



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

RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

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

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President's Message

by Linda C. Hopkins

Making a Difference!

It's a fact that when you care, you give, and when you give you demonstrate that you care.

RELAC walks the walk when it comes to caring by sponsoring a scholarship program for immediate family members, mainly grandchildren, who are pursuing educational goals. Five, outstanding students are evaluated and selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship to continue their education at an accredited university or vocational school.

An article and photos about the 2026 scholarship recipients are published on Pages six (6) and seven (7) in this newsletter.

We also support our members who have answered the call of duty by serving in a branch of the U.S. military. The annual Veterans Opportunity Drawing awards five, \$50 gift cards to RELAC veterans.

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RELAC Members Enjoy Night At Hollywood Bowl Concert



RELAC Director Carla Williams enjoys the Hollywood Bowl concert with her granddaughters.

It was a first for RELAC members, but definitely will not be the last time for a "RELAC Night at the Hollywood Bowl."

On July 2, a group of more than 80 adults and children enjoyed a concert featuring the Beach Boys performing hits such as "Surfin' USA" and "I Get Around." Thomas Wilkins conducted the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and John Stamos made a special guest appearance.

"It was a terrific event, and the RELAC group had a wonderful time," said Bobbie Fesler, vice president. "We should make this an annual entertainment option for members," she said.

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RELAC Webinar

Members Provide Feedback for Topics

by Victoria Pipkin Lane, Editor

"Hearing from the Directors – What Matters to You Now" is the theme of RELAC's Fall general membership meeting set for Wednesday, September 23, beginning at 10 a.m., Pacific Standard Time.

"RELAC is taking a different approach to the quarterly meeting by conducting it as a webinar on the Microsoft Teams platform," said President Linda C. Hopkins. "The online session will allow more RELAC members to participate since they will not have to travel to a specific location," she said. "We also will be able to hear from members who are located outside of Los Angeles County and in other states."

An online survey was sent to RELAC members in July to obtain their input on the subjects they wanted the webinar to cover. Nearly 450 responses were received.

The key findings were:

- A primary reason for membership in RELAC was because of its advocacy on behalf of retirees, information received via e-mails and the newsletter.
- Protection of pension benefits was listed as the major concern, followed by Medicare and health benefits.
- Over the next two years, members want RELAC to continue to focus on advocacy, member benefits, health and wellness, communication, retirement and financial education.
- A significant finding from the survey was the low participation rate in RELAC activities over a 12-month period; 13.2% for educational webinars, 11% in donations to March of Dimes and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank fundraising campaigns, 10.8 % participation in special events, and 10.5% attendance in the general membership meetings.
- An encouraging finding from the survey was strong member satisfaction with RELAC at 89.4%, and a willingness to recommend membership to County retirees.

The September 23 webinar will incorporate these findings in the presentations by the RELAC Board members, which will include financial health, how members influence RELAC, and staying connected.

Information on how to access the webinar will be on the website and sent via e-mail to RELAC members. If you have not done so, it is important to send your e-mail address to admin@relac.org. to ensure your access to the webinar.



News from LACERA

by JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

Recently, I reviewed a memo from LACERA's Benefits Protection Unit (BPU) about new recommendations from the National Automated Clearing House Association, better known as NACHA. The organization sets the rules for the national direct deposit system, which runs through the Automated Clearing House, or ACH. The BPU is a seldom-mentioned but critical team, which helps protect your benefits by staying alert to potential fraud. NACHA recently released a suggested fraud-prevention framework, and I'm pleased to report that LACERA is already following those best practices.

You can't pick up a newspaper — does anyone actually “pick up” one anymore? — or watch the news without seeing a story about fraud. Unfortunately, it's part of life. Fraud can range from someone trying to impersonate a member to someone failing to report a death while benefits continue to be paid. That's why the BPU uses controls, reports, and processes to help keep the bad guys from getting your benefits. If you've ever called LACERA or logged into My LACERA, you know we take member identification seriously.

Those steps matter, and they work.

Even when our processes are working, we don't rest on our laurels. When organizations like NACHA release new recommendations or rules, we review them and take action where appropriate. We also look ahead. LACERA recently launched

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Logic Wealth Management Educational Partnership Launched with RELAC

by David Chung, Managing Partner

Although it has been while, Logic Wealth Management is pleased to reintroduce itself to RELAC members through a new and collaborative educational partnership. We have many years of experience serving Los Angeles County employees and retirees, and we understand the unique financial questions surrounding LACERA retirement benefits, retirement income planning, healthcare considerations, and long-term financial security.

The leadership of RELAC validates our extensive background in financial matters.

“A commitment to objective, education-focused guidance assures RELAC that Logic Wealth Management is the natural choice to help us expand the scope of our educational programming,” said Debbie Martin McMullen, executive director of RELAC. “We always want to provide members with trusted,



Board of Retirement

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

Since no one filed to run against me and J.P. Harris in the LACERA Board of Retirement election, we both will be back on the Board in January 2027 for a three-year term. When the newsletter went to publish, we did not have the results of the LACERA Board of Investments election. We both supported James Brekk, a 25-year LACERA employee and a LASD Reserve Deputy, and I hope you voted for him as well.

Well, there is good and bad news to share but I will start with the bad news. The California Supreme Court voted 4-3 against LACERA in its lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. The Court's vote was after a 3-0 decision in LACERA'S favor by the Court of Appeals.

I am not in a position to comment on the State Supreme Court decision until I receive a briefing from staff and clearance by LACERA's legal team. However, I am deeply disappointed by this decision. When I am able to, I hope to share information on how the Court's decision will impact LACERA operations and its ability to manage a nearly \$100 billion fund for more than 200,000 active and retired members. It is a huge responsibility.

Suggestion: Take a moment to watch an interview the County did with Luis Lugo, LACERA's new CEO. It is available on the LACERA website – www.lacera.org.

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education resources that help them navigate the numerous, complex aspects of retirement,” said Martin McMullen.

“The selection of Logic Wealth Management to collaborate with RELAC was based on our confidence in its understanding of the financial issues many Los Angeles County retirees face and its ability to provide beneficial solutions,” she added.

Moving forward, RELAC members will be invited to participate in educational webinars and receive practical retirement planning information. This article is the first of many that will be published in the newsletter as an additional educational resource.

RELAC members are encouraged to contact me with their questions on a wide range of subjects specific to retirement, and also suggest topics for future articles. Send your inquiries to davidchung@logicwm.com.

Finally, Logic Wealth Management provides retirement and financial information on an advisory basis, and encourages individuals to consult with their personal consultants before taking any action. RELAC's collaboration with us is designed to provide general information only and should not be interpreted as an endorsement of any specific financial product or investment strategy.

President's Message *(Continued from pg. 1)*

RELAC is sponsoring a fundraising golf tournament this year with proceeds going to support the scholarship program and our member veterans. We're calling all golfers to join us for this worthwhile cause on Monday, October 26, 2026 at the Lakewood Golf Course.

The golf tournament is our way of giving back to the community. We don't just talk about caring about the next generation of leaders and our veterans, we actively support them. This event is one way you too can help us assist the students on their education journey, and say "thank you" to our member veterans for their service.

Check out the flyer on Page 3 in this newsletter for detailed information about the tournament. You also may contact RELAC staff at (800)537-3522 or via e-mail at www.admin@relac.org.

Is It Time for a Reset?

As we enter the Fall season after a summer of barbecues, vacations and other leisure activities, maybe it's time for us retirees to revisit our personal well-being. Do we need to reset our priorities to ensure we are having a "healthy retirement?"

Ask yourself? Do you need to schedule the medical tests ordered by your doctor? Does your daily food intake meet the requirements of "eating healthy?" If not, take the time to reset your daily diet. Consult your doctor on ways to increase physical activity. You may need to participate in an exercise regimen. Los Angeles County's Department of Parks and Recreation offer a wide range of free programs to help you get in shape and stay healthy. Visit www.parks@lacounty.gov for a list of programs and locations to meet your exercise and activity goals.

Finally, consider volunteering in areas that interest you – animal rescue, school programs, senior centers, assisted living facilities, hospitals and clinics, to name a few. In a few months, we will enter the holiday season. Reset your healthy living goals now and be in shape for the holidays.

As always, send your feedback to me at AskLinda@relac.org.

RELAC Scholarship Program

RELAC's annual scholarship program will begin receiving applications in January of 2027.

Five, \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to close family members, who meet the eligibility requirements.

Details will be provided on the website, www.relac.org, and in the January-February 2027 newsletter.



RELAC Members Benefit from Partnership with NACo, MetLife

When RELAC entered into partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo) the agreement went beyond supplemental health care benefits through MetLife. The collaboration would provide RELAC with a return on its investment in marketing the program.

"Our general membership meetings, the website, e-mail blasts and the newsletter have effectively been used to educate members about the new program," said President Linda C. Hopkins. "NACo representatives have attended the quarterly meetings and many of our events, where they met directly with members to answer their questions, and explain healthcare options provided by MetLife."

Since early 2025 more than 500 RELAC members have signed up for a wide range of services provided as part of the supplemental insurance program.

RELAC has been reimbursed by NACo for the marketing efforts, which is revenue that is used to offset operational expenses and, as such, provides an ongoing benefit to its members. RELAC did not receive reimbursement from its previous supplemental insurance provider.

RETIRED EMPLOYEES
relac
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Annual Golf Tournament
SWING INTO SUCCESS

Supporting Veterans & Funding RELAC Scholarships

OCTOBER 26, 2026
LAKEWOOD GOLF COURSE | LAKEWOOD, CA

• CHECK-IN: 12:00 PM • SHOTGUN START: 1:00 PM
DINNER & AWARDS: 6:00 PM

DINNER INCLUDED FOR GOLFERS
Guest Dinner: \$59

PRIZES FOR CLOSEST TO THE PIN, LONGEST DRIVE & TOP SPONSOR

- 1ST PLACE: \$800 Prize
- 2ND PLACE: \$600 Prize

MULLIGAN - ADD-ON
YARD OF STRING - ADD-ON
OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

\$110 PER GOLFER
Includes Awards Ceremony & Dinner (\$59 value)
+ Lots of Cool Prizes!

Scan the QR Code or visit
RELAC.org

CONTACT RELAC OFFICE
AT ADMIN@RELAC.ORG OR (626) 308-0532

Executive Officer Eddie Yen Meets With Employee Groups



Executive Officer Eddie Yen meets with L.A. County employee associations at Hahn Hall.

employee association groups, who care about and help communities," he said, during a meeting held June 25 in the Hahn Hall of Administration in downtown Los Angeles.

"By bringing together all of these entities, we all benefit," said Yen. "The Executive Office can utilize an online platform to centralize information about all groups and keep it updated, which will avoid having to reinvent the wheel in successive years," he said. Yen appointed two Executive Office employees to serve as liaisons to the associations.

In addition to RELAC directors J.P. Harris and Victoria Pipkin Lane, employee groups represented included the Chinese Employee Association, Los Angeles County Asian American Employees Association, Los Angeles County Hispanic Managers Association, Los Angeles County Cambodian Employees Association, Los Angeles County African American Employees Association, Filipino-American Employee Association, Vietnamese Employees Association of Los Angeles County, City/County Native American Indian Commission, and the Chicano Employees Association.

Although the Executive Officer will not provide financial assistance to the newly-formed group, it will help promote events sponsored by the associations by placing flyers on <https://www.lacounty.gov> and allowing the groups to use a table on

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DON'T MISS YOUR NEXT SURPRISE GIFT!

Update Your Email Address Today

If RELAC doesn't have your email address, you could miss your chance to win!

Members with email addresses are automatically entered in surprise prize drawings throughout the year.

FREE TO ENTER!

14 MEMBERS WON FREE CONCERT TICKETS!

Recent surprise prizes included Santana and Mariachi USA concert tickets at the Hollywood Bowl!

NEXT SURPRISE DRAWING

Grandparents Day

SEPTEMBER 13

Stay informed. Stay connected. Be a winner!

Receive important RELAC news, event announcements, updates on benefits and advocacy, and be eligible for future surprise drawings.

TO UPDATE YOUR EMAIL:

(626) 308-0532

OR EMAIL US AT:

admin@relac.org

RELAC Veterans Eligible for Annual Opportunity Drawing

by Mary Ramirez, Staff Member

RELAC greatly appreciates the service many of our members have given to this country by enlisting in the U.S. military, and that is why we conduct an annual opportunity drawing just for these brave men and women, said Linda C. Hopkins, president.

Entrants must have served in a branch of the Armed Forces – Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and Space Force.

RELAC veterans must submit proof of service such as a DD214 form, VA Healthcare or an active-duty CAC card with the name and branch of the military unit, said Debbie Martin-McMullen, executive director. "Five, \$50 gift cards will be awarded to winners, and only one entry per veteran will be accepted," said Martin-McMullen.

Deadline to submit entries is Monday, October 26, 2026. The winning names will be drawn on Veterans Day, November 11, 2026, and announced via e-mail blast, on the RELAC website – www.relac.org, and in the RELAC January-February 2027 newsletter.

Interested RELAC veterans should fill out the entry form below and mail it with proof of service by the October 26 deadline to RELAC Veterans Drawing 2026, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15, Alhambra, California 91803.

ENTRY FORM — Please print clearly
RELAC Veterans Opportunity Drawing – 2026
 Entry forms must be in the RELAC Office by Monday, October 26, 2026

Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____

Mail entry form with proof of service by the deadline to:
RELAC Veterans Opportunity Drawing – 2026
1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15
Alhambra, California 91803

Happy Birthday RELAC Centenarians!

September

Lorene M. Bailey, 102, Department Not Listed

Lula Mae Clark, 100, Health Services

Ilse Dugan Kraemer, 101, DPSS

Betty Jo Potter, 101, Health Services

Doris M. Shepard, 105, Sheriff

October

Rosia Anderson, 100, Health Services

Nancy L. Rubey, 103, DPSS



Focus: Retirement Income Planning

"Retirement Income Planning" will be the topic of Southland Credit Union's third in a series of webinars conducted exclusively for RELAC members on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 10 a.m.

"Planning for retirement is about more than saving. It is about creating a strategy that supports the lifestyle a retiree wants and making sure the money lasts," said Southland Credit Union officials. "The webinar will cover how to estimate retirement income needs, including healthcare costs, taxes and inflation."

The agenda for the session also will cover ways to supplement fixed income sources, such as social security or employer pensions with retirement savings. Withdrawal strategies, sustainable income planning and how to utilize different retirement accounts also will be discussed.

RELAC members who wish to participate in the free webinar may register at www.admin@relac.org.

"Southland Credit Union is a longtime partner with RELAC, sharing a commitment to assist County retirees with meaningful programs and resources designed to secure and improve their quality of life," said RELAC President Linda C. Hopkins. "We look forward to continuing the collaboration with activities such as this financial education seminar."

In addition, RELAC members are eligible to join Southland Credit Union and gain access to competitive financial products along with receiving personalized guidance. Southland promotes a "members first" motto. The credit union is offering RELAC members an incentive that will match a new savings account opened with \$50 with an additional \$50. Visit www.SouthlandCU.org/RELAC for more details.

County Departments Seek Retirees For Temporary, 120-Day Assignments

Calling all retirees. The County of Los Angeles needs you.

Various County departments are in need of retirees to fill temporary assignments in areas such as accounting, budgeting, emergency management, information technology/cybersecurity, and auditing, announced Lisa Garrett, director of human resources.

"The Board of Supervisors has enacted a 120-day temporary rehire policy to assist departments that need workers," she said. "Retirees with unique and specialized skills and experience are being sought to join the new Encore Program."

Interested former employees may submit an application online at GovernmentJobs.com for placement on the Encore Registry. "This is not an eligible list or exam," said Garrett. "It's a registry intended to capture and maintain information from retirees, who want to be contacted when an opening matching their skill set is available," she said. For more information, contact EncoreRetirees@hr.lacounty.gov.

RELAC Luncheons



RELAC members Bobbie Fesler, left, Judy Hammond, center, and Mary Wawro catch up on the years since their retirement during a recent lunch. Fesler, vice president of RELAC and Supervisor Janice Hahn's appointee on LACERA's Board of Retirement, and Wawro worked together in the County Counsel's office, while Hammond, a former RELAC director and newsletter editor, served as the County director of public affairs. Hammond authors the *Passages* and *Inside L.A.* County columns for the RELAC newsletter, while Wawro has been active in Nantucket, Massachusetts since retiring there with her husband. She is a member of the Coastal Conservancy.



Longtime friends were excited to reconnect with one another at RELAC's annual Recognition Luncheon, held June 4 at the Brookside Golf Course in Pasadena, California. All County retirees are, standing from left, Joel Bellman, Judy Hammond, Linda Tarnoff, Steve Saracco, Pam Everett, and seated from left, Kerry Silverstrom, Loren Clapp, Gwen Andrizzi, and Gail LeGros. All of the County retirees once worked for the Board of Supervisors or in the Chief Executive Office, except for Saracco, who was an employee in the Internal Services Department.

Encore will connect County departments with retirees who meet its requested qualifications. Requirements for the program include the potential candidates are not receiving LACERA benefits as a contract employee. The individuals also must not have received unemployment insurance in the past 12 months.

Salaries will be determined by the department head and may not exceed the retiree's previous salary or maximum step of the salary range of the classification assigned.

Recognition Luncheon Honors Scholarship Winners & Veterans

by Victoria Pipkin Lane, Editor



President Linda C. Hopkins, left, and Vice President Bobbie Fesler, right, with RELAC 2026 scholarship recipients, second from left, Maya Marquez Rabena, Anthony Comres, Christina Ravenell and Tiffany Williams



From left, President Hopkins, Rabena, Mary Lou and Jesse Hernandez, Avelarco Trujillo and Vice President Fesler, chair of the scholarship committee



From left, President Hopkins, Ravenell, Grandmother Veronica Giles Moore, Sunset Steel, Mother, and Vice President Fesler

Anthony Comres, who will attend San Jose State University, aspires to a career as an artificial intelligence engineer. He was sponsored by Grandmother Hazel L. Price and was also joined on stage by Felicia Price, his Mother.



A capacity audience of RELAC members, special guests and sponsors attended the annual Recognition Luncheon in June to honor the 2026 scholarship award winners and veterans at the Brookside Golf Course in Pasadena, California.

"Today, RELAC celebrates the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding and honors veteran members, who have served in a branch of the U.S. military – Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy and Space Force," said President Linda C. Hopkins.

Vice President Bobbie Fesler introduced the scholarship awardees. "These are outstanding students, who have excelled in the classroom and in their communities," she said. "Let's meet them," said Fesler, as four of the recipients with family members joined her on stage to receive commendations from Supervisor Kathryn Barger and RELAC.

From left, President Hopkins, Comres, Grandmother Hazel Price, and Felicia Price, Mother

Maya Marquez Rabena is pursuing an undergraduate degree in nursing at West Coast University. She was sponsored by Jesse M. Hernandez, her father. Mary Lou Hernandez, her Mother, and friend Avelarco Trujillo escorted Rabena to the stage.

Christina Ravenell will travel to Washington, D.C. where she will attend Howard University and pursue a career in the healthcare industry with a focus on obstetrics and gynecology. Ravenell was sponsored by Grandmother Veronica Giles Moore, who along with Sunset Steel, her Mother, stood proudly with her onstage as she received the commendations.

Tiffany Williams also will attend Howard University where she plans to combine an interest in science with a desire to make a difference in the lives of others. She was sponsored by Darvis Johnson, her Great-Grandmother, who attended the luncheon with Kimberly Williams, her Mother.

Joshua Kim, an accounting student at Baylor University in Texas, was unable to attend the event. He was sponsored by former RELAC member Patrick Kim, his father.

The program began with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard, led by Sergeant Sarenas Mooanprang, marching in and posting the colors. Her team was comprised of Deputies Lewis Orantes, Rudy Hernandez and Josh Koch.

RELAC veterans followed the honor guard and, along with Veteran Veronica Giles Moore, led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moving performance of the national anthem, the "Star-Spangled Banner," was delivered by professional singer Kennedy Tezano, a graduate of Loyola Marymount University.

In addition, RELAC recognized its two major charities - March of Dimes (MOD) and Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. Tanya Adolph, senior director, introduced the MOD's Ambassador family Audrey and Adam Mulligan, while Camryn Gordon updated the audience on Food Bank activities.

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From left: President Hopkins, Williams, Darvis Johnson, Great-Grandmother, Kimberly Williams, Mother and guest, and Vice President Fesler



Recognition Luncheon



Recognition Luncheon *(Continued from pg. 6)*

Representatives of RELAC's platinum sponsors – MetLife, Kaiser Permanente, SCAN, Anthem, Logic Wealth Management and First City Credit Union – also were recognized.

LACERA CEO Luis Lugo and team members received a commendation and he gave brief remarks on the ongoing partnership with RELAC.

Photos by Patrick Wynne.





RELAC members enjoy the concert.

Feedback from other attendees was just as positive with many saying that it was a “fun time” and a “great concert,” and expressing a desire for RELAC to offer another outing next year. “We had a chance to listen to some good music with friends and former colleagues,” said one staff member.

RELAC exceeded the minimum requirement for group tickets. The Hollywood Bowl sales department worked with staff to accommodate the additional requests for tickets.

In celebration of the nation’s 250th anniversary, a spectacular fireworks show followed the concert.

To make getting to the Hollywood Bowl stress-free, concert-goers were encouraged to utilize the many Park and Ride Lots that are located throughout Los Angeles County. Fesler, who traveled from Long Beach, California to the 17,500-seat outdoor venue, said the park and ride transportation was reasonably priced and convenient.



Fred Hungerford



Don and Bobbie Fesler

Dealing With Debt

First City Credit Union will conduct a webinar, titled “Options for Dealing with Debt,” exclusively for members of RELAC on Tuesday, September 22, beginning at 11 a.m.

Many retirees are facing increased costs for many vital products, including prescriptions, food, utilities and housing. Some individuals are assisting family members, who have fallen on hard times due to a loss of employment.

The webinar is designed to provide RELAC members with a variety of ways to address the debt they have accumulated in retirement. For more information, contact RELAC at (800) 537-3522 or at admin@relac.org.

Winners - Father's Day Give Away



The two winners in the RELAC Father's Day Give Away received tickets to see renowned musician Santana and the Doobie Brothers in concert at the Hollywood Bowl. RELAC affiliate member Sargeant Juan G. Castillo, left, and guest, and RELAC member Detris Bush, right, and son Keenan enjoyed the performances, which Bush described as “electrifying and sensational.”

Eddie Yen Meets With Employee Groups

(Continued from pg. 4)

the second floor of Hahn Hall to interface with County employees during work hours and publicize their activities.

Yen also plans to develop a training program for members of employee associations who wish to serve on County commissions, and provide the organizations with guidelines for interacting with County departments.

“Employee associations can be cheerleaders for the County, assisting with recruiting and retaining employees,” he added.



Executive Officer Eddie Yen meets with representatives of several Los Angeles County employee associations and RELAC at Hahn Hall.



Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond, RELAC Member,
L.A. County Director of Public Affairs (Ret.)

District Attorney Nathan Hochman tried unsuccessfully to get the court to delay for six months the payout of the first installment of \$600,000 of the County's \$4 billion settlement to persons who said they were

sexually abused as children while in County care. Hochman's office is investigating potential fraud and believes four out of five claims may be false. The judge said he denied Hochman's request since the Board of Supervisors – which approved the settlement – did not join in the delay request.

The abuse settlement, along with significant federal reductions, was cited by Supervisor Kathryn Barger as being largely responsible for the County's dire financial situation. The \$50.3 billion final 2026-27 budget may seem substantial, she said, but "the reality is that Los Angeles County is being asked to do more with less in one of the most challenging fiscal environments I have experienced in more than 35 years of County service."

More than half of the County budget will be financed by property taxes. Assessor Jeff Prang said the 2026 assessment roll reached a record \$2.272 trillion in total net taxable value, an increase of \$96 billion, or 4.42 percent, over the previous year – marking 16 consecutive years of growth. The increase, he said, will generate more than \$27 billion in property tax revenue.

Helping out the budget also will be the projected \$1 billion coming in annually for the next five years from the new half-cent sales tax approved in June by voters. Supervisors said they need that money for health care, but as a general tax measure, there are no legal requirements to limit its use. The tax measure, proposed by the Board of Supervisors and narrowly approved by voters – it needed 50 percent to pass and received 50.64 percent -- goes into effect Oct. 1.

And Assessor Prang said an additional \$38 million will annually boost the County budget because aircraft owners who previously escaped paying taxes due to the inability of his office to track ownership and activity at local airports are now being billed. The Assessor's office is utilizing software that analyzes multiple data sources and is able to identify 1,000 previously unassessed aircraft. Prang said he expects even more revenue as the program continues.

In November, voters will have the opportunity to restore a requirement that 10 percent of the County's general fund be allocated to alternatives other than incarceration (such as mental health and substance abuse treatment and placement). This mandate was approved by voters in 2020 but inadvertently eliminated by a charter amendment on the 2025 ballot that made changes to the County's governance structure. The Board of Supervisors voted 3-0 to put the new measure on the ballot, with Supervisor Holly Mitchell absent and Supervisor Kathryn Barger abstaining.

The County Fire Department's urban search and rescue team was among those helping Venezuela following disastrous

earthquakes that killed more than 5,200 people and injured another 16,000.

More than 12,850 soccer fans enjoyed the World Cup festivities at the County's Official FIFA Fan Zone at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and the San Gabriel Valley Championship Corridor Open Streets event along Rosemead Boulevard.

Supervisors have asked staff to come up with a plan to create a network of so-called third spaces – safe places outside of work and home where people can gather and spend time – countywide for LGBTQ+ residents, including at libraries, parks and senior centers.

An additional \$250,000 is being allocated to the County's sidewalk vending program, which provides no-cost food carts to vendors operating in unincorporated areas, bringing the total investment to \$1.78 million. The program is intended to help vendors meet permitting and health requirements and transition to formal business operations. Vendors may also qualify for permit subsidies, home kitchen programs and grants of up to \$5,000 to help meet permitting requirements.

The County has approved settlements of nearly \$14 million to 10 prosecutors who claimed they were demoted or retaliated against after questioning criminal justice reforms imposed by former D.A. George Gascón. Legal fees added another \$3.2 million to the County's cost. Nine more cases are pending.

Another large settlement: \$675,000 approved for the family of a man who was fatally shot in 2022 in Bellflower by two sheriff's deputies after he allegedly stabbed another man with a metal gardening tool and then charged at the deputies with the implement.

Approximately 480,000 mosquitos (and whose job was it to count them?) were released in Bassett by the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District to reduce the population of a more invasive mosquito that bites.

The Sheriff's Oversight Commission, represented pro bono by former commission members/attorneys Robert Bonner and Sean Kennedy, is suing the Sheriff's Department to obtain records the department says are confidential relating to three use-of-force incidents involving deputies. County Counsel, however, continues to say that the commission does not have the legal authority to file lawsuits, that the county charter stipulates that County Counsel is the only entity that can provide legal representation for county agencies. The Civil Grand Jury has sided with the commission.

Sadly Jackie, the bald eagle rescued by the County Parks and Recreation Department after being attacked by two other eagles, has died. She was one of the bald eagles whose nest at Big Bear Lake was tracked via livestream and viewed by followers worldwide. The department's San Dimas Raptor Rescue had taken Jackie to a specialized rehabilitation facility.

Supervisor Hilda Solis provided funding to eliminate parking fees on three weekends and reduce weekend fees through November 29 at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and Peter F. Schabarum Regional Park, located in her First District.



Barry Hunt

Retired DHS Managers Update A Summer of Learning and Fun

by Barry Hunt, RELAC Member

Retirement gives us time for learning, celebrating, exercising and fun, which I had plenty of time to engage in this summer at California State University – Los Angeles (Cal State L.A.), the Music Center in downtown Los Angeles and elsewhere.

It was a pleasure to be joined by faculty members in July to welcome the 27 new and Fully Employed MBA (FEMBA) students to a 2-year program at the Downtown LA campus. The students have impressive professional and academic backgrounds.

A highlight of the welcome session was an opportunity to meet Dr. Seiji Steimetz, incoming Dean of the College of Business and Economics. The festive FEMBA occasion was sponsored by the Cal State LA College of Professional and Global Education.



Dr. Seiji Steimetz, center, attends the welcome session for FEMBA students.

Three teams of bright, diligent, multilingual and accomplished students were in attendance. Contact me at bhunt@exchange.calstatela.edu if you would like to meet them.

Jonathan Won, MPH, an IT project director with the Los Angeles County Departments of Internal Services and Public Social Services, also was a guest speaker for the class. He provided insight into an \$850 million project he currently is working on with a wide range of public and private stakeholders. The project, a statewide online platform, will fully automate the welfare system.



Barry Hunt & Jonathan Won

Won previously served as assistant manager of the Enterprise Project for the County Department of Health Services' (DHS) Management Office. In that role, he collaborated with clinicians and IT executives on IT governance, portfolio and risk management processes for various projects. Won and I worked together for many years in administration for DHS and the Department of Public Health.

After more than 50 years, during the summer, I finally moved out of my "home away from home" at the Oakwood Garden Apartments, known later as City Heights and The Chadwick and located on Third Street, east of Vermont Avenue. Several DHS managers and RELAC members lived in the 700-apartment complex over the years.

Welcome New Members

June & July 2026

Alejandra Alineda, Tommy Cody, Dawn Hallie, Earnestine J. Henderson, Danny Ingle, Antoinette McKellar, Karen Tones, Carolyn Williams - Sheriff Camilo Argonza, Darlene Jackson-Richardson, Diane Kellog, Ronald Morales, Marion Murray-Grant, Nancy Sandler, Linda Wallace
- Children & Family Services

Vanessa Ballard, Robert Brewster, Ernest Co, Rachel Dangerfield, Arturo Flores, Sabino Golez, Billie Hicks, Robert McSorley - LA Superior Court Wessie Barnett, Gerald Flecky, Floyd Sutterfield
- Public Works

Adrienne Byers, Stephen Niwa, Mary Reyna
- County Counsel

Delia Cabansag - Public Health

Mario Cain-Sanchez, Chih Ping Tang Sun,

Nadine Tapia - Public Social Services

Dalilah Castillo, Eva Mora - Assessor

Mario Cobian, Erlinda Dario, Rosa Douglas, Cresciana Escobar, Leonor Fabunan, Richard Giangrande, Virginia Gomez, Daniel Newman, Ashok Pandya, Edna Purcell-Diaz, Flora Sanchez, Tzu Li Sun - Health Services

Gloria Dawson, Kathleen Kosche, Sharon Montgomery - Mental Health

Myra Deavel - LACERA

Renee Dubyn - Consumer & Business Affairs

Otis Durham, Sr., Gene Freeman, La Tonya Theus Nelson - Probation

Carl Fonseca - Treasurer-Tax Collector

Florence Fujii, Georgina Villegas

- Chief Administrative Office/CEO

Tammy Johnson - Board of Supervisors

Dawn McDivitt - Museum of Natural History

Tina Nuss - Parks & Recreation

Tien On-Tran - Auditor-Controller

Hilary Rhonan - Juvenile Court

Jean Rodriguez - Child Support Services

• No Department Listed •

Robert Hockberger

Grace Leones

Penny Luc

Florentino Meer

• Associate Members •

Albert Barnett	Allen Fujii	Peter Grant
Daryl Cain-Sanchez	Ernie Gomez	Roberta Feigenbaum
Kimberly Cody	Patricia Pickles	Manuel Bracamonte
Steve Dubyn	Donna Ingle	

• New Member Referrals – Thank You! •

(Editor's Note: New member in bold, followed by referring RELAC member.)

Alejandra Alineda – Claudine Sanchez-Parrott

Rachel Dangerfield – Shirley Miller Petetan

Dawn Hallie – Robert Mosby

Tammy Johnson – Armando Nogal

Eva Mora – Patricia Adams

La Tonya Theus Nelson – Emma Thomas

Tien On-Tran – Carmen Chan-Fong

Nancy Sandler – Alma Golla

RELAC

NEWSLETTER

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Number 5

Retired Employees of
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Victoria Pipkin Lane.

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Office Hours

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday - Thursday

Closed Friday,

Saturday, Sunday &

Public Holidays

PASSAGES

Compiled by Judy Hammond,
RELAC Member, L.A. County Director
of Public Affairs (Ret.)



Callella



Durazo



Greenberg



Mills



Nichols



Rabe

RETIREMENTS: Department of Children and Family Services Director **Brandon Nichols**, who was appointed in 2022 to replace Bobby Cagle. He began his 27-year County career as an attorney in the County Counsel's Office in Dependency Court and in 2019 became chief deputy of the Probation Department and later served as interim director.

DEATHS: Former Superior Court Judge **Billy Mills**, 96, who served as a deputy probation officer before beginning to practice law in 1960, appointed to the bench by then-Gov. Ronald Reagan in 1974, serving for more than two decades. Mills served on the L.A. City Council from 1963 to 1974. Philanthropist **Bernard A. Greenberg**, 95, a founding Board member and former chairman of the LA Opera, was also one of its principal architects. He served as a director for 40 years. Greenberg and his wife, Lennie, also financially supported the Los Angeles Philharmonic and The Music Center. **Kay Slavkin Van Horn**, 87, served on the L.A. County Mental Health Advisory Board, where she met her second husband, the late Richard Van Horn, a noted mental health services advocate. **Philip Albert Gonsal**, 92, who retired from the L.A. County Hospital Administration after more than 40 years of County service. Sheriff's Commander **Michael Savidan**, who was working in administration when he retired in 2005 after 34 years of service. Sheriff's Lt. **Howard Wald**, last stationed at the West Hollywood Station when he retired in 1986 after 25 years of service; he is survived by Sheriff's Sgt. Flora Wald, who retired in 1986. Sheriff's Lt. **Rodney Terry**, assigned to the Data Systems Bureau when he retired in 2004, with 34 years of service. **Marion Romeis**, 81, chief accountant auditor in the Auditor-Controller's Office, with 30 years of County service, all with the Auditor; she established and led the Office of County Investigations from 1990 until her retirement in 2010. **Donna Brockway**, who served as assistant executive officer in the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, handling the financial branch.



Savidan



Van Horn



Wald

ELECTIONS: State Sen. **Maria Elena Durazo** will replace **Hilda Solis** as First District supervisor in December, winning 60.58 percent of the votes in the June primary. Solis, on the Board of Supervisors since 2014, could not seek reelection due to term limits. She ran in the newly designed 38th Congressional District, was the top Democratic vote-getter, and now faces Republican **Pedro Casas** in November. Supervisor **Lindsey Horvath** and Assessor **Jeffrey Prang** easily won reelection, with 66.35 and 57.73 percent of the vote, respectively. Sheriff **Robert Luna** captured 44.15 percent of the vote in his race, forced into a November runoff with former Sheriff **Alex Villanueva**, who got 21.7 percent in the eight-person race. L.A. County prosecutor **John McK-inney** is in a runoff in the November election for L.A. City attorney, taking 28.6 percent of the vote to unseat incumbent **Hydee Feldstein Soto**, who got 17.99 percent. He faces top vote-getter state Deputy Attorney General **Marissa Roy**, outside counsel for the County on more than a dozen cases involving immigrant issues, who garnered 43.12 percent of the vote. Deputy District Attorney **Tal Khan Valbuena**, with 56.84 percent of the votes, defeated incumbent Superior Court Judge **Robert Draper**, who was under investigation by state Commission on Judicial Performance for alleged sexual harassment and improper and biased comments. County Deputy Public Defender **Donna Tryfman** and Deputy Alternate Public Defender **David Ross** are in a runoff for a seat on the L.A. Superior Court, with Tryfman capturing 37.21% of the Primary vote and Ross 33%.

COURTS: Former County Supervisor **Mark Ridley-Thomas**, 71, lost his appeal before a three-member panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals of his 2023 conviction of fraud and bribery charges. Sentenced to 3½ years in federal prison, he has been free on bail while he tries to overturn the conviction. He now has the option of asking for a review of the case by a full panel of the circuit court. Former Sheriff's Deputy **Scott Allen Simpkins**, 34, sentenced to 18 months in prison after pleading guilty to obstruction of justice for lying to federal officials investigating extortion by a cryptocurrency mogul, for whom he was providing private security services. Former Department of Health Services intermediate clerk **Derrick Callella**, 42, is scheduled for sentencing Sept. 10 after pleading guilty to sending a fake ransom note in the disappearance of the mother of TV personality Savannah Guthrie. Former Sheriff's Deputy **David Anthony Rodriguez**, who pled guilty in 2025 to submitting a fake search warrant application to the court so he could track a private client's estranged husband, sentenced to one year in prison.

MISCELLANEOUS: **John Rabe**, who covered L.A. County government during his 26 years as a journalist on public radio news, including 11 years as host of Off-Ramp on station KPCC (now known as LAist 89.3), has returned to his native Michigan.

Board of Retirement *(Continued from pg. 2)*

The interview is a deep dive into who Lugo is, his background, feelings and the values about LACERA. I was impressed with his comments in the interview and proud of the job he did.

Now for some good news. The latest numbers are in from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased .3% for the month of July, 2026. The year-to-date cumulative increase is now 3.1%. Remember, LACERA uses this number to calculate the annual COLA retirees receive each April, which is based on the January through December time period.

The basics of the LACERA pension dollar are pretty stable; still generating 68 cents of every dollar from investments, with 22 cents coming from employer contributions and 10 cents from member contributions. LACERA's funded ratio is 82% and the assumed rate of return, or assumption rate is 7.0%. LACERA's total assets are approximately \$92 billion with another \$6 billion in the fund to pay for post-employment benefits such as retiree health care premiums. Currently, there is \$607 million in the STAR Reserve, which is the account to pay out any STAR COLA benefits, which occurs on occasion.

On the employment front, LACERA still has about a 17% vacancy rate with plans to fill 11% in the immediate future. There are 1,063 disability retirement applications pending, which represent a big part of the Board of Retirement's work at LACERA. Also in the works are 52 appeals and the current processing time for them is 16.6 months. LACERA's total membership count is 200,765 and the monthly payroll is approximately \$431.6 million dollars. Our median gross monthly benefit for general member retirees is \$3,673 and for the safety plans it is \$10,212.

In the retiree healthcare system, 58,446 are enrolled in one of the medical plans and 60,944 in dental.

News from LACERA *(Continued from pg. 2)*

an initiative to review its member identification processes for best practices, and to make sure the latest technology is being deployed. If that leads to changes, we'll let you know what to expect.

Speaking of what to expect, here is a quick update on the Member Experience Communication Platform project. LACERA is in the final stages of user acceptance testing. As a reminder, LACERA has partnered with Genesys, a leading communication technology company, on a new system that will do much more than support the call center. It will help modernize the communication process with you.

Here are two new features:

Automated Outbound Calls: From time to time, LACERA needs to contact members about important benefit information or recent requests. One example is reminding some retirees enrolled in certain LACERA-administered retiree healthcare plans that they must enroll in Medicare at age 65. We send letters now, but letters can be missed, and deadlines are important.

Automated outbound calls will give members another reminder as deadlines approach. If you need help, you'll have the option to speak with a retiree healthcare specialist. A similar approach may be utilized for other important reminders. When this option is used, you'll still have the chance to speak with a specialist.

Live Chat: Most commercial websites now offer some form of chat support. In September 2026, we hope to launch a beta test of Live Chat in My LACERA. After logging in, members will be able to chat with a live retirement benefits specialist for help with member services questions.

Since this is a beta test, we ask for your patience as LACERA adapts to the new system.



A major renovation of the iconic LaBrea Tar Pits is underway for the next two years. Unfortunately, the RELAC July-August 2026 newsletter was not aware of the closing prior to publishing. We apologize for any inconvenience to your summer plans. The RELAC Newsletter What's Happening list will publish the reopening date when available. In the meantime, consider visiting other Los Angeles County landmarks, beaches and museums.

IN MEMORIAM

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

— MAY 2026 —

Department - Name

Aids Program - Kevin A. Harvey
Alcohol/Drug Pgms. Admin. - Louis D. Reyes
Ambulatory Care Network - Irene A. Martinez
Animal Control - Christina Childs, Federico Lingbaaoan Maleda
Assessor - Kameel W. Dania, Mary H. Mullaney, Rolf N. Tvedt, Raymond A. Watkins
Auditor - Controller - Marvin L. Berkompas, Ahmed Ali Muthleb
Beaches & Harbors - Harold L. Dunnigan
Board Of Supervisors - Rosalie Herrera
Child Support Services - Consuelo N. Tolentino
Children & Family Services - Russell Carr, Newfonie J. Inman, Mitra Khorvash, Thomas D. Marks, Flordeliza Paguio, Diane B. Weissburg, Rufus W. White, Vilma Zepeda
County Counsel - Donovan M. Main
District Attorney - Roy H. Alvarado, Celia Corrales, Albert Raymond De Salles, Terry L. White
Fire - Willard Charles Bruce, Edward J. Devine Jr., Elliott J. Moline, David H. Stark
Flood Control District - Ramon L. Cota
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center - John E. Edwards, Latoya Green, Howard K. Kumashiro, Raya Mogley, Carmen R. Pagsisihan, Vickie L. Presley-Smith, Douglas Schiebel, Mariamma Varughese
Health Plan Administration - Betty Craig
Health Services Administration - Evangeline J. Aspe, Earnest E. Johnson, Janet C. Judson, Hugo P. Norro, Sabreen Mini Shahid, Margaret Wells
Internal Services - Frank Barajas Jr., Fred J. Devoogd, Mitchell Jones, Germaine Lin, Norris J. Sankey, Shirley Mae Turney, John A. Wyckaert
Juvenile Court Health Services - Jaroornuck J. Chugumlung
King-Drew Medical Center - John D. Bouquet, Marthe Cohn, Robbie L. Cox, Myrtle Jackson, Jacqueline Kapoor, Rwoeshan Lawrence Moore, June F. Weddaburne
LAC+USC Medical Center - Kerry Ballestero, Katherine Edmonds, Jannette Hanna, Karen Hardin, Aziz Hussain, Jane Wonjane Lo, Tena D. Martin-Moore, William M. Mc Ham, Shirley McGee, Daniel L. Ortiz, Jed L. Ramos, Ikuko Shimizu, Carl V. Singleton, Brian J. Sweeney, Larry B. Taylor, Lawrence Walton
Medical Examiner - Joseph L. Cogan, Daisy M. Newsom

Mental Health - Sandra M. Carney, Stanley K. Chu, Yvonne R. Clements, Shirley Davis, Florence M. Douglas, Robert M. Dunham, Richard A. Fierro, Jean S. Huang, Cecilia Hugo, Ruzanna Malanok, Elaine Smuczynski
Office Of Public Safety - Alfonso Mendez
Olive View/UCLA Medical Center - Rodney Gardner, Sandra L. Henderson, Eduardo Francisco Lopez, Mary Alice Nelson, Ruth H. Rich, Cheryl Trammel
Parks & Recreation - Frank W. Massey
Probation - Donald R. Ely Jr., Elizabeth M. Givan, Vivian V. Hidalgo, Lorraine Hubbardjohns, Dexter A. King, Edward D. Lara, Shih C. Lin, Stanford Perkins, Farida S. Quadri, Kathryn Snider, Randolph Washington
Public Defender - Dennis G. Cohen, Jack S. Kuznitsky
Public Health - Charles E. Drake, Barbara Jean Palmer, Frederick Ariola Payo, Robert H. Settlege
Public Social Services - Gail Clark, Charlotte L. Dent, Juan A. Jimenez, Sheryl Lewis Jimenez, Elvira Lago, Peter K. Lee, Jerry W. Lemons, Virginia Longobardo, Mark A. Mackie, Ivey L. Mimbs, Rozy Petrossian, Zelma M. Powdrill, Irene E. Provencio, Elizabeth Robles, Robert Rose, Ruby S. Ruffins, Cynthia Thompson, Mary L. Walker
Public Works - Charles S. Berdiansky, Carlton Lyew, Larry E. Parrish, Chestley S. Styles
Rancho Los Amigos Hospital - Rosemary Bean, Virginia F. Grigsby, Vivian M. Hall, Alberta Lacy, Marilyn J. Lister
Reg-Recorder/County Clerk - Carl L. Leeper, Arletha Lusk, Freddie L. Phillips
Regional Planning - Salvador N. Dichoso
Sheriff - Kathleen T. Barrett, Robert A. Bolanos, Raymond L. Brackelsberg, Jim G. Buhrman, James B. Ferguson, Hector D. Garcia, Theo K. Gekas, Susan M. Greene, Jerry A. Harper, Jack Jaquess, Patrick C. Northam, Richard E. Odenthal, Albert W. Ownbey, Britzi A. Santos, Ralph M. Wainwright, Victor M. Walker, Elaine M. Waller
Superior Court Human Resources - Carolyn A. Nottingham
Superior Court/County Clerk - Melvin N. Altfest, Darine J. Bell, John A. Creamer, Sky S. Hahn, Adele Marie Jacobs, Isabel M. Janken, Patricia Y. Powell, Eva M. Thomas
Unidentified County Agency - Augusta E. Meredith, Arlene Nichols, Jean E. Prenevost
Workforce Dev Aging & Comm Svc - Miriam Goldberg, Mario R. Rodriguez

— JUNE 2026 —

Agricultural Comm./Wts & Meas. - Terrea L. Morris
AIDS Program - Kevin A. Harvey, Galia Karapetian
Alcohol/Drug Pgms. Admin. - Chung Son Nichols
AQMD - Victor Chekon
Assessor - Imogene Coakley, Jesus Flores
Auditor - Controller - Marvin L. Berkompas
Beaches & Harbors - Daniel A. Heneghan
Burbank Municipal Court - Ilda Z. Napolitano
Chief Executive Office - Roger L. Campbell, Paul B. Saffell
Child Support Services - Neville T. Chin, Landon M. Grandison, Pearlina Hampton, Robert J. Hansen, George McFarland
Children & Family Services - Myrna B. Brook, Charlyne G. Chaka, Mohamad Gharib, Wilhelmenia G. Jarrett, Diane Lopez, Mamie R. Peters, Darlene Price, Linda S. Sessions, Marilyn Tweet
Communications - Victoria E. Beardsley
Consumer Affairs - Keren J. Herrera
Correctional Health - Kim R. Guy, Belinda Viera
District Attorney - Alan M. Genelin, Concepcion S. Guerrero
Economic & Workforce Dev - Paul A. Goldman
Fire - Philip K. Hoxsey, Michael Lassak, Harold J. Lovegren, Bruce E. Price, Robert J. Sheets
Flood Control District - Helen Lapriel Williams
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center - John M. Criley, Ollie L. Davis, Robert J. Hilty, Sumritti Nongkom, James F. Padbury, Margaret E. Suttles, Reggie Thomas, Christina C. Wang, Josefina Trias Yuste

Health Services Administration - Edna Louise Coleman, Joaquin R. Cruz, Jeanette Folsom, Juanita Frazier, John P. Munson, Pernell Ray Myrick, Nick Velasquez
Internal Services - Robert C. Ashworth, Rachelann G. Honken, Ray M. Martinez, Philip Mutchnik, Espanola N. Page, Guillermo A. Rivera, George H. Sims, William W. Staples, Maurice Zorman
Juvenile Court Health Services - George F. Diaz, Adolfo Y. Hernandez
King-Drew Medical Center - Linda K. Ephraim, Patsy J. Green, Carol D. Guze, Rosa L. Hall
LAC+USC Medical Center - Ofelia Ayala, Mae E. Bell-Colquitt, Maria O. Blanco, Lavetta J. Drake, America Giddens, Edda C. Gordon, Veronica Gutierrez, Shelah Mayberry-May, Margaret L. Moore, Sal E. Morales, Ing-Hsiung Pan, Franklin E. Park, Mercedes Rodriguez, Ethel B. Williams, Ernest H. Wilson Jr.
LACERA - Lucilo D. Varquez
Mechanical - James E. Green
Medical Examiner - Richard J. Heath, Stephen Scholtz
Mental Health - Angerla L. Atkins-Morin, Gloria A. Dick, Daniel A. Hemmer, James O. Higgins, Augustine Hill-Smith, Albertina Kurniawan, Susan M. O'Connor
Museum Of Natural History - Fay Aldridge, Robert L. Bezy, Robert J. Gustafson
Olive View/UCLA Medical Center - Lillian L. Baumbach, Murad Grigoryan, Micheline Padilla, Olivia M. Perry, Howard T. Peupajena, Ramon Razon, Lillie A. Rebolledo, Lorna M. Wilson

(Continued on pg. 14)

RV News – Luncheon at Max's Mexican Cuisine



The RELAC RV group conducted its quarterly get together at Max's Mexican Cuisine in Monrovia, California and while the members rarely hit the road in recreational vehicles, they do maintain ongoing gatherings at various restaurants in Los Angeles County. Top left photo, Randy Forney, Fred Weinberg, Jeanne Klauk and Betsy Morgon catch up on recent activities, while Dave and Jan Coleman, center, enjoy the luncheon, and, right photo, Chickee and Norman Nelson enjoy hearing from retirees. Also in attendance were Janet Cerato, Janice Hayhurst, Dian Stegall, and Dori Fregeau.

RELAC & LACERA Jointly Plan Volunteer Day at Food Bank

RELAC and LACERA will continue a partnership started earlier this year with an upcoming volunteer day on November 7, 2026 at the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, 2300 Pellissier Pl., City of Industry, California 90601.

"In the County, it is estimated that one in four persons experience food insecurity," said Debbie Martin McMullen, executive director. Fixed income older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income families are the most visible examples, according to Food Bank information.

"On Saturday, November 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., RELAC members and LACERA employees will assist the Food Bank in preparing boxes of food for needy families and individuals from all walks of life," said Martin-McMullen.

The volunteer day is an opportunity to support an important non-profit agency that directly helps all groups of people regardless of education level, employment status or ethnicity. "Due to the soaring costs of housing and transportation in Los Angeles County, many people who work, even families with two incomes, often can't make ends meet or put enough food on the table," said Food Bank officials.

Interested retirees are encouraged to mark your calendars for November 7 and plan to join RELAC and LACERA for a rewarding day of community service. For more information and registration guidelines, contact RELAC at admin@relac.org or call (800) 537-3522.



IN MEMORIAM *Continued from pg. 13*

Parks & Recreation - Mark Carlton, Anthony Franco, Timothy Herrera, Evaristo J. Palato, Victor Pollaccia, Melinda A. Roundtree, Robert L. Williams

Probation - Ernest Castro, Linell L. Dumas, Samuel L. Hale, Keith Laurence Hodge, Gerald Mason, Earl L. Miller, Ibrahim A. Shehata

Public Defender - Eva L. Greene, June L. Johnson

Public Health Program - Nila J. Clark, Robert Hammond, Lukito Harianto, Demetria Ingkom, Judy M. Negrete, Eric R. Stice, Pauletta Wynn

Public Library - Barbara L. Norwood, Beverly Sogioan

Public Social Services - Lucy Amaya, Brenda J. Ball, R. E. Bartlett, Bahman C. Behpour, Fydra I. Brantley, Carolyn F. Broom, Carmelita V. Cabangon, Concepcion Castro, Jacquelyn Domino, Alma Johnson-Chislom, Rosemary S. Lussier, Alma R. Magee, Maria C. Maline, Curley B. McDaniel, Pedro Mendez, Mary S. Mixon, Edward Nazarian, Duc Tich Nguyen, Tamara K. Palmer, Gloria Parker, Leo P. Quintanilla, Sarah O. Robles, Paula L. Sammons, Nancy L. Schoenherr, June Spizer, Barbara Stephens, Regina Thomas, Alis Tulakyan, Dorothy M. Walkosz, Barbara A. Wenger

Public Works - Jean G. Anderson, Lawrence Baca, Peter Blinn, Bruce Lindley Carlander, William R. Deutschman, Omid Emam, Michael L. Hays, Robert Parsons, Harvey James Weese

Rancho Los Amigos Hospital - Zenaida S. Abejar, Clementine Brown, Jose Chavez, Curtisteen Clary, Archaluz A. Ibarra, Helen B. Lee, Rosalie A. Rosas, Ruby Tovar, Cardella Turner

Sheriff - Christopher B. Allen, Margaret C. Archibold, Martin E. Baker, Aida Bonila, Ronald S. Bozeman, Gwendolyn G. Brown, Charles P. Carroll Jr., Carl O. Coates, Valente Cortez, Sandra L. Duran, Federico Gonzalez, Jeffrey A. Greene, Yvonne Hammond, Jerry L. Hatcher, Joe G. Hernandez, Richard W. Hopkinson, Danny D. Kammerer, Lee K. Long, Frances C. Moffett, Kenneth Neal Niemi, Rita Orr, Glenn R. Reed, James D. Rowell, Bernadette T. Simpson, Herman Small, Tracey R. Smith, Roy L. Sylvies, Ralph E. Wilson III, Richard A. Wilson

Superior Court/County Clerk - Alice L. Faulkner, Marisela F. Fregoso, Ellen F. Hon, Hector Don Lucas, Lee B. Ragins, Cynthia Alice Regalado, Philip D. Thompson

Unidentified County Agency - Lupe Archuleta, Dorothy A. Wooten

Women's Hospital - Mary D. Reighley

Workforce Dev Aging & Comm Svc - Myoung Cha



Golf News

by Gil Sandoval, RELAC Golf Director

Santa Anita Golf Tournament June 15, 2026



Golfers prepare to tee off at Santa Anita Golf Course.

Dee Dee Carter shot a Net 67 to lead all players in the scoring race, as she won the Women's Flight. Katy Stringer came in 2nd and was one stroke back with a Net 68. Taking 3rd place was Norma Gutierrez at Net 78. Remember, there is an open invitation for women to play in the RELAC tournaments!

The "A" Flight was an easy win for guest Anel Dulay, as his Net 69 was three strokes up on his playing partner Stephen Lee, who brought in a Net 72. Only one back at Net 73 was Michael Hernandez in 3rd Place.

Michael Oden played extremely well winning the "B" Flight with a Net 68. Following in 2nd place was Robert Villar with a Net 71. He edged out Gil Sandoval by one stroke, who finished in 3rd place and beat Ricky Edwards in a card off on the third hole.

The "C" Flight winner was Andy Mendoza with a Net 75. He ran away from the field! Luis Lopez, playing in his first tournament, took 2nd place with a Net 91. William Lopez Sr., his father, followed with a Net 96 and ended up in 3rd place.

If you have friends who enjoy playing golf, encourage them to join us and let them know they can access the Golf Club information on the RELAC website at www.relac.org/golf. Interested golfers may register for all the golf tournaments directly on the website.

Reminder, the RELAC Scholarship Fundraising Golf Tournament will be held at the Lakewood Golf Course on October 26, 2026. All golfers are invited to participate. It is for a worthy cause. Contact your family, friends and colleagues and encourage them to join you. RELAC will appreciate your efforts to bring in golfers to play in the fundraising tournament.

(Editor's Note: RELAC Staff Member Mary Ramirez contributed to this report.)



Gil Sandoval and Mary Ramirez It's all in the swing for one golfer.



Santa Anita Golf Tournament Results

• "A" Flight Winners (19 & under)

1st Arnel Duly
2nd Stephen Lee
3rd Michael Hernandez

• "B" Flight Winners (20-26)

1st Michael Oden
2nd Robert Villar
3rd Gilbert Sandoval

• "C" Flight Winners (27 & above)

1st Andres Mendoza
2nd Luis Lopez
3rd William Lopez Sr.

• Ladies Flight

1st Dee Dee Carter
2nd Katherine Springer
3rd Norma Gutierrez

• Closest to the Pin – Men

#4 – Mario Uribe
#8 – David Runke
#12 – Edward Otero
#15 – Jim Daly

• Women

8 – Norma Gutierrez



Golfers join RELAC regulars for a round.

Letters to the Editor

A big thank you to RELAC Administration for all you do to make our golf tournaments a success! It was nice to see staff at the Santa Anita Golf Tournament. When are we going to see staff teeing it up and joining the group?

- Norma Gutierrez, Huntington Beach, California

I want to thank RELAC Administrative staff for keeping retired employees in touch with former co-workers and the happenings in Los Angeles County through the newsletter, seminars, general meetings, and luncheons. I am grateful for the opportunity drawings. I won a \$100 gift card at the Recognition Luncheon and twice on special drawings. I have also encouraged retired friends and former co-workers to join. In the latest newsletter, I noticed one of them actually joined. Our best news was the Social Security Windfall. Thank you for having our best interest in retirement!

- Beverly Williams, Covina, California

Thank you for the Hollywood Bowl tickets and to RELAC staff (Elva Espinoza) for coordinating the ride to the event. Everything she did was perfect! The tickets were easy to download. The music and fireworks were great. My family and I had a great night!

- David Bennett, Simi Valley, California

It's always good to read Judy Hammond's columns in the newsletter. Just received the July/August edition. Under What's Happening it talks about the "La Bea Tar Pits," and it will be closed for two years starting July 7 for a two-year mammoth makeover.

- John Krueger, Diamond Bar, California

Inside LA County (Continued from pg. 9)



The La Brea Tar Pits 50-foot mobile museum, operated by the County's Natural History Museum, traveled 75 miles to visit 900 students at Quartz Hill Elementary School, marking its first outing to the Antelope Valley. The

mobile museum, which sits on customized tractor-trailers, provided students with an innovative educational experience in a simulated scientific research environment.

Metro updates: Fares can now be paid by tapping a credit or debit card (physical or mobile) on buses and rail stations. The high cost of gasoline was cited as the probable reason that the weekday commute on Metro increased 8 percent from January to May. A transit rider is being added as a voting member of the Board of Directors to provide better insight into what's working, what's not, and how the Board's decisions affect the people who depend on the trains and buses.

What's Happening

RELAC Golf Tournament, Monday, December 7, 2026, La Mirada Golf Course, 15501 Alicante Rd., La Mirada, California 90638.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art – 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036. Free general admission for all visitors on the second Tuesday of each month. Free general admission to L.A. County residents Monday through Friday after 3 p.m. (closed on Wednesday). Free admission for L.A. County youth (ages 3-17) via the NexGenLA Program. L.A. County senior residents, ages 65 and above with ID, \$21 per ticket, non-residents \$30 per ticket. Free admission for active-duty military and their families with ID during the summer.

Descanso Gardens - in La Canada Flintridge, California is offering RELAC members exclusive dates to participate in its festive, fall celebration of Halloween **Carve Event** on October 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 and 26. Exclusive RELAC dates for the **Enchanted Forest of Lights** holiday event are November 30, December 1, 7, 8, 2026 and January 4 and 5, 2027. For tickets, visit www.descansogardens.org.

Natural History Museum – 900 Exposition Park, Los Angeles, CA 90007. L.A. County Residents receive free admission Monday through Friday, 3 – 5 p.m. Seniors, 62 years & above, pay \$14 per ticket daily. Free daily admission for active or retired U.S. military with ID. Tickets available onsite only.

LA County Parks & Recreation - Free programs and activities for Seniors, including multi-level exercise classes and meal programs. Visit the website at Parks.LACounty.gov for more information.

LA Beaches & Harbors - Friday Night Dance returns to Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey, September 4, 11, 18 and 25, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Live DJ, photo booth and food trucks. Admission is free. For information on parking & other activities, visit the website at marinadelrey.lacounty.gov or call (424) 526-7900.

IMPORTANT!

Are you moving?
Did you change your
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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

Email: admin@relac.org
Website: www.relac.org

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