



President's Message

by Linda C. Hopkins

Happy New Year RELAC members.

I hope everyone had a joyful holiday season with family and friends.

As we embark on the New Year, I am reminded of the famous phrase uttered by Nobel Peace Prize winner and Civil Rights activist, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We will celebrate the anniversary of his birth (Jan.15) on the federal holiday, Monday, Jan. 19, when commemorations will be held across the nation.

It was on the steps of the nation's capitol in 1963 during the March on Washington that Dr. King delivered his speech with the ad-libbed phrase, "I Have a Dream." It was a speech filled with hope.

I, too, have a dream and it includes RELAC moving forward with the theme: **"United in Purpose, Embracing New Opportunities."** This new path is designed to position RELAC to seek out new endeavors and achieve new goals.

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Kurt Floren, director, Agricultural Commissioner-Weights and Measures Dept., and Sabra Johnson, ISD, enjoy the holiday luncheon.

Capacity Crowd Attends RELAC's Annual Holiday Luncheon & Toy Drive

by Victoria Pipkin Lane, Editor

It was a time of reflection and celebration as nearly 200 people joined RELAC for its annual Holiday Luncheon and Toy Drive on Dec. 2, 2025 at the Castaway Restaurant in Burbank.

Members of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, led by Capt. David Danick and Mascot Sparky, thanked RELAC members for the many toys donated for low-income families throughout Los Angeles County and Southern California.

"These are difficult times for many families, and the toys will bring smiles to the faces of many children," said Capt. Danick. "The County Fire Department appreciates the partnership it has with RELAC and looks forward to future events," he said.



Bobbie Fesler, Vice President, left, and Ana Gaona, RELAC Member, center, present an official L.A. Dodgers jersey to an opportunity drawing winner at the luncheon.

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L.A. County Supervisors Approve Increase of LMB to \$2.25 Million

by Bobbie Fesler, RELAC Vice President, and Les Robbins, RELAC Director

RELAC, LACERA and their stakeholders have achieved another major milestone for their members with the recent vote by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (BOS) to increase the Lifetime Maximum Benefit (LMB) from \$1.5 million to \$2.25 million for Anthem Blue Cross Plans I, II and Prudent Buyer.

"The vote by the Supervisors extends the viability of these healthcare options for managing significant expenses over the longer term," said Linda C. Hopkins, RELAC President.

In its Dec. 2 letter to the Board last year, the Chief Executive Office (CEO) wrote: Historically, the LMB has increased incrementally and until recently held steady at \$1 million since 1992. Because the LMB was not increased since then, we went before the BOS in November to increase the benefit to \$1.5 million which was approved."

LACERA sought to eliminate the LMB from the designated healthcare plans. The agency also recommended that the Board increase the LMB to \$3 or \$5 million. The County's budget challenge was cited by the CEO as the reason for recommending the \$2.25 million LMB increase.

LACERA now has the authority to negotiate with Anthem Blue Cross to implement the increase, effective July 1, 2026, for its administered plans – Anthem Blue Cross I, II and Prudent Buyer Plans.

The CEO is expected to return to the Board in July to seek approval for an additional LMB increase to \$3 million, to be effective July 1, 2027. However, this increase is dependent upon certain conditions, including:

- Retirees' healthcare claims continue to approach and exceed the new LMB; and
- Low migration of retirees and their dependents from other LACERA-administered medical plans into Anthem II due to the LMB increase.

Los Angeles County's budget officials said a low migration trend would allow the government to predict future costs more accurately, while a high migration rate would significantly increase County liability for other post-employee benefits.

(Editor's Note: Fesler and Robbins both serve on LACERA's Board of Retirement. Fesler was appointed by Supervisor Janice Hahn. Robbins, who is Chair of the Board, was elected by retirees).



News from LACERA

by JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

As I write this update, I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and hopefully found some good deals on Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

A big thank you is sent to RELAC for inviting the LACERA executive team to its annual Holiday Luncheon and Toy Drive on Dec. 2 at the Castaway Restaurant in Burbank, California. We always enjoy the opportunity to visit with RELAC members. It's also very inspiring to see all the RELAC activities that support our mutual members and our communities. The toy drive certainly seemed to be a tremendous success and certainly helped Santa to make sure deserving families have a little more joy during the holiday season.

It reminds me of a story from my childhood when my family was struggling. We went to a Christmas event where they handed out toys to families in need. That year I got a small Hot Wheel/Matchbox commercial jetliner airplane. I was so appreciative of that toy that today it remains somewhere among my belongings.

Now I want to share some insights into LACERA's service philosophy and delivery aspirations. The Superior Member Experience strategic initiative ensures that staff deliver a consistent level of service through an omnichannel approach, which includes digital strategies, member communications, education, and enhanced services for Retiree Healthcare. What does this really mean? It means that LACERA's goal is to deliver a highly personalized and consistent level of service no matter what channel (traditional call center [voice only], virtual [video-based], in-person, chat [both AI-assisted and live chat] or self-service interactions) you prefer. We want your experience to be meaningful, productive, and enjoyable whenever possible.

Meeting this goal involves a holistic approach to service that accounts for everything from developing a better understanding of your needs at various stages of life, to developing staff, to creating a digital strategy that supports the type of service we strive to deliver. For example, we are currently in the process of mapping the New Hire Journey (the first five years of membership).

This is a detailed process designed to focus on what a new member experiences, develop an understanding of what they need and need to know, how to communicate with them and help them set a strong foundation for their membership and eventual retirement, and what we need to do make that journey more enjoyable, educational and productive. Eventually we will do this for the many journeys that a member goes through as they move their LACERA lifecycle.

We also listen to what our members say – the good and the not so good. When you think about it, providing service is all about connecting with and helping people. And every interaction we have is an opportunity to learn and improve our services. One of my favorite things to do is read compliments members share about interactions with our team. There are a few common threads that come up again and again, including an appreciation when we listen to your needs and concerns, when we are compassionate and patient, and when we take the time to be thorough and complete. We also pay attention when things don't go as planned and as a team we talk about those instances, identify what went wrong, and take proactive steps to help mitigate the chances it will happen again.

RELAC 2025 Financial Statement Now Available Upon Request

California Corporation Code Section 8321 requires the Retired Employees of Los Angeles County (RELAC) to prepare an annual financial report, which includes the balance sheet, income statement, a statement of cash flows for the previous fiscal year, and where the names and addresses of current members are located.

There are several ways a member may receive a copy of the report for the 2025 fiscal year. Call the RELAC Office at **(800) 537-3522 or (626) 308-0532**, or send an e-mail to **admin@relac.org**, or send a written request to **RELAC, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15, Alhambra, California 91803-8802**.

RELAC Schedules New Member Referral, Valentine's Day Drawings



It's a nice way to start the New Year.

RELAC will conduct an opportunity drawing in January for new member referrals, announced Debbie Martin McMullen, executive director.

The drawing is held annually for those members who refer Los Angeles County retirees to join RELAC and they sign up. The names of referring members are entered into a database from which 10 winners are selected randomly to receive a \$50 gift card, said McMullen.

In February, a Valentine's Day opportunity drawing will be held, she said. "The names of five (5) RELAC members will be selected from the database, and each will receive a \$50 gift card," said McMullen.

For additional information, send an e-mail to **admin@relac.org** or call the office at **(800) 537-3522**.

Letters to The Editor

In the September-October newsletter, Judy Hammond noted that Wallis Annenberg, 86, a longtime member of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art Board of Directors, had died. Ms. Annenberg, who came out as lesbian later in her life, played another significant role in the County, a role which was overlooked in several of her obituaries.

Ms. Annenberg fundraised for HIV/AIDS services in the early stages of the epidemic, asking former First Lady Betty Ford and Elizabeth Taylor to join her in these efforts. Ms. Annenberg's humanitarian commitment to fighting the epidemic was significant, and many persons living with HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles County benefited from that commitment.

— **Joseph Kelly, Los Angeles County Treasurer-Tax Collector (Ret.)**

Thank you so much for the Veterans Day opportunity drawing \$50 gift card. With all the people who sent in an entry, I got so lucky! Again, thank you! — **James Martinez, La Mirada, California**

It was so nice seeing RELAC President Linda C. Hopkins at the LACMC Fall Conference. I am incredibly thankful that I got the opportunity to finally thank her for the positive impact she has had on my career. Ms. Hopkins was the catalyst that started it all!

— **Luz Hernandez, Los Angeles, California**

Capacity Crowd Attends RELAC's Annual Holiday Luncheon & Toy Drive

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RELAC Director Dave Muir, center, is joined by VP Bobbie Fesler, right, to present a commemorative plaque to retired RELAC staff member Brenda Stephens.

RELAC Vice President Bobbie Fesler served as mistress of ceremonies, filling in for President Linda C. Hopkins, who was unable to attend. "RELAC is a family, a team," said Fesler. "When one member is unable to participate, another will step up. It is my pleasure to stand in for President Hopkins," she said.

"We begin with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by RELAC members who served in various branches of the U.S. military," said Fesler.

She continued with a "Year in Review" of RELAC activities, accompanied by a photo essay. "We welcomed more than 800 new members, generously donated to the GoFundMe pages of RELAC members impacted by the devastating wildfires in January, and offered retirees enhanced supplemental insurance options with NACO's Public Promise Insurance Program," said Fesler.

More than 150 members have signed up for the new insurance program, which offers benefits that go beyond dental and vision to include identity theft, fraud protection and a wide range of entertainment and recreational events.

"RELAC was very busy this year and there is more to come in 2026," she added.

Fesler then led the audience in a champagne/apple cider toast in celebration of RELAC's productive year of achievements.

Executive Director Debbie Martin McMullen shared with the audience a few highlights of the 2026 Calendar of Events – Bus trip to a California casino, Munch and Movie activity, free webinars, Night at LA Dodgers, Hollywood Bowl concert and a fundraising golf tournament in October to benefit the scholarship fund.

Director Dave Muir, a past president of RELAC, presented a commendation plaque to former employee Brenda Stephens, who retired after five years of service. "Brenda was the first voice you heard when calling the RELAC offices," he said.

"She was an important member of our team, reviewing and assembling all of the required documents submitted with applications for the scholarship program," said Muir. Stephens also worked with the IT staff on a smooth transition to an automated scholarship program, supported the general membership meetings, special events and several committees, he said.



RELAC Affiliate Member Jackie Guevarra, center, Assistant County Fire Chief Rick Lewis and RELAC member gather the toys donated by members for the Spark of Love campaign.



Richard Marciniak, DHS retiree, and RELAC members join in the champagne/apple cider toast at the holiday luncheon at the Castaway Restaurant in Burbank, California.

The RELAC Holiday Luncheon and Toy Drive was supported by platinum sponsors MetLife, First City Credit Union, Logic Wealth Management and SCAN; gold sponsors United Healthcare and Southland Credit Union, and silver sponsor GenCare.

Royce Nguyen of First City Credit Union and David Chung of Logic Wealth Management presented \$100 Visa gift cards to opportunity drawing winners Laureano Irveta and Kym Crenshaw.

The luncheon was preceded by a general membership meeting in which RELAC members approved the Sept. 18, 2025 Minutes on a motion by Muir with a second by member Fred Hungerford, who retired from the County Library.

On a motion by Hungerford and a second by Melba Brown, DHS retiree, the By-Laws Amendments also were approved. Southland Credit Union presented a \$100 gift card to Ira Starks, opportunity drawing winner, prior to adjournment of the meeting.

RELAC Annual Scholarship Program Now Underway; Deadline March 31

Tuition and fees, room and board costs, and other expenses may discourage some high school graduates from pursuing an undergraduate or vocational education.

RELAC's scholarship program was founded to assist eligible relatives of members. Many past scholarship recipients were nominated by grandparents who are RELAC members, and they are encouraged to continue the practice.

"Scholarship awards are made to assist recipients with the ever-increasing costs of continuing their education," said Bobbie Fesler, Vice President and Chair of the Outreach Committee, which oversees the program.

"We have made the process user-friendly and convenient with all required scholarship documents submitted online," she said. "Applications are available only to family of RELAC members attending an eligible educational institution," she said.

Up to five, \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. **Deadline to submit applications is March 31, 2026. Visit the website, www.relac.org, for more program details or call (800) 537-3522.**

President's Message

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For starters, we are working on creating a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization to provide donors with a tax deduction. We'll engage members with more webinars on relevant topics, from health and wellness programs to financial options that increase your retirement nest egg.

The importance of preparing for disasters also is a top priority. All retirees can benefit from having a "Disaster Go To Bag," and we will offer information on creating such a waterproof, zip-top bag for important documents.

These include:

- * *Personal Documents* - Social Security cards, birth certificates, marriage licenses, divorce decrees and estate planning documents
- * *Insurance Policies* - Renewed homeowners or renters' policies, specific coverage and whom to contact for a claim
- * *Account Information* - Current bank, brokerage, credit card and retirement statements as well as utility bills
- * *Cash* - Yes, cash is important in any disaster to get survivors through a few days
- * *Phone Numbers* - Printed contact information should be kept accessible for local services, friends, relatives and other important contacts. Remember, a loss of power means you cannot charge your cellphone or see contact information.

Overall, RELAC wants to enhance the membership experience and provide a beneficial return on your investment via membership dues. All the while we will not lose sight of our role as your pension and healthcare watchdog.

It is my pleasure to report that the RELAC family enters the New Year stronger and more united than ever. As always, send me your feedback at AskLinda@relac.org.

Commemoration Set for 100th Anniversary of Patriotic Hall

"Honoring 100 Years of Service, Building the Next 100" is the theme of the centennial celebration of Bob Hope Patriotic Hall on Saturday, February 21, 2026, announced Jim Zenner, Director, L.A. County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA), and Justin Garza, Executive Director, Warrior Heritage Foundation, co-sponsors of the event.

"Bob Hope Patriotic Hall has stood as a testament to Los Angeles County's commitment to serving those who served us," said Zenner. "As we mark 100 years, we honor the many people who have walked through these halls in search of connection and support," he said.

"We recommit ourselves to building the next century of service for veterans, service members and their families, and we invite the community to join us, celebrate this moment, and help drive the work that will define the next century," said Zenner.

"The event showcases the allure of Bob Hope Patriotic Hall and brings life to each space within the building to demonstrate its potential," said Garza. "We will tell the stories of the Hall as we highlight our commitment to leaving no veteran behind in L.A.," he said.

Two sessions will be conducted as part of the centennial celebration. There will be a free, family-friendly session from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and a ticketed, fundraising gala featuring casino night entertainment from 5 p.m. to midnight.

For more information, contact www.mva@lacounty.gov.

Retired Department Heads Meet for Holiday Luncheon



Retired Los Angeles County department heads braved the heavy rain to gather in El Segundo for an annual holiday luncheon in November 2025. In attendance were, front, left, (with their departments and retirement dates): Sheryl Spiller, Public Social Services, 2018; Joe Kelly, Treasurer-Tax Collector, 2019; guest Judy Hammond, County public affairs director, Chief Executive Office, 2011; Lynn Bayer, Public Social Services, 2001, and Joanne Sturges, Executive Office, Board of Supervisors, 2000. From right, front, were Russ Guiney, Parks and Recreation, 2015, and wife, Pat Wright; Steven Golightly, Child Support Services, 2020; John Schunhoff, Health Services Department, 2012, and husband, Ken Titley; and Conny McCormack, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, 2008. The retirees also meet in the spring. Spiller, Kelly, Bayer, Sturges, Guiney, Golightly, Schunhoff and Hammond are RELAC members.



Did You Know?

Cybersecurity awareness is important to protect individuals from online threats to confidential data and hacking.

L.A. County's Internal Services Departments conducts digital literacy training sessions to educate users.

For more information, visit www.isd@lacounty.gov.

RV News

Fall Luncheon of RV Group in Victorville



RELAC's RV group of 27 people gathered for a delicious luncheon in November at Los Toritos Mexican Restaurant in Victorville. Those attending were Terri and Elroy Morris, Steve and Ruth Powell, Leon and Dian Stegall, Janet Cerato, Dave and Jan Coleman, Heather and Shirley Egbert, Earline Powell, Dulcy Gerdes, Janice Hayhurst, Pat Jackson, Jeanne Klauk, Dorie Fregeau, Betsy Morgon, Jess Murph, Norm and Chickee Nelson, Martin and Gloria MacNilty, Mike and Veronica Reyes, Fred Weinberg and Randy Forney. The RV Group meets quarterly and welcomes new members. **For more information, contact Mike Reyes at 909-556-8751.**

Welcome New Members | OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2025

Edith Bishop – Children and Family Services
Ampai Darmiento – Olive View Medical Center
Gregory Graam – Probation
Martin Hernandez – Public Social Services
Deborah Dominguez Lares – Probation
Mary Lau – Children and Family Services
Leticia Lopez – Health Services
Dalton Meyers – Sheriff
Deana Porter – Human Resources
Leoncio Royo – LAC+USC Medical Center
Phan Vuong – Public Social Services
Audry Ward – Public Defender

No Department Listed

Teresa DeSimone
Nam Kieu

Associate Members

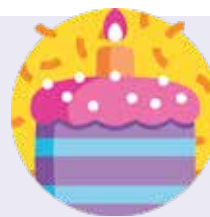
Donna Madea
Clayton Lau
Gina Royo
Lap Cong Nguyen

New Member Referrals

Thank You!

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

Gregory Graam – Andrew Gordon
Deana Porter – Linda C. Hopkins



Happy Birthday RELAC Centenarians!

• January •

Virginia Baughman, 101, Assessor
Gloria F. Manly, 104, Health Services
Gilda Saporito, 107, Health Services
Theresa R. Smith, 100,
 Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center
Elizabeth E. Torrance, 100,
 Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

• February •

Imgard Bassen, 100,
 Public Social Services
Megan Butler, 100,
 Public Works-Flood Control
Howard F. Dey, 101,
 Air Quality Management District
Josephine Horn, 100, Sheriff
Frederick Paul Horn, 102,
 District Attorney
Vilma Jacques, 100,
 (no department listed)
Nancy H. Mayatoshi, 100,
 Health Services
Hanako Nakamoto, 102,
 Marshal's Office
Maria M. Tachihara, 100,
 Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
Cleo B. Webb, 103,
 Internal Services-Building Services
Connette White, 104,
 District Attorney

Did You Know?

Historian Carter G. Woodson,
 Dec. 19, 1870 – April 3, 1950,
 is known as the Father of Black History and
 advocated for its inclusion in American life.
 In 1915, the Harvard University graduate
 co-founded the Association for the Study of
 African American Life and History.
 Unfortunately, he did not live to see the
 official recognition of Black History Month by
 President Gerald Ford in 1975.



Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond, RELAC Member

Following a “clear and dire” budget update by Acting Chief Executive Officer Joseph M. Nicchitta, Supervisor Kathryn Barger warned that the County will not be able to maintain essential services in 2026 if the state does not reform legislation that allows for unlimited sexual abuse lawsuits against

the County. The legislation, which extended the statute of limitations for reporting childhood sexual abuse, has already cost the County \$5 billion and that figure continues to rise as more claims are filed. Without reform, Barger said, the County “faces a fiscal cliff that will directly impact our most vulnerable residents.”

Following an L.A. Times article questioning the validity of some of the claims, District Attorney Nathan J. Hochman announced his office is investigating potentially false claims and that the investigation includes claimants, lawyers, recruiters, and doctors. He asked persons with information about false claims to call a dedicated hotline established by the Auditor-Controller at (844) 901-0001.

Hotlines are not new for the County to receive information about fraud. It has maintained an anonymous fraud hotline since 1988. The hotline operated by the Auditor-Controller receives more than 1,300 tips annually regarding suspected fraud, waste or abuse involving government resources. In November 2025 there were more than 1,000 cases under active investigation by the Auditor and other department units. Tips can be reported anonymously at [fraud.lacounty.gov](mailto:fraud@auditor.lacounty.gov), (800)544-6861 or by e-mailing fraud@auditor.lacounty.gov.

The Sheriff’s Department has begun preparing meals in-house for inmates at Men’s Central Jail and plans to expand the program to Century Regional Detention Facility and Twin Towers Correctional Facility. The hot, sealed meals, prepared by head cooks in collaboration with dietitians, have got thumbs-up from inmates. The department says the new Cook-Chill system – which ensures freshness, consistency and sustainability -- is the most significant improvement in inmate feeding in decades.

While acknowledging that the legality is expected to be challenged in court, County supervisors adopted an ordinance that would prohibit law enforcement officers from wearing masks or otherwise concealing their identities while on duty in unincorporated areas (with some exceptions like SWAT teams and active undercover operations). The action was prompted by ICE agents wearing masks when making arrests of residents believed to be undocumented immigrants. The vote was 4-0, with Supervisor Kathryn Barger abstaining.

The County will pay George Hills Company up to \$13.2 million to administer the substantial number of claims for damages filed by those impacted by the January 2025 Palisades and Eaton wildfires – which burned 37,469 acres and affected more than 43,000 individuals.

Fire crews from 15 tribal nations from California, Oregon and Arizona who helped fight the wildfires were honored by the Board of Supervisors during Native American Heritage Month.

After a recent state report suggested the Eaton fire spread from east Pasadena into west Altadena earlier than originally reported – further elevating the debate over whether evacuation orders for west Altadena should have come sooner – County Fire Chief Anthony C. Marrone announced he was initiating an independent investigation into the reported three-hour delay of the evacuation orders.

Superior Court Judge Gary D. Roberts dismissed a lawsuit by former Sheriff Alex Villanueva that accused County officials of defaming him, violating his rights and unfairly noting his personnel file with a “do not rehire” tag. It was the third time a court had ruled against Villanueva’s claims.

A survey of more than 1,000 registered voters showed that two out of three think the County is headed in the wrong direction, while four out of five feel its leaders are closely connected to “big money interests, lobbyists and developers” and County supervisors are effective only some of the time or not at all. Seven out of 10 said County government needed major reform. The survey was conducted by the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

LA General Hospital CEO Jorge Orozco says that nearly one in five patients admitted to the County facility have no insurance.

The County Department of Beaches and Harbors has entered into a licensing agreement with the California Yacht Club to operate the former Tony P’s Dockside Grill site as a sea-to-table restaurant, targeted to open in late spring 2026. The County resumed control of the property when Tony P’s closed in July 2025 following the retirement of the owners.

The Board of Supervisors has directed that the County Military and Veterans Affairs Department’s responsibilities be expanded to facilitate more collaboration with County, state and federal agencies to reduce delays, expand access to services, strengthen retention in housing and increase economic and workforce opportunities for veterans.

A library card offers much more than it did when we were young. The L.A. County cardholder now has access to a vast range of free digital resources, including: eBooks, eAudiobooks, thousands of newspapers and magazines from around the world, and streaming of more than 11 million songs and 30,000 films. Due to federal funding cuts, the laptop loan program was suspended on Dec. 30.

Supervisor Janice Hahn, saying she recognized that the Lomita Sheriff’s Station -- which serves the South Bay -- has for years had difficulty accessing the bridle trails on the Peninsula, used her office funds to buy an off-road vehicle, two ATVs and an e-bike for the station.

The Lucas Museum of Narrative Art in Exposition Park in Los Angeles has opened, featuring 35 galleries in a 300,000-square-foot, five-story building. Construction on the \$1 billion museum began in March 2018.

More than 65 graduates were honored in the fall 2025 commencement for the County Library’s career online high school program. Adults aged 19 and older may earn a high school diploma and career certificate in the free self-paced program.

The Community Brigade, which has operated formally under the County Fire Department since 2023 assisting in emergencies in the Santa Monica Mountains area and doing wildfire prevention work, has more than doubled to 100 since the January 2025 wildfires and expected to double again in 2026. Formed after the 2018 Woolsey fire when several residents fought with garden hoses and shovels to protect their homes, the volunteers are now trained by the Fire Department, which has control over their activities and who can be members.

The County Fire Department deployed its international urban search and rescue team, known as USA-2, to Jamaica to help with the response to the catastrophic Hurricane Melissa. USA-2 -- made up of 34 people and four canines -- is one of only two international urban search and rescue teams in the U.S.

Sam Shahbazi, a 38-year-old man from Sacramento County, has been charged with identity theft and grand theft for allegedly stealing approximately \$150,000 in L.A. County public assistance benefits from March 2021 to October 2023 by using false identifications.

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RELAC Announces Winners of Annual Drawing to Acknowledge Military Veterans

by Mary Ramirez, RELAC Staff Member

Winners of RELAC's annual opportunity drawing for United States Military Veterans, who served in either the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy, were selected via a random drawing conducted in November.

The drawing was created by the RELAC Board to recognize and honor those members who volunteered to serve their country, oftentimes in dangerous war zones. A profile of each winner is below.



James Martinez

He served in the Air Force for four years, and completed bootcamp training in San Antonio, Texas. Soon after he reported to Ramstein Airforce Base in Germany, where he served for three ½ years and earned the rank of Sergeant. He received an Honorable Discharge upon completion of his military service.

Martinez enlisted in the Air Force at the age of 19. "The military made me grow up really quick," he said. "I got to explore places around the world I would have not seen otherwise. I made a lot of good friends and enjoyed the brotherhood," he added.

The Ramstein Airforce Base has one of the largest American communities outside of the United States. Although he made a lot of good friends, Martinez missed his family back home. When he returned to civilian life, Martinez was hired as a student worker with the Los Angeles County Courts and later became a permanent employee with the Department of Public Works. When he retired after 38 years of service, Martinez was a Traffic Signal Electrical Supervisor.

John Morookian

Mr. John Morookian enlisted in the United States Army in 1951 during the Korean conflict. He completed basic and advanced training at Aberdeen Proving Ground Base in Maryland and was assigned to Company 106 Ordnance in Korea, where he was responsible for the Army's vehicles, artillery, and ammunition. In 1953, he earned the rank of Sergeant and received a Commendation Medal.



"My assignment had its challenges, but good experiences came out of my enlistment in the Army," he said. "Company 106 was involved in creating a Touch Football Team that competed with other units throughout Pusan, South Korea's largest port.

After the Korean assignment, Morookian reported to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he prepared military tanks and trained infantry officer candidates for the battlefield.



Salvador Rosales

He served in the United States Army for four years, earning the rank of Specialist E4. Upon completion of basic training, he spent a year Stateside and then deployed to fight in the Vietnam War.

"I was glad to have served my Country and I did my best to stay alive," he recalled. When he returned to the U.S., he was stationed at Fort

Riley in Kansas with the 1st Infantry Division. He was awarded a Service Medal and received an Honorable Discharge

After his military service, Rosales earned a high school diploma and an associate of arts degree from East Los Angeles College. He began employment with the County of Los Angeles as a custodian in the Department of Health Services, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center. He retired as a housekeeper.

Lonnie Timney

He served in the United States Navy for three years, and then completed an additional 24 years as a Navy Reserve. As an active reserve, Timney was assigned to various ships and units in Long Beach, California. He worked as part of the deck force, then moved up to Yeoman assigned to the ship's office.



His Navy deployments included Vietnam, 1968-1969, Saudi Arabia during Desert Shield, and Desert Storm, 1990-1991. His list of honors ranges from the National Defense Ribbon and Vietnam Service Commendations to Desert Storm and Naval Achievement Medals.

Timney received an Honorable Discharge and then was employed by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. He retired from the department in 2003. "My military service was a rewarding one and I felt honored to be able to serve my country," he said. "I really enjoyed the diversity of cultures and was able to experience many different types of foods."



Jack Withers

He served in the Marines for four years and completed basic training at Camp Pendleton in San Diego. He left for the Korean War and later transferred to Camp McNair, 3rd Division, Military Marine Base in Japan. He earned the rank of Sergeant and received an Honorable Discharge.

"I really enjoyed my military experience, although the way of life in Korea was quite different from back home and I had to adjust," he said. "However, in Tokyo I was able to enjoy the culture and food, and climb the famous Mount Fuji.

Upon returning home, Withers went to work with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and retired after 19 years of service. He spent 15 of those years in the Department's Narcotics Unit.

Inside LA County *Continued from pg. 6*

Large lawsuit settlements continue to impact the Sheriff's budget. Five recent settlements approved by the Board of Supervisors totaled \$16.6 million, ranging from \$2.5 million to \$4.5 million.

Employees at the L.A. County Museum of Art – the largest museum in the western United States – have unionized, saying their wages have not kept up with inflation while absorbing expanded workloads and responsibilities often without additional compensation, due to high turnover, limited resources, and positions that have been frozen or eliminated. Representing 300 employees, the union is also asking for expanded benefits and more institutional transparency relating to protocols and resources.

The LACMA Art+Film gala, LACMA's most high-profile event, raised a record \$6.5 million to support the museum and its programs. Among the celebrities attending the November 2025 gala, which was co-hosted by Leonardo DiCaprio, were Dustin Hoffman, Demi Moore, Cindy Crawford, Elle Fanning, Lorde, Queen Latifah, and Cynthia Erivo.

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Supervisor Janice Hahn

PQA Ceremony Honors Top 10 County Projects

by Victoria Pipkin Lane, Editor

Los Angeles County's Quality and Productivity Commission (QPC) recognized 107 projects from 35 participating departments for demonstrating excellence, efficiency, effectiveness and inclusion in County government. The programs resulted in cumulative financial savings and benefits to the County in excess of \$147 million.

The 38th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards (PQA) were held in October at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion with the theme "Resilient Today, Tomorrow, Together." QPC Chair William B. Parent said, "Our theme acknowledges the ongoing creativity and persistence of the County leadership and workforce...to create a better future."



Supervisor Holly Mitchell, seated right, and guest, are greeted by, rear, from left, QPC member Jackie Bacharach, RELAC Executive Director Debbie Martin McMullen, and Commissioners Nancy Harris, Huasha Liu and Will Wright.

Supervisors Holly Mitchell, 2nd District, and Janice Hahn, 4th District, congratulated the winning departments. "In these unprecedented times, our departments remain committed to developing and implementing solutions that expand meaningful access to services and programs," said Supervisor Mitchell.

"These are just a few of the many examples of County employees rolling up their sleeves and getting the work done," said Supervisor Hahn. "Employees are our greatest asset and these projects put on full display their extraordinary innovation, care and commitment to their work," she said.



L.A. County employees attending the annual Productivity and Quality Awards await announcement of the Bronze, Silver and Gold Eagle award winners.



Debbie Martin McMullen, RELAC Executive Director, visits with County Library Director Skye Patrick, second from left, and Library Chief Deputy Yolanda de Macias and staff member

First District Supervisor Hilda Solis, Chair Pro Tem, and Fourth District Supervisor Lindsey Horvath also congratulated the winning County departments and employees.

NBC 4 News Reporter Lolita Lopez was the mistress of ceremonies. The PQA ceremony is widely anticipated throughout the County as departments vie for their projects to receive the top honors, which were as follows: Gold Eagle - "State-of-the-Art Ballot Processing Center; Silver Eagle - "JCOD Los Angeles Training Center-LACTC; and Bronze Eagle - "Safety Matters: Decreasing Staff Assaults."

A complete list of projects awarded and the submitting departments is available at the QPC website, <http://qpc.lacounty.gov>.

News from LACERA *Continued from pg. 2*

Developing and preparing our staff to meet your expectations is a key focus of our service delivery strategy. Did you know it takes LACERA about a year to train a staff member who provides services to you? Each Retirement Benefit Specialist must successfully complete a year-long training course that includes an intense classroom and supervised production schedule. Throughout this process we conduct focus groups and have discussions with the trainees to ensure that the training is delivered successfully and that our new staff are acclimating to our organizational culture. After each class we go through a review process to make improvements for the next class.

A digital strategy is also a key component of our service delivery goals. Simply put, this is the development of systems and tools to make interacting with LACERA more efficient, accurate, and hopefully easy to do. Digital strategies can be internally focused such as creating automated workflows or eliminating manual steps to complete tasks.

Digital strategies can also be member-facing, such as improving the experience you have when you call us (the Genesys project I referred to in my last article), providing enhanced information and self-service options through My LACERA or one day even AI-assisted chat features. Several of the most recent articles have focused on our digital strategy efforts and I'll be talking about them more in the future.

In the end, it's all about you. Everything we do is focused on meeting our promise to produce, protect, and deliver the promised benefit and our vision to ensure our members have a healthy and secure retirement.

RELAC NEWSLETTER

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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

RETIREMENTS: **Michael Nash**, presiding judge of Juvenile Court and supervising judge of the Juvenile Dependency Court for more than 20 years before becoming the first director of the Office of Child Protection under the Board of Supervisors in 2015. Chief Deputy County Counsel **Judy Whitehurst**, who began her County career in the Assessor's Office, with 36 years of service. **Maria Chong-Castillo**, who served as a deputy under three County supervisors – Zev Yaroslavsky, Sheila Kuehl and Lindsey Horvath – during her 31 years with the County. **Laura Rinard**, division chief in the Auditor-Controller's Countywide Payroll Division, with more than 38 years of service, including 20 in the Department of Auditor-Controller and 12 in the Department of Health Services. Fire Capt. **Sheila Kelliher-Berkoh**, the 15th female firefighter in the County Fire Department when she was hired in 2000.

DEATHS: **Dr. William James French**, 83, a cardiologist at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and UCLA professor of medicine whose research and teaching was said to shape the contemporary practice of cardiology, particularly in the immediate response and treatment of patients during a heart attack; he collaborated with the County Fire Department and paramedics to advance in-field diagnosis and treatment protocols for cardiac emergencies. **Shirley Juarez**, 79, who began her County career in 1966 and served as secretary to Supervisors Ernest Debs, Pete Schabarum, Ed Edelman and Zev Yaroslavsky; following lengthy illness. Retired Sheriff's Lt. **John R. Martin**, who began his career in 1964 and retired in 1998 from the Century Sheriff's Station. **Jim Camp**, head of the Chief Executive Office photo unit (which served as official photographers for County supervisors) when he retired in 2010, working previously for the Public Works Department and the Registrar-Recorder's Office. He was in hospice at the Georgia home of his son, Brad, at the time of his death. Father **Chris Ponnett**, 68, who led the Department of Spiritual Care at Los Angeles General Medical Center for nearly 30 years and officiated the annual County Burial Ceremony for individuals who died alone without family to claim them. **Sara Kleban Radin**, 102, appointed by former Gov. Jerry Brown as one of first women judges on L.A. Superior Court, serving 16 years. During the McCarthy era, she successfully sued to become an attorney after the California Bar reportedly refused to admit her because, as a liberal woman, they questioned her "moral character." **Theresa Eileen Mitchell**, 65, a prosecutor in District Attorney's Office for 36 years, retiring in 2024. **Eric Preven**, 62, a citizen "watchdog" who attended every meeting of the Board of Supervisors for past 15 years, praised by current members of the Board for his intelligence and commitment; in 2016 he was co-plaintiff with the ACLU in a landmark case forcing the County to disclose legal bills paid to outside law firms; from apparent heart attack. **Dale Kent Neal**, 77, land use attorney who did pro bono work for the L.A. County Housing Development Corp.; ran against then-Supervisor Sheila Kuehl in 2018 and got 36,618 votes. **Karen Jean Jarnagin**, 81, whose career in the County Health Department spanned more than 40 years.

COURTS: **Brian Williams**, former executive director of the County's Civilian Oversight Commission, was sentenced to one year probation and 50 hours community service for calling in a fake bomb threat to L.A. City Hall in 2024 while deputy mayor. He said mental health issues led to the incident. Former sheriff's evidence and property custodian **Tommy Ray Trimble**, 60, charged with taking and tampering with evidence stemming from his own DUI arrest in 2024. If convicted as charged, Trimble faces up to three years in state prison. The Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) issued a press release saying it was aware that a former department employee – whom it did not identify – had been charged in a criminal case relating to alleged conduct – which it did not specify – that occurred prior to the creation of JCOD.

DEPARTURES: **Jennifer Forkish**, who served as spokesperson for then-District Attorney George Gascon in 2024, resigned as head of the public information division of the Los Angeles Police Department after being requested to do so by Chief Jim McDonnell following allegations of leaking information, which she denied.

APPOINTMENTS: **Denise Gutchens**, longtime chief financial and operating officer at FilmLA, which handles film permits for L.A. City and unincorporated areas, is the new chief executive officer, following retirement of **Paul Audley** after 17 years. **Hilda Solis** is the new chair of the Board of Supervisors; **Holly Mitchell** is the new chair pro tem, meaning she will automatically become chair in December 2026. **Derek Elleri** appointed chief of lake lifeguards within the newly formed Aquatics Agency of the County Department of Parks and Recreation, following the retirement of Chris Graham. He brings more than 34 years of experience in lake lifeguard operations, including the last 10 as lake aquatics manager overseeing lifeguard operations at Frank G. Bonelli Park.

HONORS: Firefighter Specialist **John Pfau** named the 33rd recipient of the Annual Perpetual Award of Excellence by the County Fire Department for outstanding involvement in fire prevention and service. The Los Angeles Philharmonic named the Hollywood Bowl stage for famed composer **John Williams**, 93, who conducted the orchestra there each summer for 46 years. The Sunset Junction intersection in Silver Lake was renamed in honor of **Jackie Goldberg**, 80, former school board member, councilwoman, assemblywoman, and deputy to Supervisor Gloria Molina. Goldberg, who is gay, said Sunset Junction was the central gathering place in Silver Lake, one of the few neighborhoods friendly to LGBTQs in the 1960s and 1970s.



Camp



Chong-Castillo



French



Juarez



Martin



Mitchell



Radin



Martin



Preven



Neal



Jarnagin



Forkish



Gutchens



Mitchell



Williams





Golf News

By Gil Sandoval, RELAC Golf Director

Lakewood Golf Tournament - December 1, 2025

The day started a bit cool, but eventually warmed up for a great day of golf. The women were the stars of the day, outshining the men! Norma Gutierrez edged out Katy Stringer by one stroke, as her Net 64 won the Women's Flight. Katy Stringer took 2nd at Net 65, and Dee Dee Carter brought in 3rd place with a steady Net 76.

RELAC extends an open invitation for women to join the golf tournaments! Visit the website, www.relac.org/golf. Join the RELAC golf family.



Dee Dee Carter

More on the golf tournament. The "A" Flight was a three-way race, as Steve Lee, Mark White, and Bobby Bradford all came in with Net 73s. Steve finished 1st, Mark took 2nd, and Bobby taking 3rd in a card off. The golf play was just like a horse race with an exciting finish!

The "B" Flight was an easy win for Miguel Ortiz-Marroquin with a Net 77. Frank DaVanzo edged out Leslie Bacon taking 2nd place at Net 81, and Les Bacon taking 3rd with a Net 82.

Winning the "C" Flight with a Net 72 was Ernest Joines III, as he was 16 strokes up on Terry Black and Harlan DeBie. They both shot a Net 88 with Terry taking 2nd place in a card off and Harlan finishing 3rd.

RELAC members - If you have friends that golf, encourage them to play with us! Information and entry forms for the 2026 golf tournaments can be found on the RELAC website at www.relac.org, under the link to Activities (Golf).

Thanks to William Stringer for stepping up and serving as the volunteer assistant golf director. He is eager to learn the details, the ins and outs of running a golf tournament! I know he will do a great job!



Miguel Ortiz-Marroquin

Next tournament: January 26, 2026, Chester Washington Golf Course, 1818 Charlie Sifford Drive, Los Angeles, California 90047. Entries must be received by January 5, 2026.

Enclose check for ___ golfers \$50 per golfer. Make check payable to RELAC.

Mail entry to: RELAC - Attn: Golf, 1000 S. Fremont Avenue, Unit 15, Alhambra, CA 91803-8802.



Tony Bacon and guest



Julio Gonzales, Steven Lee, Gil Sandoval and Richard Duran

Lakewood Golf Tournament Winner Results - December 1, 2025

"A" Flight Winners (19 and under)

- 1st Steve Lee (73)*
- 2nd Mark White (73)*
- 3rd Bobby Bradford (73)

"B" Flight Winners (20-26)

- 1st Miguel Ortiz-Marroquin (77)
- 2nd Frank DaVanzo (81)
- 3rd Les Bacon (82)

"C" Flight Winners (27 and above)

- 1st Ernest Jones III (72)
- 2nd Terry Black (88)
- 3rd Harlan DeBie (88)

Women's Flight

- 1st Norma Gutierrez (64)
- 2nd Katy Stringer (65)
- 3rd Dee Dee Carter (76)

Closest to the Pin Men

- #3 - Jim Daly
- #12 - Jim Daly
- #17 - Art Morris

Women

- #2 - Norma Gutierrez
- #4 - Dee Dee Carter
- #12 - Norma Gutierrez
- #17 - Charlene DeBie

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE EVENT DATES LISTED BELOW ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. BY REQUEST ANY RECOMMENDATION DOES NOT CAUSE.

DATES	LOCATION
JANUARY 26	CHESTER WASHINGTON GOLF COURSE
MARCH 23	LAS VERDES GOLF COURSE
JUNE 15	SANTA ANITA GOLF COURSE
AUGUST 3	LAKWOOD GOLF COURSE
OCTOBER 26	LAKWOOD GOLF COURSE FUNDRAISER GOLF TOURNAMENT
DECEMBER 7	LA MIRADA GOLF COURSE

RELAC GOLF CLUB 2026

SAVE THE DATES!

RELAC GOLF CLUB is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. RELAC GOLF CLUB is a member of the Los Angeles County Golf Association.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Agricultural Comm./Wts & Meas. - William D. Dyer
Alcohol/Drug Pgms. Admin. - Sheryl Ann Howard
Assessor - Virginia Baughman, Rene L. Juarez, Jose C. Patag
Auditor - Controller - Villafior D. Nunga
Beaches & Harbors - Jack L. Bayne, Dee Golles
Board Of Supervisors - Patricia S. Bustos, Shirley E. Juarez, Theresa Villa-McDowe
California Children's Services - Roberta S. Haines
Children & Family Services - Myrna A. Concepcion, Richard Croft, Jeanne T. Fujioka, Judy R. Hogan, Henrietta Johnson, Grace H. Lee, Christine Marron, Kevin Riordan, Byron Vig
Correctional Health - Edna Yousefi
District Attorney - Pamela A. Calder, Robert K. Gosney
Engineer Facilities - Richard A. Takamori
Fire - Stephen M. Borgogno, Charles M. Cook, Rasuli Jabari, Werner H. Richter, Carey L. Washington, Michael Dale Waugh
Flood Control District - Clinton Milne
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center - Mary K. Englert, Jessica Fong, Geraldine Gaines, Roger Leigh Harper, Harvey H. Ito
Health Plan Administration - Karen J. Jarnagin
Health Services Administration - Veronica Soto
Human Resources - Sheila Hall
Internal Services - David Holst, Roger P. Leach, James R. O Leary, Jerry D. Loflin, Rosalind Palmer, Clifford Arthur Perry Jr., Eduardo R. Romero, Lawrence R. Van Avery
King-Drew Medical Center - Yesmin Navarro, Jacquelyne L. Reese, Frank P. Wallace
LAC+USC Medical Center - Patricia Alvarez, Barbara J. Baker, James Birth, Dora Braun, Mary L. Bustillos, Helen I. Gee, Lillye B. Harbison, G W. Isaac, Nettie M. Jackson, Carol Lancey, Emma Lois Lucas, Janice H. Lyons, Joseph Oei, Alfred A. Owens, Loretta Palmer, Rangamani Pattabhirama, Sandra J. Ray, Helen A. Riley, John C. Salvary, Daphne M. Sessing, Lennie M. Taylor, Evelyne Thompson, June Vavasseur, Henrietta E. Villesenda
Mental Health - Herbert Mc Roy, Andrew B. Smith
Office Of Public Safety - Theresa M. Daugherty

Olive View/UCLA Medical Center - Juliana Barragan
Parks & Recreation - Takao Niiya, Mary L. Sutton, Larry E. Townsend, Charles A. Tuttle
Pomona Municipal Court - James E. Gardner
Probation - Neil R. Castren, Josephine O. Coleman, Dennis M. Collison, Carlos J. Dominguez, Ralph M. Elvord, Larry J. Fatone, Victor Gonnella, Arley D. Hobbs Sr., Stan D. Kaye, La Tanya C. Nelson, Bradley D. Noreen, Fernando Rodriguez, Bernardino Torres
Public Defender - Diana L. Munoz, James H. Nemeth
Public Health Program - William H. Anderman, Barbara G. Bacharowski
Public Library - Cecilia Hernandez, Dennis C. Martin
Public Social Services - Margaret Anthony, Benik Arakelyan, Lynette Bowry, Helen Budin, Dulce Lorena Lopez Camacho, Phyllis R. Conant, Marion V. Crawford, Rose M. Cross, Irene Di Guiseppi, Mona Faamausili, Steven Flores, Barbara A. Fortson, Richard L. Grooms, Mary Guzman, La Varese Hicks, Yolanda L. Hollins, Dolores Key, Linda F. May, Marcella Meharg, Toni Jo Mosley, Ann T. Nguyen, Kay O. Perry, Donald C. Quisenberry, Leonard Rosenberg, Mercedes Spindola, Nadav Tel-Oren, Aiko S. Von Achen, Daniel Zaldivar
Public Works - Thomas A. Antekeier, Tanya N. Dampier, William Dickey, Narciso S. Duldulao, Raymond F. Feilen, Eileen K. Horton, Willie L. Jones, Mitsuru Oshita, Vernon B. Williams
Rancho Los Amigos Hospital - Abundio C. Gines, Perry M. Ingram, Deanna A. Luttio, Wanda J. Sessions
Reg-Recorder/County Clerk - Willie Ann Mc Coy
Sheriff - Freddie E. Bighorse Jr., Paul D. Colman, Virginia D. Gamboa, Leslie A. Herbst, James J. Jacobs, J R. Martin, Richard H. Norenberg, Lloyd R. Oake, Maricela Palma, Merlyn R. Poppleton, Richard A. Rosito, Joanna Scrima, Duane E. Smith, Arlene V. Starks, Gary M. Tollack, Steven K. Williams,
South Gate Municipal Court - Arlene W. Hiatt
Superior Court/County Clerk - William G. Anderson, Sy Yau Huang, Roberto P. Quezada, Joe A. Ramirez, Tamara Rhodes, Fusaye Yamashita
Treasurer - Tax Collector - Raymond E. Lowe
Unidentified County Agency - Ralph H. Finn, Aurora Helen Justine



Don J. Fandry

Retired RELAC Director Don Fandry Passes

Former RELAC Director Don J. Fandry, who retired from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in 1992 after 31 years, passed away on November 25. Memorial services were pending at press time.

The Arcadia resident started with the Sheriff's Department in 1961, working in patrol and other divisions. He worked in forensics until his retirement.

"Don was a dedicated member of RELAC for many years, and I am sad to learn of his passing," said President Linda C. Hopkins. "I still have a plant he gave me many years ago. I did not kill it," she said.

Fandry was a member of the RELAC Board of Directors from 2013 until semi-retirement in 2023. During that time, he chaired the Regional Support/Special Events Committee in 2016, and represented RELAC at the County of Los Angeles 53rd Annual Older Americans Recognition Ceremony in May, 2018.

He served on many RELAC committees, including those focused on the newsletter, community support, membership outreach, and benefits, recruitment and marketing. Fandry also was an active member of the scholarship committee, where he worked with members to review, evaluate and rate the submitted applications.

His volunteer service included delivering to collection sites the toys donated by RELAC members for the County Fire Department's annual Spark of Love Toy Drive.

RELAC Directors extended condolences to Fandry's family.

Inside LA County *Continued from pg. 7*

The Sheriff's Department, in collaboration with the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission and community-based organizations, held a virtual town hall on the Prison Rape Elimination Act. Persons who had experienced sexual abuse and trauma within County jails were invited to share their perspectives on creating safer and more trauma-informed reporting processes.

The Parks and Recreation Department restructured to create an Aquatics Agency division to unify operations across 14 lakes, three lake swim beaches, 44 swimming pools, and 25 splash pads. The move is intended to strengthen the department's ability to provide cohesive safety standards, operational excellence, and responsive service to its communities.

The Department of Mental Health has formed a new unit called the Office of Transitional Age Youth to assist those individuals aged 16-25 who need mental health, housing and other essential services.

The Department of Public Health marked the 38th annual World AIDS Day on Dec. 1 by partnering with iconic landmarks across the County, illuminating the sites in red to reflect solidarity and raise awareness. Approximately 56,000 people with HIV live in L.A. County and an estimated 1,400 new HIV infections are reported each year.

What's Happening

La Brea Tar Pits and Museum – 5801 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036. Los Angeles County resident tickets are available from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at any museum ticketing desk or kiosk. Daily Senior admission is \$14 per ticket. Free daily admission for active or retired U.S. military with ID.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art – 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036. Free general admission for all visitors on the second Tuesday of each month, and free general admission to L.A. County residents Monday through Friday after 3:00 p.m. (closed on Wednesday). L.A. County Senior residents (65+) with ID \$16 per ticket. Free admission for active-duty military and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day, through the Blue Star Museums Program.

The Huntington Library – 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108. The first Thursday of every month is Free Day. Admission is free with advance reservation. Free Day tickets are available the last Thursday of every month at 9 a.m. until sold out, for admission the following week. Limit five (5) tickets per household per calendar year.

L.A. County Arboretum & Botanic Garden – 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA 91007. On the third Tuesday (Summer Hours: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.) of the month, admission is free. Reservations required for free tickets. Daily Senior (62+) admission is \$11 per ticket.

Natural History Museum – 900 Exposition Park, Los Angeles, CA 90007. Los Angeles County residents get free Museum admission from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Daily Senior (62+) admission is \$14 per ticket. Free daily admission for active or retired United States military with ID. Tickets are available onsite only. See Museum Free Hours and Admission.

Japanese American National Museum – 100 N. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Thursdays are free admission from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.; last entry at 7:30 p.m. Every third Thursday of the month is free admission all day; last entry at 7:30 p.m.

Parks & Recreation – Offers free programs and activities for Seniors, which include multi-level exercise classes and meal programs. Visit the website at Parks.LACounty.gov for information.

Beaches & Harbors – Offers free Zumba and Yoga classes. Certified Farmers' Market held on Saturdays 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visit the website at www.beaches.lacounty.gov.

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*Are you moving?
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name, address or
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