



RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

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

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



President's Message

by Dave Muir

Federal legislation to repeal the immensely unfair and unjust Social Security penalties known as the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) continues to languish in the House of Representatives and Senate. I know many of our members are subject to these unfair penalties.

The WEP causes hard-working public servants to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits they earned. The GPO imposes a significant penalty on spousal benefits and, in some cases, eliminates that benefit completely.

Here's how Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Oregon) described the situation:

As I see it, the offset scheme currently in place penalizes those public employees least able to afford it. Law enforcement officials and educators who often do not participate in the Social Security system during their careers in public service are especially affected. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the GPO alone reduces benefits for some 200,000 individuals by more than \$3,600 a year. This is a significant sum for many public servants and may deter the best, most qualified candidates from entering or staying in the public sector. The WEP and GPO could negatively affect our nation's ability to recruit second-career professionals into education and to ensure every child receives the highest quality educators. (July 18, 2019 letter to RELAC member Maureen Sicotte.)

Bills currently pending in the House of Representatives (H.R. 141) and the Senate (S. 521) would fully repeal both the WEP and GPO. RELAC is sending letters to the members of the congressional committees that are currently considering these two bills.

I urge all of you who are adversely affected by the WEP and/or GPO to contact Ida Ramos, RELAC's office manager, so we can assist you in sending your own letter to key members of Congress. Ida can be reached by e-mail at IdaRamos@RELAC.ORG or by phone at (800) 537-3522.

As always, I want to thank our members for supporting RELAC. Maintaining a strong membership base allows us to be vigilant in protecting the rights of County retirees.

YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT KEEPS RELAC STRONG AS YOUR PENSION AND HEALTH CARE WATCHDOG.



Joseph Kelly



Epifanio Peinado

Kelly and Peinado Named to RELAC Board

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

Retired County Treasurer-Tax Collector Joseph Kelly and Department of Human Resources Chief Deputy Epifanio "Epi" Peinado have been appointed to the RELAC Board of Directors.

The two were appointed on Jan. 7 to three-year terms ending Dec. 31, 2022, filling vacancies created by the death of Steve Duron and resignation of Bill de la Garza. The appointments bring the Board to its full 15-member complement.

Both Kelly and Peinado retired in 2019.

RELAC President Dave Muir praised the appointees and said they will bring invaluable experience and energy to the Board.

As county treasurer, Kelly was an ex-officio member of the LACERA Boards of Investments and Retirement, and was highly regarded. "He was known for his great expertise and wisdom in dealing with the important matters handled by the Board," said Muir, who represents retirees on the Investment Board. "I was always impressed with his ability to be on top of everything the Board was handling while at the same time serving with distinction as the Los Angeles County treasurer, tax collector and public administrator. He brings great skills and sound judgment to RELAC's Board of Directors."

Kelly, a 23-year County employee who started in the Auditor-Controller's Office, will chair RELAC's Investments Committee and serve on the Budget and Website/E-mail Advisor committees.

He said he was honored when RELAC directors reached out to discuss serving on the Board. "RELAC is a membership organization focused on its members – it represents retirees by running a slate of candidates for the retiree seats on the LACERA Boards; it advocates for retirees; it helps retirees stay connected through its newsletter and social events; and it offers its members access to supplemental insurance and other benefits at group rates. I look forward to serving the members of RELAC in this role," he said.

Muir said Peinado was also well regarded by colleagues. When he retired, the Los Angeles County Management Council honored him for "the incredible legacy he leaves behind." The Council cited his "incredible leadership, proactive approach, and peerless diplomacy," and said he had "distinguished himself through his commitment, dedication, and passion for serving others and improving programs."

Peinado said he has a passion for serving others, and being on the RELAC Board of Directors will provide the opportunity to "give back." "I'm honored to be a member of a board that sees its mission to be a source of advocacy, support, and betterment of retirees of the County

continued on p.4



Retirement Board

by Les Robbins
Member, RELAC Board
LACERA Board of Retirement



Last summer the election for the safety representatives on the LACERA Board of Retirement was held. For the first time, the Board of Supervisors decided to hold that election via e-mail. As expected, there were some issues with e-mails that never arrived or e-mails that found their way into someone's spam folder on their computers, but eventually the election worked out. As we all know, active County employees all have access to computers and all have an e-mail address that is assigned to them by the employer.

A couple of months ago the County decided to hold the upcoming retiree election the same way. As we all know, not all retirees have computers or access to computers or even an e-mail address. To hold an election with retirees in this manner is fraught with potential issues, to say the least.

Furthermore, the County is proposing a back-up method via phone, where retirees could call in, pass a two-phase security process, and then vote if they can't do it via e-mail. Well, this probably has more issues than the e-mail process does, and then to make matters worse, the Board of Supervisors is proposing to hire an outside vendor to do all of this. This, in my opinion, is the trifecta of potential issues that will ensure that this election disadvantages retirees just about as much as they could, short of making everyone vote in person.

Needless to say, the RELAC Board of Directors, along with both the LACERA Board of Retirement and Board of Investments, is opposed to holding our election, which is scheduled for this August, in any way other than the way it has been held in the past, which is via mail, conducted by the Registrar-Recorder's Office.

Hopefully by the time this article is published in the newsletter, this issue will have been resolved in a manner that doesn't disadvantage retirees to the degree that a vote by e-mail or phone would do. RELAC will keep everyone informed.

News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich
Assistant Executive Officer



I hope everyone is staying healthy and enjoying their retirement.

The last few years I've kept you all up-to-date on how our March Madness season is going. January is in the middle of the annual March Madness retirement season. That's the time of year when most people call and visit LACERA to retire. Members like to retire on or before March 31 so they can qualify for any cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) that become available on April 1. So far this year, we have had 1,305 members submit retirement applications. Last year at this time, we had about 1,311 members retire. Overall, we have seen a slight increase in year over year retirements during the March Madness period.

This time of year, everyone is looking for their 1099-R tax forms so they can begin doing their taxes. We mailed all of the 1099-R forms at the end of January and I hope everyone received theirs. If not, we are always happy to send out copies of the 1099-R, or you can also log on to the My LACERA section of lacera.com and print them out. They are located under the "My Payments" section of My LACERA. We also see a lot of calls this time of year from members about making changes to their tax elections. This requires a member to mail in a form, or log on to My LACERA and change it online.

Speaking of My LACERA, I am happy to announce that we are a few months into our quiet release of the ability for members to send LACERA documents electronically. Members can log onto My LACERA, go to the Secure Message Center, and upload a document to LACERA. This is a lot faster than having to mail them.

We are also working on an enhancement to allow members to go virtually paperless. Sometime later this year members will be able to request to be notified by e-mail when a new document is ready online. We are still working out all the rules and testing the functionality to make sure it works efficiently. We are also working on a full revision of the LACERA.com website. The new website is scheduled for launch in June 2020.

LACERA is dedicated to our staff members and making sure they have a positive workplace experience. With this in mind, we will soon be launching an employee engagement program. This program is designed to engage with all employees throughout LACERA and work with them to continue to ensure LACERA is a great place to work which, in turn, helps us deliver on our mission and our promise to all members.

Well that's it for this month's edition. I hope everyone is enjoying their retirement (you should – you've earned it!!) and I'll see you in the next edition of the newsletter.



LACERA CEO VISITS RELAC DIRECTORS

RELAC President Dave Muir, at right, greets Santos H. Kreimann, new chief executive officer of the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA), during RELAC's Board of Directors January business meeting. Kreimann, a 30-year-County employee, most recently chief deputy assessor, discussed his background and management style.
(photo by Linda C. Hopkins)



Joseph Kelly Hopes to Replace Dave Muir as Retirees' Rep on LACERA Investments Board

RELAC President Dave Muir has announced that he will not seek re-election as the retirees' representative on the LACERA Board of Investments when his current term ends on Dec. 31.

RELAC Director Joseph Kelly said he plans to become a candidate for the seat and has the unanimous endorsement of the RELAC Board of Directors. As the L.A. County treasurer-tax collector from 2014 to 2019, Kelly served as the ex-officio trustee on the LACERA Board of Investments and Board of Retirement.

The election to fill the seat, technically known as the eighth member, will be held this summer. All retired members of LACERA are eligible to vote in the election.

Muir, who has served on the Board of Investments since 2018, said he is not seeking re-election because he wants to spend more time with his family and travel.



Dave Muir



Brian Berger



Dyanne Nelson



Greg Walia

RELAC Board of Directors Elect 2020 Officers

Dave Muir is serving a record seventh term as president of RELAC, unanimously elected by the Board of Directors in January. The Board tapped Brian Berger to be vice president for the third year.

Dyanne Nelson was selected as treasurer, replacing Greg Walia, who had served in that position the past three years. Walia was elected secretary.

Mary K. Rodriguez, who recently suffered a major stroke and is unable to attend Board meetings in the near term, had been secretary for the past seven years.

Muir, who was chief counsel for LACERA when he retired in 2009, has been a RELAC director since 2011. He is also retirees' representative on the LACERA Board of Investments.

Berger, director of special services with the Department of Children and Family Services when he retired in 1999, has been on the RELAC Board since June 2017. He is former head of the Animal Care and Control Department and acting chief deputy to Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich.

Nelson was the County's payroll operations manager when she retired in 2011 from the Auditor-Controller's Office after more than 38 years of service. She was appointed to the RELAC Board in April 2017 to fill a vacancy and won election later that year.

Walia joined the RELAC Board in 2003 and served as president in 2009 and 2010. He also served as vice president for four years. He was personnel officer for the Public Works Department when he retired in 2000.

WHERE ARE YOU?

RELAC works hard at keeping in contact with our members, but we have lost touch with a number for whom we have no current address, phone number or e-mail address.

Here are just a few of those members --- if you know any of them, please reach out to them and have them call us at (800) 537-3522.

From Nevada:

Elizabeth Miller, Carle W. Stewart, Richard L. Cullen, Joan Garrott, Joan A. Olson – all last known to be living in Las Vegas. Euleda T. Murphy of North Las Vegas, Patrick Robinson of Mesquite, Nancy Dineen of Dayton, Patricia Rottler of Carson City.

From California:

Jacqueline Burchiere and Linda Bardon of Indio; Frans L. Johnson of Palm Desert, Janice Cavin of Apple Valley, Naomi Haynes of Rialto, Colleen Kealey of Yucaipa, Genaro Mates of Los Angeles, Juanita Smith and Darcus Taylor of Compton, Virginia Marcos of Venice, Doris Pollard of Inglewood, CJ Cormier of Wilmington, Gill Valice of La Canada.

And from various states:

Ulysses Smith of Ashburn, Virginia; Cheryl Myers of Fayetteville, North Carolina; Mercedes Diez of Palmetto Bay, Florida; Anna Sparks of Plains, Montana; Charles Schwarz of Whitefish, Montana; Errol M. Goldenberg of Republic, Missouri; Please Laster of England, Alaska; and Thelma Brown of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

April 17 is Deadline to Apply for Seats on the RELAC Board

by Dave Muir,

Chair Bylaws/Nominations/Elections Committee

RELAC members interested in serving on the Board of Directors in 2021 have until April 17 to file a letter of interest.

The current Board of Directors will review the list of candidates at its May 5 meeting and select a slate of five nominees to endorse for election. If there are six or more interested candidates for the five open positions, an election will be held in September.

The new directors will serve three-year terms beginning in January 2021. Directors whose terms expire this year are Brian Berger, J.P. Harris, Dyanne Nelson, Les Robbins, and Greg Walia.

Applicants' letters should briefly explain their interest and describe the experience and education that enhance their qualifications. The Directors Nominations Committee will interview all applicants before adding their names to the list of candidates.

Pursuant to RELAC's bylaws, a person who holds, or within the past 24 months held, a leadership position with an organization that represents County retirees that has a goal or policy that may be incompatible or in conflict with a goal or policy of RELAC is ineligible to serve as a director of RELAC.

Candidates should seriously consider the following desired qualifications when applying for a Board position:

-- Have the time and be willing to commit to attending monthly Board of Directors business meetings, quarterly general membership meetings, and committee meetings scheduled on an as-needed basis. Board and committee members are compensated for expenses incurred.

- Have the time to serve the members of RELAC by actively participating on one or more committees, including Investment, Bylaws/Nominations/Elections, Legislation, Recruitment and Marketing, Special Events, Office Management and Newsletter.

--Have the time and be willing to participate in RELAC activities and events.

Committee Chairs Appointed

President Dave Muir has named the following directors to head RELAC committees in 2020.

Benefits, Linda C. Hopkins. **Budget**, Dyanne Nelson. **Bylaws/Nominations/Elections**, Dave Muir. **Community Support**, Evelyn Gutierrez. **General Membership**, Alice Prouty. **Investments**, Joseph Kelly. **Legislation**, Les Robbins. **Newsletter**, Diane Sandoval.

Office Management, Brian Berger. **Outreach**, Alice Prouty. **Recreation**, Alice Prouty. **Recruitment/Marketing**, J.P. Harris. **Regional Support**, Diane Sandoval. **Special Events**, Evelyn Gutierrez. **Website/E-mail Advisor**, Judy Hammond.

Ad Hoc CRCEA Conference (April 2021), Evelyn Gutierrez. **Ad Hoc Scholarship**, Linda C. Hopkins.

RELAC member Gil Sandoval will continue to chair the **Recreation/ Golf Subcommittee**.

Golf News

by Gil Sandoval
RELAC Golf Director



LOS AMIGOS Golf Tournament – JAN. 27

We had another cool beginning to our tournament, but it improved as it went along. This was the largest attendance, including women players, we have had in sometime. Thank you all for supporting RELAC golf.

The "A" flight winner with net 67 was Ed Earl, who had the best round of the day. In a battle for second place were Michael Hernandez and Rene Arteaga as Michael beat Rene by one stroke at net 70. Rene placed third at net 71.

The "B" flight was an easy win for Ken Swan with his net 68, which was the second lowest round of the day. It was a close race for second place, but Bu Umali won it with a net 73. Just one back at net 74 were Pete Serrano and Rick Ritcher, with Pete in third place on a card off. It was another close race in the "C" flight, with Miguel Ortiz-Marroquin, Robert Prince and Richard Duran bringing in net 74s. The card off determined that Miguel was the winner, Robert took second, and Richard third.

Jacquelyn Johnson won the Ladies flight with the third best round of the day at net 69. Kay Barrents came in with a net 78 to place second and Cari DeBie at net 84 finishing third. Thank you to the women who joined the festivities and increased our playing rolls for a nice turnout.

Hopefully, those of you who have friends that play with us and do not have access to the website will pass the information about our next tournament so they can sign up to play. The membership rolls of RELAC are becoming smaller so if you can help RELAC

recruit new member who are golfers, it would be more than great. So, please take this plea to heart and help us grow.

The next tournament is a change of schedule due to the greens that are to be punched in March at La Mirada Golf Course. We will play April 13, with the first tee at 8 a.m.

The entry form can be found on the RELAC web page: relac.org. Follow the link to activities (Golf).

LAKWOOD RESULTS

"A" Flight Winners (19 and under)

1st Ed Earl (67)

2nd Michael Hernandez (70)

3rd Rene Arteaga (71)

"B" Flight (20 to 26 Handicaps)

1st Ken Swan (68)

2nd Bu Umali (73)

3rd Pete Serrano (74)

"C" Flight (27 and up Handicaps)

1st Miguel Ortiz-Marroquin (74)*

2nd Robert Prince (74)*

3rd Richard Duran (74)

Women's Flight

1st Jacquelyn Johnson (69)

2nd Kay Barrents (78)

3rd Cari DeBie (84)

*Winners in a card off

Closest to the Pin on Par 3s

MEN

3 – Rex Loughran

7 - Rene Arteaga

#12 – Mike Taylor

#17 - David Endow (8")

WOMEN

5 – No Winner

7 – Jacquelyn Johnson

#10 – Jacquelyn Johnson

#16 – No Winner



RELAC NEWSLETTER

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Number 2

Retired Employees
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Board of Directors

President

Dave L. Muir

Vice President

Brian Berger

Secretary

Greg Walia

Treasurer

Dyanne Nelson

Members

Donald Fandry

Evelyn Gutierrez

Judy Hammond

J. P. Harris

Linda C. Hopkins

Joseph Kelly

Epifanio Peinado

Alice Prouty

Les Robbins

Mary K. Rodriguez

Diane Sandoval

Past President

Bill de la Garza

Editor: Judy Hammond
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Office Hours

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday - Thursday

Closed Friday,

Saturday, Sunday &

Public Holidays

Happy Birthday RELAC Centenarians

Happy birthday to our members who will be 100 and older in March and April.

March

Calvin De Land, 100

Assessment Appeals Board, March 23, 1920

April

Gerald W. Miller, 100

Assessor, April 4, 1920

Harriet Canister, 101

Health Services, April 13, 1919

Kelly & Peinado continued from p.1

of Los Angeles – the best county in the country."

He will serve on the Office Management and Benefits committees.

A 34-year County employee, Peinado served in the Fire Department, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, Health Services, and Children and Family Services in addition to Human Resources.



Retirees Get COLA Pay Raise

LACERA has announced that it will increase retirees' paychecks by 2-3 percent on April 1, depending on their retirement plan.

Retirement Plan A will increase 3 percent. Plans B, C, D, PEPR A C and G, and E will go up 2 percent, with 1 percent going into the COLA bank.

LACERA uses the consumer price index for the LA-Long Beach-Anaheim area to determine the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) benefit. The COLA is awarded each April based on the prior calendar year inflation, which in 2019 was 2.96 percent.

Since the COLA benefit rules require LACERA to round to the nearest ½ of 1 percent, the 2020 COLA award will be 3 percent.

NEW MEMBERS, OCT. / NOV. ADDENDUM

Beaches & Harbors – Kerry Silverstrom

CEO - Kathleen Fillmore

Children & Family Services - Rochelle Pierre, Hale Rorie, Grace Smith

Community Services - Versamal Atchison

Family Support - Sandra Bush

Fire - Gregory Vital

Health Services - Brenda Lee-Richardson, Ida Vasquez, Patrice Wilborn Weldon

Internal Services – Herman Calipes

King/Drew Medical Center - Deliah Bueno, Elisa Carranza

LAC Police - Charles Davis-Smith

LAC+USC Medical Center - Gislaine Aarndell, Jim Bradford, Gloria Ho-King, Larry Longmire

Medical Examiner – Coroner - James Taylor

Olive View Medical Center - Yang Ja Kim, Eleanore Muzsnai

Public Defender - Stanley Hagiwara

Public Health - Janet Blair, Jackalyn Moultrie

Public Social Services - Annie Barber, Lee J. Grant, Susie Melendez, Rowena Muhammad, Sandra Oliver, Beverly Stevens, Carmelita Velasquez, Irese Young

Rancho Los Amigos - Thilma Sheleby, Nita J. Bryant

Reg-Rec./County Clerk - Alesia Berry

Sheriff - Pamela Bohannon, Nabil Morcos

Superior Court - Rose Machado, Bernard Rosenthal, Arlene Sickler, Susana Telles

Unidentified County Agency - Rafaela Chavarria Nisbet, Evelyn Enriquez, Leonard Johnson, Beverly Kent, Thomas Kutrosky, Erlinda Martin, Jesus Mc Gill, Karen Mitchell, Goryoon Piramzadian, John Tarin, Franciscus Tedjasatyawira, Sandra Thompson, Bendetta Walker

Associates -- Arthur R. Abuan, Catherine Adams, Rose D. Aguilar, Ifeanyichukwu Ajufoh, Rodolfo T. Alday, Maria D. Appleman, Ailene Arimoto, Norma Arzaga, Mydung Au, Gerald Ausbon, Amir Azmar, Richard W. Baker, Jerrold E. Blair, Robert Bland, Thelma Lee Bodine, Regan Boone, Valerie A. Bradford, William Briggs, Charles Ephriam Brooks, Jeanette Brownell, Cherry Can, John Cannon, Isabel Carr, Ramona Carrera, Leroy Caudle, Richard Cayan, Concepcion Chavez, Enriqueta Chavez, Estella Chavez, Gina Cibulk, Dennis C. Cisneros, Mario Cisneros, Faline Combs, Druann Copping, Sandra F. Cortez, Andrew A. Czubiak, Kat De Gregorio, Barbara De Matteo, Rubie Devers, Janice Lee Duarte, Marilyn A. Duddy, Kent Duncan, Michelle Eddins, Chamberline Ekejiuba, Mudaliar Eknath, Barbara Exline, Brian Fawcett, David R. Fillmore, Joelle Foisner, Cheril Forcier, Marlena Forst, Julie Franer, Jon A. Friedhoff, Robert Alan Friedman, Felisa A. Fulgencio, Vartan Ghazarian, Tyh Gilmore, Ildefonso Gonzalez, Peter M. Graf, Robert Green, Robert Gurevitz, Edelteaud Hagiwara, Richard T. Harris, Linda P. Hartman, Christine Hatherley, Deborah Hayes, Robin Headrick, Clayton Hertz Jr., Patricia Hicks, Robert Hofland Jr., Anthony Holguin, John Joseph Holly, John Horning, Shen Huigin, Douglas Ichishita, Luetricia A. Jefferson, Gail Jennings, Barbara Jewell, Albert Johnson, Brenda Johnson, Charles Johnson, Willie Mae Johnson, Esther M. Jones, Diane J. Kawata, Yong S. Kim, Kathleen Krecklow, Debbie Kross, Lucila P. Langcay, Eduardo Laureano, Linda Leaming, Seong K. Lee, Raymond Legorreta, Alejandro Leiva, Nancy Ley, Gary S. Liepitz, Delores Liggins, Leuja B. Lipi, Raymond Logoretta, Albert W. Lusk, Gerri Mc Corkle, Judith Mc Mahon, Marilyn Mendes, Herminio Montoya, Victoire Morcos, Joseph E. Morris, Lou Moua, Clarence Moultrie, Robert Muench, Janice Murasko, Merna F. Murray, Cruz Navarette, Kenneth Nichols, Mary Ninke, John Charles Nisbet, Mary Olivan, Rita M. O'neill, Susan Osterman, Deborah Patton, Marvis Paxton, Angel Piramzadian, Lori Plyler, Christine A. Quichocho, Dwight A. Radcliff Jr., Anil Rai, Pedro Ramirez Jr., Martha Ramos, Rodolfo S. Razon, Diane Reagan, Katherine A. Regalado, Diana Reichmann, Debra Jane Reinhart-Gale, Virgie Rentie, Donna R. Reynoso, Mary Robles, Julie Rodriguez, Deanna L. Rondina, Silvia Rosales, Marcia Rosenthal, Barbara Royer, Sharon Ruffino, Lalita Sachdev, David Schildt, Alicia Scott, Kathy Scott-Degrade, Alfredo Sealy, Clancell Sharp, Manuel M. Sheleby, Jerry D. Sickler, Joyce Smith, Yolanda M. Smith, Margaret Sosa, Tomasa Soto, Clarence "Bill" Speer, Janet K. Strasshofer, Suzanne Swanson, Katherine Taguchi, Ann E. Talbot, Rosalyn Taylor, Kristine Tedja, Virginia A. Tovar, Marie Urbach, Maria Vargas-Pile, Agnes Varon, Francisco Vasquez, Evangeline E. Vergara, Andrea Vestal, Maria Alma Vicente, Monica Villamil, Edna Walker, Renee Y. Walker, Christine Wang, Mimi Watts, Troy Lee Welch, Stanley Weldon, Marilyn D. Wilis, James Williams, Ronald Duane Young, Stacey Recine Zagruski

Sorry for the errors:

We apologize that the names of the following new members were misspelled in the January-February edition of the newsletter.

Mydung Au, Toshiro Azawa, Charles Ephriam Brooks, Cherry Can, Luvirda Carter, Mudaliar Eknath, Deshay David Ford, Ildefonso Gonzales, Eduardo Laureano, Tonye Lightfoot, Alice Lopez, Sam Pok, Zuyi Qian, Carlos Sosa, Mary Tetreault, Dorothy Washington.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

December 2019- January 2020

Children and Family Services – Bernadette Graves, Zachery Jenkins, Elva Moore, Ruby Owens, Patricia Trujillo

County Counsel – Ligia Schaffer

District Attorney – James Sciarra, Mary L. Williams

Fire - Arlene Thiem, Lawrence Duran

Harbor/UCLA Medical Center – Agnes Augustine

Health Services – Nadia Addison, Gayle Anderson Jennings, Frances Banks-English, Sir Lin Chang, Jonathan A. Gbenekama, Kathleen Koepf, Jaime V. Larida, Roger Lewis, Juana Madrid, Phyllis Stapp

Human Resources – David Leong, Rhonda Fernandez, Marion Figueroa, Susan Toy Stern, Marie Jean Uyehara

Internal Services – Sandra Mc Ferren, Tom Wehling

LAC+USC Medical Center – Angela H. Arechiga, Nisachol Felgen, Elisea Gabot-Bailon, Ralph W.E. Kellogg, Lynnel Miles, Ilene Richards

LACERA -- Demetris Hudson, Nora Jackson

Medical Examiner/Coroner – Margaret White

Mental Health – Gerard Saint Hubert, Sharon Williams

Olive View Medical Center – Norma Jacobs, Teresa Martinez

Parks & Recreation – Lynnette Ledet

Probation – Tamara Brown-Sneed, Barbara Elson, Abdul Haolader, Helen Soto

Public Social Services – Margaret Byroads, Iantha Christian, Verna Ferguson, Lee Haolader, Jesus Lozoya, Shirley Moore

Public Works – Doris Roberts

Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center – Wan Lee Cho, Maria Fizarraga, Helen Soto

Sheriff – Tommy Allen, Felicismo De Dios, Jesus Devera, Sherryl Fantroy, Linda Harbeson, Ramon Holland, John Jimenez, Shelby Jordan, Mario Manzo, Verlin A. Mitchell, Don Walker, Karen Weilbacher

Superior Court – Patrick Larkin

Unidentified Department – David Florence, Willie Johnson, Benjamin Valdez

Associates -- Terry Addison, Mildred Allen, Renaldo A. Bailon, Lillian G. Bamba, Steven R. Byroads, Rebecca Fabry, Elizabeth Hartzell, Patricia Kellogg, Leuj B. Lipi, Mary G. Lozoya, Walter J. Miles, Peter Peyton, Michael E. Rhodes, Barbara Sciarra, Carlos Soto, Orvel Sternberg, Stanton Uyehara, Dorcas Wehling

Thanks for New Member Referrals

Our thanks to these RELAC members (shown in bold) for referring new members (shown in italics) during December 2019 and January 2020

Stephanie Hall, *Tamara Brown-Sneed*, Probation
Linda Hopkins, *Rhonda Fernandez, Marion Figueroa, Susan Toy Stern, Marie Jean Uyehara*, all Human Resources

Inetta Naulls, *Iantha Christian*, Public Social Services
Mary K. Rodriguez, *David Leong*, Human Resources
Irene Schorr, *Gayle Anderson Jennings*, Health Services

Patricia Caldwell Smith, *Mary L. Williams*, District Attorney

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

by Diane Sandoval, Chair
Regional Support Committee



My committee has been at work planning RELAC's first meeting of the year in Lancaster. We are committed to holding two regional meetings each year. Our first meeting is scheduled to be held at the **Lancaster Elks Lodge, #1625, 240 East Avenue K, Lancaster on April 14.** Our second meeting in 2020 will be held in the fall at a location to be announced in a future issue of our newsletter.

Unfortunately, Three Roses Catering is no longer in the catering business; no worries – you will still enjoy lunch. The committee has decided to offer a box lunch catered by a local cafe at a cost of \$10 per person. Doors open at 11 a.m.; the meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. and lunch is scheduled for 12 noon.

Please come and join us. Visit with your neighbors, meet new friends and reconnect with co-workers. Needless to say, we will have door prizes; perhaps you'll be the lucky holder of a winning ticket. Please join us!

Mark your calendar today and send in the reservation form **no later than April 7 with your check for \$10 per person, payable to RELAC.** If you have any questions, please call the RELAC office at (800) 537-3522.



SPRING DRAWING

It has been said that April showers bring spring flowers! In a gesture of our appreciation for your continued support, we want to shower you with dollars this April! All members are eligible for a special Spring Drawing of 40 prizes - \$25 each. To participate, complete the coupon below and mail it to the RELAC office, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15, Alhambra, CA 91803-8802. Coupons must be received no later than April 9, 2020.

Spring Drawing

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Please Print Clearly

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair
Special Events Committee



We hope you are enjoying the Year 2020. There are a number of special events scheduled in March and April which you may wish to visit. We wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

L.A. Marathon Health & Fitness Expo – March 6-7

L.A. Convention Center, South Hall – FREE
1201 S. Figueroa St., L.A.

Festival of the Kite – Sunday, March 8

12 – 5 p.m. Redondo Beach – Pier – FREE
Music and prizes for the best handmade kite.

St. Patrick's Day Parade – Saturday, March 14

11 a.m. - Hermosa Beach – Pier Avenue to 10th Street
Floats, bagpipers, and marching bands. FREE

Cesar Chavez Celebration – March 24 – 6 p.m.

East L.A. Library – 4837 East 3rd St., L.A.
Chavez video, Mariachi performance, refreshments, Mexican pan dulce and champurrado. Cesar Chavez books for children. FREE

L.A. Art Book Fair – April 3-5 - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Geffen MOCA (Museum of Contemporary Art)
152 N. Central Ave., L.A. - FREE

Blessing of the Animals – Saturday, April 11

El Pueblo de Los Angeles (Main St.) – 2 p.m.
Carry or walk your pet in the procession. FREE
Olvera Street, music, dancers and food available.

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta – Sunday, April 26

11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Downtown – 1st & Broadway
Latin American food available, music and special performances. FREE

FOR SALE:

Inglewood Park Cemetery. Selling a double capacity space in an excellent location: 63 Grandview Terrace (lawn crypt), Grave (B). Includes the opening and closing, endowment care and the headstone. Asking \$19,349 or best offer. (No more plots available in this garden).
E-mail: Waltertubbs1004@gmail.com or call Walter at (323) 326-5594.



NEW MEMBER --
New RELAC member David Leung, a retiree of the Department of Human Resources, and wife, Mee, attended RELAC holiday celebration in Diamond Bar in December. (Photo by Ida Ramos)



RELAC Members Enjoy RV Camping

RELAC members enjoyed RV group camping at Pechanga RV resort on Jan. 26. The next event will be March 22 at Banning Stagecoach KOA. Reservation forms are available on the RELAC website at relac.org.





RELAC Directors Brian Berger, Don Fandry and Linda Hopkins at 2019 March for Babies Walk

March with RELAC March for Babies 2020

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair
Community Support Committee

Save the Date: Saturday April 25 for the annual L.A. County Team March for Babies Walk in downtown Los Angeles at the County Grand Park, across from the Music Center. **Registration: 6:30 a.m. – Walk: 8 a.m. – three mile walk.** RELAC team co-captains: Linda Hopkins and Brian Berger.

Last year our RELAC 2019 Team, RELAC Board members and supporters donated over \$5,300 to help fund research and medical support for families at risk for premature births.

This year our RELAC Team goal is \$6,000. Your donations will help March of Dimes **ADVOCATE** for policies that prioritize and promote the health of moms and babies, **PROVIDE RESOURCES** and programs to help moms (family members and friends) throughout their pregnancies, **UNITE COMMUNITIES** and RELAC members through special walkathon events and **PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS** with companies and community-based organizations committed to helping families in need.

Join RELAC as a supporting member of our Walk for Babies Team and help us raise critical funds needed to help build a brighter, healthier future for generations to come.

If you wish to donate online you can visit our official March for Babies RELAC Team website at www.marchforbabies.org/team/RELAC.

RELAC Team Captain Linda Hopkins can be contacted for RELAC Walk t-shirts (\$15) at lhopkins1054@gmail.com. If you wish, you can also mail a donation made payable to March of Dimes to our RELAC office at 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15, Alhambra, CA 91803-8802 or call (800) 537-3522 for additional information or visit our website www.relac.org.

Members Enjoy RELAC Holiday Meeting Raffle Winners



Boi Do



County Family Celebrates with RELAC

It was a family affair at RELAC's December holiday meeting for Carmen Quinones, center, who was joined by her daughters Jennifer De Leon, left, and Elizabeth Eberhard, right. Quinones retired from the Mental Health Department in 1992, De Leon from Sheriff's in 2013, and Eberhard from Mental Health in 2016.



Great Discounts on Tickets and Services Just Got Better for RELAC Members

Recreation Connection, which RELAC has contracted with to provide great discounts nationwide to our members on tickets and services, is now TicketsatWork.

The discounts, provided at no cost to RELAC, include entertainment and travel offers, including hotel savings up to 60%, nationwide concerts, sporting events, Las Vegas shows and Broadway; and top theme parks, including Disney, Universal, and Six Flags. There are also discounts on electronics, apparel, cars and flowers.

To access the offers, go to RELAC's website at relac.org and click on the special announcement. Use RELAC (not RELAC) as the organization code.

RELAC members will receive a welcome gift of \$10 off their first purchase over \$100.

Keeping Up With Retirees

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



PATRICIA SENETTE-HOLT

My career with the County of Los Angeles spanned one year short of five decades. It began with an entry level position with the Department of Public Social Services in 1963. I was soon off to the Registrar-Recorder and Road Departments for a brief period. I'll never forget working at Juvenile Hall, where I cried after hearing the announcement of John F. Kennedy's assassination. While serving as secretary to the assistant chief of Probation, I was asked to interview for a position in the Office of Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. I was hired and became secretary to his chief deputy. I continued my education at California State University at Northridge and earned a bachelor of art degree in sociology, which prepared me for my career at the Area Agency on Aging, Department of Senior Citizens Affairs as a senior planner and staff liaison to the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council. The Advisory Council was an advocacy arm of the department that advocated on behalf of senior citizens on issues such as senior employment, transportation, housing and health care.

After a merger, the department was renamed the Department of Community and Senior Services and I was promoted to the position of executive assistant to the director. My assignments included staff liaison to the Commission on Aging (LACCOA) and public information officer. In this position I coordinated the annual Older Americans Recognition Day. The Board of Supervisors honors older Americans nominated by their respective cities and an older adult celebrity. My most memorable celebrities were Mickey Rooney and Doris Roberts. I was also tasked with coordinating LACCOA's countywide health fairs in each supervisorial district, sponsored by the Board of Supervisors.

Since retiring in 2012, I have been busy as chief operating officer of Arius Records, Inc. (ariusrecords.com), a music production company. We invite you to listen to the songs from our limited edition albums "Green Dolphin Street Revisited" and "Return to Paradise" on the Green Dolphin Street YouTube TV channel. I am also enjoying my role as the company's chief editor of the Arius Live! e-newsletter. The newsletter's content is aimed at providing our subscribers with current as well as nostalgic information about the music and amusement industries and pop culture. You may subscribe at patricia740919@gmail.com.

My leisure time is spent with my husband, Bernard, of 24 years. Together we have enjoyed touring the Rhode Island mansions; Saratoga Springs, New York; Franklin D. Roosevelt's home in Campobello Island, Maine; the Grand Canyon, not to mention vacations in Florida -- Miami, Ft. Lauderdale and Tampa, New Year's Eve in New Orleans, and the historic areas of Charleston, South Carolina and Savannah, Georgia. My favorite local vacation spots in California are Ojai and Palm Springs. I really enjoy getting together with a group of retirees for luncheons!

My bucket list includes trips to Egypt, the Ivory Coast and Dubai and an ocean cruise to Alaska.

We have been blessed with two lovely daughters, Lisa and Carla, and five granddaughters (Breanna, Treasure, Rachel and twins Mariah and Mellissa). Our family has recently been blessed with the birth of our first great-grandchild, Tahj. He is the highlight of our family's inner circle.



With Supervisor Kenneth Hahn



JUDITH FOX

Just as my County career started in 1979, I was laid off -- but shortly after was rehired. My career started at the Hall of Administration with Facilities as a word processor in the Real Estate Department. I even took a shift at the switchboard. At that time all the leases had to be typed and we used carbons. It was an interesting time. Then came the dawn of technology. First it was a cassette attached to the typewriter, then Selectric typewriters, then an early IBM touchscreen and the latest in software. By the time I retired, it was flat screens connected to the Internet. It was so great, if you had any problem, you just called the tech section. I missed all that when I retired as I wasn't savvy figuring out the computer.

From the Hall of Administration we moved to 6th and Vermont. While there, the subway was being built on Vermont and right next door. The last stop in my career was at 2nd and Hill. By that time, most of Facilities had been incorporated elsewhere and we were part of the Chief Executive Office. I was with the same department for 27 years, retiring in 2002 as a secretary 1. Thank you, as we used to say, Mother County.

I met my husband in 1989. We did a lot of traveling: drove across country to Key West, Florida; Alaska -- three days on Holland America and the rest inland; England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, all of Italy except Sicily; Mexico City. We were in Hong Kong the day it reverted back to China. The QE2 (Queen Elizabeth Two) was in the harbor waiting to take anybody who wanted go back to England; Chiang Mai, Bangkok, Israel and Egypt, and Russia when Gorbachev opened up the country. We started at St. Petersburg and then flew to Sochi, stopping in different places along the way. We left from Moscow.

I have lived in Alhambra for 31 years. After my husband passed away in 2006, I joined the Newcomers and Friends of San Gabriel Valley, and have taken many interesting tours with the group.

I got interested in genealogy after retiring and spent three years making family albums for my seven nieces and nephews. I have done a lot of traveling visiting family -- including 19 great-nieces and nephews, and one great-great niece and one great-great nephew -- in Fresno, Baltimore, New York, Rancho Mirage, and Arizona. I take bus trips to casinos, especially the Viejas in San Diego.

Thanks to the great County health plan, I was able to have both hips replaced. I have enjoyed going to the RELAC luncheon and membership meetings, especially the ones at the Arboretum.

With grandchildren, Huxley and Cora



GLEN DRAGOVICH

1980 was a big year for me. After graduating from college, I accepted my first job offer, with the Auditor-Controller as an accountant-auditor, and got married to my now-wife of 40 years, Linda. My plan was to get a couple years of experience and move on. However, after the first few years, I came to realize how fortunate I was to have the vast opportunities available within the County.

After four years with the Auditor-Controller, performing audits and cost studies, I moved to the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) as a management analyst doing budget work. During my 17 years at the CAO I was fortunate to have gotten a variety of experiences and meet people throughout the County. I spent time working the budgets for health, social services, justice and public safety, and general County departments. These experiences allowed me to work my way up to assistant division chief.

In 2001 I had the opportunity to join the Sheriff's Department as an assistant director in the Administrative Services Division. I was responsible for the budget and accounting services. During my 15 years with the Sheriff's Department I was promoted through the ranks to division director, which is at the level of a sworn division chief.

I retired in 2016 from the Sheriff's Department and Linda, a first-grade teacher, retired with me. The timing was perfect. Both of our daughters got married within a year of our retirement. We are lucky to have gained two amazing son-in-laws to our family.

Retirement has allowed us time to do some traveling within the U.S. We've visited Maine, Nashville, Hawaii, and Florida. We have also enjoyed cruising. First, up the coast to Vancouver, Canada, which ended up being an eventful cruise as we hit rough waters with waves coming over our balcony on the eighth level. We have also taken a Mediterranean/Adriatic Sea cruise visiting Italy, France, Greece, Croatia, Montenegro, and Spain.

As we all know, life does not always go as planned. In 2018 our life took a detour; Linda was diagnosed with cancer. After surgery and eight months of chemotherapy, she is cancer-free. When Linda got her strength back, we took a cruise of the Mexican Riviera and look forward to our upcoming European cruise.

We are enjoying babysitting our eight-month and 16-month-old granddaughters two days a week. It keeps us busy, but love every minute of being grandparents. When not traveling or babysitting, we still find time to hit the gym on a regular basis. Most recently I was asked to help out the Chief Executive Office as a 120-day employee.

I am grateful for having worked with the County, which has enabled us to enjoy this wonderful retirement of ours. I highly recommend retirement to anybody that asks how things are going.

With wife, Alice



ALONZO WHITAKER

I arrived in Los Angeles on July 11, 1965 from rural Nacogdoches, Texas and started working at General Hospital on March 7, 1966 in the Dietary Department as a food service worker. My next job was as a custodian. In July 1967, my brother, Clifford, and his family went to Texas to visit family and he returned with my high school sweetheart, Alice Marie Perkins. We got married on Oct. 27, and have been married for 52 years. We had two daughters and now have four grandchildren, three boys and one girl.

I furthered my career by taking an examination for parking lot attendant at General Hospital, working in the position there until I transferred in 1972 to Martin Luther King Medical Center, which was closer to my home in Compton. About two years later, I passed an examination for security officer I, and transferred to the Natural History Museum. A year later I transferred back to MLK as a security officer II. I passed a test for security officer III and started going to Compton College, taking classes for an associate degree in police science. I went to night school and took classes to be promoted. During this time, I volunteered to attend the Los Angeles Sheriff's Reserve Academy. I worked at MLK, and went to the Sheriff's Academy on Mondays and Sundays for six months, graduating on Aug. 7, 1977, as a reserve sheriff's deputy/officer.

After graduating from Compton College, I enrolled at Long Beach State University and got a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 1981. During this time I took an examination for chief of security for the County as there was an open position at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center. I was one of 20 employees who filed, and in February 1982 I got the job. Later I was appointed safety officer for Harbor/UCLA Medical Center and remained there 13 years. In addition, I was one of the initial Toastmaster members at the hospital.

In 1994 I was transferred to Olive View Medical Center as the captain, and I spend 12 years at "The View." While there I was involved in starting the metal detection program, which reduced criminal activity. During this time, the Office of Public Safety (County Police) began to merge with the Sheriff's Department. The County paid for all safety police management staff to go to Rio Honda Police Academy for four months, working toward peace officer standard of training (POST) status. I was then transferred to MLK Medical Center as the captain at that facility and served two years. I finally decided it was time to retire. When Headquarters heard that I had filed the paperwork to retire, I was transferred to High Desert Hospital, which was only 16 miles from my home in Palmdale. I was commuting 80 miles one-way to MLK, so this was a welcome transfer.

I retired on March 30, 2003 with 37 years of service. What a great ride!

When I retired, I helped my wife with her daycare business. After one year I started working at Antelope Valley College as a sergeant on the evening shift for about five years. I also volunteered at the Palmdale Red Cross, where I taught CPR and first aid to the citizens of Antelope Valley. On May 12, 2015, I attended the Lancaster/Palmdale Sheriff's Station Community Academy.

My wife and I continue to support our community through attending events such as the Palmdale Partners Academy. We have gone on three cruises to places such as Ensenada, Cozumel, Haiti, and Jamaica. We continue to strive to stay in great shape, not only mentally but physically by attending a local Crunch Fitness gym. I continue to live my life to the fullest and am having the time of my life.



Letters To The Editor Write On!

On behalf of the Quality and Productivity Commission, I write to thank you for your sponsorship of our 33rd Annual Productivity and Quality Awards ceremony and generous contribution of \$1,000. RELAC is an invaluable corporate sponsor and we appreciate your ongoing support. The innovative, creative, and quality improvement projects recognized at the PQA ceremony are expected to result in an annual benefit to the County of more than \$420 million, including cost avoidance, cost savings, and new revenue. We are proud to have partnered with you to recognize the best in our County workforce and their impact on the communities they serve.

J. Shawn Landres, Chair, Quality and Productivity Commission, Los Angeles County

I appreciate being asked to be a feature about retirees. I have always enjoyed reading your articles, which cover many issues. Thanks for being a volunteer.
Scott Carrier, Long Beach, California

Outstanding job on the newsletter. The Spada family will be happy (with the article published on the death of Phil Spada). Wish you the best in 2020.
Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, Retired Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

Thank you for printing the photo of the retired health managers in another outstanding edition of the newsletter. You make us all look good!
Barry Hunt, Inglewood, California

You do such a great job on the newsletter.
Craig Harvey, Aguanga, California

Love reading your column(s) in the RELAC newsletter – you are certainly up to date on all the County news, gossip and buzz. I will be retiring as director of Child Support Services Department on Feb. 29 – after 20+ years of County service. Went by in the blink of an eye
Steven J. Golightly, Ph.D., Director, Child Support Services

Happy holidays and thank you for my pocket calendar. It helps me track my volunteer activities for several groups and donations at a glance! Especially since one group wishes to have a recounting of my activities. Happy New Year 2020. Former and happily retired county (little “c”) librarian.
Vickie Guagliardo, La Crescenta, California

RELAC, thinking of you with heartfelt thanks. I want you to know how much you’re appreciated!
Albertha Handy, Compton, California

RELAC, thanks! Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.
Winnie Lang, Beverly Hills, California

RELAC, thanks! I want to thank you for sending me a birthday card and a greetings card. You guys are doing a great job. I’ve been with you a long time (since March 1986). Keep up the good work.
Sam Schultz, Northridge, California

RELAC, let me apologize for not having written sooner regarding my win of the Valentine’s Day drawing of 2019. A very pleasant surprise after never having won anything before. Thank you, and more good luck for me.
Alice M. Gunn, Edmond, Oklahoma

RELAC, Happy New Years for the wonderful Outreach Committee! I am amazed and appreciate the work you are doing – sending all the birthday and Xmas cards. I was 94 years old last September and recently moved from my two-story house in Dana Point to a small level condo in Lake Forest, with my two cats.
Ilse Kraemer, Lake Forest, California

RELAC, thank you once again for my pocket calendar and the great job you all do for all of us! Happy New Year!
Dee Parrish, Clarkson, Michigan

Tuskegee Airman RELAC Member Ted Lumpkin, Jr. Celebrates 100

by Jason H. Williams

In RELAC’s September/October 2019 newsletter, readers were informed about RELAC member Theodore “Ted” G. Lumpkin, Jr.’s military service as a documented original Tuskegee Airman, who as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps was an air intelligence officer in the Western European Theater from 1944-45. During World War II, he was a member of 332nd Fighter Group, which consisted of the 99th, 100th, 301st and 302nd fighter squadrons. Ted was born on December 30, 1919!



This article will bring our readers up-to-date on his most recent activities, including several 100th birthday celebrations:

Sept. 28, 2019 – Ted received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation -- a group that was founded in 1978 to provide charitable services and educational scholarships to deserving students to honor deceased and living members of the Tuskegee Airmen. Over 250 people attended the event, hosted by the Wave’s (94.7 FM) popular veteran broadcaster Pat Prescott. Ted was chosen for this award because of his distinguished service with Tuskegee Airmen Inc., as prior national board member, western regional representative, Los Angeles Chapter president and as an avid fundraiser and board member of the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation since 2007.

Dec. 28, 2019 – Ted received a 100th birthday celebration, hosted by the L.A. Southwest Association of Realtors and the Consolidated Board of Realist. Ted worked as a real estate broker after retiring from Los Angeles County in 1979. Over 150 friends and family attended.

Jan. 2, 2020 – Ted received another 100th birthday celebration, hosted by his family, and attended by over 200 family members, Tuskegee Airmen and friends – some who traveled from as far away as Northern California, Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina, New Jersey, Texas and Florida. Among family attending were three of his children, nine grandchildren and one grandson.

Feb. 5, 2020 – Ted was special guest and speaker at a reception held by the County Department of Military & Veterans Affairs to kick off Black History Month, featuring a special art exhibit of the Tuskegee Airmen, on loan from the University of California at Riverside.



RETIREE NOTES



Tony Bell Retires

Supervisor Kathryn Barger presents retirement scroll to Anthony "Tony" Bell at Jan. 21 Board of Supervisors meeting in recognition of his 18 years of service. Bell served as communications deputy and assistant chief deputy to Barger and former Supervisor Mike Antonovich.



DHR Retirees Reunion

RELAC members Sylvia Collier, Linda Hopkins, Milena Rada, Alice Parker and Authra Waterhouse welcome new RELAC members Marion Figueroa, Jean Uyehara, Rhonda Fernandez and Susan Toy Stern at Jan. 27 reunion of retirees of the Department of Human Resources. The DHR retirees, who get together three to four times annually, met for lunch at Luminarias in Monterey Park. Of the 11 in attendance, nine were RELAC members. Shown from left to right are Figueroa, Collier, Uyehara, Hopkins, Fernandez, Toy Stern, Rada, Parker and Waterhouse.



Department Head Reunion

Former County department heads meet for lunch each December at the old County hangout TAIX restaurant in Los Angeles. Catching up at the last reunion were, from left, top row: Russ Guiney, Parks and Recreation; Harry Stone, Public Works; Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, Medical Examiner-Coroner; Philip Browning, Children and Family Services. Third row: Dr Thomas Noguchi, Medical Examiner-Coroner; Harry Hufford, Chief Administrative Office; Marv Southard, Mental Health; Stephanie Klopfleish, Community and Senior Services; Sheryl Spiller, Public Social Services. Second row: Connie McCormick, Registrar-Recorder; Brian Berger, Animal Care and Control; Joseph Kelly, Treasurer-Tax Collector; Joanne Sturges, Executive Office, Board of Supervisors; Pastor Herrera, Jr., Consumer Affairs. Front row: Lynn Bayer, Public Social Services; Sandy Reuben, Library; Mark Saladino, County Counsel.



Retiree Ray Leyva Heads Probation Department

RELAC member Ray Leyva, who most recently served as undersheriff, began his newest adventure after retirement on Jan. 17 as the County's interim chief probation officer. He replaced Terri L. McDonald, who retired after serving as the chief probation officer for three years. Leyva retired from the Sheriff's Department as a commander in February 2016, but returned to serve as an executive assistant retiree from December 2018 to March 2019. "I worked with Ray during my time at the Sheriff's Department, and I am confident that under his leadership, this department will continue to set the standard in our work with clients and the community," said McDonald. "Saying goodbye is rarely easy, but I am more than confident that I am leaving this amazing department in capable and supportive hands." Leyva worked in the Sheriff's Department for 30 years.

Scott Minnix Retires

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas presents retirement scroll in December 2019 to Scott Minnix, head of the Internal Services Department. Minnix returned to Texas, where his family had remained during his three years at L.A. County. Ridley-Thomas praised Minnix for infusing the department "with infectious energy, unparalleled work ethic and innovative ideas." He said Minnix "worked tirelessly to modernize the organization and transform the culture, always leading by example." Minnix's chief deputy, Selwyn Hollins, was named acting director.



90th Birthday for Former Supervisor Pete Schabarum

Former Chief Administrative Officer Harry Hufford (at right) and wife, Jan, stopped by Indian Wells home of former Supervisor Pete Schabarum to wish him a happy 90th birthday in January. All are RELAC members.

Former RELAC Office Manager Pat Koulos Succumbs to Cancer

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

Former RELAC office administrator Patricia "Pat" Koulos, a 22-year County employee, died Jan. 14, 18 months after being diagnosed with brain cancer.

The Glendora resident, who had undergone radiation and chemotherapy since her diagnosis, was hospitalized Jan. 1 and transferred to a hospice seven days later.

Koulos, 74, worked at RELAC's Alhambra office from 2007 to Feb. 28, 2019, serving as secretary to the Board of Directors and assisting with the newsletter before becoming office administrator in January 2015. She resigned several months after learning she had cancer.

A memorial service was held Feb. 4 with a rosary and mass at St. Martins de Porres Catholic Church in Yorba Linda. Graveside services were Feb. 10 at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Orange.

She is survived by her son, David Seward, and two grandchildren, Cole and Ella. One of her favorite activities was attending the sports of her grandchildren: baseball for Cole and soccer for Ella. She also leaves her sister, Geri Collins, and life partner Jeffrey Samsom.

"Patty and I were not married, but considered each other life partners," said Samsom. "We had known each other since 1965 in the CAO. We had a great life partnership which ended far too soon, but now she is at peace after a long and terrible struggle."

Koulos, nee Collins, was born in 1945 in Los Angeles. The family moved to Glendale, Arizona in the early 1950s. The two girls returned to Los Angeles in 1962 and finished high school.

Koulos worked in the Chief Administrative Office from 1963 through 1985, beginning in the steno pool one week after high school graduation. She ended her County career as executive secretary to Chief Administrative Officer Harry Hufford, retiring shortly after he left the County. While in the CAO, she worked for Assistant CAOs Ted Reed and Dick Baird, and Division Chief Bill Leone.

Hufford said he met Koulos when she was assigned to the Budget Division of the CAO at the beginning of her career and she immediately became his "go-to" person for dictation. "She was fast, accurate, and pleasant. I chose her to follow my career from Budget Division, to the Election Special assignment, and ultimately to the CAO executive suite. She was unflappable, smart as a whip, and a great friend."

Koulos spent several years "purely retired" after leaving the County, enjoying traveling with her husband, Harry – who was a 36-year County employee -- and spending time with friends and family. She started to work several days a week "off and on" at the RELAC office following her husband's death in 2006. "Working for RELAC was supposed to be a temporary thing, but here I am 12 years later," she said in 2019. "I truly enjoyed working with the RELAC Board members and staff and interacting with our members over the years."

RELAC President Dave Muir said Koulos' retirement left a huge void. "Pat possessed extraordinary capabilities. Her work was always of the highest quality, and her proactive approach and sense of responsibility played a big part in making sure all of the Board's responsibilities were carried out in a timely manner."

Board member Greg Walia, who as head of the Office Management Committee supervised Koulos, worked with Koulos from their CAO days in the mid-to late '70s and then again at RELAC for 12 years. "Her professionalism, dedication to work with office staff and our members set a standard that is challenging to match. On a personal note, I admired Pat and loved her for the person she was. She will be greatly missed by all at RELAC."



Former Golf Course Manager Ruben Z. Mares Dies at Age 91

Ruben Z. Mares, a 31-year County Parks and Recreation employee whose "pocket-in-one" incident at Los Amigos Golf Course landed him in the pages of a 1972 "Ripley's Believe It or Not" book, has died at age 91.

Mares, a World War II veteran, started with the County as a groundskeeper in 1955 and worked his way up to become a golf course manager at Los Amigos, Santa Anita and Whittier Narrows golf courses before retiring in 1986.

While Mares was working on the third-hole green at Los Amigos, a golfer teed off 145 yards away and launched his ball straight into Mares' hip pocket. Ripley's published the story, along with Mares' drawing of the incident.

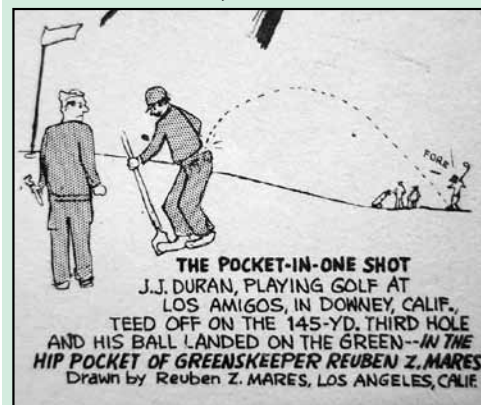
The RELAC member passed on his passion for golf by teaching each of his children how to play. His eldest daughter, Catalina M. Figueroa, recalls that he would occasionally take them with him for weekend visits to his courses, ensuring all was well and that the golfers were enjoying the challenge of the course's design and its water and sand traps.

He would check that the shorter and denser turf on the greens for all 18 holes was cut and maintained to an exact height, as the way the grass was cut influenced the direction and speed the golf ball would roll. He also used to identify trees, shrubs, and grasses, then quiz his children during their family outings. Once after a celebrity tournament in the 1970s, Mares returned home and asked his children to shake his hand because he had shaken the hand of Jack LaLanne.

One of his sons, John, followed his footsteps and works for grounds and maintenance, mowing and maintaining high school sports fields.

Mares was a vintage car enthusiast and proud owner of a 1965 Golden Hawk Studebaker and a 1955 T-Bird.

He joined the Army at age 17 to serve in WWII's Big Red 1 Infantry Division in the Allied occupation of Germany and again during the Korean conflict. After the wars, he served in the National Guard until 1959. He worked as a steelworker in Los Angeles before going to work for the County.



Mares is survived by his wife of 65 years, Manuela, six children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Calvary Cemetery Los Angeles in December 2019 following his death on Nov. 24.



InsideLA County

by Judy Hammond
Newsletter Editor

The County is working to improve its hiring process after finding that the average time to hire an employee – from the date of application to start date -- is about 5 ½ months, with some departments taking as long as 273 days. One possibility is the elimination of the appraisals of promotability. Human resource managers say there are other testing tools that can be administered more quickly and provide a more objective and unbiased assessment. Civil service rules relating to recruitment, examination and hiring processes – most of which were adopted more than 30 years ago – are also being reviewed. Not only do they slow down the hiring process, the antiquated regulations cause departments to struggle to match technology, culture and best practices.

Last year the Sheriff's Department had a budget deficit of \$63.4 million, prompting County supervisors to impose a hiring freeze and a plan to cut expenses. While some positive changes were made, it evidently wasn't enough to solve the problem. Officials say the department may have even a higher deficit at the end of this fiscal year (June 30).

Microsoft awarded \$3.3 million to upgrade all the computers in the County's libraries to allow digital workshops to teach students how to code, conduct research and explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

A Rand Corp. study found that more than 60 percent of inmates with a mental illness in the County jails would be eligible for diversion if there were more facilities capable of providing supportive care. About 30 percent –6,000 – of the inmates are in the mental health ward or receive psychotropic medication.

The L.A. County Fair can't take the heat....it has decided to reduce its daytime hours because high temperatures have kept attendance down. Former County employee Miguel Santana, who is chief executive officer of Fairplex, blames it on climate change. Temperatures in 2019 rose above 90 degrees on 14 of the 19 days of the event.

The County Museum of Art received a \$50 million pledge from W.M. Keck Foundation toward its \$750 million project to revamp the campus, bringing the total commitments to \$640 million. Meanwhile, opponents of the project (calling themselves The Citizens' Brigade to Save LACMA) took out a full page ad in the L.A. Times to urge the project be abandoned. The project would replace four buildings (with demolition set to start the end of February) with a single-story exhibition hall straddling Wilshire Boulevard. Opponents are upset that the new design makes the museum smaller and provides less gallery space for exhibition of art.

The press release issued by the County Public Health and Mental Health departments announced the opening of 32 Wellbeing Centers in schools across the County to address the social, emotion and health needs of students. The L.A. Times story had a different angle on the new endeavor, which is to cost an estimated \$12 million the first year: The focus of the Times' article was sexual health services to be provided, including birth control pills and condoms, tests and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing and referrals.

The architectural renovation plan approved by the Natural History Museum will keep the three fiberglass mammoths in the Lake Pit at the La Brea Tar Pits, preserve the '70s era George C. Page Museum, add a new exhibition wing and expand the lawn area. One of the three plans being considered would have relocated the mammoths from the pit to inside a gallery.

A District Attorney investigation into the deaths of horses at Santa Anita Racetrack in Arcadia made 27 recommendations for improvements, but found no criminal wrongdoing.

The County submitted a bid to purchase St. Vincent Medical Center in Westlake, which is in bankruptcy, to use for homeless housing and assistance.

The Registrar-Recorder had to send out a supplemental ballot to Pomona and Hawthorne voters because the initial one did not include the County's proposal for a property tax hike to raise funds for the Fire Department.

The new Youth Commission, to have 15 members who have been in foster care or the probation system, is charged with reforming policies that govern those systems, and will have the power to conduct site visits at County facilities and interview youth.

A fake letter that purported to be from the County Department of Public Health to Carson residents prompted the department to issue a press release to assure there was no immediate threat to the general public from the novel coronavirus, no special precautions were required, and people should not be excluded from activities based on their race, country of origin, or recent travel if they did not have symptoms of respiratory illness.

The Parks and Recreation Department says money it receives from recent increases in golf course green fees, lake location entrances, special events and facility use fees will be used to create a youth scholarship program, a free summer admissions program at Botanic Gardens for veterans, teenagers and teachers, and tiered pricing to expand partnerships with community-based organizations.

A new County ordinance to increase regulations at massage establishments is aimed at preventing human trafficking.

The Board of Supervisors voted to deploy 30 trailers committed by Gov. Gavin Newsom to serve as interim housing for families.

An empty County health building in San Pedro will be used as a 40-bed, three-year temporary emergency shelter, with 24/7 security, wrap-around services like mental health care, three daily meals and snacks, and outreach efforts in the encampments around the shelter.

The County's newly constructed East L.A. Entrepreneur Center offers business development workshops, access to capital, support with permits and licenses, and one-on-one counseling.

After UCLA said it could no longer operate a medical clinic on Skid Row, the County acquired it at no cost and will continue services to about 4,000 homeless patients.

The Animal Care and Control Department is helping homeless individuals figure out a way to take care of their pets. Sometimes, for example, all that is needed is a crate or grooming for a dog to be welcomed into temporary living space. If they can't resolve the problem, the department may temporary house and care for the pet(s) while the family finds stable, pet-friendly housing.

A new County policy prohibits the purchase of vehicles from companies that joined federal litigation opposing California's ability to set greenhouse gas and vehicle emission standards.

County supervisors approved the addition of 500 mental health treatment beds over the next two years.

The Assessor's Office annually assesses about 45,000 jet skis, sailboats, runabouts, cruisers, motor yachts, tugboats, and barges valued at \$5,000 or more.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Agricultural Comm./Wts & Meas. - Henry T. Mukai
Alcohol/Drug Pgms. Admin - Doreen Wade
Alhambra Municipal Court - Vicky M. Legat
Ambulatory Care Network - Leticia De La Cruz, Brandon Dwayne Thomas, Nealy I. Wilson
Antelope Valley Rehab. Center - Rebecca A. Combs
Assessor - Pauline M. Beech, Erlinda Cagaanan, Roger C. Hausen, Michael D. Laurence, Christina Manley, Agnes Martens, Roger Pomposello
Auditor-Controller - Jessie A. Bailey, Gary Y. Cheung, Toshiko Hironaka, Carrie V. Sykes
Beaches & Harbors - Marvin E. Avery, Bob M. Burnside, John B. McFarlane
Beverly Hills Municipal Court - Selma L. Silvers
Board of Supervisors - Joyce J. Baker, Edwin C. Bixby, Alvin J. Franklin
California Children's Services - Frances Rees, Rosa A. Villao
Chief Executive Office - Myung H. Cho, Patricia K. Koulos
Child Support Services - Marjorie N. Buckhalter, Gertrude Hines, Gavina L. Omnas, Audrey L. Smith
Children & Family Services - Robert D. Bashaw, Karen Bass, John W. Boland, Joan Bergman Corley, Lisa Carol Harris, Carrol A. Harris, Debbie Ibay, Carolyn D. Matthews, Robert Prince, Alyse Reisman, Howell A. Simons
Communications - Isabel Regina Barrett
Correctional Health - Deborah E. Moore
District Attorney - Tamar G. Carbaugh, Burton Denmark, Ruth D. Forte, Thelma Freeman, Richard B. Hershberger, Frank Anthony Kovacevich, Robert Levy, Patricia M. Lux, Alice M. Mac Arthur, Dana C. Thompson
Fire - Albert Brandelli, Myron Bromberg, John E. Chandler, Allen Cox, Bernard E. Dickey, Gene T. Green, Lloyd O. Helm, Timothy A. Hooper, John T. Hult, Michael D. Johnson, Richard W. Jordan, Joseph Karol, William L. Knott, Henry C. Nichols, Donald B. Postle, Amparo Ramirez, Dennis R. Rogers, Lloyd D. Schueller, Howard O. Schultz, Paul S. Thomsen, Fay Logan Willett
Flood Control District - Ronald D. Jackson, Caroline L. Moreno, L. R. Patrick, Charles D. Rector
Harbor/UCLA Medical Center - Ralph Barnes, Diane C. Coley, Ines M. Conn, Shanon Jackson, Nathaniel S. Jordan, Eunice E. Koh, Edna Landry, Anda M. Lutens, William Y. Matsuno, Anita N. Palag, Bobbie Rookard, Charito D. Solis-Javier, Sylvia S. Tuxen, Elizabeth J. Williams
Health Plan Administration - Jean E. Schwartz
Health Services Administration - Velma Anderson, Gaylord Jude Buckhalter, Marshall W. Dollarhide, Minnie L. Gibson, Debra C. Huey, Effie M. Malray, Robert Megliorino, Hana Zemplenyi
Internal Services - Elisea Alonzo, Benjamin F. Clark, Joseph N. Cusimano, Harry Franklin, Robert C. Gomez, Theodore M. Gordon, Bernard L. Koch, Arthur G. Reis Jr., Ted Rowland, Mohamed F. Sedky, Michael F. Sheppa, Gwendolyn F. White
Juvenile Court Health Services - Doris M. Barnes, Jean C. Zornes
King-Drew Medical Center - Harmelden A. Dean, Christine Estrada, Carolyn Glenn, Ida B. Jackson, Dorothy Jennings, Bettye J. Lacy O'Neil, Dorothy L. Larsson, Dolores Marshall, Euleda T. Murphy, Joe N. Owens, Myrtle S. Pierce, Lynette R. Williams, Earl Wilson
LAC+USC Medical Center - Ada Arguez, Servando L. Arredondo, Consuelo M. Ballesteros, Maxine Brown, Gladys Bruno, Mariegene F. Cacho, Leora C. Chamberlain, Perlita Chun, Portia K. Corleto, Isabel V. Estrada, Brenda Fennell, Mike G. Gallegos, Robert L. Hamilton, Matteal R. Hickman, Erma Elizabeth Hicks, Itai Hofman, Lillian Hood, Sylvia D. Labinger, Donald A. Lamping, Frances M. Laterza, Remedios Lopez, Yolanda Melara, Dilma Mendieta, Severino C. Mendoza, Dalisay S. Mina, Susan C. Mogollon, Donald A. Moore, Leticia B. Navarro, Katherine P. Nelson, Thai V. Ngo,

Florentina Paez, Rolando A. Pining, Armando P. Salinas, Pearlie M. Sceaver, Louis L. Snaer, James A. Thompson, Kimyen T. Tran, Maria D. Valdez, Hazel R. Walker, Reva Wallace, Norman Weiss, Jean Charnell Wilhelm
LACERA - Helen M. Murphy, Imelda L. Saldivar, Everett L. Scott, Edward S. Tallant
Mechanical - Ronald L. Carter, Robert A. Norton, David R. Sullivan
Mental Health - Monica A. Bates, Richard E. Cabrera, Beverly D. Carter, Beverly D. Carter, Rufino R. Pamaran, Richard H. Rice, Joan-Luise Snyder
Museum Of Natural History - Roscoe Lynch, Betty A. Reynolds, Errol W. Stevens
Office of Public Safety - Benjamin Haley, Errol M. Hicks, Jaime A. Silva, Donald L. Smith, Donald L. Smith, Alfonso L. Wilson Sr.
Olive View/UCLA Medical Center - Joan Bernstein, Stanley R. Billings, Gilbert L. Clarkson, Benjamin S. Facun, Manuela L. Garcia, Manuela L. Garcia, Peter T. Kirk, Rosario Muirragui, Dorothy Mae Slocum
Parks And Recreation - Richard Colvin, Toby Garcia, Rise K. Hargrove, William R. Helmer, Gerard Ferdinand Lambert, Ruben Z. Mares
Probation Department - Willard K. Abe, Samuel L. Brown, Caroline Carman, William A. Chandler, Harold M. Cotton, Eartha Culmer, Thomas C. Dewey, Rufus M. Durr, Ashkhen R. Evrad, Pamela A. Fleming, Leon Garrett, Carel Edward Grolle, Robert M. Latta, Noreen Maureen Lispi, David J. Myers, Walter R. Norwood, B. J. Polinsky, Cheryl B. Schwalbe, Louis H. Silva, Anthony Smith, Carmen J. Storay, Daniel R. Valenzuela, Gilbert Valeriano Jr., Michael D. Weaver, Laurence P. Williams
Public Defender - Zelda R. Reiter, Bitner R. Winckler
Public Health Program - Bonnie Campbell, James L. Diehl, Ida M. Greenberg, Minnie Jackson, Dorothy R. Osman, Martha P. Ramirez, Harue Nancy Shimasaki, Masako Tsurutome, Tamika West, Lydia Yue
Public Library - Sarala Blair, Erskine M. Carter, Louise H. Ashley
Public Social Services - , Maria R. Acosta, Carlos B. Alpuerto, Constance Avery, Eduard Bagdasaryan, Carol L. Barrett, Allene K. Boisvert, Sharon Brown, Thelma Butler, Estelita C. Caballero, Vernita O. Carter, Billie Clay, Louis W. Collins, Ann Curone, Estela C. Diaz, Martha O. Fematt, Salvador O. Garcia, Martha Gomez, Martha R. Hamman, Rosalind W. Harris, Selma Hatrick, Jose L. Hernandez, Miriam Louise Hodges, Katherine Inda, Myrna G. Jamieson, Edgar Jenkins, Viola Jones, Enza S. Kassarjian, Ghaziuddin A. Khan, Jose Lopez, Ernesto Marquez, Cecilia C. Martinez, Patricia McGowan, Walter Morales, Vera E. Pruet, Edward E. Ran, Sameth Reang, Joseph A. Rizzo, Bettye R. Ross, Clive R. Sampson Jr., Julia A. Schroeder, Rochelle D. Smith, Gladys R. Stockmeyer, Jitsuko J. Tozaki
Public Works - David C. Chandler, Arthur B. Cook, Marvin E. Doxie, Arthur M. Fleming, Paul Gambaiani, George B. Gurnett, Kikuo Hanano, Fadila T. Khalil, Donald D. MacDougall, Lloyd E. Moore, Sandra F. Moscozo, David Bernerd Shapiro, Tzuo Ren Su, Aaron La Fon Tallent, Donald Wilson, Donald Wilson, Hosun S. Wong
Rancho Los Amigos Hospital - Elsie Myrsia Barber, Leon H. Bell, Alberta E. Broadnax, Patricia L. Broadus, Betty J. Davis, Bernadette De Medio, Milton L. Fort, Robert R. Hernandez, John D. Hsu, Kathleen Y. Kelley, Clariece Nairn, Cleo M. Smith
Regional Planning - Dolores C. Caruthers
Reg-Recorder/County Clerk - Anita Arias, Dorita Boyette, Lizzie Castillo, Mary H. Cruz, Ronda A. Jackson-McLucas, Milas E. Smith
Sheriff - Juana P. Acosta, David J. Bauchop, Gerald P. Bieh, Dorothy M. Brown, Richard Buhler, Iverson S. Bunn, Emerico Corpus, Glenn R. Corson, Frank P. Cross, Melody Davis, Jerry D. Donnelly, Walter I. Faber, Lyle H. Funk, George H. Galeener, Stephen R. Gonzalez, Eustolia Gould, Bruce L. Hawley, Lillis M.

RETIREMENTS:

Steven Golightly, director of Child Support Service Department, after 21 years of County service. **Tony Bell**, communications deputy and assistant chief deputy in Fifth Supervisorial District for 18 years, serving Supervisors Mike Antonovich and Kathryn Barger. **Scott Minnix**, head of Internal Services Department, to return to Texas, where his family had remained during his three years at ISD.

HEALTH:

RELAC Board member **Mary K. Rodriguez**, who retired as a LACERA manager in 1996, recovering from major stroke.

APPOINTMENTS:

Keith Knox, new treasurer-tax collector, at annual salary of \$280,097, who had been acting in that position since the retirement of Joseph Kelly. **Emilio Salas**, deputy executive director of the County Development Corporation, named acting executive director at annual salary of \$240,000 following resignation of Monique King-Viehlend. **Selwyn Hollins**, chief deputy in Internal Services Department, named acting director at \$281,505 salary, following departure of Scott Minnix. **Ray Leyva**, a Sheriff's Department commander before his retirement in 2016, appointed interim chief probation officer, at hourly rate of \$177, while Board of Supervisors search for permanent replacement for Terri McDonald, who retired Jan. 17. **Wayne Moore**, a member of LACERA's Board of Investments, also appointed to three-year term on LACERA Board of Retirement by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, replacing Marvin Adams. **Patrick Ogawa**, retired chief deputy executive officer of the Board of Supervisors, appointed to County Mental Health Commission by Supervisor Janice Hahn. **Gustavo Dudamel** tapped to head the L.A. Philharmonic for five more years. **Cheri Todoroff** appointed as executive director of the Healthcare Network, reporting directly to Director of Health Services Dr. Christina Ghaly, at annual salary of \$244,000.

COURTS:

Retired Sheriff **Lee Baca**, 77, reported to a low-security federal prison outside El Paso, Texas to serve a three-year term for obstructing a FBI investigation into the jails, after losing his second appeal for a retrial. Former Sheriff's Deputy **Angel Reinoso**, 21, charged with insurance fraud and making a false report of a crime after reporting he had been shot by a sniper while he stood outside the sheriff's station in Lancaster, which prompted a wide-scale search. Probation officers **LaCour Harrison**, **Claudette Reynolds**, **Maria Asuzena Guerrero** and **Karnesha Marshall** were found not guilty of unlawfully using pepper spray on teenage girls at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. Two other officers, **Marlene Rochelle Wilson** and **Janeth Vilchez**, are to be arraigned on similar charges on March 25. **Jorge Hernandez** and **Benjamin Brus**, former managers of the now-defunct East San Gabriel Valley Human Resources Commission (also known as LA Works), a government employment placement agency, pleaded guilty for their roles in a fraudulent overbilling scheme to place clients into jobs with two local hospitals where they already were working. Hernandez must repay \$17,738 to the County and Brus must pay \$4,800. Sheriff's Deputies **Michael Berk** and **Justin Fisk** pleaded not guilty to felony charges that they filed false reports and committed perjury relating to traffic stops made in 2016. A state appeals court threw out child abuse charges against former Department of Children and Family Services social workers **Kevin Bom**, **Stefanie Rodriguez**, **Gregory Merritt** and **Patricia Clement**, saying there was no probable cause. The four left an 8-year-old in the home of his mother and her boyfriend -- who were later convicted of his murder -- despite multiple investigations into alleged abuse.

DEATHS:

Patricia Koulos, former RELAC officer manager and 22-year County employee who served as executive secretary to then-Chief Administrative Officer Harry Hufford, from brain cancer. Sheriff's Detective **Amber Leist**, a 12-year department veteran who served in Lancaster and West Hollywood, after being struck by a vehicle moments after helping a senior cross the street. **Margaret "Maggie" Belton**, who served in different capacities on the Disabilities Commission, the Commission on Older Adults and the Personal Assistance Services Council. Retired Judge **Philip Saeta**, 88, a Los Angeles Municipal Court judge from 1964-1975 and Superior Court from 1975 to 1991 after four year struggle with mesothelioma. **Joseph Ruzicka**, who served on the Local Agency Formation Commission. **Bob Burnside**, 87, former Fire Department lifeguard chief from 1967 until his retirement in 1983 (first hired as lifeguard in 1951) who was the first president of the National Surf Lifesaving Association which later morphed into the U.S. Lifesaving Association, and developer of the can rescue buoy still used around the world.. **William Robert Zimmerman**, 92, former member of the Natural History Museum Board of Directors. Dr. **Richard Zapanta**, treasurer of the LAC+USC Medical Center Foundation since 2010, leading the foundation's flagship program, the Wellness Center at the historic General Hospital. Retired Sheriff's Chief **Oliver "Ollie" Taylor**, retiring in 1991 after 32 years. **Stephen Michel**, 81, former chairman of County of L.A. Emergency Medical Services Commission. **Mary Helen "Sunny" Cruz**, 84, 32-year Registrar-Recorder's Office employee who was a Commission on Aging commissioner, after long battle with pulmonary fibrosis. **Larry Johnson**, 79, who played a key role in the County's homeless project, becoming clinical director of the Union Station Foundation in Pasadena for 25 years after retiring from County in 1989. **Velma Anderson**, 88, retired as director of clinical social work at LAC+USC Medical Center in 1993 after 25 years with County. **Lawrence Field**, 89, who with his wife, Eris, funded the Lawrence N. Field West Gate of the Hollywood Bowl and the Eris M. Field Plaza at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

HONORS:

Dr. **Mitchell Katz**, retired head of the L.A. County Health Agency, now president and CEO of New York City's Health + Hospitals, ranked 91st in Modern Healthcare's "100 Most Influential People in Healthcare." Probation Department Special Assistant **Francisco "Frank" Paredes III**, a 17-year employee, given 2019 Award of Excellence by Chief Probation Officers of California.

IN MEMORIAM

Henry, Clydell Hill, Rodney E. Johnson, Clarece Kelso, Benny J. Kirtley, Felipe Leal, Amber J. Leist, Stephen G. Manthorne, Jon W. Mc Kown, Mark L. McKenzie, Robert Morck, Bernard M. Morgan, Cortland Myers IV, Angel C. Resurreccion, Vivian M. Rinehart, Henry R. Roberts, Michael E. Staley, Mary Louise Talbert, David L. Thomas, Charles W. Vaughn, Antonio Villalobos, Larry P. Wilson, Dennis E. Winkel, Robert M. Young

South Coast Air Quality Mgmt. - Lester M. Jason

Superior Court/County Clerk - Fay Abramovitch, Virginia A. Balise, Donna M. Carson, Gail E. Childs, Mary L. Eskridge, Edward R. Hulbert, Maxine Baker Jackson, Lawrence Lee, John H. Major, Laura A. Miller, Cezar Morales, W. L. Paul, Ana Maria Quezada, Fred Roeder, Olivia Thompson

Treasurer-Tax Collector - Necitas V. Aguilar, Henry Bryant, Diane L. Chave, Daoud F. Moussally, Alice H. Nakashima, Mauro B. Paguio

Women's Hospital - Carol J. Brininger

Workforce Dev., Aging & Comm Svc. - Martin Robert Berman, Larry Johnson, Roberta S. Kimble

Unidentified County Agency - Spencer W. Walker



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

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #66
PASADENA, CA

Upcoming Events

RV Outing to Banning
March 22

March for Babies – Grand Park, L.A.
March 25 (Page 7)

La Mirada Golf Tournament
April 13 (Page 4)

Regional Support Luncheon Meeting

REGIONAL SUPPORT LUNCHEON MEETING

APRIL 14, 2020
Lancaster Elks Lodge # 1625
240 E. Avenue K, Lancaster

Name _____

Guest(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Please send your reservation and check payable to:

RELAC
1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15
Alhambra, CA 91803

\$10 per person (Qty.) _____

Total (\$) _____

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS - APRIL 7



APRIL 14, 2020

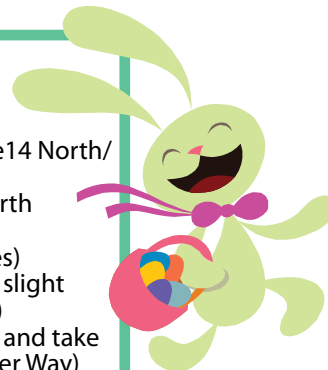
Lancaster Elks Lodge # 1625
240 East Avenue K
Lancaster

See article on page 6

DIRECTIONS

From L.A. Area:

Take 1-5 north to Route 14 North/
Antelope Valley Frwy.
Take State Route 14 North
Antelope Valley Frwy.
(Approximately 41 miles)
Take Exit 41 (Avenue L) slight
right turn to (Avenue L)
Enter next roundabout and take
the third exit (Challenger Way)
Turn right onto E. Avenue K;
make a U-turn at 17th onto
Avenue K
Elks Lodge is on the right side



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

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

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

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