

Door Prizes

You will need your RELAC Membership Card



IMPORTANT!
Are you moving?
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and mail to:

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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

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