



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

RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog
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President's Message

by Linda C. Hopkins

RELAC is expanding the expertise on its Board of Directors with the appointment of Carla Williams, retired senior human resources manager with the County's

Department of Human Resources. Her background covers all aspects of managing executive level personnel.

She is a proven collaborator, who is adaptable and resilient with a management style that is forward thinking. Her skill in addressing a wide range of highly sensitive matters in the area of employee relations will benefit RELAC operations.

While working with the County Fire Department, Williams was involved with revisions to its \$950 million budget that was impacted by federal, state and County fiscal decisions. Despite the changes, she ensured that department financial obligations were met.

A detailed article on her background, human resources experience and education is on page 4 in this newsletter.



Carla Williams

Vote for RELAC - Endorsed Candidates

It's election time for the retiree positions on the LACERA Board of Investments and Board of Retirement, seats that traditionally have been filled by RELAC directors.

We have endorsed James Brekk for the Board of Investments, Les Robbins for another term on the Board of Retirement (BOR) and James (J.P.) Harris to continue his service in the alternate position on the BOR.

Ballots will be sent to retirees who are eligible to vote. Members of LACERA who were retired on or before April 15, 2026 are eligible to vote. (Survivors and beneficiaries do not qualify.) The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution establishing the procedures for the election for these seats.

Retirees who are eligible to vote have an option to cast their vote by paper ballot, telephone or online. I encourage you to make sure your e-mail address with LACERA is up to date if you plan to vote electronically. The online voting and telephone

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RELAC Plans Major Tech First: Sets Fall Meeting as Webinar

by Victoria Pipkin Lane, Editor

In an effort to increase membership engagement, RELAC will conduct its first General Membership meeting as a Webinar on Wednesday, September 23, on the Microsoft Teams platform, announced President Linda C. Hopkins.

"There are nearly 11,000 RELAC members who live in nearly every state in the nation," said Hopkins. (See membership location maps on page 5 in this newsletter.)

"It's not realistic to expect the people who live outside of California and even Los Angeles County to attend the meetings or participate in some of the activities. Technology solves that challenge for us," she said.

Detailed information on the general membership webinar, including how to access the meeting online, will be sent via e-mail, published in the September-October 2026 RELAC newsletter, and on the website, www.relac.org.

"Hearing from the Directors - What Matters to You Now?"

is the theme of the meeting. Each presentation will have a key theme or message, discuss one accomplishment, and a challenge, and how the latter was resolved. A specific example will be part of each presentation, and a question-and-answer session will be held after each Director's segment.

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Supervisor Barger at Veterans Event



Supervisor Kathryn Barger greets RELAC Director James (J.P.) Harris, left, and retired Sgt. Burton Brink at the "Tribute to Veterans and Resource Fair," which she sponsors annually in May at Arcadia County Park. "On Memorial Day we pause to honor the brave men and women, who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation," she said.



News from LACERA

by JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

It's my pleasure to welcome the newest member of our Executive team, Jessica Baxter, who Jessica Baxter joined LACERA as Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) overseeing the Business Services Group. LACERA has two AEOs, who oversee different parts of the organization. I oversee the Member Operations Group and Jessica handles the Business Services Group.

Jessica comes to LACERA with 25 years of executive experience, culminating in her appointment as a senior executive service member with the United States Marshals Service. She brings a broad range of expertise in human capital, budget oversight, and change management.

LACERA staff prides itself on being good fiduciaries, producing, protecting, and providing the promised benefits. In the last few years, LACERA adopted a Strategic plan focused on five key areas: Superior Member Experience, Innovation Through Technology, Investing in our People, Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management, and Fiscal Durability.

As part of the Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management strategic goal and continual reflections on how to be the best public servants possible, staff recently concluded a nearly year-long effort to update a Code of Ethical Conduct. The new Code was presented in May to the Board of Retirement.

Briefly, the updated Code reflects the organization's values, strengthens clarity and accessibility, and reinforces a commitment to ethics, compliance, and accountability. If members want to read the revised Code, the document is included in the May 2025 Board of Retirement agenda package, accessible on LACERA.gov.

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Board of Retirement

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

The election for the retiree members on both the LACERA Board of Retirement and the Board of Investments will be held in August. RELAC has one seat on the Board of Investments and two seats, primary and alternate members, on the Board of Retirement. Voting begins on August 3 and ends on August 28. The election will be certified by the Board of Supervisors on October 20. The new Board terms start on January 1, 2027.

I am running for another 3-year term for the primary seat on the Board of Retirement. Ballots, like in the last two elections, will be mailed to all retirees who are eligible to vote, or should they choose, they may vote electronically. We have asked the County to continue to give retirees the choice of either electronic or mail-in voting. I will keep everyone apprised of the progress of the pre-election process. I am supporting RELAC Director James Brekk for the Board of Investments position. I know that JP Harris, the current Retirement Board alternate will also be running and he has and always will have my complete support.

The following LACERA membership information is as of April 15, 2026, and it continues to develop. General Plan A is now down to 28 active members, Plan D has a little more than 28,000 active members, Plan E has more than 10,000 active members, and Plan G (The PEPR Plan) currently is at a little more than 48,000 active members.

There are no more ACTIVE Safety Plan A members working for the County, while there are now more than 6,000 active safety Plan B members and an estimated 6,000 active safety Plan C

(Continued on pg. 12)

Cambodian Event



RELAC President Linda C. Hopkins, left, and Nicole Mi, a trustee with the LACERA Board of Investments, attend the celebration of the Lunar New Year sponsored by the Los Angeles County Cambodian Employees Association in Long Beach, California.



The Los Angeles County Cambodian Employees Association held a celebration of the Lunar New Year in February in Long Beach, California. Attending the festivities were, from left, Johanna Hernandez, President of the Los Angeles County Chicano Employees Association, Gina Garcia, First City Credit Union, and Linda C. Hopkins, RELAC President.

Supervisor Barger Announces Summer Beach Bus Service

Los Angeles County has started the annual Summer Beach Bus program, which runs through Labor Day, September 7, for residents, who want to escape the heat, said Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

"It's a direct pipeline to Santa Monica Beach and offers a stress-free, affordable ride straight to the shores of Santa Monica," she said. A round-trip ride is just \$6.

"Individuals and families have access to the coast to catch some waves, stroll the historic Santa Monica Pier or just enjoy a cool breeze," said the Supervisor.

The Beach Bus program provides services to residents, who live in various inland communities, including Altadena, Castaic/West Ranch, Charter Oak/Duarte, East Los Angeles, and La Crescenta/La Canada Flintridge. In the Antelope Valley (Palmdale and Lancaster), buses run on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays and major holidays.

Assessor Opens New Castaic Office

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang has opened a new North District Regional Public Service Counter at the Castaic Library, 27971 Sloan Canyon Road, Castaic, California.

"This new facility expands in-person services for residents and property owners in the northern region of Los Angeles County," said Prang. "It improves public access to important property tax assistance and information, and is part of my commitment to bring government services closer" to the communities that need them, he said.

The public service counters allow Assessor staff to work directly with property owners to answer questions, and help people understand the programs and resources available to them.

Hours of operation are Monday and Friday, excluding County holidays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors must be in line by 4:45 p.m. to ensure assistance before closing.

In addition, the new office space is the result of a collaboration between the County Internal Services Department's facilities team and the Assessor's Office.



LACERA's Executive Desk New App in Development

By Luis A. Lugo, Chief Executive Officer

One of my top goals this year was beginning development of a new LACERA app. This is an exciting project and I am delighted to see it take shape. I will keep you posted with periodic updates.

As large numbers of people transition away from desktops and laptops to mobile devices for internet use, we are focused on providing intuitive, convenient ways for members to access information and handle LACERA transactions directly from their phones and tablets.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a powerful tool that is rapidly evolving and is being adopted quickly across multiple industries. I want to reassure members that LACERA is taking a diligent and intentional approach to AI adoption and use.

Safeguarding member data and information will always be at the forefront of any decision we make.

For example, we have implemented a comprehensive AI policy, providing clear guidelines for organizational usage and accountability, while requiring strict adherence to governance, security and risk management standards.

Any new tools and outreach methods are intended to supplement our range of services. Our members will always be able to call or set up an appointment with a knowledgeable retirement benefits specialist, and have 24/7 access to their accounts.

Anthem Offers Tips For Healthy Living

Healthy living and aging start with making small choices each day, according to Nicole Harber, management executive with Anthem Blue Cross.



"Keeping up with preventive care and screenings will catch potential health concerns early on," she said. "There are key ways an individual can be sure of a healthier tomorrow."

- A few tips:
- Stay active & socially connected
 - Eat nutritious foods
 - Get quality sleep
 - Manage stress in healthy ways
 - Keep the mind engaged

These recommendations all help support one's well-being as an individual ages, she noted.

"Anthem offers personalized health information, benefits and wellness resources for retirees that promote and support a healthy journey," added Harber.

For more information on Anthem's healthy aging resources, visit www.anthem.com.

Carla Williams Appointed to RELAC Board; Fills Unexpired Term

Carla Williams, retired senior human resources manager for Los Angeles County, has been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Brian Berger, who resigned recently due to health challenges.

"RELAC is fortunate to have Williams accept the appointment to the board of directors," said President Linda C. Hopkins. "She brings to our organization demonstrated expertise in project management, consensus building and collaboration with various stakeholders."



Carla Williams, right, escorted Los Angeles County firefighters into the Castaways Restaurant ballroom for RELAC's annual Holiday Luncheon and Toy Drive, which she helped coordinate. She is joined by Debbie Martin McMullen, executive director.

"Although not on the RELAC Board, Williams took on the task of diplomatically coordinating the County Fire Department's participation in our annual Spark of Love Toy Drive last year, which was held outside of the department's jurisdiction," said Hopkins.

She will take on the duties of Chair of the Membership Outreach Committee, spearheading initiatives to recruit County retirees and provide leadership development.

"It is an honor to be appointed to the RELAC Board and join a team of professionals, who are committed to protecting the pension and healthcare benefits of retirees," said Williams. "I look forward to my new role, which will be focused on enhancing the organization's membership growth strategies," she said.

Presently, she is a human resources manager for the City of La Canada Flintridge. Her responsibilities include establishing formal human resources processes, ranging from personnel operations and recruitment to training, classification and compensation.

Prior to retirement, Williams managed a staff of 36 employees in the Department of Human Resources' executive services division and talent solutions unit. Supervisors who reported to her were responsible for all aspects of executive level services.

Their responsibilities included recruitment for unclassified positions, managing the veterans intern and student worker programs, as well as the Management Appraisal Performance Plan, executive transportation, department communications and social media, and special projects for the Board of Supervisors.

Williams also analyzed and recommended solutions to highly complex problems related to constituents, along with setting and driving performance metrics.

She also served as chief of human resources and acting deputy chief of the County Fire Department's administrative services bureau. Williams earned an undergraduate degree in business information systems from California State University (CSU) at Los Angeles and a master's in public administration from CSU-Northridge.

Williams is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management and the International Public Management Association for Human Resources.

Colleagues Mourn Passing of Attorney Donovan Main

Donovan Main, who retired as a Chief Deputy County Counsel in 2008 after more than 38 years of service, passed away on May 4, according to Dawyn Harrison, County Counsel.

We are sad to learn of his transition and "our thoughts and prayers are with the Main family," she said.

On a motion by Supervisor Kathryn Barger, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adjourned its May 19 meeting in recognition of Main's longstanding service to the County. He began employment with the County following graduation from the University of Southern California Law School.

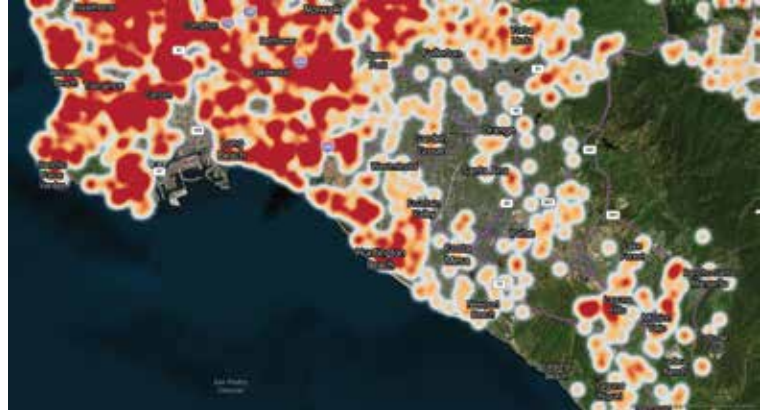
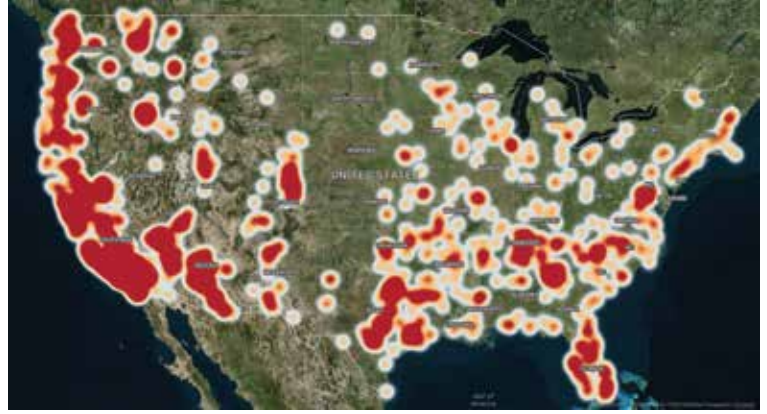
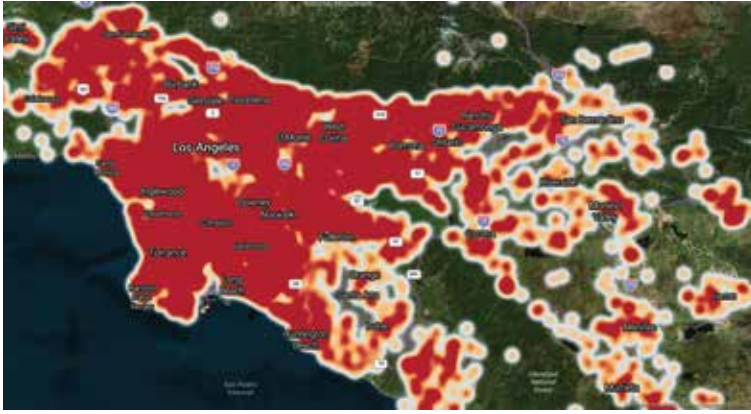
"Main was widely known for his vast litigation experience and imparting his firsthand knowledge to others," said Harrison. "He was greatly admired and respected by all who had the privilege of working with him."

Bobbie Fesler, Vice President of RELAC, was "lucky to meet him early in my career at the County Counsel's Office when we both represented school districts. His good judgment, willingness to help other lawyers, and easy-going nature made him so valuable to young lawyers like me," she said.

"I saw these qualities in Main throughout the decades we spent working together," said Fesler. "He was smart, humble, kind and funny, and if you crossed paths with him, your life is better for it," she added.

Main advised numerous clients, including the Board of Supervisors, Chief Administrative now Chief Executive Office, Department of Human Resources, County School Districts, and the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission. In recognition of his outstanding service, the Coliseum Commission included his name on a commemorative plaque within its Memorial Court of Honor.

Where RELAC Members Reside in the U.S.



RELAC Sept. 23 Webinar *(Continued from pg. 1)*

Some of the subjects expected to be discussed are membership outreach, advocacy and benefits, technology, the state of RELAC, health and well-being, and what's ahead, according to Debbie Martin McMullen, executive director.

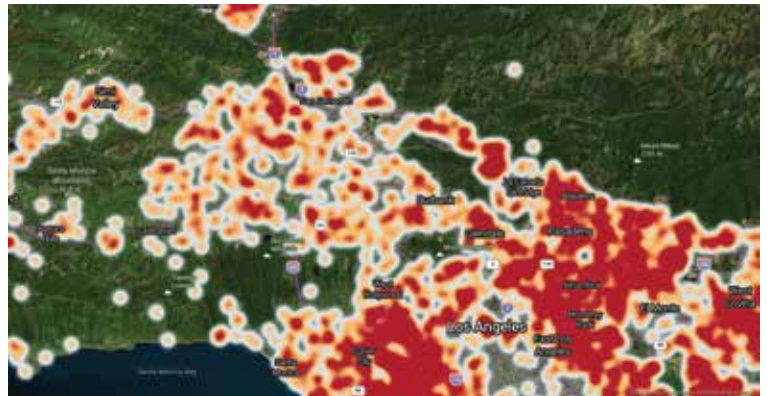
Prior to the webinar, a brief survey will be sent to RELAC members asking some of the following questions:

- Where should RELAC focus its efforts over the next year?
- What issues are of major concern to you?
- Do you attend RELAC events and, if so, which ones are a priority for you?
- How engaged are you with RELAC, and in what ways do you interface with the organization?
- Would you recommend RELAC to another retired County employee?

"Responses to the survey questions will help us tailor the webinar agenda to the topics most important to members," said McMullen. "We want to grow and strengthen the RELAC community, and make sure our current members are fully engaged," she said.

In addition, the name of each RELAC member who participates in the webinar will be entered into two (2) computer-generated drawings for an opportunity to win a \$100 Visa gift card.

Remember to "Save the date" of Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 10:00 a.m., Pacific Standard Time.



Five RELAC Directors Elected

James (J.P.) Harris, Victoria Pipkin Lane, Dyanne Nelson, Les Robbins and Carla Williams have been elected to serve new, three-year terms, said President Linda C. Hopkins.

"No RELAC member filed a petition by the June 5 deadline to be a candidate for the Board of Directors," she said. As a result, the five directors will continue their volunteer service through December 31, 2029.

All five members were endorsed by the current Board of Directors.

RELAC directors are expected to attend monthly Board meetings, four general membership meetings a year, and participate in RELAC activities and events.

Vote for Your RELAC Endorsed Candidates

For Board of Investments: James Brekk

I am a candidate for the Eighth Member of the LACERA Board of Investments (BOI). When I joined LACERA in 1992, I came to build its first computer network system. Now, three decades later, after serving as Chief Information Security Officer, Chief Information Officer, and Interim Deputy CEO, I am asking for your vote to help govern the fund that pays our benefits. Protecting what we earned has become my lifelong work.

Currently, I serve on the Board of Directors of the Retired Employees of Los Angeles County (RELAC), where I chair the Investments, Finance, Audit & Budget Committee and the IT Oversight Committee.

Why does this BOI seat matter? Roughly 70 cents of every dollar of our benefits comes not from contributions, but from investment earnings. The BOI governs that engine: setting strategy, approving the asset allocation, and weighing risk across public markets, private equity, real estate, and more. It is the most powerful safeguard of our lifelong security. This is where my experience matters most. I don't just understand investments and financial markets, I understand the entire enterprise behind them, including the operations, accounting, actuarial and risk frameworks, and the systems that put your benefit check in your account each month. That complete picture allows me to ask sharp questions and truly hold management accountable. No one understands LACERA more completely.

My commitments to you are simple: Fiduciary, Stewardship, Experience, Independence, and Retirees First. Just as RELAC exists solely to represent retirees, your voice on the LACERA Board of Investments must remain your strongest advocate, and focused on returns, solvency, and the security of your benefits, including the healthcare that so many of us depend on. My case to you rests on my record, not on any title. I respectfully ask for your vote.



Brek

For Board of Retirement: Les Robbins

For the past 29 years, I have served on the LACERA Board of Retirement (BOR). I was first elected to the BOR in the summer of 1997. Since that time, I have served first as the elected Safety Member on the BOR and the Board of Investments. After my retirement in 2004 I was appointed to the BOR by former Supervisor Don Knabe until his retirement in 2017. In 2018, I was first elected to the retiree position on the BOR where I have remained to this date.

I am asking for your support for my re-election to the Board of Retirement. For more than 30 years I have had the honor, privilege, and responsibility to represent all Los Angeles County employees, both active and retired. During this time, we have experienced a number of ups and downs in our economy and I am very proud of my record throughout all of this as a solid and stable fiduciary to our trust and its members. Throughout all of the economic ups and downs LACERA has done quite well with nearly \$100 billion in total assets under management today. Once again, I respectfully ask for your support and vote.



Robbins

For Alternate, LACERA Board of Retirement: James (J.P.) Harris

Lieutenant (retired), Sheriff's Department

I am asking to be retained as the Alternate Retiree Member on the LACERA Board of Retirement (BOR) for a fourth term. I am honored to currently serve as the chair of the BOR, and I am a 16-year member of the board of directors of the Retired Employees of Los Angeles County.

Our pension system must be protected from becoming politicized. It is essential that we retain our ability to control the management of your system without political interference. We must be hyper-vigilant in ensuring that our system remains fiscally strong and continues to provide the promised benefit. I will always work to ensure that pledge is kept.

As a fiduciary for both the plan sponsor and participants, all decisions made at LACERA must be made through that lens. I will work for all members of the system, regardless of status, to protect your benefits and make sure the benefits you earned are always there for you.

My knowledge, training and experience give me the perspective needed to represent the interests of retirees on the Board of Retirement. I would be honored to receive your vote.



Harris

Supervisor Burke, Family Attend State Assembly Tribute to Dr. William Burke

By Victoria Pipkin Lane, Editor



Dr. William "Bill" Burke

had value and deserved respect," said Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke during a recent telephone conversation.

"Bill spent his life serving the community, and helping others, especially those who too often had been overlooked," said the former Second District Supervisor, who was married to Burke for 54 years. He was born in Ohio on May 13, 1939.

She recently traveled to the State Capitol in Sacramento with daughters Christine Burke Adams and Autumn Burke and granddaughter, Isabella, where Dr. Burke's life and legacy were honored during an Assembly floor session. Supervisor Burke said it was "a special tribute," and it was clear during our talk that she was moved by the legislature's action.

The U.S. Air Force veteran chaired the South Coast Air Quality Management District for 23 years where he "worked for clean air and healthier communities," said Mrs. Burke.

He founded the Los Angeles Marathon with the support of then-Mayor Tom Bradley and major corporations. The 26.2-mile race made its debut in 1986. It attracted prominent marathon runners and celebrities such as boxing legend Muhammad Ali, who regularly could be seen in Burke's reception tent at the start-finish line in downtown Los Angeles.

Burke served as Commissioner of Tennis during the 1984 Olympics, was a Consul General to the Republic of Mali, chaired the California Wildlife Conservation Board and was president of the State's Fish and Game Commission.

In a public statement released by the family after his passing and published in the Los Angeles Sentinel newspaper, the Burke family noted that "Bill will be remembered for his big heart, unwavering optimism, sense of humor and belief that one person could make a difference. His legacy lives on through the institutions he helped shape, and in the countless lives he touched along the way."

Dr. William "Bill" Burke was a renaissance man who had a positive and lasting impact on the lives of many people, from community-based leaders such as Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass to well-known celebrities like the late Muhammad Ali. He was 87 years young when he passed away on May 29.

"He lived a life of purpose, was very generous and believed deeply that every person

Information on a celebration of Burke's life will be made public at a later date, said the family, which held a private service.

(Editor's Note: Some information in this article was published in the Los Angeles Sentinel and used with permission. Pipkin Lane is a former Press Deputy and mentee of Supervisor Yvonne Burke.)



Supervisor Yvonne Burke at the State Capitol with, from left, daughters Christine Burke Adams, Autumn Burke and granddaughter, Isabella. (Photo credit – Antonio Ray Harvey)

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

system will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, during the voting period, which begins on August 3 and closes on August 28.

The County, not LACERA, will conduct the election. Eligible voters who have a valid e-mail address will receive login credentials and voting instructions on August 3, 2026 by e-mail. Paper ballots will be mailed no later than July 31, 2026. For general information, contact the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors at LACERA_Election@bos.lacounty.gov or by calling (213) 893-1151.

It is very important for RELAC members to vote for our endorsed candidates because they represent us and protect our pension and healthcare benefits. The interests of retirees are their top priority.

Please take the time to read about the RELAC-endorsed directors, Brekk, Robbins and Harris, who have provided extensive candidate statements that are published on Page 6 in this newsletter.

Finally, I want to shout out Debbie Martin McMullen, who has decided not to seek re-election to the LACERA Board of Investments. On behalf of RELAC, we thank her for outstanding service and a commitment to advocating on behalf of our members. She will continue to provide extraordinary leadership as executive director of RELAC.

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

RELAC Partners with L.A. County for Annual March of Dimes Walk



RELAC has been a longtime supporter with the County of Los Angeles of the annual March of Dimes campaign to raise awareness and funds for maternal and infant health.

More than 1,000 participants, including Star Wars characters and RELAC staff members, joined the non-profit organization at the March for Babies Walk held in April at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

To date, RELAC members have donated more than \$4,000 to the March of Dimes this year. The donations will be used to fund important research, programs and education initiatives that directly support mothers at every stage and post-delivery.

LACERA Spring Workshop Focused on Ways for Retirees to Protect Assets



Armando Nogal, RELAC staff member, congratulates opportunity drawing winner Kathy Tran, Sheriff's Department, who won an iPad.

Financial well being is an important aspect of retirement.

LACERA recently sponsored a Spring workshop at the Carson Event Center to inform and educate members on protecting their financial assets.

"Staying healthy means focusing on financial health too," said Luis Lugo, Chief Executive Officer of LACERA. "It's important for retirees to learn about estate planning and the importance of designating a Power of Attorney for pension and healthcare benefits."



Debbie Martin McMullen joins the exercise class.

Presenters at the event included Willow Mc Jilton of the Willow Law Group and Edwin Tom and John Slattery of LACERA's Membership team. RELAC staff members also were in attendance as part of its ongoing partnership with LACERA to promote its wide ranging educational and social programs that are designed to keep retirees engaged and active in the community.

The financial workshop was an activity of LACERA's Retiree Wellness Program with the goal of separating myth from reality. LACERA does not provide legal, tax or other financial advice and always encourages members to consult an attorney or financial professional for specific advice.



Inside LA County

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

A drive-through food distribution in Baldwin Park organized by Supervisor Hilda Solis was so popular that drivers started lining up at 5 a.m. and the 2,000 boxes of food were gone within three hours.

Good news and bad news: The good news: The County received settlements totaling \$10,935,000 in two lawsuits arising from a bribery scheme involving former County employee Thomas Shepos and the leasing of property in Palmdale and Commerce. The bad news: The proceeds have to be shared with the relator who initiated the lawsuit (15-33 percent) and the state of California (up to 10 percent) – and the County’s legal fees since the litigation began in 2019 was \$6.9 million. Not much left for taxpayers.

Meanwhile, the County signed off on another big payout, approving \$6.5 million to settle a 2023 case in which an intoxicated Palmdale man on psychiatric medication was shot and killed in his backyard after he threatened deputies responding to a domestic violence call, allegedly waving a sword at them while advancing and yelling at them to shoot him.

Said to be the first in California, the Disaster Recovery Rebuild Authority (RBA) has been established by the Board of Supervisors to handle infrastructure, funding, utilities, and community issues in one place when a disaster occurs on the scale of the 2025 Palisades and Eaton fires. The RBA will be housed within the Public Works Department.

Calling it a “landmark” action to transform the care of justice-involved youth, the Board of Supervisors transferred from the Probation Department to the Department of Youth Development the lead role in developing programs and services in juvenile halls and camps. The action was touted as moving beyond the traditional punitive approach to one that prioritizes healing and accountability.

The Public Health Department reported that 2,208 homeless residents died in the County in 2024 (the first time in a decade that the mortality rate decreased), crediting drug overdose prevention efforts for the 300-person drop from the previous year. Drug overdoses, however, still were responsible for 40 percent of the deaths and twice as high as in 2019. Coronary heart disease, traffic-related injuries, homicides and suicides were the second through fifth causes of death.

Among the artwork at the new David Geffen Galleries at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art is the \$142.4 million triptych “The Studies of Lucian Freud” by Francis Bacon. It is one of the most valuable works of modern art ever sold, gifted by museum trustee Elaine Wynn upon her 2025 death. The \$720 million David Geffen Galleries, the new home for LACMA’s permanent collection, has 90 exhibition galleries.

Former sheriff’s psychologist Christine Jones was awarded \$2.67 million by a jury, which supported her claims that she was retaliated against and experienced gender discrimi-



The Geffen Art Galleries is now open at LACMA

nation by male colleagues, who wanted the Psychological Services Bureau to be dominated and controlled by a man.

The Board of Supervisors has decided future settlements between the County and its executives will be disclosed on Board agendas and a public dashboard. The action was proposed by Supervisor Lindsey Horvath following public criticism of a confidential \$2 million payout to then-Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Fesia Davenport, who said she was harmed by a Board of Supervisors decision to promote a successful ballot measure that made the CEO an elective position. Davenport retired from County employment in May due to health issues. There is a pending lawsuit challenging the payout.

Clinical services were closed at seven of Public Health’s 13 clinic sites due to the loss of \$50 million in funding, ending such services as vaccinations, tuberculosis diagnosis, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infection. The 120 employees at the clinics were transferred to other roles, with no layoffs.

Journalist Robert Greene, who was named a fellow by the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation to write about government reform by L.A. County and L.A. City, sometimes was the only audience member at meetings of the L.A. County Governance Reform Task Force, created to advise the Board of Supervisors on implementing Measure G, the 2024 charter amendment approved by voters to restructure County government.

The Probation Department has opened a Pop and Tots Baby Bonding Center at its Barry J. Nidorf facility in Sylmar to strengthen the connection between youth at the facility and their children.

A new toy loan program has been established at the Rancho Dominguez Community Center and Park in Compton.

The Board of Supervisors asked the name of the Office of Child Protection be changed to the Office of Child, Youth and Family Well-Being to reflect that supporting families is the most effective way to protect children.

The Library’s Connect & Go Hotspot Loan Program, which provided portable hotspots to connect devices to the Internet, has ended due to federal funding cuts.

The L.A. District Attorney’s Office received \$2.25 million in civil penalties and approximately \$300,000 in investigative costs following the resolution of a \$10.2 million civil lawsuit against Credit One Bank, which was accused of making repeated, intrusive and harassing debt collection calls.

Retired DHS Managers Update

by Barry Hunt, RELAC Member



Barry Hunt

In June we celebrated the graduation of students in our Master of Healthcare Management and Accounting Programs at Cal State LA. Campus-wide we honored our amazing students and their faculty. More than 7,000 graduates received their diplomas in ceremonies held at the venerable Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium in May 2026.

It was my pleasure, along with other faculty members, to address the outstanding students and commend them for their distinct achievements. To meet or hire any of the graduates, please contact me at bhuntbarry@yahoo.com.



Hunt congratulates graduates of the master's program.

Photos of all 15 celebrations may be accessed at: Commencement 2026 - Cal State LA and 3-minute highlights are at <https://youtu.be/F5G0WG1HAXE>.

My next class, "Accounting for Healthcare Managers" is underway. This course is replete with stories from LA County DHS/DPH/DMH/CAO experiences. More information about this course will be shared in a future update.

I also want to pay tribute to one of my favorite supervisors, Ed Foley, at Harbor -UCLA Medical Center from 1979 to 1981. He was a friend, mentor and an inspirational supervisor throughout my career in administration for L.A. County's Department of Health Services and Department of Public Health. Foley and I had a good conversation a few years ago in a Zoom session with other retired DHS managers.



Attending the Ed Foley memorial service were, from left, Pat Swancutt, Kathie Foley, Barry Hunt, Richard Marciniak, Barbara Marciniak, and Colleen Foley.

Many former colleagues and I gathered with Colleen, his widow, at the memorial service for Foley in Long Beach. May he rest in peace.

Finally, I encourage all retirees and RELAC members to enjoy the summer months with family and friends. Visit www.relac.org for a list of activities specifically organized for RELAC members and their family and friends.

Welcome New Members

April & May 2026

Faye Adragna, Lori Douglass, Alfred Fraijo, Terrell Green, Pamela Hardin-Sykes, Yolanda Lockhart, Lawrence Mohr, Danilo Tejada - Sheriff
Estrella Aqui, Kathy Ballard, Sonia Cabotaje, Renee Clark, Thomas Garland, Nereyda Horton, Brenda Bates Jackson, Regina Johnson, Edith Jones, Jane Koo, Julieta Manuel, Alicia Nino, Linda Sueyoshi, Louella Urasaki, Hazel Walton - Health Services

Jennifer Bacon, Patricia Sanchez, Eduardo Sandoval, Ana Veiga - L.A. Superior Court
Gloria Hymes, Sandra Lewis - Children & Family Services

Joyce Beaudoin - County Counsel

Raymond Burley - Fire

Ramiro Guevara - Probation

Christy Hooker, Monica Saldana,

Solomon Wondimu - Public Social Services

Dean Lehman - Chief Executive Office

Julie Frejlach-Valdez - Mental Health

No Department Listed

Marshal Arnwine, Sr. Mary Elizabeth Mahoney

Bobbie Baker Esperanza V. Medina

William Lopez Ceola Shelton

Associate Members

Dominique Beaudoin Gloria Guevara Linda Mohr

Darlene Fraijo Melvin Bates Oscar Sanchez

Romulo Manuel

New Member Referrals - Thank you!

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

Faye Adragna, Lori Douglass - Les Robbins

Joyce Beaudoin - Bobbie Fesler

Renee Clark - Edith Jones

Alfred Fraijo - Cassandra Smith

Terrell Green - Merzell Green-Manuel

William Lopez - Norma Gutierrez

Ana Veiga - Maria Rivas

Happy Birthday RELAC Centenarians

• JULY •

Mary W. Johnson, 105, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, Health Services

Robert N. Seltzer, 100, Road Dept/Public Works

Betty P. Yost, 101, Mechanical/Internal Services

• AUGUST •

Consuelo Aguirre, 100, Public Library

Eva M. Ballo, 101, Department Not Listed

Ethel Beasley, 102, Department Not Listed

Rose M. Becerra, 109, Department Not Listed

John C. Fuller, 100, Department Not Listed

Maria C. Gentry, 100, Public Social Services

Emma C. Lopez, 102, Department Not Listed

Lloyd B. Miller, 100, Sheriff

Florence P. Paik, 104, Health Services

Marilyn E. Steenbock, 102, Chief Administrative Office

RELAC

NEWSLETTER

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Number 4

Retired Employees
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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.)



Breshears



Davidson



Foley



Gekas



Grabel



Greenberg

DEATHS: Attorney **Arthur N. Greenberg**, 98, a founding member of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)'s board, who also served on the Music Center board; attorney **Michael G. Smooke**, 80, who also served on the board of LACMA, both died on same day. Lakewood Sheriff's Station Sgt. **Theo K. Gekas**, following a lengthy battle with cancer. **Dr. Warren Douglas Davidson**, 93, who served 20 years as director of hemodialysis services at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, retiring from full-time faculty duties in 1990 but continuing to teach part time; after a long battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. **Edward Joseph Foley**, 92, who during his 35-year County career served as chief executive officer (CEO) of Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center, CEO of Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, and director of hospitals, retiring in 1993. **Robert Hurd Sellage**, 87, who retired in 2004 after 41 years in the Department of Health Services, beginning in 1971 at County-USC Medical Center where his duties included oversight of the OB/GYN department, later serving as director of the maternity and infant care project in East Los Angeles, director of the Drug Abuse and HIV Infection Clinic, medical director of family planning programs, and medical director of maternal, child and adolescent health.

RETIREMENTS: **Armand Montiel**, regional administrator and longtime public affairs manager in the Department of Children and Family Services, with 37 years of service. Deputy Fire Chief **Dennis Breshears**, who began his 33-year fire service career at the Orange County Fire Authority, then moving to the Monrovia Fire Department before joining the L.A. County Fire Department. County Counsel Principal Deputies **Richard Girdado**, **Edwin A. Lewis**, and **Victoria Manourian**, with 25, 19 and 34 years of service respectively.

APPOINTMENTS: **Joseph M. Nicchitta**, the County's acting and then interim chief executive officer since October 2025 during leave of absence of Fesia Davenport, appointed unanimously to permanent position by Board of Supervisors. He began his County career in 2012 in the Office of County Counsel, then led the Office of Cannabis Management in the Chief Executive Office, later becoming the director of the County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, then in 2020 the chief deputy executive officer/chief operating officer. **Jon Trochez**, administrative deputy of the Public Defender's Office for the past 6 1/2 years after serving 13 years as a Public Works Department manager, named deputy director of operations of the new Department of Homeless Services and Housing.

COURTS: **Adrian Munoz**, 36, investigator in the Medical Examiner's Office, pleaded no contest to theft after being accused of stealing items from deceased individuals. Sentencing was scheduled June 5. Ex-Sheriff's Deputy **Michael David Coberg** sentenced to 63 months in prison and three years of supervised release after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit extortion and conspiracy against rights in a 2021 cryptocurrency scheme to extort and falsely arrest rivals.

MISCELLANEOUS: **Debra Mendelsohn**, former senior field deputy to Supervisor Kathryn Barger, is volunteering at the United Service Organizations (USO), serving Wounded Warriors, military families and service members at the Brooks Army Medical Center (Texas) campus. Now semi-retired, Mendelsohn is an adjunct faculty member at Iowa Western Community College and the University of Maryland Global Campus. The New York Times ran a profile of the L.A. County Natural History Museum's **Tim Bovard**, 72, the last full-time museum taxidermist in the country. He has worked at the museum since 1984 and says he has "No plans to retire." Former Daily News reporter **Troy Anderson**, who covered the County beat from 1999 to 2010, has a new book being released in August: "Trump vs. the Beast." Former LACERA CEO and County executive **Santos Kreimann** was hired by the Board of Supervisors Executive Office to help explain County processes to members of the task force appointed to aid in implementation of the 2024 ballot measure voters approved to restructure the County's governance.

HONORS: **Miguel A. Santana**, who served as chief of staff to then-Supervisor Gloria Molina and later as deputy chief executive officer to then-CEO Bill Fujioka, named to 2026 TIME100 Philanthropy list, which honors the most influential leaders shaping the future of giving. Santana is presently president and CEO of the California Community Foundation. LACERA Chief Investment Officer **Jonathan Grabel**, who has led the investment team since 2017, received the Allocator Lifetime Achievement Award from Institutional Investor, recognizing his lasting impact on public pension investing. A wing in the new David Geffen Galleries at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art is named after **Elaine Wynn**, the late museum trustee who not only pledged \$50 million to the new building but also donated the \$142.4 million triptych "The Studies of Lucian Freud" by Francis Bacon – one of the most valuable works of modern art ever sold – that is on display. Sheriff's Commander **Jennifer Seetoo**, called a department trailblazer by Sheriff Robert Luna, was honored as a 2026 "Woman of the Year" by the County Commission for Women at its 40th anniversary celebration. The names of three late fire captains – **Henry Flores**, **David Gonzalez** and **Michael Mercado** -- were added to the County Fire Department's Memorial Wall at its Eastern Avenue headquarters, honoring them for faithfully serving with bravery and distinction. A biography of Wisconsin civil rights trailblazer Vel Phillips written by former L.A. Superior Court Director of Public Information **Jerrienne Hayslett** (1991-2002) has captured a new honor: it was named a finalist in the 38th annual Independent Book Publishers Association award program in the Middle Grade/Young Adult: Nonfiction category, which had more than 1,900 entries.



Mendelsohn



Montiel



Nicchitta



Santana



Seetoo



Sellage

LACERA News *(Continued from pg. 2)*

At the June Board of Retirement meeting, staff shared the results of the latest economic impact study conducted by Zenith Economics. These studies help LACERA show the positive and substantial impact LACERA members have on the local and state economy. As an \$86 billion fund (as of the June 2025 valuation) that pays out over \$4.8 million in benefits, there is a real and measurable impact to the local economy.

A majority of retired members remain in California and live locally (greater Los Angeles area). Of the more than 77,000 retirees living in the US, 63,700 live in California, and 42,800 of those members live in the greater LA area. Each of these members earn a benefit that has a cumulative impact on the state and local economies. Just to share a few facts: California: LACERA retirees account for \$5.3 billion in total economic impacts, supporting over 21,000 jobs, which generate \$1.6 billion in business revenue and \$1.2 billion in tax revenues.

Greater Los Angeles Area: LACERA retirees account for \$3.1 billion in total economic impact, supporting 12,900 jobs, generating \$941.6 million in local labor income, and \$750 million in tax revenue.

Another new feature LACERA is working to implement has to do with the need to periodically contact members with important reminders (i.e. submitting Part B verification documents, and new mailing addresses). In the past, these calls were handled by Member Services or Retiree Healthcare staff, which took them away from serving members in need of assistance.

The new system will automate some of these calls, which will be a mix of recorded messages and live staff calling the member as needed. While “automated” or “pre-recorded calls” instantly bring thoughts of annoying marketing calls, LACERA’s commitment is only to use the calls when necessary for truly important issues. Retirees also will be able to connect to a live agent if they have questions.

In my next update I will address how the new system is going to improve service by proactively identifying bottlenecks and ensuring compliance with service expectations. The new call center system is scheduled to go live in the fall of this year.

Finally, I want to share two of my favorite reminders: Switching from receiving benefit payments by check to direct deposit or the Way2Go Prepaid Mastercard, both of which are a more secure, reliable way of receiving monthly benefit payments; and completing a Power of Attorney form to assign an Attorney-in-Fact. I strongly encourage you to consider completing these tasks if you have not done so already.

LACERA has a special durable power of attorney form that allows a member to designate someone to help manage your retirement benefits, even if you become incapacitated. LACERA staff has encountered heartbreaking situations where a member becomes incapacitated and even the spouse can’t help manage their benefits because they haven’t been designated as an attorney-in-fact.

Winners of Mother's Day Drawing

RELAC conducted a Mother’s Day opportunity drawing and members quickly responded to the invitation. The five winners received tickets to the Hollywood Bowl Mariachi Festival, which took place on June 6.

And the winners are:

- Robin and Kenneth Suarez
- Kim Adams
- Carlo Loffredo
- Elizabeth Rivera
- Petra Gonzalez

Congratulations to the winning RELAC members.



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

members (The PEPRA Plan). If you want the same breakdowns for the General Member Plans send me an email, Leslasd@aol.com, and I will try to respond to your requests. The total number of LACERA membership, both active and retired, is now 200,309.

One of the more interesting things included in the law was the felony forfeiture sections of PEPRA. Sections 7522.72 and 7522.74 outline what happens when a public employee is convicted of a felony when that crime arose out of the performance of official duties. If and when this happens the affected employee may forfeit accrued pension benefits starting from the date of the commission of their crimes. At LACERA, legal staff monitors these cases and reports to our Board on the outcome of the investigation. After LACERA decides that a forfeiture is warranted the affected member does have a right to appeal.

LACERA’s March Madness numbers ended up being larger than either of the two previous years. From March 1 to March 31, there were 1,156 total retirements, with 969 from the various General Plans and 187 from the various Safety Plans. The Sheriff’s Department was the top County department with 198 combined sworn and non-sworn employees opting for retirement. LACERA has 1,099 disability retirement applications pending with the average processing time at 16.3 months.

LACERA’s Member Services Division does a magnificent job of interacting with our members both active and retired. MSC Appointments are averaging 1,271 per month with 645 in person, 607 virtual, and 19 via the telephone. At LACERA’s Member Services Call Center there were 9,700 calls and 92% were answered and seven percent were abandoned. The Retiree Health Care call center received 5,654 total calls.

IN MEMORIAM

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

MARCH 2026

Agricultural Comm./Wts & Meas. - Raymond H. Henderson
Ambulatory Care Network - Estella Durie, Mark K. Fournier, Michele A. Uglesich
Animal Control - Eunice E. Bland
Assessor - John Richard Crowner, Chun-Kiat Cua, Veldon M. Reyes, James S. Romano
Auditor - Controller - Dale A. Strasshofer
Beaches & Harbors - Arthur Vaughn
Board Of Supervisors - Ronald J. Mellan
California Children's Services - Carlos Sanchez
Child Support Services - Denise E. Chivers, Jacqueline L. Rising
Children & Family Services - Valerie Arnold, Patricia M. Kemble, Allyce Jane Lew, Aileen McNamara, Marie Mosley, Carlos Castro Rivas, Robert Vielma, Leonidis H. Walker, Margaret L. Williams
Correctional Health - Belen O. Manoy
District Attorney - Sharon Andrews, Matthew J. Dalton, Janice M. Lauderdale, Wallace T. Olson, John J. Paccione, Eldon Pritikin
Fire - Manuel L. Avila, E.P. Brennan, David E. Couch, Lyman D. Goldsmith, Larry I. Rockwell, Alexander O. Solis, Roger M. Theobald, Richard I. Vick, Gerald M. White
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center - James A. Davis, Sonia Davis, Delbert A. Fisher, Dan M. Hertz, Eleanore R. Minguéz, Myrtle P. Soong, Carol Y. Woods
Health Services Administration - Robin Mary Benson, Donna Connell, Carolyn C. Cooper, Romy U. Lardizabal, Sheila E. Maxie, Rose M. Meade, Eleanor Romo, Carolyn F. Tweedy
Inglewood Municipal Court - Gisela G. Lobnow
Internal Services - Randolph G. Bittner, David E. Bowie, Rick P. Ferris, Gloria Elaine Graves, Roy W. Hepp, Terry L. Hooper, George Martinez
King-Drew Medical Center - Corazon Pamintuan Flores, Clarice Green
LAC+USC Medical Center - Marjorie Brown, Vickey G. Cooper, Marlene Dissette, Laura M. Green, Susana M. Green, Midori Hamabe, Annie Horn, Yvonne M. Horne, Kurt L. Jonas, Sr., Delores E. Middleton, Rosa Maria R. Muniz, Sandra C. Sasso, Pornphan Seeboonruang
Mental Health - Eva M. Briggs, Norma Chavez, Ben L. Mijuskovic, Alan S. Morrison, David Zippin
Office Of Public Safety - Leroy Martinez
Olive View/UCLA Medical Center - Gerald Jacob Barron, M.D., Jennifer Annette Fields
Parks & Recreation - Joe A. Caballero, Nelson Farmer, Richard A. Massey, Ruben Ramirez

Probation - Archie T. Brown, Daryl K. Bryson, Michael W. Chernus, Beverly Daugherty, Troy W. Davis, James F. Flahive, Willie Fobbs, Jr., Peter Garnica, Vern A. Macedon, Robert A. Mc Gehee, Vincent Miles, Victor A. Montana, James C. Schoengarth, Reginald Sheffield, Harry Yoshiaki Shimato, George M. Vye, Judy Berson Wagner, Charles K. Yao
Public Defender - Jeanne Ross
Public Health Program - Robert J. Alvarado, Rebecca L. Bravo, Elba Desmarais, Mary J. Greenberg
Public Library - Victor P. Gendrano
Public Social Services - Emmeline Arreola, Mable Lee Bradley, Dottie Brandon-Legget, Marion J. Flanagan, Martha Hardesty, Khachig K. Janoyan, Bambang Krisnandy, Aura Martinez, Patricia S. McGrath, Frances E. Michel, Hoa T. Nguyen, Carmen Ramirez, Guadalupe Rhodes, William S. Sigmund, Sharon J. Sturgis, Diana Tadevosian, Rita Talisman, Patricia A. Taylor, Chuoc T. Ton, Jessie C. Winfield, Astkhik Zargaryan
Public Works - Soe Aung, Ryan Avery Beale, Ricardo Blas, Chung C. Chen, Judy A. Coble, Debra Del Castillo, Glen Gayer, Warren Y. Kobashigawa, Rene R. Lopez, Rudy Valdivia, Jr., Christopher J. Wagner
Rancho Los Amigos Hospital - Floresinda S. Castelo, Mary Llamas, Ollie M. St Amant
Reg-Recorder/County Clerk - Francis K. Man
Regional Planning - Robert W. Chave
Sheriff - Rodolfo M. Bunganan, Steven E. Brennan, Sylvia L. Church, Royal L. Clinton, Jr., Doris D. Coleman, Frederick E. Dandrea, George R. Dauphin, Robert L. Denney, Anthony E. Gayles, Deanna J. Gibson, Dennis C. Gillard, Kimberly D. Grijalva, Michael N. Icenogle, Patricia J. Jameson, Richard Denis Keyes, John A. Kolman, Yoshiye A. Mori, Elmo J. Pratt, Michael J. Ryan, Patricia H. Sadler, Michael G. Savidan, George G. Skalsky, Rodney A. Terry, Bernard A. Thulemeyer, Remedios V. Valeros, Levi J. Vargas, Grant B. Ward, Howard N. Wald, Fredrick M. Weise, Patricia M. Wiens, Robert M. Wingate, Diego M. Zamora
South Coast Air Quality Mgmt. - Violeta Lugtu Vita
Superior Court/County Clerk - Heather D. Anderson, Miguel E. Arias, James R. Ballew, Martha E. Bellingier, Victoria Caro, Audri Curtis, Alice Darnold, Celia Guerrero, Pamela K. Kirkner, Barbara N. Morris, Gloria M. Nunez, Petrina Y. Osborn
Treasurer - Tax Collector - Conrado L. Cruz, Nadia S. Girguis
Unidentified County Agency - Patricia Janette Cook, William D. Dawson
Women's Hospital - Darrelle Shurney
Workforce Dev Aging & Comm Svc - Antoinette Claiborne, Luz V. Dagdag

APRIL 2026

Agricultural Comm./Wts & Meas. - Milagros V. Bachiller
Ambulatory Care Network - Johnny C. Wyatt
Assessor - John T. Chou, Rudy M. Mendoza, Felicisimo A. Reyes, Michael Wadler, James F. Winningham
Auditor - Controller - Mary Louise Williams
Beaches & Harbors - Louise A. Estes
Board Of Supervisors - Myra S. Glenn
Child Support Services - Josephine Damaso
Children & Family Services - Asungi Asungi, Robert A. Chapman, Lionel B. Coulter, Vien Xuan Do, Ann Galloway, Laura Kim, Bonnie Lee, Sylvia K. Lo, Mary A. Meharg, Elena Rabi
County Counsel - Samuel N. Rubino
District Attorney - Richard H. Beaver, James G. Berry, Anita J. Herman, Minnie L. Johnson, Lavidia M. Lane, J R Pearce
Economic And Workforce Dev - Latrice M. McKnight
Fire - Richard R. Barbarino, Tom B. Brown, Guillermo Gonzales, Dennis G. Hillier, Mark J. Manders, Madison L. Rhodes, Stephen C. Sherrill, Henry Solis, Dennis L. Vlach
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center - Robert L. Brown, Rowena V. Buwalda, Delores Hernandez, Luz P. Malundo, Mary C. Montoya, Douglas Schiebel, Mari

Clark Smith, Ruby L. Williams
Health Services Administration - Alan J. Bryant, Edward J. Foley, Peggy L. Gould, Sylvia Lee, Sara K. Lim, Vicki N. Nagata
Internal Services - Irene V. Ablang, Leroy Davis, Cecil Jones, Elridge Mc Nair, Pete Z. Ramirez, Florencio Chavez Sales, Robert Tyler
Juvenile Court Health Services - Nancy Jamieson
King-Drew Medical Center - Heriberto Gonzalez, Marsha Ann Traylor, David Dan Ulmer, William E. Willis II
LAC+USC Medical Center - Paul M. Beigelman, Julie G. Bizet, Jo Anna Castleberry, Minu D. Chagolla, James B. Edwards, Ileana A. Gheorghiu, Irene A. Hernandez, Julito S. Kabigting, Madelyn Laboriel, Elvira Lee, David A. Lockhart, Jose L. Machicado, Dorothy L. Marks, Faustino Marks, Sook H. Park, Rosa E. Ramirez, Lenard C. Sexton, Sylvia Hill Williams, Audrey Lorraine Wolfe, Gloria J. Zappaterreno
Medical Examiner - Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, M.D.
Mental Health - Shelly C. Foote, Andrea I. Jackson, Gayle Y. James, Connie Jones, Lenore Lewis, Gwendolyn J. Medina, Jerome M. Shiga
Olive View/UCLA Medical Center - Leo Barker, Dorothy Schoeppner
Parks & Recreation - David Guerrero, William Adrian Mosier, Jose M. Noriega, Ruth G. Roess

(Continued on pg. 14)

RV Group News

Members Gather at Geezers Restaurant

by Chickee Nelson, RELAC member

It was a beautiful, sunny day for RELAC members of the RV group when we met for lunch at Geezers Restaurant in Santa Fe Springs, California.

More than 20 retirees turned out for the chance to visit with colleagues, enjoy delicious food and share fond memories. They were Dian Stegall, Janet Cerato, Janice Hayhurst, Pat Jackson, Jeanne Klauk, Dorie Fregeau, Jess Murph, Norm Nelson, Mike and Veronica Reyes, Fred Weinberg and Randy Forney, Linda Gutierrez, Martha and Richard Wilkerson, Helen Quintana, Ray Quintana, Bob and Linda Reyes, and Jeff Clifton.

The RV Group gatherings are open to all RELAC members, who are encouraged to attend. The next luncheon will take place on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at a location to be determined. For more details, contact Mike Reyes at (909) 556-8751.



Attending the luncheon were, from left, Pat Jackson, Ray Quintana, and Richard and Martha Wilkerson.



Catching up with fellow retirees are, from left, Jeanne Klauk, Dorie Fregeau, Janet Cerato, Janice Hayhurst, and Jeff Clifton.

In Memoriam (April 2026, Continued from pg. 13)

Probation - Jerry C. Crane, Terry E. Dewolfe, Reginald E. Flowers, Julian Gallarza, Denise R. Jones, Davon Matthews, Nolan M. Thomas, Alan Bruce Wolin

Public Defender - Yvonne M. Bell, Harold L. Eisenberg, John M. Tabares, Ronald L. Tripp

Public Health Program - Jack E. Bamberg, Noel C. Bautista, Terese G. Brookins, Caridad G. Contreras, Maria M. Reyes, Carrie M. Swindell, O B. Villareiz, Carolyn E. Willett

Public Social Services - Lydia E. Arellano, Janet M. Caudill, Kevin A. Eubanks, Irwin Fine, Janice M. Ford, Hitomi L. Histon, Ina King, Aura Martinez, Claudette Mc Gary, Dung P. Nguyen, Mercedes A. Obiako, Arlene Parkinson, Gladyce Perrin, Cheryl Reece, Gale E. Swensson, Shari R. Trafford, Hahn S. Truong, Mario A. Vega, Roberto Vera

Public Works - James W. Armstrong, Russell L. Bell, Paul C. Deaville, Bjorn R. Evensen, Nicolas Hernandez, Alexander Herron, Parimal M. Patel, Dean Smethurst, Victor M. Zepeda

Rancho Los Amigos Hospital - Yolanda R. Delgadillo, Isabelle M. Heinemann, Bernice Smith, Billy T. Utley

Reg-Recorder/County Clerk - Georgia B. Baldwin, David W. Gist

Sheriff - Gary W. Allen, Ronald C. Bozarth, Lawrence C. Brambles, Byron D. Claypool, Patrick R. Cooper, Michael B. Deschamps, Archie L. Devereux, Gary A. Diederich, Gary Faulkner, Lourdes G. Galligan, Franklyn L. Gomez, Randall R. Hadley, Ramsis G. Hanna, Gina An Henderson, Paul G. Henderson, Oscar R. Jones, Daniel A. Jorgensen, Margo D. Kaufman, Willie Lloyd, Frances J. Lone, Frederick U. Marasigan, Eleanor L. Morales, Terry Palacios, Joseph H. Postelle, Howard Rechtschaffen, Gail D. Reyes, Norma Faye Vertrees, Kara L. Williams, Clayton H. Wright, III, Michael Joseph Yach

Superior Court/County Clerk - Celia Arevalo, Hazel M. Caldwell, Joanne H. Greenleaf, Nancy L. Herman, Janice R. Nadelhaft

What's Happening

RELAC – Lakewood Golf Tournament – The next RELAC golf tournament will take place on Monday, August 3, at the Lakewood Golf Course, 3101 E. Carson St., Lakewood, CA 90712.

Entries must be received by July 13, 2026. Visit www.relac.org/golf for more details, or call the RELAC office at (800) 537-3522, or send an e-mail to admin@relac.org.

La Bea Tar Pits and Museum – 5801 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036. Tickets for Los Angeles County residents are available from 3 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at any museum ticketing desk or kiosk. Daily senior admission is \$14 per ticket. Free daily admission is provided 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 County residents Monday through Friday after 3 p.m. (LACMA is closed on Wednesdays). Tickets for senior residents 65 years and older are \$14 with ID. LACMA, through its “Blue Star Museums” program, offers free admission to active-duty U.S. military members and their families through Labor Day, September 7.

L.A. County Arboretum & Botanic Garden – 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA 91007. On the third Tuesday of the month, admission is free. Reservations are required for the free tickets. Daily admission for seniors 62 years and older is \$11 per ticket. Daily Summer hours for the Arboretum are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Natural History Museum – 900 Exposition Park, Los Angeles, CA 90007. Free admission for Los Angeles County residents is available Monday through Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. Daily admission for senior citizens 62 years and older is \$14 per ticket. There is free daily admission for active or retired U.S. military members with ID. Tickets are available onsite only.

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

L.A. County Parks & Recreation – Free activities, including multi-level exercise classes and meal programs, are offered for seniors at various locations. For more information, visit www.parks@lacounty.gov.

Beaches & Harbors – The Summer schedule of free activities includes Zumba, Yoga, and bird watching. For more information on activities and programs, visit www.beaches@lacounty.gov or view the department’s social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter/X.

State Senator Durazo Speaks At Hispanic Managers Event

State Senator Maria Elena Durazo served as the guest speaker for the Los Angeles County Hispanic Managers Association annual scholarship fundraiser, said Robert Meneses, president.

Senator Durazo is the Supervisor-Elect for the Board of Supervisors and will succeed First District Supervisor Hilda Solis. Her remarks were inspiring to the capacity audience, said Meneses.

The scholarship event was held in May at the Quiet Cannon Restaurant in Montebello, California. It was also a celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

In attendance were representatives from several Los Angeles County employee and affiliated organizations, including RELAC and the Asian, Pacific Islander-Hawaiian Employee Association.



State Senator Maria Elena Durazo, guest speaker, converses with County Executive Officer Edward Yen at the Hispanic Managers scholarship fundraiser.



Monica Flores and Aaron Navarez of the Registrar-Recorder County Clerk's office attend the fundraising dinner at Quiet Cannon Restaurant in Montebello, California.



Mariachi dancers perform at the scholarship fundraiser.



Debbie Martin McMullen, RELAC Executive Director, and Epifanio (Epi) Peinado support the Hispanic Managers Association.



A full house enjoyed an entertaining performance of traditional dances provided by a popular, Mariachi group from the community.

Southland Credit Union Sets September 16 Webinar

Southland Credit Union continues its partnership with RELAC by conducting an exclusive Fall webinar for retirees, announced Magda Goetz, community engagement manager.

The online program, titled "Retirement Income Planning," will be held on Wednesday, September 16. The agenda will provide options for RELAC members to consider as they manage their finances, she said.

Southland financial advisors will lead the webinar, which will offer a question-and-answer session for those who participate in the online educational program. Additional details will be sent via e-mail and posted to the RELAC website, www.relac.org.

Letters to the Editor

It is truly a pleasure to work with Mary Ramirez, administrative golf coordinator. Her attention to detail and communications helped us resolve our enrollment details. Thank you and Gilbert Sandoval, Golf Director, for everything you do to make these tournaments a success!

— **Deborah Givens**, Los Angeles, CA

My mother passed away in January of this year. I want to thank RELAC because each year that she received her birthday card, she would proudly display it. The birthday card made her feel so very special. She was working on getting to her 100th birthday. — **Kathryn Jackson**, Colton, CA

Thank you so much for the birthday card and for the kind and warm words. It was a total surprise for me, and so considerate and wonderful (of RELAC).

— **Jacqueline Massey**, Colorado Springs, CO

Thank you so much! I am so excited for the Mother's Day opportunity drawing (and to be a winner). I love Mariachi!

— **Elizabeth Rivera**, Torrance, CA



**RETIRED EMPLOYEES
of LOS ANGELES COUNTY**
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RELAC Conducts Opportunity Drawing For Veteran Members

by Mary Ramirez, Staff Member

RELAC will conduct the annual opportunity drawing for members who have served in a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces – Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, and Space Force, according to Debbie Martin McMullen, Executive Director.

“Entrants must submit proof of service such as a DD214 Form, VA Healthcare or an active-duty CAC card with name and branch of service,” she said. “Five, \$50 gift cards will be awarded to winners, and only one entry per Veteran will be accepted,” said McMullen.

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 January/February 2027 issue of the newsletter. Interested RELAC veterans should fill out an entry form and mail it with proof of service to RELAC Veterans Drawing-2026, 1000 S. Fremont Avenue, Unit 15, Alhambra, CA 91803.

Deadline for entries is Monday, October 26, 2026.

***Entry Form – Please print clearly
RELAC Veterans Opportunity Drawing – 2026
Entry Forms must be in the RELAC Office
by October 26, 2026***

Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

***Mail entry form with proof of service
by the October 26, 2026, deadline to:***

**RELAC Veterans Opportunity Drawing - 2026
1000 S. Fremont Avenue, Unit 15
Alhambra, CA 91803**

IMPORTANT!

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

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

**RELAC:
1000 S. Fremont Ave.
Unit 15, Alhambra, CA
91803-8802**

-or-
Phone:
(800) 537-3522
(626)308-0532

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.**