



# RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

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## President's Message

by Linda C. Hopkins

For years, after every earthquake, every wildfire, every mudslide, I tell myself to prepare a "Go To" bag, filled with a change of clothes, extra pair of readers, medications, important documents in a fire-retardant case, water, snacks, and other foods and drinks.

The current wildfires and subsequent widespread destruction remind us now to prepare or update our "Go To" bag. With more time, prepare a list of items to gather and then assemble them in protective equipment. These could be family photos, artwork, journals, phone chargers, extra batteries, flashlights, keys, bank cards, masks, and health care products. Think of camping outdoors when putting together your "Go To" bag.

It warms my heart to report to you the outpouring of love and support RELAC members have extended to survivors of the wildfires in County areas from the Palisades to Altadena and beyond. RELAC promptly sent out an e-mail to members regarding Al and Jackie Bailey, members of RELAC for more than 30 years whose Altadena home was destroyed. Al retired after 32 years of service from the Air Quality Management District (AQMD).

Robert Boucher, a retiree from the Department of Health Services (DHS) and his wife, Julie, lost their Altadena home. He contacted RELAC, and we learned some heartbreaking details about their loss. Julie loves to bake and lost all baking pans, along with all of the gardening tools, note cards, and books from different countries.

Staff sprung into action, replacing many items and donating gift cards. There is no contribution too small, and every contribution helps.

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Supervisor Hilda Solis, second from left, meets RELAC President Linda C. Hopkins at left, RELAC members Patricia Tate, and County Probation Department employee Youlanda Jennings at Los Angeles Mission's Holiday Party. RELAC supported Supervisor Solis' turkey give away during the 2024 Thanksgiving holiday.

## Supervisor Hahn Appoints RELAC Vice President Bobbie Fesler, to LACERA Board of Retirement

Supervisor Janice Hahn appointed RELAC Vice President Bobbie Fesler as her representative on the LACERA Board of Retirement. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the appointment at its February 11, 2025 meeting.



"It is an honor and a privilege to be nominated to the LACERA Board of Retirement by Supervisor Hahn," said Fesler, who resides in the City of Long Beach in Hahn's 4<sup>th</sup> District.

"I am grateful for her trust in my ability to participate in the administration of LACERA's retirement system and retiree health care program," she said, adding, "I look forward to representing the interests of LACERA's retirees."

Her RELAC colleagues welcomed the good news. "This is wonderful news and so well-deserved," said former President Brian Berger. Echoing similar sentiments, Dave Muir, a past president of RELAC, said, "Awesome. We will be well-served."

"With Fesler's appointment, RELAC now has four Board members serving on LACERA's Board of Retirement and Board of Investments, a milestone that may very well be historic," said Debbie Martin McMullen, RELAC Executive Director.

Fesler had a stellar 34-year career with the Office of County Counsel when she left in 2008 to accept the general counsel position with the Los Angeles Unified School District. Prior to leaving County service, Fesler was senior assistant County Counsel, the third highest position in the office. At LAUSD, she managed a staff of more than 150 employees, including attorneys.

## Assessor Prang Seeks Former Employees and Retirees to Assist Property Owners in Wildfire Recovery Effort

The devastating wildfires in Pacific Palisades and Altadena have damaged or destroyed thousands of properties across Los Angeles County and the recovery process is underway, said Assessor Jeffrey Prang, whose office plays a critical role in rebuilding efforts through the disaster relief programs.



Assessor Prang

"To meet the overwhelming demand, the Assessor's Office is urgently seeking the assistance of former Assessor employees, including retirees, to help navigate this challenging recovery period," said Assessor Prang. "With more than 15,000 properties affected, and potentially more to come, our current resources are being stretched beyond capacity," he said.

LACERA is assisting the Assessor's Office in reaching out to all former employees who have worked in any capacity, including appraisers, ownership and GIS technicians, administrative staff, and others, to support the disaster relief and recovery efforts. If you have contact with a former Assessor employee, including retirees, please refer them to the Assessor's Office. Their experience and expertise will make a meaningful difference in providing a swift and effective response to property owners impacted by the wildfires.

### Former Assessor Employees - How You Can Help!

Individuals with expertise in misfortune and calamity (M&C) work are particularly needed to allow current staff to remain focused on producing the 2025 assessment roll. Key tasks for returning staff will include:

Providing support at local disaster centers, assisting property owners with misfortune and calamity and decline-in-value claims.

Conducting site visits to assess damage.

*Continued on p.2*

## News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich  
Assistant Executive Officer

A lot in our world has changed, leaving many feeling apprehensive and wondering what comes next. That's natural. I decided to start out this column with a few words and thoughts of reassurance and encouragement. There is hope and positivity out there.

For starters, Los Angeles County is strong. LACERA is strong, stable, and will always be here to provide you with the promised benefit and to continually work to empower you to have a healthy and secure retirement. We are all in this together and working together – LA, LACERA, RELAC, and you - we will be OK.

Our hearts go out to everyone impacted by the Pacific Palisades and Eaton (Altadena) fires, and our thanks and appreciation to the dedicated first responders and public servants, who continue to be there to help everyone.

How is LACERA Responding to the LA Wildfires & Assisting in the Recovery Effort?

**Supporting Members with Compassion and Empathy:** We estimate that more than 1,500 LACERA members live in the fire impact zones. All potentially impacted member accounts are flagged so staff are aware that members calling in or visiting us for assistance could have been impacted by the fires. Staff are empowered to expedite account changes and requests. All staff were provided an extensive list of resources they could refer members to, if needed.

**Reaching Out to Members:** We reached out to members through a variety of channels and LACERA.com to let them know we are here for them and to provide access to lists of resources, which are updated regularly and are available.

**Uninterrupted Benefit Payments:** We immediately contacted 22 members paid by check to make sure their benefit payments could be delivered or held for pick up, avoiding the loss of vital income. We also reached out to the remaining 1,500 members to let them know about important steps they should take, if impacted, to ensure their benefits are not interrupted due to returned mail or loss of contact.

**Maintaining & Normalizing Services:** Throughout the disaster we strived to maintain as much as possible normal operations. When the fires raged through Altadena and marched towards Pasadena, we closed our offices for safety purposes, and seamlessly switched to remote operations. Our Member Services and Retiree Healthcare Call Centers remained open. Members scheduled for in-person appointments were converted to virtual appointments or rescheduled. A heartwarming example of LACERA staff's dedication was shown when some staff continued to work and assist members remotely even though they themselves had been evacuated.

**Disaster Recovery Assistance:** LACERA continues to partner with the Department of Human Resources to stage Emergency Employee Assistance Centers. We hosted events in January and February, where active employees impacted by the fires met with health, mental health, FEMA, LACERA, Empower, and other agencies to access the assistance they needed.

At our January event, we assisted 51 employees. We are arranging similar events for LACERA retirees in the coming weeks, and details will be provided as we finalize plans.

**Supporting Staff:** Throughout this emergency it was important for us all to remember that our staff were impacted as well. We closed our offices for the health and safety of our staff as the fire approached and the air quality became dangerous. Most staff were spared direct impacts, but several were evacuated for extended periods of time and seven employees unfortunately lost their homes.

It warms my heart to share that LACERA is a big family and during this disaster our staff supported each other too. Our Employee Team Council – a group of employees that work together to provide cultural, supportive, charitable, and fun activities throughout the year - sprang into action and collected information from fellow employees in need and coordinated donation efforts.

LACERA regularly practices and evaluates our readiness to respond to disasters and emergency situations. We have well defined business continuity plans to keep LACERA operational, providing the monthly benefit and services our members rely on.

We routinely conduct well planned exercises annually that simulate disasters. These scenario-based exercises are constantly adjusted to make sure that all levels of the organization are in a state of readiness and can respond appropriately. After each session we have an independent source review our responses and then have a robust discussion to refine our procedures.

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## Board of Retirement

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



The CPI for December 2024 increased by .2%, giving us a year-to-date total of 3.4%. This means everyone will receive their statutory maximum COLA in April when our retirees see their new adjusted pension amounts. Remember that anything above 3% goes into your COLA bank for future use in the event that inflation falls below the 2% or 3% COLA for which your specific plan provides.

I am already getting inquiries about the status of the recently signed Social Security Fairness Act, which former President Joe Biden signed in January. It repealed the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), which reduced Social Security benefits for public employees receiving a government pension, and spouses, widows, or widowers who also were eligible for benefits.

All we know at this point is that it was signed into law, and is to be retroactive to January 2024. The Social Security Administration has not released implementation plans, processes or procedures when recipients affected by the legislation will see an increase in Social Security benefits. Since I am one of those impacted, I will certainly share updates when I know it.

I always get inquiries and chatter about retirees living out of state and how many there are. Currently, the number is 75,594 retirees and survivors to whom LACERA is providing a monthly benefit.

It's been 28 years since I was first elected to either the LACERA Board of Retirement or Board of Investments or both. During that time, I cycled off for two years so this will be the 26<sup>th</sup> year I have actually been on one of the boards. This year I also will serve again as Board Chairman for the Board of Retirement, which I believe will be the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> time I have held the position. There has been a huge turnover in trustees at LACERA over the past three years with many new individuals on both boards. I am very much looking forward to this year and the challenges we can expect.

Finally, remember the lifetime cap on the Anthem & Prudent Buyer Plans will increase to \$1.5 million, effective July 1. LACERA's lawsuit against Los Angeles County will have oral arguments in mid-summer and a possible California Supreme Court decision by the end of the year. To the extent that I am able, I will keep everyone informed of any new developments.

Take care, work safely, be well, and enjoy retirement if you are retired. I can always be reached at my e-mail address, lesasd@aol.com.

### Assessor cont. from p1

Performing initial appraisals and cost-to-cure valuations.

Working with impacted families and businesses, and responding to M&C relief inquiries.

For more information and to assist, please contact El Cid De Ramus at (213) 249-1908 or via e-mail at ederamus@assessor.lacounty.gov.

In addition, the Assessor's Office is exploring opportunities for qualified retirees to return to County service under the 120-day retiree rehire program. For details on temporary employment under this program, visit [www.lacera.com](http://www.lacera.com) and navigate to Retirees and Families, and select Returning to Work.

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**President’s Message cont. from p1**

More recently, we have learned about Billie, a DHS retiree, and Lonnie Beal, a Vietnam War veteran, who also lost their Altadena home, which for more than 50 years was the heart of the family. They gathered there for celebrations, shelter, and comfort during moments of sorrow. Donations can be made to the Help the Beal Family After Eaton Fire GoFundMe.com page.

Keep us informed of members who need assistance. RELAC will continue to demonstrate the true spirit of our association – Caring, Solidarity and Support.

We are planning online and in-person training sessions this year for members to learn about assembling a “Go To” bag. When we learn to do better, we can be better. Stay tuned for more details on this initiative.

As always, send your comments and suggestions to me at askLinda@relac.org, and let me know how You plan to do better.

**LACERA cont. from p2**

A final comment, on Jan. 5, former President Joe Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act, legislation which repealed the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). The WEP impacted members who received a government pension (a LACERA pension) and were also eligible for Social Security benefits by reducing the amount of Social Security benefits they could receive. The GPO reduced Social Security benefits for spouses, widows, or widowers who also receive a government pension by two-thirds of their pension amount, sometimes eliminating the Social Security benefit completely.

The repeal is effective retroactively to January 2024. The Social Security Administration has not released its plan for implementing the repeal. It has posted a Frequently Asked Questions section on their website: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html>.

We will keep members informed about any plans that we see for implementation.

**Supervisor Mitchell Reports On Air Quality Monitoring in County**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) is monitoring the areas affected by recent wildfires, said Supervisor Holly Mitchell, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, a member of the AQMD Board.

“Targeted air quality monitoring is required for these areas in addition to Countywide to protect public health,” said Supervisor Mitchell. She said AQMD staff has prepared reports on air quality in various communities. The documents are available at <https://www.aqmd.gov/2025-wildfire-response>.

The Altadena mobile monitoring report noted that while overall air toxic metals were within standard levels, there were localized spikes of methane in a few neighborhoods. The increase could be the result of gas leaks, a concern the Supervisor’s office has shared with Southern California Gas Company.

“My office will continue to pay close attention to ongoing mobile updates, and as an AQMD Board member, I will continue to push for transparent and accessible air quality data,” said Mitchell.

In response to the wildfires in the County, AQMD has supported federal, state and local efforts, and issued executive orders allowing use of emergency standby generators. The agency also provided support and technical guidance for cleanup efforts.

It issued precautions to local residents about air quality. Exposure to smoke and ash from the wildfires remains a potential health concern, said agency officials. Ash is typically visible to the naked eye either in the air or on outdoor surfaces.

Members of the public were advised to take precautions when Air Quality Index levels are elevated, when you smell smoke, and if you see ash.



Enjoying the RV luncheon are, from left, Bob and Linda Reyes, Janet Cerato, Janice Hayhurst, Jan and Dave Coleman.

## RV News

by Chickee Nelson, RELAC Member

The RELAC RV group met for its quarterly luncheon in January on a warm, 75 degrees Thursday at the Original Roadhouse Grill, 7301 Carson Blvd., in Long Beach.

It was a bit chilly inside of the restaurant, we all had a great time at the gathering, laughing and talking about a wide range of topics. We enjoy breaking bread, sharing stories and updating one another about what is happening in our lives.

Taking in the beautiful Long Beach weather and the delicious meal were Jesse Murph, Janice Hayhurst, Janet Cerato, Betsy and Ronald Morgon, Linda and Bob Reyes, Florence Richardson, Jeff Clinton, Tom Walsh, Dave and Jan Coleman, Norman Nelson and yours truly.

Members of the RV Group invite interested RELAC retirees to join. They meet quarterly in restaurants within the County. The next meeting will be held Thursday, March 20, at the Stox Restaurant, Bakery and Bar, 9518 Imperial Highway in Downey. To RSVP or for more information, contact Chickee or Norman Nelson at (562) 760-0875.

The RELAC RV Group welcomes new members so come and join us.



Members of the RELAC RV group attend the quarterly luncheon at the Original Roadhouse Grill in Long Beach, California.



## DPSS Offers Disaster CalFresh

Households who lived and/or worked in the wildfire areas and do not currently receive CalFresh food assistance benefits may now be eligible. There is a list of zip codes eligible for benefits. For more information, visit <https://dpss.lacounty.gov/en/food>.

## Sheriff To Host 79<sup>th</sup> Retreat at Serra House

For the 79<sup>th</sup> year, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) will conduct a law enforcement retreat for deputies, retirees, and their spouses, relatives and friends, September 26-28 at Serra House, 3401 Serra Road, Malibu, CA.

Activities will include uplifting presentations, luncheons, dinners, and walks along the Malibu Hills to reflect and enjoy the beautiful setting, according to Chickee and Norman Nelson, RELAC members. "Many individuals who attend the retreat enjoy walking or running down to the beach," they said.

The Serra Retreat House is a 38-acre, non-denominational Franciscan facility that follows cleaning and home-cooked meals protocols required by the State of California and the Federal Centers for Disease Control.

For more information on costs and to secure a reservation, contact Patty Norris, (818) 381-7698; Chuck Norris, (818) 381-7649; Michelle Emeneager, (714) 293-3891; Jay Sevoian, (661) 992-4369; Andy Thompson, (714) 293-5898; Chickee and Norm Nelson, (562) 760-0875; Leo Bauer, (661) 388-9650; Ingrid Jefferys, (909) 234-8151; and Tony and Shiela Martins, (562)753-1963.



## Deadline to Apply for Membership on RELAC Board of Directors Set at April 14

by Dave Muir, Past President

RELAC members interested in becoming a candidate in the upcoming election of directors have until April 14 to file a letter of interest. Members may file to be a candidate for either a two-year or three-year term.

Applicants should briefly explain their interest and describe the experience and education that enhance their qualifications. The Directors Nominations Committee will interview all applicants before submitting the list containing candidate names to the Board of Directors.

The Board is expected to review the names and select a slate of nominees to endorse for election at its May 13 meeting.

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

Directors are expected to attend monthly Board business meetings, four membership meetings, committee meetings scheduled on an as-needed basis, and to participate in RELAC activities and events.

## Air Quality cont. from p3

Protective measures residents are urged to take include the following:

- Staying indoors with windows and doors closed, or seeking alternative shelter
- While outside, wear an N-95 mask
- Avoid vigorous physical activity
- Turn on the HVAC system and/or air purifier
- Do not use swamp coolers or house fans that bring in outside air

Finally, to safeguard public health, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Pasadena Public Health Department have issued orders prohibiting the unsafe removal, transport, and disposal of fire debris.



## Attention RELAC Members!

### RELAC Scholarship Program Underway; Deadline is March 31, 2025



It's that time of year when RELAC, in an effort to support the educational dreams of its members and their loved ones, begins the annual scholarship program process.

Five, \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to RELAC members and their immediate family members pursuing higher education at an eligible institution. A family member is defined as a child, including adopted children, stepchild, grandchild, or great-grandchild.

A family member application must be sponsored by and signed by a RELAC member. The deadline to apply is Monday, March 31, 2025.

Scholarship applicants must attend an educational institution that is an accredited two- or four-year school that leads to a degree or certification.

Some requirements for applicants include submitting a statement of goals, community service activities, certified transcript by appropriate school official, and two adult references.

For more information and to apply, visit [www.relac.org/scholarship](http://www.relac.org/scholarship).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

January 2025

Patricia Jarjour – LAC+USC Medical Center  
Kathleen Mesa – Internal Services  
Scott Volmerding – Sheriff  
Robert Kornstein – Children & Family Services  
Cesar Moncayo – Health Services  
Donna Doss – Treasurer & Tax Collector  
Robert Sepulveda – Children & Family Services  
Tracey Kemp – Sheriff  
Art Saracho – Health Services  
Rafael Ortiz – Fire  
Paula Alvarez – Probation  
Mary Christian – Probation  
Brenda Doyle – Health Services  
Maria O. Rivas – Public Social Services  
Ana Baisley – Children & Family Services  
Cindy Edmonds – Children & Family Services  
Dipak Bhojak – Los Angeles Superior Court  
Craig Srednick – Fire  
Laura Perez – Board of Supervisors  
Ruth Gilliland – Los Angeles Superior Court  
Terri Sebastian – Internal Services  
Elizabeth Barajas – Child Support Services  
Maria Gustavson – County Counsel  
Gina Gonzales – Sheriff  
Betty Jordan – Auditor-Controller  
Ali Karimi – Health Services

RETIRED EMPLOYEES of  
**reLAC**  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

# Dodgers™

# August 15, 2025

Join fellow RELAC members for RELAC Night at Dodgers Stadium  
LA Dodgers v. San Diego Padres - 8/15/25 7:10pm

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Email us: [dodgers@relac.org](mailto:dodgers@relac.org),  
Visit us on the web: [relac.org](http://relac.org)





## Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond  
RELAC Member

The Board of Supervisors has ordered an independent review of its emergency notification systems after false warnings – and in some cases, late warnings – went out during the January wildfires. The County shut down its alert system for wireless devices after an immediate evacuation order intended for residents near a fire in West Hills was mistakenly issued to all 10 million County residents and some residents of neighboring counties, then continued to appear without any explanation as to why. Baffled by what was causing the “echos” of the original erroneous message to continue to land on phones, the County switched to the state’s emergency alert system and urged residents to sign up for landline, text or e-mail notifications. The software glitch caused confusion and panic, and ultimately to distrust of any messages sent over the system.

And in Altadena, some residents who lost their homes say they didn’t get a timely evacuation alert from the County. A review showed neighborhoods on the east side of town got evacuation orders at 7:26 p.m. following the eruption of flames in Eaton Canyon around 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 7, but those on the west side didn’t get evacuation orders until 3:25 a.m. — hours after fires began to burn through their neighborhoods. Of the 17 people confirmed dead in the Eaton fire, all were on the town’s west side.

At the County’s request, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Communications Commission is assisting in the review. The motion approved by the Board of Supervisors said the communities affected by the fires “deserve a transparent and full accounting of everything that occurred. Los Angeles County is committed to understanding every aspect of these events to ensure we are continually improving our emergency management practices and better protecting our residents.” Twenty-eight lives and more than 15,000 structures were lost in the January fires.

The County established a \$32.2 million recovery fund to help those impacted by the wildfires to provide direct cash to homeowners, renters, workers, small businesses and nonprofits and ensuring outreach and application processes were culturally and linguistically accessible. The money, reallocated from federal American Rescue Plan Act funding, was meant to address immediate needs until long-term resources became available.

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk is providing replacement vital records (birth, death, marriage), real estate/property records, and business filing/registration records at no cost to those impacted by the wildfires.

One of the more bizarre incidents during the fires was the arrest of an Oregon couple impersonating firefighters – dressed in fake fighter gear and driving a fire engine reportedly bought at an auction – when they attempted to gain entry into an unauthorized evacuation zone in Malibu.

Supervisors approved a \$30 million settlement of a federal civil rights class action lawsuit filed in 2022 by Agustin Herrera that contended that the Probation and Mental Health departments failed to ensure safe and habitable conditions for more than 7,000 youth housed at juvenile facilities from 2014 to the present time. Cited were failure to provide warm bedding and clothing, restrooms, sufficient clean clothing/underwear, culturally sensitive toiletries, private showers, water, and sanitary food; failure to provide access to minimally required programming, exercise, recreation, and religious services; inadequate access to communication with family members and attorneys; excessive use of mechanical restraints (shackles); excessive and unlawful use of room confinement/solitary confinement; excessive use of chemical force (pepper spray); and inadequate mental health care treatment.

Meanwhile, problems continue at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. The Board of Supervisors voted to appoint a compliance officer to oversee and monitor the Probation Department’s efforts to comply with state regulations that have threatened to close the facility. The state, in fact, ordered the County to remove the youth from Los Padrinos, primarily due to issues related to insufficient staffing, but the County said it had nowhere else to house them. The Public Defender’s Office opposed the County’s decision to leave the facility open, arguing in court that the Probation Department had years to correct the problems at Los Padrinos and should not be allowed to continue to house youth in substandard conditions solely because there was no backup plan. The next court hearing is scheduled for April 18.

A system crash on New Year’s Eve prevented deputies from receiving calls for service through their patrol car computers for three days, requiring them to use their radios,

phones, pens and notepads to track and respond to calls, and keeping them from running license-plate numbers.

The estimated \$152 million the Fire Department will receive in fiscal year 2025-26 from the tax increase approved by voters last November will be used to renovate fire facilities, acquire emergency and non-emergency vehicles, and purchase aircraft and boats. Fire Chief Anthony Marrone said specific priorities include converting 15 engine companies from three-person staffing to four persons to ensure faster and more effective emergency responses, replacing a station in Agua Dulce and constructing a new one in Lancaster adjacent to Station 33, the busiest in the County.

The Board of Supervisors, at the suggestion of Supervisor Janice Hahn, asked staff to review 1,569 tax-defaulted properties set to be auctioned in April by the Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office to see if there might be opportunities for purchase by the County for such uses as pocket parks, interim housing, mental health beds, access centers or affordable housing.

The Department of Public Health has launched the medical debt relief program, initially leveraging \$5 million to purchase \$500 million of medical debt for pennies on the dollar for approximately 150,000 low-income residents. The goal is to eliminate \$2 billion in medical debt with continued contributions from philanthropic partners, hospitals, and health plans. Qualifying debts are past due medical bills owed by residents who earn up to 400% of the federal poverty level. Residents do not need to apply and will receive a notification that their debt has been fully canceled.

The Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission has created a special committee to investigate how the Sheriff’s Department handles complaints made by members of the public against its deputies. The commission has been rebuffed by the Sheriff’s Department in the past when it has requested information related to handling of complaints, told that County Counsel has deemed the information confidential. However, Commission Chair Robert C. Bonner says his group will move forward. “For too long, we have been told by members of the public that the LASD complaints process is broken; that it is not working... If the LASD is going to investigate its own, it is imperative that there be effective oversight and visibility into the process. That is what this special committee of the commission is charged with making happen.”

The Department of Health Services’ Olive View-UCLA Medical Center was cited by U.S. News and World Report as one of the nation’s best hospitals for maternity care. Maternal death rates continue to rise and maternity wards close. More than 200 maternal fatalities occurred between 2019 and 2021 in California and 17 maternity wards closed in L.A. County during that time.

Work has begun on a \$32 million project at the High Desert Regional Health Center campus in Lancaster to increase access to mental health and crisis care in the Antelope Valley region. A crisis stabilization unit will provide nine beds for youth in crisis; a crisis residential treatment will serve adults with acute mental health issues; and a third building will serve as a mental health hub for adults and crisis stabilization unit for youth.

The County has established a two-year paid family leave pilot program that provides up to eight weeks of benefits to specified permanent, non-represented employees to care for a family member with a serious health condition,

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## RELAC Presents Gifts to Winners of Drawing for Recruiting Colleagues

There is good news for 25 RELAC members, who have won cash and candy as thank you gifts for recruiting colleagues to join the organization.

"We are delighted that RELAC members are actively helping to build this organization by encouraging former co-workers to join," said President Linda C. Hopkins.

Names of those who have referred new members were entered in a drawing, with 20 selected to receive \$25 and, for the first time, another five awarded \$25 See's Candies gift certificates.

"RELAC membership offers a valuable return on investment, and is the only organization solely dedicated to protecting the pension and health care benefits of L.A. County retirees," said Hopkins.

The Board of Directors first approved the drawing in 2021 and voted to extend it again in 2025. RELAC's membership application includes a space to provide the name of the person who recruited the new member.

Individuals who made referrals but whose names are not drawn are automatically re-entered in future drawings. One ticket is awarded for each referral, enabling members to win multiple times. (RELAC directors and staff are not eligible for the drawing.)

Cash winners of the 2024 drawing are: Terry Black, James Brown, Gregory Buntin, Diego Cadena, Barry Chass, Darlene Cravea, Arthur Dass, Stephan Golightly, Patti Hennings, Gladys Hidayat, Gail Houghton, Myra Kyle, Selma McCurdy, Jeff Phillips, Marianne Reich, Marvin Southard, Ed Trevino, Walter Tubbs, Mary Wawro, and Beverly Williams.

Winners of the See's gift certificate are: former Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Fred Hungerford, Joaquin Miramontes, Sheila Shima, and Ida Ramos.



### Happy Birthday RELAC Centenarians

#### March

**Frances E. Duffy**, 100, District Attorney

**Genevieve O. Minjarez**, 101,

LAC + USC Medical Center

**Henriette Shrader**, 102, District Attorney

**Melvin M. Snoke**, 100, Sheriff

**Estrella J Tompkins**, 102, Sheriff

**Esther L. Van Buskirk**, 101, Fire Department

#### April

**Alma J. Hill**, 101, Public Social Services

**McKinney Ward**, 102, Mechanical

## James Jacobs Turns in His Badge – After 50 Years

by Judy Hammond, Member, Newsletter Committee

After 50 years as a L.A. County reserve deputy sheriff, RELAC member James (Jim) Jacobs has turned in his badge.

Jacobs, 83, had been working two years in the District Attorney's Office in 1974 when, with the encouragement of his officemate Steve Cooley (who later would be elected district attorney), he enrolled in the Sheriff's Academy, graduating in June 1975. Therein began his dual career as a trial attorney and a reserve deputy. He retired from the D.A.'s Office in 1998, but continued his duties with the Sheriff's Department until last December.

In the D.A.'s Office, Jacobs worked in several courthouses, specializing in gang prosecutions, before being transferred downtown to handle various administrative functions. He was promoted to senior trial attorney while assigned to Pomona Superior Court and after a successful prosecution of a gang murder in 1978 was appointed by Head Deputy Bob Schirn to handle gang prosecutions exclusively. With Sheriff's Detective Charlie Araujo, he created the East Valley Gang Task Force, which operated out of Pomona until 1981, when it became part of Operation Hardcore.

From his Pomona assignment, he went to the Norwalk Courthouse to serve as deputy in charge of Operation Hardcore for Pomona, Norwalk and Compton Superior Courts, and then to Compton Superior Court as the Hardcore deputy for Compton. In 1983 he was transferred to the Norwalk Court as a trial deputy for a year, then to downtown Los Angeles for the rest of his career in various administrative assignments.

Meanwhile, at the Sheriff's Department he was assigned to one and two-person uniformed patrol assignments at the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station, foot patrol in Avalon on Catalina Island during holidays and special events, and eventually to Reserve Detective Company 213, first assigned to intelligence and then computer crimes.

Jacobs' wife died of lung cancer in 1985 and he remarried in 1992. Six years later he retired from the D.A.'s Office and he and his wife went on two cross-country trips on his Harley motorcycle, as well as making numerous trips throughout the West into Canada and Mexico. He was made an honorary captain in the Tijuana Police Department and was very active in the Choirboys Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club.

But work beckoned. The District Attorney's Office asked him to return to work as a retiree assigned to the life prisoner parole unit, where he worked another nine years, attending approximately 400 parole hearings at various prisons, before retiring again.

During this time, he remained a member of Reserve Detective Company 213, which was part of the Sheriff's Major Crimes Bureau, primarily working a three-man team in the Fugitive Warrants Detail and occasionally assigned to the Vice Detail, Prison Gang Detail, TRAP Auto Theft, and Homicide. He transferred to the Homicide Bureau when it formed its own reserve unit in about 2015 and worked on unsolved cases until his retirement in December 2024.

"I worked with retired Homicide Detective Louie "The Hat" Danoff on several cases before they discovered my age and took me off the streets and onto a computer to search for homicide warrant suspects so they could be arrested and brought to trial," he said.

Jacobs' second wife died of Alzheimer's in 2019 and he moved to Tucson, Arizona. "I maintained my reserve status through a Zscaler hookup on my computer and came to town for firearm qualification when necessary."

Jacobs credits his parents, Lee and James Jacobs, both teachers, for his long, rewarding career. "They taught me love of country, hard work, and advanced education."



Jacobs off-roading near home in Arizona.



Jacobs receives diploma from then-Undersheriff Sherman Block.



# Letters To The Editor

## Write On!

Thank you very much for your Holiday wishes and for the services you provide us retirees! Thank you very much for your birthday wishes and for sending me a beautiful card.

**Vincent Kan**  
Northridge, California

Thank you for keeping us informed now and through the years over this (Social Security Fairness Act) process. I called both Senators in my state of South Carolina encouraging them to vote "Yes," and telling them how my Social Security pension was diminished by these two laws (Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset). Thank you for providing the suggested dialogue for letters or verbal comments. I look forward to President Biden signing it into law and eventually seeing my monthly (Social Security) benefit amount increased, and/or be given the option to get my deceased husband's Social Security benefit, if higher. Thank you to all the LACERA staff for continuing to push this matter through to resolution.

**Patty Paul**  
Columbia, South Carolina

Thank you for the update about the repeal of the WEP. Great work RELAC over the years in advocating on our behalf!

**Phil Doudar**  
Glendora, California

Thank you for the \$25 check I received, as a result of your recent drawing. I have been a member for 30 years and appreciate everything you do for the retirees of LA County.

**Ray Kemper**  
Rathdrum, Idaho

Thank you for selecting my name in the recruitment raffle. Unfortunately, I am allergic to chocolate, but my wife was happy to see the gift card and will definitely enjoy it! It might be worth considering a different type of gift card for future raffles in the event members have allergies or are diabetic and need to avoid sweets.

**Fred Hunderford**  
Norco, California

*(Editor's Note: Your important suggestions have been referred to RELAC's Board of Directors.)*

### Inside LA cont. from p 6

baby bonding, or a qualifying exigency related to military duty. The employees will be able to purchase the benefits providing up to 70 percent replacement of their salary, with the County paying 50 percent of the cost.

The County's new Office of Food Equity is charged with assisting the 30 percent of the County's residents with food insecurity while also creating a market for the more than 1,000 local farms.

The Probation and Beaches and Harbors departments teamed up to give Camp Glenn Rockey youth a day they won't forget at Marina del Rey, the first time at the beach for some of the youth. Lifeguards taught the youth how to kayak, paddle board, and administer CPR, and gave insights into ocean-related careers.

The Metro Board of Directors unanimously approved a \$798 million funding agreement to construct the final portion of the Metro A Line (formerly Gold Line) light-rail to Montclair.

A lawsuit filed by the County against PepsiCo and Coca-Cola alleges the companies misrepresented the environmental impact of their plastic containers by claiming they are recyclable despite knowing they cannot be readily disposed of and that most end up at landfills or as litter.

More tidbits about the initiative approved by voters last November to reform County governance. The salary for the elected executive shall be set by the Board of Supervisors but must be at least \$1 more than any other elected officer. The elected executive will appoint managers of all departments and agencies (subject to confirmation by the Board of Supervisors) except those headed by elected officials, the clerk of the Board of Supervisors and the newly created legislative analyst position. The chair of the Board of Supervisors becomes the executive officer if two-thirds of the supervisors vote that the elected executive is temporarily disabled. Candidates for the Board of Supervisors must live in the districts in which they seek to represent for at least 30 days prior to filing nomination papers (previously was one year). The elected executive must be an L.A. County resident for 30 days before filing as a candidate and must live in the County during his/her term.



### Fundraiser Helps DA Families Affected by Devastating L.A. County Wildfires

*Former County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich (at left), a RELAC member, and District Attorney Nathan J. Hochman (at right) were among those attending a Jan. 11 event for the L.A. County DA Foundation that raised more than \$50,000 to assist 17 LADA families who lost their homes or sustained significant financial hardship during the January wildfires, and to benefit first responders.*

**RELAC NEWSLETTER**  
Vol 60 - March/April 2025  
Number 2

Retired Employees of Los Angeles County  
1000 S. Fremont Ave.  
Unit 15, Alhambra, CA  
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(800) 537-3522  
Fax (626) 308-2901

E-mail: [admin@relac.org](mailto:admin@relac.org)  
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[www.relac.org](http://www.relac.org)

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Editor: Victoria Pipkin-Lane  
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Office Hours  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Monday - Thursday  
Closed Friday,  
Saturday, Sunday &  
Public Holidays

### Did You Know?



The Los Angeles County Department of Aging and Disabilities has a list of Food Pantry Centers that offer services on a first-come, first-served basis on Mondays from 2 to 4 p.m., and Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2 to 4 p.m. For more information and to schedule an appointment, visit <https://ad.lacounty.gov/food-pantry-assistance>.



# PASSAGES

Compiled by Judy Hammond,  
RELAC Member



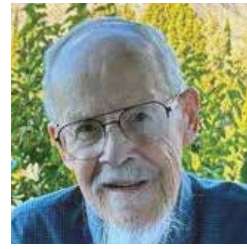
McCormack



Haynes



Anthony



Chaput



Jacobs

## DEATHS:

**Ken Sears**, who worked in the Assessor's legal department from 1970-1981 under Assessor Alexander Pope. Former Assistant Treasurer-Tax Collector **Glenn Byers**, who directed the operations of the public finance and investment bureau, retiring in 2016. Dr. **Bascon "Bud" Frank Anthony**, 92, a Harbor-UCLA Medical Center pediatrician and scientist who was a vaccine expert for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority. **Watson Wah Sing Lee**, 80, a 32-year employee of the Sheriff's Department, where he was a traffic deputy for half his career and a crime scene investigator the last half, retiring in 2002; after lengthy battle with pancreatic cancer. **Clarice Relay Nash**, 65, an engineer at the Department of Public Works, where she served for 37 years, retiring in 2020; her last role was project manager overseeing planning for various medical center campuses. **Trudie M. Abraham**, 73, who in 1993 was hired as a community engagement deputy by then County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke; in 1998 going to work as a special events deputy for Assemblyman Herb Wesson and then managing one of his offices when he became a Los Angeles city councilman. **Donald Chaput**, 90, hired as senior history curator at the L.A. County Museum of National History in 1972, in charge of the military history vault, retiring in the early 1990s as curator emeritus and continuing to work for the museum for 15 years; author of more than 15 books; from COVID.

Fire Capt. **Michael H. Mercado**, 53, who had served the department for 25 years, most recently at station 90 in South El Monte; from medical emergency while off duty. **William Patrick Lee**, 58, a heavy power equipment operator with the Department of Public Works, where he worked for 38 years; from pancreatic cancer. Lee's father, Henry, and brothers Mike and Stephen also worked for DPW, and his wife, Ramona, was also a County employee when they met. Artist **Tony Sheets**, 82, who had led the arts program at the L.A. County Fair, as did his father, Millard-- a noted muralist after whom the fair's fine arts building was renamed and who drew the 1950s version of the County seal -- a half century earlier. **Thomas Edwin Lawson Jr.**, 84, who was manager of the County Mental Health Department's Long Beach center at retirement and was presented the department's first social worker of the year award and later the lifetime achievement award.

## RETIREMENTS:

Deputy Fire Chief **Tom Ewald**, with 35 years of service. Former District Attorney **George Gascon**, who lost his bid for reelection in November, with three years, 11 ½ months service. RELAC member **James (Jim, JJ, Jimmy) David Jacobs**, 83, presented a 50-year service pin upon retiring as a reserve deputy sheriff in December 2024. Jacobs, now a resident of Corona de Tucson, Arizona, retired as a trial attorney in the District Attorney's Office in 1998 after 26 years of service. **Jackie Goldberg**, former children and family services deputy to Supervisor Gloria Molina, who went on to serve on the Los Angeles City Council and state Assembly and most recently as a member of the L.A. Unified School District Board of Education.

## APPOINTMENTS:

RELAC Director **Les Robbins** named chairman of the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) Board of Retirement, serving in that capacity for the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> time. (He's lost track...) El Monte City Manager **Alma K. Martinez** appointed by Supervisor Hilda Solis to LACERA's Board of Investments. **Michael Gennaco**, who was chief attorney for the County's Office of Independent Review, named by District Attorney Nathan Hochman to replace **Lawrence Middleton** as special prosecutor to reevaluate fatal officer-involved shootings previously declined for prosecution. **Quintin Haynes**, deputy county executive for general government for Prince William County in Virginia since June 2023, selected as chief deputy director of the Internal Services Department.

## MISCELLANEOUS:

Former Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk **Conny McCormack** is one of the leaders of an effort by Whittier residents to save more than 100 trees the city wants to remove to redesign its commercial center. **Troy Anderson**, a Daily News reporter who covered the L.A. County government beat for 11 years, leaving at the end of 2010, has a new book: *The Trump Code: Exploring Time Travel, Nikola Tesla, the Trump Lineage, and America's Future*. Sheriff **Robert Luna** denied reports that he has Parkinson's disease and says he will seek reelection in 2026. **Brian Williams**, who served seven years as executive director of the L.A. County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, was placed on administrative leave as L.A. deputy mayor of public safety after being accused of making a bomb threat against City Hall.



Ewald



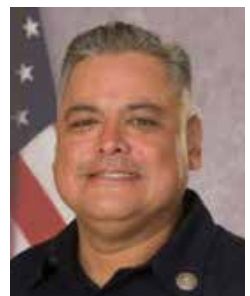
Sears



Lawson



Byers



Mercado

## IN MEMORIAM

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

**Agricultural Comm./Wts. & Meas.** – M. Erfan, Charles W. Peters, John M. Wegener

**Alcohol/Drug Pgms. Admin.** - Joan E. Foster

**Ambulatory Care Network** - Collins U. Nwadiogbu, Dorothy Ann Ramsey

**Assessor** - Marjorie D. Archer, Joan K. Carney, Robert E. Crawford, Nancy Jean Detgen, Malcolm D. Edmunson, Rita Schwartz, Maria C. Sevilla

**Auditor-Controller** - Carl M. Fish, Keiko Tanaka

**Board of Supervisors** - Trudie M. Abraham, Maria Elena Carrillo

**Chief Executive Office** - Toni Lynne Harris

**Child Support Services** - Gregory A. Sullivan

**Children & Family Services** - Pedro V. Gan, Daniel W. Gray, Raafat F. Maximous, Petra Reyes, Carol A. Rosenblum, Arthur Rubin, Glenn D. Witt

**Correctional Health** - Areg M. Barzegar

**County Counsel** - Paul R. Nevarez

**District Attorney** - Michael Brenner, Robert L. Johnson, Robert N. Krutoff, George M. Palmer

**Fire** - Binh Ly, Clarence William New, Kenneth A. Phillips Jr., Clyde D. Piephoff, Billy E. Thompson, Malachi D. Upshaw

**Harbor/UCLA Medical Center** - Lydia Cortez, Shirley Joshua, Stephanie D. Lawson, Maria G. Serafin

**Health Department** - Gertrude Cooper, Charolette W. Livers

**Health Services Administration** - Russell L. Burns, Susan C. Del Fierro, Raul H. Espinoza, Virginia Grayer, Samuel C. Jackson, Madelyn L. Nordmark, Donald S. Price, Robert J. Robinson, Ruthann L. Rountree

**Internal Services** - Donna Hunter, Gordon Earl Myers, Wayne H. Perry

**Juvenile Court Health Services** - Patty Nobuko Mattson

**King-Drew Medical Center** - Michael H. Aertgeerts, Samuel T. Bradley, George Y. Iskandar

**LAC+USC Medical Center** - Delphine M. Basso, Woodrow Bey, Hortensia Carter, Kay G. Chen, Barbara K. Cone-Wesson, Jacqueline Craft, Wing Chan Fok, Linda Lynn Gaines-Dugas, Luis M. Gomez, Marva G. Hinds-Lubin, Ching F. Ko, Nicola G. Miller, Genevieve O. Minjarez, Charles A. Perez, Zenaida T. Reyes, Victor A. Ricafort, Mamie L. Williams, Lola H. Yao

**Mechanical** - Ralston Black

**Mental Health** - Peggy R. Barrett, Reymundo Hinojos, David Loaiza, Irene Luu, Beatriz R. Manapat, Naomi Marks

**Museum of Natural History** - Jerry T. Campbell

**Olive View/UCLA Medical Center** - Helen M. Ayers, Geraldine M. Cano Landacre, Ines Ramos

**Parks and Recreation** - Ronald B. Call, John H. Johnson, Dora Y. Kunishige, Barbara Taylor, Mary F. Watkins

**Probation** - Kasie F. Boone, Thomas A. Fay, Earl L. Feys, Randy E. Grandberry, Gretchen L. Kirk, Connie J. Large, Roza Melkomian, Joseph S. Pacillas, David Quevedo, Johnny P. Risk, James Schwab, Marilu Velasco, James White, Carrie B. Wright

**Public Defender** - Tony Lupo, Juan A. Nolan

**Public Health Program** - John E. Alexander, Chhaganbhai Bhakta, Janet Comey, Geneva Flores, Laila Gadallah, Lynette Ingram, Celestine C. Johnson, Mexerine Mc Millon, Michael Mc Skane, Teferi Michael, John R. Risch, William L. Steinleitner, Richard Wolfe

**Public Library** - Iola I. Dedman, Dorothy M. Martinez, Linda Shimane, Judith L. Weigel

**Public Social Services** - Khurram Nisar Ahmed, Terisa Akessia, Sandra Bobo, Elaine M. Campbell, Jen C. Chiao, Amalia Cruz, Gloria J. Davis, Henry W. Davis, Albertine Fontenot, Christine L. Fox, Amanda B. Harris, Emily M. Henderson, Antoinette L. Jackson, Socorro B. Kinsey, Hung Q. Luong, Alfred Martinez, Mary J. Palmer, Tina T. Phan, Dorothy B. Piper, Gabriel Placencia, Theodora I. Pommerville, Norma M. Ramos, Juanita B. Rodriguez, Nathan Thompson, William R. Walker, Virginia J. Weaver, Patricia Weimer, Albrick Yaghoubian

**Public Works** - Brady L. Jones, Gregory F. Nard, Billie Dean Palmer, Gloria Palomares, Michael R. Perry, Ronald W. Price, Gerald A. Rodgers, Robert A. Sarro, Simeon Stewart, Paul A. Thorpe, Daisy Wong

**Rancho Los Amigos Hospital** - Leonor Delgadillo, Doris Heredia, Gladys Maureen Rodgers, Ethel Sawyer, Jinee H. Seo, Robin Thompson, Wilbur Earl White

**Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk** - Miguel A. Ramirez, Harrison Y. Wakida

**Sheriff** - Lorraine M. Aguirre, Betty A. Brennan, David R. Diaz, Andrew Thomas Finnigan, Roy E. Geul, Bruce Edward Gray, Michael F. Harris, Deborah J. Hayes, Tyrone R. Horn, Dennis E. Johns, Steven D. Martin, Jeffery Mc Donald, William T. Mc Donald, Elmer B. Mercado, Marlyn E. Meunier, Barbara A. Miller, Arvid Nilssen, Eleanor J. O'Neal Jones, Maria R. Reyna, Nancy J. Smith, David Tellez, Michael E. Watner, James R. Webb

**Superior Court/County Clerk** - Rafael C. Alvarado, Christine J. Banasiak, June Best, Rachel Chavez, Eleanor Ann Fauver, David Galvan, Sally Jean Harner, Morgan Von Saxel, Carol M. Waymire, Gerald Z. Young

**Treasurer/Tax Collector** - Glenn A. Byers, Patricia A. Martin

**Workforce Dev. Aging & Comm. Svc.** - John A. Drake





# Golf News

By Gil Sandoval  
RELAC Golf Director



## Chester Washington Golf Tournament January 27, 2025

It was a fun and beautiful day of for golf in January, and RELAC members and friends were ready for the course. It is located in South Los Angeles.

### "A" Flight Winners (19 and under)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bob Egusa (68)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Eddie Otero (71)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bill Stringer (74)

### "B" Flight Winners (20-26)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Michael Ford (71)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Michael Oden (72)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Reginald Guatt (79)

### "C" Flight Winners (27 and above)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Terry Black (77)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ernest Jones III (79)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Richard Duran (85)

### Women's Flight

- 1<sup>st</sup> Norma Gutierrez (77)

### Closest to the Pin

- Men
- # 2 – Greg Mason
  - # 4 – Bobby Bradford
  - #10 – Michael Oden

- Women
- #2 – RELAC
  - #4 – Norma Gutierrez

The RELAC Golf Program is seeking new members who enjoy the sport. For more information, visit <http://relac.org/golf>, or e-mail [golf@relac.org](mailto:golf@relac.org), or call (626) 248-7170.

## What's Happening

**La Bea Tar Pits and Museum** – 5801 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036  
Los Angeles County resident tickets are available from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 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. (The museum is closed on Wednesdays). 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 a free admission day; advance reservation is required. Free Day tickets are available the last Thursday of every month at 9:00 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 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 3:00 p.m. -5:00 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 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.; last entry at 7:30 p.m. Every third Thursday of the month is free admission all day.

**L.A. County Parks & Recreation**  
Free programs, and activities for seniors, which includes multi-level exercise classes and meal programs are offered by the County's Parks and Recreation Department. Visit [www.parks.lacounty.gov](http://www.parks.lacounty.gov) for information.

**relac Golf Club – 2025 – SAVE THE DATES**





**March 24**  
**La Mirada Golf Course**

**June 2**  
**Santa Anita Golf Course**

**July 28**  
**Los Verdes Golf Course**

**October 13**  
**Diamond Bar Golf Course**


















Please note that the event dates listed above are subject to change. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.



**RETIRED EMPLOYEES  
of LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
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Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

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## Public Health Advisory Issued for Palisades and Eaton Areas

A public health advisory reminding residents of the dangers of wildfire debris has been issued by the County Department of Public Health (DPH).

"Individuals residing within 250 yards of a burned structure or parcel within or near the Palisades and Eaton burn areas may face an increased risk of exposure to hazardous substances," said DPH officials.

Harmful substances include asbestos from older building materials, heavy metals such as lead, hazardous chemicals from household products and fine particulate matter created by the fire.

In addition, strong winds and changes in the weather may increase the risk of exposure leading to potential long-term physical health challenges.

Individuals are encouraged to take precautions and limit outdoor activities. For more information, visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/wildfire>.



## Disaster Recovery Centers Opened in County

The County of Los Angeles continues to address the impact on homeowners and residents of the wildfires in the Palisades, Eaton-Altadena, Hurst and other areas in the County.

"We are committed (as a County) to ensuring that every available resource is used to support residents," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger, chair, Board of Supervisors. "A one-stop shop has been opened in the community, and it will house multiple departments, including fire, public health, regional planning and public works," she said.

There are two Disaster Recovery Centers, open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., to provide in-person assistance to survivors. They are:

Altadena Center, 540 W. Woodbury Rd., Altadena, California  
UCLA Research Park West Center, 10850 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, California

"The goal is to reduce the amount of time rebuilding efforts might take, such as the certification of architectural plans from six months to five days," said Supervisor Barger.

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

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

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

**Phone:**  
(800) 537-3522  
(626) 308-0532  
Fax: (626) 308-2901

**e-mail:**  
admin@relac.org  
**website:**  
www.relac.org

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