



RELAC newsletter

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

Nov/Dec 2010 Vol 45-6

President's Message

by Greg Walia

I will be completing two great years as your RELAC President at the end of this year. It has been a tremendous honor for me to have been the first American of Indian heritage to have served in this capacity. It made my late Mom very proud when I explained to her what this fine organization stood for and what it meant personally to me. Thanks to you, our members, and a big thank you to the RELAC Board for this honor.



On October 28, 2010 at its business meeting, the Board will elect officers for 2011. That will include: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer for one-year terms beginning January 1, 2011. The newly elected officers will be sworn in by Los Angeles County Sheriff Leroy Baca at our annual Installation Luncheon on January 20, 2011. We will advise you who the elected officers are in our January-February Newsletter.

Domingo Delgado



At the end of this year, we say goodbye to one of our most valued Board members, Domingo Delgado. He retired from Department of Parks and Recreation in 1987 after having served the County for over 30 years. He became a RELAC member in 1987 and was elected to the RELAC Board in 2000. Domingo served as Chair of our Outreach, Program and Recreation Committees. He was well known for his "Bingo with Domingo" at

RELAC's annual picnics. Thank you, Domingo, for your dedicated service and contribution to RELAC. We wish you and your dear wife Joyce well and hope that you will continue to attend our events.

Schools have opened and the grandkids are back in school. What a relief! While their parents will continue to have daily challenges with them, we, the grandparents, can now get back to whatever we like (or don't like) to do. Its been a looong summer.

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 and the office staff, I wish you the best in 2011. Have a super holiday season by staying happy and healthy. Do let us know what you think about our services and activities.....and most important how we can serve you better.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you.



Special Notices

This is a reminder that this year RELAC's Annual Holiday Celebration will be held in Diamond Bar at the Diamond Bar Center. The date is December 8. All the details are on the back page. The usual location, St. Sophia's Parish Hall, is undergoing renovation and is not available.

Another change of location: The Annual Installation Luncheon will be held on January 20, 2011 at Almansor Court in Alhambra. Sheriff Baca will be the featured speaker. All of the information about this major event can be found on page three.

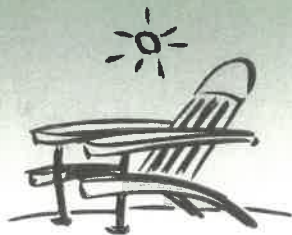
Inside the Newsletter: on page nine will be found an important report regarding a lawsuit which could result in the requirement that LACERA, along with the other counties covered by the 1937 Retirement Act, must make public the names of retirees and the amounts of their pensions. Dave Muir provides a full explanation of the issues being litigated and the arguments on both sides. We will keep you posted on the outcome.

Another Significant Current Event

Circulation of petitions continues to qualify Paul McCauley's initiative for the California ballot in 2012. This is the initiative which would apply high surtaxes to pension income over \$40,000. McCauley must obtain 433,971 qualified signatures by November 8, 2010. If this initiative does qualify for the ballot, rest assured that RELAC will join in the battle to defeat it.

Retirement Board

by Bill de la Garza
Your Elected Retirement Board Trustee



Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe. As you get older, it seems like time passes by much faster. We are already into October and by the time you get this Newsletter it will be November. Wow! The Holiday Season is upon us. I usually enjoy the holiday season because it seems that it brings out the best in us and our friends, families and neighbors. People meet you on the street and say, "Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas."

To your RELAC Board of Directors the coming of 2011 means we need to carefully address and evaluate how we met our goals in 2010 and start thinking about how we can continue to better serve our members by setting our goals for 2011 and future years.

The success of RELAC is highly dependent on its Officers, Board Members and Standing Committees. Each year our RELAC President appoints a Chairperson and members to each Standing Committee. Each committee establishes its goals and makes monthly reports on their progress to the Board of Directors. While RELAC'S most important priority is to maintain and protect our pensions and medical plans, we also provide many informational and recreation services to our membership. Some of these services include a bi-monthly Newsletter, local membership meetings and regional meetings, golf tournaments, days at the races, Dodger day, the RELAC Picnic and group tours.

WE NEED YOUR HELP: I regret telling that for the past two years, our RELAC membership numbers have continued to decline. While many of our old members have passed away, we have not recruited enough new members to replace them. Simply stated, our membership numbers are on the decline. In order for RELAC to continue to provide better services to our members we need to recruit more new members. That is why we need your help. If you know any retired or active L.A. County employees who are not RELAC members, please have them call us at (800) 537-3522 and we will be happy to mail each of them a membership application. Our dues are still very reasonable, \$2.00 per month for members, \$.50 per month for spouses. Affiliate membership dues (those who are still employed by the County) are only \$10.00 for the entire year. Again, please call the RELAC office if you have any questions. Your assistance in recruiting new members is truly appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a healthy "Happy Holidays and a Merry Christmas". Enjoy your retirement and stay healthy. As customary I leave you with this thought:

The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax.
Albert Einstein

Investments Board



by Diane Sandoval
Retiree Representative,
LACERA Board of Investments



In spite of the continued economic uncertainty and volatility in the financial markets, the LACERA portfolio is holding its own. According to the latest report from Lisa Mazzocco, LACERA Chief Investment Officer, the estimated market value of the total fund as of August 31, 2010 is \$34.1 billion. The market value of the total fund increased when compared to the market value as of June 30, 2010 which was \$33.3 billion. Please note the real estate and private market values are calculated quarterly. Consequently, the market values for months that are not quarter end reflect the most recent quarter end data.

The breakdown of the portfolio as of August 31, 2010 is shown below.

Asset Class	Market Value (millions)	ACTUAL % of Total Fund	TARGET % of Total Fund
Equities			
U.S.	\$8,385.9	24.6%	23.0%
Non-U.S.	\$9,004.2	26.4%	29.0%
Total Private Equity	\$17,390.1	50.9%	52.0%
Private Equity	\$3,420.8	10.0%	7.0%
Fixed Income	\$9,397.6	27.5%	26.0%
Real Estate	\$2,927.9	8.6%	10.0%
Commodities	\$746.8	2.2%	3.0%
Cash	\$257.6	0.8%	2.0%

The LACERA Financial Attest Audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 is in process and is scheduled to be completed in late October; too late to be included in this article.

Enjoy your retirement and the holiday season (I can't believe it's here!). Don't get caught up with the media's bias against those of us who were in public service. We worked hard for our pensions and medical benefits. I for one will be doing my fair share contributing to the economy by traveling and shopping in the next few months.

Unfortunately I will be unable to attend our next General Membership Meeting in Diamond Bar on December 8, 2010. The LACERA Board of Investments is holding its meeting on the same day. I look forward to seeing you next year at our Annual Installation Luncheon.

As always, thank you for your support in allowing me to represent you on the LACERA Board of Investments. It's a privilege to serve you!

RELAC
Annual Installation Luncheon
January 20, 2011
Almansor Court • Alhambra, CA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SHERIFF LEROY BACA

Also featured will be the uplifting voices of
THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (TSA) CHORUS
THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT COLOR GUARD
WILL PRESENT THE FLAGS



All members and their spouses and guests are invited to RELAC's Annual Installation Luncheon, being held Thursday, January 20, 2011 Almansor Court, 700 South Almansor Street, Alhambra, CA
Meal costs are being subsidized 50% by RELAC. Choice of entrees – Atlantic Salmon or Roast Beef with salad and dessert . \$15.00 per luncheon ticket - tax and tip included

No Host Cocktail Hour 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Luncheon and Program 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Free Parking

Come make new friends – Have a good time!



RESERVATION FORM

Annual Installation luncheon • January 20, 2011 • Almansor Court, Alhambra, CA

Member _____
Spouse _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Guest(s) _____

(Attach additional sheets if necessary)

A. SALMON

Member/Spouse _____ \$15.00/ea = \$ _____
Guest(s) _____ \$15.00/ea = \$ _____

TOTAL A \$ _____

B. ROAST BEEF

Member/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 12, 2011

We regret we are unable to refund payments on cancellations received after January 15, 2011

CERTIFICATE

Earn a
HIGH-5
5.00% APY*

10-Month New Member Certificate Account
(maximum deposit of \$1,000)

RELAC Members
Join and receive
a free gift!**



5% APY* 10-Month
New Member Certificate Account Special!

This offer is good for a limited time only. Join Southland and open your 10-Month Certificate Account today! Ask a Representative for details!

Southland
CREDIT UNION



*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. 10-Month Certificate Account rate special quoted effective 10-1-10. Offer is good through 12-31-10 and is subject to change without notice. Limit of one Certificate per Member. 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. Unless directed otherwise, upon maturity certificate will rollover into a standard 6-month Term Share Certificate. Excessive withdrawal penalties may apply. Fees may reduce actual earnings. Membership is subject to eligibility.** Ask a representative for details. Offer good while supplies last.

www.SouthlandCU.org • 800.426.1917

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

by Diane Sandoval
Chair, Regional Support Committee

I find it difficult to believe that the Holidays are here! Where did the year go? On behalf of the Regional Support Committee Members I thank you for attending our events in 2010.

The Committee met recently to discuss plans for 2011. We hope you will attend all, or at least one, of our upcoming meetings. We enjoy planning these meetings for your enjoyment and to provide timely and interesting information regarding your pension and medical benefits.

LAS VEGAS LUNCHEON MEETING

Yes, the Committee is planning a meeting once again in Las Vegas. Although the final date and location has yet to be decided, I can tell you that it will be on Thursday, March 31, 2011 or Monday, April 4, 2011.

You may recall in my previous article I asked for volunteers from Las Vegas to step up and help plan this event. My call for help was answered! Las Vegas residents Delia Price and Barbara Terry volunteered to look for a place to hold our meeting. I hope to have final details in my

next article. In addition, as soon as we select a site and the contract is signed I will place a reservation form with the date, location, cost of the luncheon, etc. on our website.

The Committee is excited to be returning to Las Vegas and hope you will be able to join us.

REGIONAL MEETING IN HUNTINGTON BEACH

RELAC is returning to the City of Huntington Beach. The meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at the Huntington Beach Central Library and Cultural Center, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92648. The Committee will provide additional details in a later issue of our Newsletter.

LANCASTER LUNCHEON MEETING

The Committee is planning a luncheon meeting in October. Those of you who attended this year's meeting may remember that Donna Livermore announced her home was in escrow. She planned to move out of the State once the sale closed. She will be missed! Nevertheless, the committee will carry on Donna's tradition and return to the Lancaster Elks Lodge. I will keep you apprised of our progress in future articles.

Please don't hesitate to contact the RELAC office with your suggestions on how we may improve our meetings. We are here to serve you.

STAY WELL AND MAY YOU ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SEASON!



RECREATION COMMITTEE EVENTS

2010 Was a Good Year

by Mary K. Rodriguez

Chair Recreation Committee



Hello everyone! It always amazes me how fast the years seem to slip away. 2010 is no exception. It has been a busy year. Fall has arrived and the Holiday Season is fast approaching.

The RELAC Day at the Races held on June 10, 2010 at Hollywood Park was once again a great success with 119 RELAC members and guests in attendance. It was a fun day, the weather was pleasant, the horses beautiful, and the buffet lunch was great as usual. The fourth race was dedicated to our RELAC group.

On July 5, 2010, 165 of us enjoyed a fun evening at Dodger Stadium. Following the game there was a spectacular fireworks show. It was a great evening.

A special thank you goes to Ed Clifton, Coordinator of the RV Club, and Gil Sandoval, RELAC Golf Director. Because of Ed's untiring efforts, our members enjoy the RV outings and have a great time. Gil keeps our golfers happy with his continued dedication in coordinating all the golfing events. Thank you both.

We are currently planning a Casino Day on November 10, 2010 at San Manuel Indian Casino. Hopefully we will have a good turnout for this event. If this trip is successful, perhaps we can offer more of these casino runs.

The wrinkle in our plans this year was that our RELAC Day at the Races at Santa Anita Park scheduled for October 7, 2010 was canceled. Santa Anita staff had to cancel the meet because of safety concerns with the track. Hopefully we will be able to go back there in 2011. We will keep you posted.

At present we are in the process of securing dates for future events in 2011. We would appreciate your input and ideas as to what you would like to see for other activities.

THANK YOU – to each and every one of you who attends these events. Your support is greatly appreciated. Without your interest and involvement we could not provide these recreational activities.

As I said before, it has been a good year and we are looking forward to seeing you again next year.



RV Outing Notes

Ed Clifton
Coordinator of RV Club



Fifteen rigs enjoyed our outing at the Chula Vista RV Resort. The weather was almost perfect – cool nights and mild days with a slight breeze. What more could you ask for? Our Wagon Masters did a great job, as they always do. Ken and Janet Cerato, Leon and Dian Stegall, and Betty Butner all teamed together to do an outstanding job. Also, Bill and Janice Hayhurst are included in the above group for providing our campers with great food. A lot of sightseeing, card playing and storytelling made for an enjoyable four days of camping.

The information and coupon for our next outing which will be held at the Shadow Hills RV Resort in Indio, CA on November 1, 2, 3, 2010 were published in the last issue of the RELAC Newsletter.

The RELAC Camping Club will be celebrating our Annual Christmas Party on December 6, 2010 at the Hokkaido Seafood Buffet, 3030 Cherry Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Don't forget your \$5.00 unwrapped gift for our "cut-throat" gift exchange. Hope to see you there!

Our January 2011 campout will be held on January 24-25-26, 2011 at the Pechanga RV Resort in Temecula, CA. Wagon Masters are brothers, Bob and Mike Reyes, along with their spouses Linda and Veronica. Coupon follows.

R.V. CAMPOUT RESERVATION

CAMPGROUND: PECHANGA RV RESORT
Temecula, CA

DATES: January 24,25,26, 2011

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

Address: _____
(No.) (Street)

City: _____
(State) (Zip)

Telephone:() _____

DEADLINE: Monday, December 20, 2010

COST: \$99.00 for three days; \$32.00 for early day (Sunday).

Please pay for early day through the Wagon Master

Make checks payable to Mike Reyes, the Wagon Master and mail to:

MIKE REYES
14098 Bancroft Court
Fontana, CA 923336

Telephone: (909) 357-0145

Motor Home _____ Trailer _____ Length _____

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

August & September 2010

Assessor

Delgado, Manuel
Thompson, Tia M.

Board of Supervisors

Greene, Theresa M.

Children & Family Services

Cooper, Betty L.
Dobson, Caroline
Geddes, Valerie
Green, Janie A.
Mason, Carmen

Community & Senior Services

Macias, Guadalupe C.
Yaney, William

District Attorney

McCabe, Wallace

Fire

Lawrence, Steven
Romanofsky, Cindie

Health Services

Bendana, Nancie
Ryan, Melba L.
Therien, Douglas F.
Young, Donald R.

Internal Services

Olds, James H.
Robertson, Bruce

LAC+USC Medical Center

Bowden, Sherri
Fernandez, Betty T.
McDaniel, Marsha

Library

Brewster, Dianna

Mental Health

Defever, Mary Ann
Rocha, Ramon F.
Scates, Denise

Museum of Art

Bratton, Ronald B.

Probation

Thomas, Emma J.
West, Dorene E.
Williams, James H.

Public Defender

Christy, Jeannette

Public Health

Williams, Deborah E.

Public Social Services

Myer, Karen

Public Works

Anderson, Michael
De Marzo, Marie E.
Robson, Roslyn
Vasquez, Henry M.

Sheriff

Clark, Nancy K.
Diaz, Margarita
Falbisaner, James
Judge, Terence P.
Reid, June E.
Ross, Mervin
Wiseman-Stockinger, Monique

Superior Court

Richardson, Carole J.
Villa, Esther C.

Treasurer & Tax Collector

Flores, Teresa

Department Not Designated

Alarcon, Anita
Gastil, Edgar A.
Parrish, Jessie
Vasquez, Virginia R.

New Affiliate Member

Anderson, Wilsene W.

New Associate Members

Bendana, Ezequiel
Brewster, Gregory
Castellanos, Jorge
Clark, David B.
Cooper, James M.
Delgado, Lupe
Falbisaner, Maria
Feri, Terry Ellen
Fernandez, Vincent
Garcia, Humberto
Gastil, Hazel A.
Green, Russell
Greene, Haywood
Harris, Bruce C.
Judge, Maria
Khe, Byung S.
Macias, Roberto
McDaniel, Stephen
Olds, Olivia
Parrish, Monte
Robertson, Karen
Rocha, Winona B.
Ross, Mary
Vasquez, Irene
Vasquez, Robert R.
Williams, Terry

News

From LACERA

by Janice Golden
Assistant Executive Officer



VIA PHONE OR COMPUTER, LACERA HAS WAYS TO HELP YOU.

Save time and the cost of a stamp – call LACERA to request forms or to update your personal information.

Occasionally I'll review our correspondence queues to see what types of issues or questions members are inquiring about. I've noticed a number of times where retirees have written in to request that we mail them a form or brochure.

While we are happy to fulfill any requests, I want to share helpful alternatives that, as a retiree, you could consider the next time you need information from LACERA. Did you know that presently it costs 44 cents to mail a letter (I hate to date myself, but I remember when it cost 5 cents!). There's also the time factor to consider because it takes a few days for your letter to arrive at LACERA offices where we scan it into a work queue. Written requests for information or forms are processed by staff on a first-in, first-out basis. Then you have to wait a few days for the material to arrive in the mail.

www.lacera.com

Most of our written material is available on www.lacera.com on the Brochures & Forms page to view or download; or members can place an order from the website to receive them via mail.

1-800-786-6464

We understand that some of our retirees don't use the Internet, so another option is to call our toll-free number (1-800-786-6464) with your request.

When you call, the first step is to answer a few questions to validate your identity. Once this is complete, our staff can safely change your address, beneficiary information, direct deposit information, etc. An additional benefit to calling LACERA is that our Retirement Benefit Specialists in the Call Center may be able to assist you with your request right over the phone, eliminating the need to mail a form to you. If you call, we can put the material in the mail the same day.

LACERA offers a variety of ways for retirees to get in contact with us. These methods reflect

continued on p.12

RELAC NEWSLETTER

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Number 6

Retired Employees of
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1000 S. Fremont Ave.
Unit 15, Alhambra, CA
91803-8802

(626) 308-0532

(800) 537-3522

Fax (626) 308-2901

E-mail: admin@relac.org

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Vice President

Ida Leon Ramos

Secretary

Mary Lou Bangar

Treasurer/ Past

President

Edward C. Morris

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Bill de la Garza

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Raymond R.

Guyovich

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Raul Solis

Emeritus

Dave E. Kaling

Editor: Martin Golds

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Newsletter is believed

to be from reliable

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Office Hours

9:00am - Noon &

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Monday - Thursday

Closed Friday,

Saturday, Sunday &

Public Holidays

Website: www.relac.org

Golf News



by Gil Sandoval
RELAC Golf Director

Lakewood Golf Tournament October 25, 2010



This article was written and sent to the printer before we played the tournament at Lakewood. A few days after the tournament the results will be posted on the RELAC Website, www.relac.org. they will also appear in the January/February issue of the Newsletter.

Our numbers have fallen recently. I have attributed the reduction in the number of players to concern over what was happening with the economy. Hopefully things will improve and we'll have a bigger turn-out.

A Maltby pitching wedge was turned in at the Diamond Bar Tournament last year and no one has claimed it. If no one comes forward, I will draw a name in December and give it away as part of the Christmas gift raffle.

Our next tournament will be at Diamond Bar on December 6th and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on that day.

The Holiday Season is coming and Diane and I would like to extend on behalf of RELAC all the Blessing that this Holiday Season can bring. And above all, we wish you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

NEXT TOURNAMENT

Monday, Dec. 6, 2010

Diamond Bar Golf Course 8:00 a.m. start

Entry Deadline Nov. 19, 2010



RELAC Golf Entry Form

Diamond Bar Golf Course

22751 E. Golden Springs Dr.
Diamond Bar, CA 91765



Monday, December 6, 2010

8:00 a.m. start

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 19, 2010
ALL CHECKS MUST BE
IN RELAC OFFICE

For Office Use:

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

Members Spotlight



Sisters Together in Retirement (STIR)

Invite you to join them on their

First Annual

Retired Probation Department Employees'

4-Day Baja Cruise

Sisters Together in Retirement (STIR) would like to invite all retired employees from the Los Angeles County Probation Department and retirees from all other County Departments, along with their family members and friends, to join them for their first annual 4-day cruise to Baja, Mexico on Carnival's "Paradise". The cruise will sail from Long Beach on January 24, 2011 for a low price of \$300 per person for an inside cabin or ocean view. There is a special low price of \$150 for the third/fourth person in the cabin. Travel insurance for each person is included. All questions and further information can be obtained by contacting Jackie Shaw, Trio Travel & Tours, at (310) 640-1077.



Special Events for Veterans

1. In honor of Veterans Day, all present and past military vets get in to Knott's Berry Farm for free from November 4th through November 26, 2010. You have to prove your service either with your ID card or your discharge papers (DD214). You can bring one guest with you for free and up to four others for \$15 each. See www.knotts.com or call 714-200-5200.

2. On Veterans Day Applebee's Restaurant is offering free meals to all veterans and active duty military personnel on Thursday, November 11, 2010. See www.applebees.com



See's Candy Discount Continues

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, assorted and 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, 2010 through October 31, 2011.

You Can Recruit Members for RELAC!

RELAC extends a big "THANK YOU" to Nata (Fortunata B. Ruiz) for personally recruiting many new members for RELAC.

She is appreciated!!

We encourage all of you to do the same. Don't assume your fellow County retirees are RELAC members. Ask them and, if they're not, encourage them to join. Let them know the key role RELAC plays in representing their interests before LACERA, the Board of Supervisors and the California State Legislature. Tell them how RELAC informs its members of matters which are essential to present and future retirees.

Numbers count. The more members we have the more influence we have.



Fortunata B. Ruiz, recruiter of many RELAC members. (photo by Don Fandry)

For Sale

CEMETERY LOT – Double lot at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, CA. Asking price \$5,000 or make offer. Call Sylvia Spears (760) 435-5285.

Court to Rule on Public Disclosure of Retirement Allowances

by David L. Muir
RELAC Member

The California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility (CFFR) describes itself on its website as an organization "committed to educating the public and key decision makers about California public employee retirement benefit issues and developing fiscally responsible solutions that are fair to employees, employers and taxpayers."

CFFR served LACERA with a request under the California Public Records Act seeking disclosure of the names or all retirees whose monthly benefit exceeded \$8,333 in any month during calendar year 2010. (A monthly benefit of \$8,333 equates to an annual benefit of \$99,996.) CFFR publishes on its website a searchable data base that enables members of the public to ascertain the pension received by any CalPERS or CalSTRS retiree that equals or exceeds \$100,000 per year. CFFR refers to its lists as "The CalPERS \$100,000 Pension Club" and "The CalSTRS \$100,000 Pension Club."

On July 8, 2010, LACERA denied CFFR's request for names, but indicated LACERA would provide general LACERA payroll information, including retirement allowance payments of more than \$8,333 per month, without regard to individual members or their names, should CFFR wish to amend its request.

LACERA's denial was based on two principles:

1. A provision in the County Retirement Law specifically says that "individual [retirement] records of members shall be confidential."
2. The Public Records Act authorizes the government to withhold disclosure when the government's interest in keeping the records confidential clearly outweighs the public's interest in disclosure. LACERA advised CFFR: "Given that the records you seek provide a window into intimate financial decisions of our members without giving the public any insight into whether the amounts being paid are correct; and, given that the release of this information may have a chilling effect upon the financial decisions our members make, we believe the public interest in non-disclosure outweighs the public interest in disclosure."

LACERA advised CFFR of the many factors that determine a retirement allowance, like the member's purchase of public service credit or additional retirement credit (ARC), or the retirement option selected by the member (unmodified, unmodified plus, Option 1, Option 2, etc.). Thus, disclosing pension amounts "reveals very little about what has been contributed by the public employer toward the benefit received."

As of this writing, CFFR has neither amended its Public Records Act request nor commenced litigation. This may be because there is already a lawsuit pending that is expected to resolve whether county retirement systems, including LACERA, can continue keeping an individual's retirement allowance confidential. The lawsuit was filed by the Sacramento Bee and the First Amendment Coalition (a special interest group representing media interests) after the Sacramento County retirement system refused to disclose the names and amounts of individual retirees. On July 13, 2010, the Superior Court in Sacramento ordered the retirement system to disclose the requested information and the retirement system has appealed that order to the Court of Appeal in Sacramento. The briefs are due to be

completed by mid-December 2010, and oral argument will be held after the court has had a chance to review them.

Four county retirement systems, Orange, San Bernardino, Sonoma, and Tulare, have filed papers with the Court of Appeal supporting the right to keep retirement allowances confidential. LACERA is expected to file its supporting brief sometime in October 2010. In addition, the Sacramento County Retired Employees Association (SCREA) has filed a supporting brief that makes the following cogent argument:

"Many of SCREA's members are deeply distressed that their individual records may be disclosed at the request of any party regardless of their motivation for making this request. This is of particular concern to SCREA because of its efforts to educate its membership about the importance of guarding their personal financial information in order to protect themselves from such things as identify theft, and from becoming a victim of various con schemes. A recent article that appeared in our newsletter, "News Briefs", June 2010 edition, is an example of such efforts. The very fact that their names and monthly retirement income could be made public, even published, exposes its members unnecessarily to potential financial abuse or fraudulent schemes."

CFFR and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association have joined in an opposing brief in which they argue, among other things, that the law making records confidential only applies to records filed with the retirement system by the member, and if disclosure is not allowed, "[t]he public would be harmed because pension fraud embezzles public funds, but would go undetected if pension records were concealed from public view."

A ruling from the Court of Appeal in Sacramento is not expected until late spring or summer 2010. **It should be noted that if the Court does find that retirement amounts are subject to public inspection, all retirement amounts will become subject to public disclosure, not just those over \$8,333 per month.**



Veteran's Corner



Celebrating Veterans Day



Robert Roudebush, Veteran of World War II and Korea

It is with great sadness that I inform the members of RELAC of the passing of a true hero and great American, Robert "Bob" Roudebush. Bob expired on August 30, 2010 at the age of 85 after a battle with lymphoma. Bob earned numerous medals and awards while serving in the U.S. Navy. He enlisted at the age of 17 during World War II and served for the duration. Six years later he was recalled to duty during the Korean War. He retired after a 32 year career with the Mechanical Department. After County retirement he became a business agent for IBEW, the electrician's union. He was a 24 year member of RELAC and attended many general and regional meetings along with his wife of 61 years, Dorothy. He was easily recognized, always displaying a warm smile while assisting Dorothy, who is confined to a wheel chair. We will miss him greatly.

This Veterans Day, we celebrate the proud legacy of service and sacrifice by the Soldiers of America's Army – the Strength of the Nation since 1775. This year, we pay homage, in particular, to our Korean War Veterans – those of you who, 60 years ago, fought the first "hot" conflict of the Cold War. Outnumbered fighting a determined enemy, on unforgiving terrain, in inhospitable weather – our Korean War Veterans pushed the attacking Communist forces back across the 38th Parallel and preserved the integrity of our South Korean ally – contributing to the unmatched legacy of the American Army as a force that stands against tyranny, protects the weak and champions freedom.

From Echoes – the bulletin for retired soldiers, surviving spouses and families

Lots to do at RELAC Picnic Bingo, Dancing, Horseshoes, Beer



Photos by Don Fandry

Draft Men Over Sixty

RELAC President Greg Walia wowed the audience at the General Membership Meeting in West Covina with the speech that follows.



I am over 60 and the Armed Forces thinks I'm too old to track down terrorists. You can't be older than 42 to join the military. They've got the whole thing backwards. Instead of sending 18-year olds off to fight, they ought to take us old guys. You shouldn't be able to join a military unit until you're at least 35.

For starters: Researchers say 18-year-olds think about sex every 10 seconds. Old guys only think about sex a couple of times a day, leaving us more than 28,000 additional seconds per day to concentrate on the enemy.

Young guys haven't lived long enough to be cranky, and a cranky soldier is a dangerous soldier. "My back hurts! I can't sleep, I'm tired and hungry." We are impatient and maybe letting us kill some terrorist that desperately deserves it will make us feel better and shut us up for a while.

An 18-year-old doesn't even like to get up before 10 a.m. Old guys always get up early to pee so what the hell. Besides, like I said, 'I'm tired and can't sleep and since I'm already up, I may as well be up killing some fanatical jerk.

If captured we couldn't spill the beans because we'd forget where we put them. In fact, name, rank, and serial number would be a real brainteaser.

Boot camp would be easier for old guys. We're used to getting screamed and yelled at and we're used to soft food. We've also developed an appreciation for guns. We've been using them for years as an excuse to get out of the house, away from the screaming and yelling.

They could lighten up on the obstacle course however. I've been in combat and didn't see a single 20- foot wall with rope hanging over the side, nor did I ever do any pushups after completing basic training.

Actually, the running part is kind of a waste of energy, too. I've never seen anyone outrun a bullet.

An 18-year-old has the whole world ahead of him. He's still learning to shave, to start up a conversation with a pretty girl. He still hasn't figured out that a baseball cap has a brim to shade his eyes, not the back of his head.

These are all great reasons to keep our kids at home to learn a little more about life before sending them off into harm's way.

Let us old guys track down those dirty rotten coward terrorists. The last thing an enemy would want to see is a couple of million angry old farts with attitudes and automatic weapons who know that their best years are already behind them.

How about recruiting Women over 50...in menopause ! You think Men have attitudes! Ohhhhhh my God! If nothing else, put them on border patrol...They'll have it secured the first night!



Letters To The Editor

As a retiree of 30 years, I have always appreciated the work you do and care you give. In spite of all the dire reports in the papers concerning pensions, etc., I feel secure because of your knowledge and resourcefulness. I still depend on the Pocket Secretary arriving each year. I receive another from a different source – yours is better. Thank you so much!

Maxine Hays
Folsom, CA

Living with my daughter in Texas improves my looking for the arrival of each RELAC Newsletter. On this occasion of my 90th Birthday, may I take the opportunity to give a belated thanks to the gang at the County Engineer who sent me off with a memorable retirement party in 1978.

Robert Johnson
Dickinson, TX

Thanks to Sophy and the Outreach Committee for the Birthday Card. Los Angeles County is the kindest and most caring of employers and the many friends I made fill my memories. I am looking forward to my 92nd Birthday!

Bertha Welsh
Hayward, CA

I cannot say in words how happy I was to receive my 91st Birthday Card from you, Diana and the Outreach Committee. Also, thank you for the Newsletter and looking out for our medical plans. I miss you people!

Mae Reed
Kansas City, MO

Thank you. This is the best bargain in town. Keep up the good work. Please send me two or three membership applications for my friends.

Sara MacPherson



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7-Night Cruise/Air Tour

Departs

May 7-14, 2011

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Astoria, Seattle, Victoria, Dock in Vancouver
Tour Price Includes

7 Night Cruise, Port Charges, and Government Fees,
Transfer Vancouver Pier to Airport, One-Way Airfare from Vancouver

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E	Ocean View (Obstructed)	\$1679.00
D	Ocean View	\$1719.00
BC	Balcony	\$1959.00



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BC	Veranda	\$1999.00
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WHERE ARE YOU?

RELAC has lost track of some of its members and we need your help! In most cases we believe they have moved and not given us their forwarding address. If you are in contact with any of the following "lost" RELAC members, please ask them to call us as at (800) 537-3522 or email us at admin@relac.org.

Chang-Woo Lee
Ida Mitchell
Jennifer Molina
Joan Monk
Lavone Neely
Lee Nesmith
Anna Riley
Brad Ritchey
Frederick Rizzi
Betty Schneider

Richard Shepard
Shirley Smith
William Swinson
Alan Taplin
Betty Taylor
Osa Terrell
Julie Thomas
John Toole
Bettie Urbina
Geraldine Van Dyke

RELAC DOES NOT RECEIVE REPORTS OF ADDRESS CHANGES MADE TO LACERA SO BE SURE TO LET US KNOW IF YOU MOVE!



LACERA continued from p.6

LACERA's commitment to assisting our retirees and meeting their needs:

CALL US: 1-800-786-6464 (7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays) International Members: Call 1-626-564-6132 (the toll-free 800 number only serves the Continental U.S.)

EMAIL US: welcome@lacera.com – retirement information
healthcare@lacera.com – retiree health care information

VISIT US: 300 North Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101 (7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays)

WRITE US: LACERA, P.O. Box 7060, Pasadena, CA 91109-7060 Staff members are available to assist you regardless of the communication method you choose.

Brain Wellness is Topic at West Covina Membership Meeting

by Marianne Reich
RELAC Board Member

Another great meeting! Over 170 retirees attended, many of whom attended our June meeting, and came again to hear Dr Arnold Bresky, Preventive Gerontologist, pioneer of the "Brain Wellness Movement".

All of us realize the importance of memory. In fact, our number one fear is that we will lose our memory. Dr Bresky shared what we can do right now to prevent or even reverse memory loss.

Short term memory is affected by cardiovascular health, age, genetics, obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, our immune system, etc.

Dr Bresky challenges us to take ownership of our health and recommends:

- Mediterranean diet
- Walk four hours a week
- Listen to classical music 30 minutes each day
- Sleep 8 hours each day preferably between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- Maintain positive outlook
- Reduce stress
- Get creative
- Live what you love
- Take classes
- Scrapbook

Moliece Davis is admiring the coin set from the U.S. Mint, a raffle prize she won at the Membership Meeting in West Covina. Moliece is the widow of Jim Davis who served as President of RELAC. (Photo by Don Fandry)



- Competitive games
- Word games

You can find more information on Dr. Bresky's website: www.mybraintuneup.com. Hope you come and join us on December 8th in Diamond Bar when we celebrate the holiday and enjoy fellowship with good friends.



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IN MEMORIAM

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

Agricultural Commr./Wts & Mea.

Demetrios, Donald*
Teruya, Jitsuo R.

Ambulatory Care Health Svcs.

Najera, Willia L.*
Thomas, Bernice M.

Animal Control

Washington, Gwen E.

Assessor

Brogdon, John C.*
Goodrich, Max E.*
Green, Eula C.*
Hagen, Irene E.*
Jeffries, Rudeen A.
Key, Helen J.
Lanier, Harry T.*
Sayre, Hazel H.*
Schner, Gilbert B.

Auditor - Controller

Castillo, Flora C.

Beaches & Harbors

Shoji, Grace K.

Chief Info. Office

Tenorio, Macedonio D.

Child Support Services

Bell, Sally W.*
Douglas, Bearnette*
Kaye, Denyse
Martin, Margaret
Matsumoto, Nobue
Mitchell, Ellie B.
Ruch, W. J.
Wiggins, Linda S.

Children & Family Services

Butler Jr., Willie
James, Bernadine
Nguyen, Tuyet N.
Stacey, Paulina*

Community & Sr.Citizens Svcs.

Peterson, Walker N.
Valdez, Alfred*

Data Processing

Rushen, Allen R.

District Attorney

Comaduran, Sarah*
Fuerth, Mattie*
Maxwell, Merrie*
Rupe, Virginia
Wilson, Welford R.

Fire

Dewhirst, Gary R.
Guillaume, Donald F.
Guzman, Amado
Heckethorn, James A.*
Howell, Earl R.*
Hull, Harold F.*
Hyde, Wayne E.*
Lappin, Thomas M.
Mastick, Fred*
Moden, John E.*
Ruffin, James E.*
Sotro, Joe P.*
Stewart, Dwight W.

Flood Control

Seaman, Gene A.
Sievers, John J.*

Forester & Fire Warden

Surlage, Melvin G.

Harbor/UCLA Medical Center

Arnold, Ruth L.*
Bayardo, Elena M.
Beebe, James L.*
Briggs, Ella M.
Davis, Vennie C.
Harris, Christine P.*
Pholchai, Yenreudee
Smith, Bernyce M.*
Villareal, Liwayway R.*

Health Services Adm.

Bice, Eleanor B.
Boen, Melford G.
Lozano, Rose*
Miller, Roger K.
Pantlik, Violet A. *
Porras, Samuel M.
Rhodes, Dorcas B.*
Sherfield, Hollis
Waldbaum, Anna T.

Internal Services

Addison, Jack
Alcantar, John J.
Badon, Muriel M.
Hanno, Joseph Z.*
James, Philip N.
Patterson, Robert G.*
Rachal, Edna L.
Renshaw, Jerald W.

King/Drew Medical Center

Christiansen, Robert
Dejesus, Luz M.
Fleming, Melvin J.*
Gray, Doris J.
Lewis, Jennie
Marshall, Anna B.*
Nelson, Bessie E.
Reese, Richard E.*
Wright, Estella

LAC+USC Medical Center

Acevedo, Eve T.
Bolles, Nancy C.
Cariaga, Brenda
Drake, Leroy J.
Fisher Jr., Elijah*
Harrison, Earl C.
Hartleip, Duane L.
Harvey Jr., Joseph P.*
Reza, Louis R.
Richmond, John
Taylor, Dorothy*
Wilander, Judith C.*

Long Beach General Hospital

Nelson, Ruby M.*

Mechanical

Gillyatt Jr., George H.
Oliver, Howard M.

Mental Health

Hayes, Ruth M.
Wallace, Alice A.

Municipal Court

Austin, Elvira S.* (Long Beach)
Villarreal, John Q. (E.L.A.)

Natural History Museum

Debs, David M.

Olive View Hospital

Andrus, Barbara L.*
Breeding, John M.
Seacord, Milton R.

Parks & Recreation

Engle, Davis E.
Fremoire, Victor
Hernandez, Joe I.
Perez, Frank*
Trant, John A.*

IN MEMORIAM

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

Probation

Batiste, Columbus D.
Conn, Carl W.
Greene, Rhea E.*
Ellis, Gene C.*
Harris, Brenda B.
Lowrey, Hervle O.*
Muntz, Paul D.*
Rausch, Paul J.*
Rew, James R.
Roberts, John W.
Wilson, Evelyn T.*

Public Defender

Larue, Lois K.
Zamora, Eleanor D.*

Public Health Program

Baldwin, Florence M.
Dreis, Marta*
Kimes, Dorothy M.*
Ransfer, Edward C.
Santoyo, Lucy M.*
Simmons, James L.*
Stewart-Chow, Luella N.
Thompson, Charlesetta

Public Library

Sumbi, Joyce A.*

Public Social Services

Beatty, Terrie Y.
Bergamasco, Frederic A.*
Borges, Benito I.
Butterfield, Dorothy L.
Caampued, Antonio
Collazo-Najar, Olivia
Edison, Gloria J.
Evans, Helen I.
Fobb, Bonita
Hall, Donna J.*
Haynes, Edna M.*
Hernandez, Margaret C.
Jorgenson, Ruth*
Kaufman, Ross*
Kertesz, Doris M.
Lang, Lynn
Hackney, Nancy C.
Mills, Naomi C.*
Paradies, Thais M.
Pasley, Sharon
Williams, Rosie L.*
Ybarra, Irene*
York, Hazel G.*

Public Works

Dantona, Frank R.
Duncan, Lee D.*
Fisher, Malcolm
Okstad, Gerald A.*
Portillo, Robert*
Reed, Eugene J.*
Ritchie, Dean C.*
Roberts, Robert C.
Shraibati, Ahmad H.*

Rancho Los Amigos Hospital

Barnum, Onita*
Book, Lois L.
Brogan, Virginia*
Bustrum, Ralph L.*
Cornelius, Thomas O.*
Hansborough, Lewis*
Hatfield, Edith M.*
Payan, Herminia
Peck, Alex T.*
Sanders, Margaret
Theel, Bernice M.*
Valadez, Rosemary
Walden, Dorothea A.*

Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk

Lopez, Tom
Stagg, Val V.

Sheriff

Aguilar, Gilbert
Alexander, Richard J.*
Barnes, Gerald D.
Belger, Michael B.
Benton, Theodore T.*
Bergmann, James P.
Brooks, Shirley A.
Bryant, Josephine
Campbell, Laura H.*
Clark, Barbara A
Corpuz, Edward H.
Derry, Katherine K.
Dodson, James B.*
Eisen, Wilbahn*
Girgis, Adel W.
Gutierrez, Angie
Highfill, W. T.*
Hippler, Harold H.
Kaarre, Verna M.
Kaufman, Bernard
McHenry, Mark*
McNeil, Michael L.

Milligan, Daniel H.*
Montgomery, Rowland P.*
Oberholtzer, Douglas T.*
O'Sullivan, Robert H.
Park, Young Y.
Ratay, Francis D.
Richards, Larry J.
Robbins, Jack E.*
Roe, Raymond R.*
Rupsa, James R.*
Schultz, Pauline C.
Shanley, Edward T.*
Sipes, John R.*
Tell, Ernest M.*
Thorpe, Russell T.*
Uhlack, Ronald W.
Watkins, David L.*
White, Alfred M.*
Wigham, Curby H.*

So. Coast Air Quality Mgmt.

Herrera, Joseph M.*

Superior Court/County Clerk

Gallas, Edward C.*
Jaeger, Lona P.*
Lampkin, Carolyn F.
Mallett, Joyce L.
Miller, Helen M.*
Muha, Dorothy A.*
Musgrave, Mary C.
Richter, Leslie L.
Rock, Martin G.*
Spedale, Theresa
Tieken, Shonda S.
Watson, Mildred D.

Treasurer & Tax Collector

Brown, Janice E.
Rasic, Daniel

Women's Hospital

Banister, Minnie M.*
Williams, Rosie A.*

Department Not Designated

Hall, Dorothy M.
Haukenberry, William
Hemingway, Jean H.
Meisel, Mildred
Moreno, Alex G.
Venneman, Fred J.



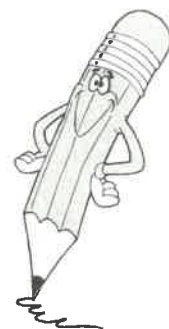
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George Hernandez, Chair, Program Committee



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Diamond Bar Center
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9:00 a.m. –
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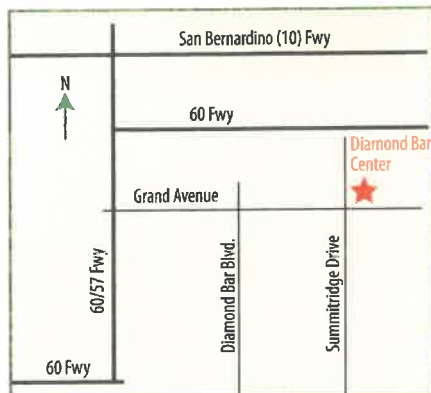
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The Center is located at Summit Ridge Park just north of the corner of Grand and Summitridge Drive. The entrance driveway to the Center is on Grand Ave.

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Email:
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