



# RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

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## President's Message

by Brian Berger



RELAC's technology upgrades, designed to improve our operations and customer service, continue and will be ongoing for some time. I am pleased to report that the time to deliver e-mail blasts to members has been reduced to one day. Enhancements to the system has resulted in fewer bounce-backs. RELAC Director James Brekk is spearheading the IT upgrade project with support from John Allison, IT staff member.

A few months ago, I wrote about the monstrous rains, and how they impacted many of us. After the heavy rains, depending on where you live, many of us simply baked under a scorching heat. In my recent conversations with RELAC members, many shared their challenges of dealing with the heat. It's a good thing our heat is dry, unlike other regions of the country where humidity comes with the heat. Hopefully, many who ventured outdoors remembered to take along some sunscreen.

My wife and I enjoy living near the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. We have a backyard pool, which gets a lot of use when it's hot outside. The summer heatwave brought the grandchildren to our backyard pool, and they had a good time. We were all happy when temperatures dropped and cooler weather returned.

In other summer news, it was great seeing many members at RELAC's annual "Night at the Dodgers" on Friday, August 9, as our men in blue battled the Pittsburgh Pirates to a 9-5 victory. First baseman Freddie Freeman was the Player of the Game. The seats in the reserved section were good, and allowed members to visit with one another while enjoying the game.

There are more RELAC events coming up, namely the September 26 General Membership meeting in Alhambra and the annual December 5 General Membership meeting and Holiday Luncheon/Toy Drive in Whittier, so get the details from the Newsletter, and the website [www.relac.org](http://www.relac.org). Kudos to the RELAC Board members, who volunteer many hours to assist with these gatherings.

Finally, it has been rewarding to see some RELAC members stepping up to volunteer with the organization, whether as an associate on a committee or seeking an appointment to the Board of Directors. Your willingness to serve is appreciated. There are still volunteer opportunities. Call RELAC at (800) 537-3522 or send an e-mail to [admin@relac.org](mailto:admin@relac.org).

Thank you to all who have taken the time to send in ideas and suggestions for improving RELAC. We value your feedback. Stay well and we look forward to seeing you at upcoming RELAC get-together opportunities.

## LACERA Authority on Personnel Management Affirmed by Court; L.A. County to Appeal

by Victoria Pipkin-Lane, Editor

California's 2<sup>nd</sup> District Court of Appeals recently handed LACERA a major victory in its legal battle with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS). The Court affirmed LACERA's authority to establish employee classifications and set compensation for those positions.

Its detailed opinion reviewed the California Constitution, State statutes, and relevant ballot initiatives pertaining to the 1937 Act, which governs LACERA and 19 other California Counties, according to LACERA's statement on the Court of Appeal ruling. Proposition 162, approved by the voters in 1992, also was reviewed as it gave fiduciary responsibility to retirement boards for both the investment of funds and administration of the system.

### RELAC Amicus Brief

The Court's ruling stated the BOS must incorporate the classifications and salaries into its employment classifications and salary ordinance without modification.

"RELAC filed an amicus brief and is pleased with the Appellate Court's decision in favor of LACERA," said Brian Berger, President. "The case is an outcome of the BOS ignoring a 15-year process in which it previously adopted LACERA's changes to its salary ordinance without hesitation," he said.

Although LACERA attempted to resolve the dispute with the County, the efforts were unsuccessful and a writ of mandate seeking County compliance was filed. The Trial Court sided with the County, but LACERA successfully sought relief from the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Court of Appeal.

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## RELAC Fall General Meeting Set For September 26

RELAC's Fall General Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at the Department of Public Works, 900 S. Fremont Ave., in Alhambra, CA 91803. The keynote speaker will be Keith Knox, retired County Treasurer-Tax Collector (TTC).

"I am passionate about retirement planning and saving for the future, and I love to talk to employees about these topics," said Knox. "Our retirement benefits are really incredible," he added.

In his position as the County's TTC, Knox was a member of LACERA's Board of Retirement, Board of Investments, and the County's Plan Administrative Committees for the defined contribution (401K and 457) plans. He also served on the Joint Organizational Governance Committee, Operations Oversight, and Risk Mitigation, Credit, and Real Assets committees.

"Knox has an extensive background in financial and tax matters, which is of interest to RELAC members," said Brian Berger, President. "There is so much going on in these areas, and Knox is well-qualified to provide RELAC members with valuable information," he said.

There is another issue of major concern to all residents of Los Angeles County – homelessness. Darick Blackshere, Supervisor, Community Relations, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), will discuss the County's efforts to coordinate and provide housing services and resources for single adults, youth and families.

LAHSA utilizes federal, state and local funding to connect homeless individuals and households with nearly 100 service providers.

The RELAC meeting will be held in Conference Room A of the DPW headquarters. A light continental breakfast will be served from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Onsite parking is available free of charge.

## News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich

Assistant Executive Officer



As I write this column, I am just returning from being out of the office a few days due to a bout of COVID. The COVID numbers are on the rise and I urge everyone to take care of themselves, be vigilant, and get your vaccines. For my part, I'm one of those people who still wears a mask everywhere I go, and have been healthier (in terms of colds, flus, hay fever, etc.) than ever, but still got COVID. Likely because I missed my last booster shot. In any event, my public service message is – take care of yourself.

I have exciting news regarding our efforts to set up an alternative payment solution for members who are unbanked and receiving payments by check. You may recall I have mentioned in the past that the Board of Retirement authorized LACERA to seek a vendor to partner with to provide pre-paid debit cards as a retirement benefit allowance payment option. While current laws allow the payment of retirement benefits via an electronic fund transfer (i.e. direct deposit), the Board felt it was prudent to seek legislation that would specifically allow for pre-paid debit card usage.

LACERA partnered with California Assembly Member Tom Lackey, who introduced Assembly Bill 2474, which included provisions to update the County Employees Retirement Law (CERL) to allow LACERA a multi-year trial program to offer pre-paid debit cards. This is a first of its kind program for County retirement systems in California. In fact, only CalSTRS has a similar program.

This idea was something we discussed prior to the pandemic. But when the pandemic hit it became crystal clear that members receiving benefit payments via check were at risk – especially foreign payees. In some cases, we literally could not pay foreign payees during the pandemic. Even today some countries, like New Zealand, do not accept any foreign checks at all. Following the pandemic we also have seen a degradation in service levels from the US Postal Service resulting in extension of mailing commitments from 3-5 days to 7-10 days, and delays of up to a week or more on several occasions for many members.

The need for alternatives for our unbanked members, or those members receiving payments by check, became an imperative and we are pleased to be able to offer that alternative. The pre-paid debit card is very similar to having a bank account with a debit card (which can be used like any other debit card to make purchases and transactions).

The team is working with our vendor, Conduent, to put this program in place and begin offering it for members to sign up for. Look out for more details later this year along with information on how you can elect payment via pre-paid debit card.

As always, thank you for your contributions to Los Angeles County and its citizens. Take care of yourself and be sure to enjoy every moment of your retirement. You've earned it!

## Investment Report

by Debbie Martin, RELAC Director

Trustee, LACERA Board of Investments



### Return on Investment (ROI)

Do you know what a return on your investment is? Any investor aims to maximize their returns, so it's important to understand the kind of return LACERA is making utilizing your pension plan investment.

A return on investment, or ROI, is a commonly used profitability ratio that measures how much profit an investment generates relative to its costs. ROI is expressed as a percentage, making it a powerful tool for evaluating individual investments or comparing different investment opportunities. A good ROI is one that generates enough recurring income to ensure that LACERA can continue to pay your monthly pension.

Each year, LACERA sets a benchmark ROI based on market projections and the needs of the pension fund. For Fiscal Year 2023-24, the benchmark ROI was seven percent (7%). LACERA exceeded this target with a final ROI of 9.1%, outperforming the benchmark by 2.1%.

To better understand LACERA's performance, it's helpful to compare it with historical returns from other popular investment assets (1926-2019):

**Small Cap Stocks:** 11.9%

**Large Cap Stocks:** 10.2%

**Government Bonds:** 5.5%

**Treasury Bills:** 3.3%

These historical rates of return emphasize a fundamental investment principle: the higher the risk, the higher the expected ROI. LACERA's ROI of 9.1% reflects a balanced and diverse investment strategy, designed to minimize risk while maximizing returns.

To further evaluate LACERA's performance, consider a comparison with two other public pension funds for Fiscal Year 2023-24:

**California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS):** 9.3%

**California Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS):** 8.4%

LACERA's ROI of 9.1% sits comfortably between these two, underscoring its effectiveness as a fiduciary for your pension fund.

## Board of Retirement

by Les Robbins, RELAC Director

Trustee, LACERA Board of Retirement



Those of you who read my articles each month already know about our lawsuit with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. This is an unfortunate situation that they started and it is certainly my hope that we will finish it. As you may already know we got a decisive victory in the California Court of Appeal. It was a 3-0 decision with all three justices siding firmly with our side.

The ball then moved into the County's court and they had until August 5 to begin the process to appeal to the California Supreme Court. I never thought that there was any doubt they would appeal. I was right. The County has filed to appeal the decision. Now, the California Supreme Court has to decide whether to take the case. It is not automatic, but I believe the Court will opt to hear the case due to its potential impact on all public pension plans in California.

My best guesstimate is that we should know by the end of the year whether the California Supreme Court will hear the case. If the Court takes the case, it could be another year before a review is completed and a final decision handed down.

In the meantime, and this is an aspect that makes me furious, LACERA is somewhat hamstrung in our efforts to effectively recruit the staff needed to fill vacant positions, which are critical to the systems and investments divisions.

However, I remain optimistic that LACERA will prevail in the Court case, and move on to conducting business in the most capable manner possible.

In closing, here is some good news. LACERA ended the fiscal year on June 30 with assets under management (investments) returning a little over nine (9) percent, which is well above the Assumed Rate of Return of seven percent (7%).

Take care and enjoy your retirement.

## RELAC Scholarship Recipients Prepare for Next Journey

By Linda Hopkins, Chair  
RELAC Scholarship Committee

RELAC celebrated its 2024 scholarship recipients at the recent gala Recognition Luncheon held in Whittier.

"These students are our future leaders, and RELAC sponsors a scholarship program to provide some assistance on their education journey," said Brian Berger, President. Five, \$1,000 scholarships were awarded this year, he said.

The financial aid program was established in 2019. It is open to RELAC members and their families. Students are nominated by a RELAC family member. For more information on the program, send an e-mail to admin@relac.org or visit the website, www.relac.org.

Scholarship award winners were selected based on academic achievement, volunteer community service and work experience. They are:

**Ainsley E. Gharman**, granddaughter of Donald L. Handley, is an AP Scholar with Distinction, a Girl Scouts Ambassador and youth board member of the Neighborhood Council. She has an interest in international relations and will attend American University in Washington, D.C.

**Molly Grace Melia**, granddaughter of Edward Gerard Melia, is a member of the National Honor Society and an academic tutor. The aspiring, future business owner will attend UCLA.

**Robert Olson McKinnon**, grandson of Robert Olson (deceased), is an AP Scholar and recipient of a Rotary Club Leadership award. He has conducted food, clothing and book drives in the community. A problem solver with a fascination for patterns, designs and physical elements in mathematics and chemistry, McKinnon will attend the University of California at Irvine.

**Bryauna Hill**, granddaughter of Inetta Naulls, was on the Principal's Honor Roll, and volunteered at the MLK Orthopedics Outpatient Department. With a goal of becoming a surgeon, she will attend the University of California at Berkeley.

**William Raymond**, nominated by Laura Wills, was on the Honor Roll and participated in an elementary school tutoring program on Saturdays. He plans to pursue a career in computer engineering and will attend California State University at Long Beach.



Ainsley Gharman and grandfather Donald Handley, sponsor.



Bryauna Hill and grandmother Inetta Naulls, sponsor



Robert McKinnon Olson and Helen Olson.



William Raymond, sponsored by Laura Wills.



Molly Grace Melia and grandfather Edward G. Melia, sponsor.

### LACERA's Autonomy continued from p.1

"This ruling is a significant victory for LACERA," said Santos Kreimann, LACERA's Chief Executive Officer. The Court's decision reinforces LACERA's "autonomy and authority to manage its personnel and financial responsibilities effectively ensuring it can fulfill its fiduciary duties to its members and beneficiaries," he added.

The County has asked the California Supreme Court to review the Appellate Court decision. It is anticipated that the Court will rule on whether to accept the case, Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association v. County of Los Angeles, within the next few months.

LACERA is a public retirement plan operating under the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937. It is subject to the California Constitution and the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013.



The Camping Group gets together for a quarterly meeting and lunch. At left: Helen Quintana, Linda Gutierrez, Janet Cerato, Janice Hayhurst, Randy Fomey and Fred Weinberg; and at right, Joe Quintana, Al and Diane Medina, Dian Stegall, and Dorie Fregeau.

## Quarterly Luncheon

On Thursday, July 18, the RELAC Camping Group got together for its regularly scheduled quarterly luncheon. The location was Mimi's Bistro and Bakery at 17231 East 17<sup>th</sup> Street in Tustin, CA. The restaurant has outdoor dining, onsite parking and contactless payments.

Those attending the luncheon were Jeanne Klauk, Dorie Fregeau, Mike and Veronica, Joe and Helen Quintana, Linda Gutierrez, Janet Cerato, Janice Hayhurst, Dian and Leon Stegall, Dave and Jan Coleman, Jesse Murph, Al and Diana Medina, Max Georgi, Dulcy Gerdes, Fred Weinberg and Randy Forney.

Everyone had a great time. The RELAC RV group gets together to have fun and enjoy each other's company. We welcome RELAC members who want to join us. For more information, call the RELAC office or send an e-mail to [admin@relac.org](mailto:admin@relac.org). Remember to include your contact information and the best days/times to contact you. Staff will send me your information and I will follow up with those who are interested in attending the Camping Group activities.

## Save the date

The next Camping Group luncheon will be on Thursday, November 14. The location to be announced.



RELAC Camping Group members enjoying the luncheon are Dorie Fregeau, Jeanne Klauk, Leon and Dian Stegall, and Diane and Al Medina.

Photos by Jesse Murph



RELAC staff member Brenda Stephens cheers on the Dodgers with family members.

## RELAC Sponsors Successful "Night At the Dodgers"

It was another successful outing for RELAC as more than 200 retirees participated in the annual "Night at the Dodgers" on August 9, 2024 at Chavez Ravine.

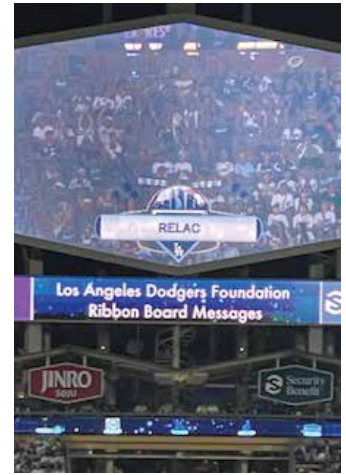
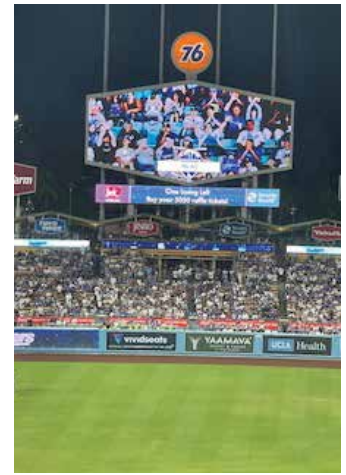
The men in blue were victorious against the Pittsburgh Pirates, winning 9 – 5, in a thrilling baseball matchup in which Freddie Freeman was the Player of the Game. A limited number of promotional items were handed out to early attendees by the Dodgers, including Dusty Baker bobbleheads.

Each year RELAC negotiates with the baseball franchise to offer tickets to its members at a discount off the general admission price. RELAC members were able to purchase discounted tickets, two (2) each, at \$49 per ticket, for Reserved Sections 6RS and 8RS.

Feedback was positive from retirees, who look forward to next year's event.



Dodgers fans, including Brenda Stephens and family, get ready for some baseball.



Mary Ramirez, RELAC staff member, makes her way to her seat at Dodger Stadium.



Sheila and Rosey Simpson cheer for the men in blue.



Mary Ramirez and daughter Samantha, an active-duty member of the U.S Navy, and family members root for the Dodgers.

# RELAC Connections

(Serving Members & the Community)

by Linda Hopkins, Chair

## Salute to Veterans

There is no doubt that we owe a debt of gratitude to the brave men and women, who have served in various branches of the U.S. Military. RELAC is taking a small step to recognize and honor its members, who are veterans.

The first annual "RELAC Veterans Opportunity Drawing" will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2024. Only RELAC military veterans are eligible for the drawing. Entrants must submit proof of service, such as a DD214 Form, VA Healthcare or active-duty CAC card with name and branch of service.

RELAC will award five (5), \$50 gift cards to winners of the Veterans Opportunity Drawing. To participate, eligible RELAC members should fill out the coupon below and mail it with proof of service to: RELAC Veteran Drawing, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15, Alhambra, CA 91803.

Please note: Only ONE entry per veteran member will be accepted. Winners will be announced via e-mail blast and on the RELAC website.

## L.A. Regional Food Bank

RELAC's annual campaign in support of the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank continues until the end of December.

Our retirees have been generous in their support of the non-profit organization, which is on the front lines of helping families and individuals in need. To date, RELAC members have raised \$75,000 for the Food Bank.

Contributions may be sent to the RELAC Office. Please make checks payable to L.A. Regional Food Bank.

## County DCBA Promotes Awareness of Elder Abuse

In 2023, older adults in the U.S. were victimized to the tune of an estimated \$3.4 billion in various scams, and California's elderly made up nearly 20% (\$643 million) of the total funds lost.

The Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) is promoting awareness of scams to keep older adults safe from elder financial abuse. Tech Support, Investment and Romance are common ways the elderly are scammed.

DCBA officials are encouraging people to report scams and abuse to the Federal Trade Commission by calling (877) FTC-HELP (382-4357), or visit [www.ReportFraud.ftc.gov](http://www.ReportFraud.ftc.gov). Those who witness or suspect other types of elder or dependent abuse may report it to the L.A. County Department of Aging and Disabilities at (800) 510-2020 during business hours, or (877) 477-3646.

In addition, the DCBA encourages individuals to become knowledgeable about how to recognize elder financial abuse. For information on recognizing scams, visit DCBA's Smarter Seniors and Scam Alert pages at [www.dcba@lacounty.gov](http://www.dcba@lacounty.gov).

## Retired Employees of Los Angeles County (RELAC) Veterans Opportunity Drawing

Entry Form – Please print clearly  
Drawing: Thursday, November 7, 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Cellular, Landline): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail entry form with copy of proof of military service, by the October 15, 2024 deadline to: RELAC Veterans Drawing, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15, Alhambra, CA 91803.

## Save the Date December 5, 2024

RELAC's final General Membership meeting of the year will precede its annual Holiday Luncheon & Toy Drive on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, 11:00 a.m., in the Atrium Ballroom of the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 7320 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier, CA 90602. RELAC members are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy, which will be donated to the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Spark of Love Toy Drive that benefits low-income families.

## County's MVA Develops Cultural Competency Training to Serve Justice-Involved Vets

Cultural Competency training is the latest initiative developed by the Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) to enhance the ability of County Departments to serve justice-involved veterans (JIVs), according to a recent MVA Statement.

Approximately 232,000 veterans reside in Los Angeles County. "JIVs face unique challenges" not encountered by non-service workers, "including higher rates of trauma, mental health issues, and substance use disorders," according to the statement. Encounters with the justice system could intensify the challenges JIVs face.

The holistic training, which covers empathy, is designed to empower County personnel with the tools to effectively serve JIVs by promoting inclusivity and collaboration.

Training components also include instruction on understanding the difficulty veterans and military personnel encounter when transitioning from military to civilian life, noted the media release. Resources and support services need to be tailored to meet their needs.

The brave and courageous individuals, who have served the country have more than earned our support as they transition into a new way of life.



## Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond  
RELAC Member

In addition to the increased sales tax proposal on the November ballot for homeless services, there will be an initiative to raise taxes on property owners in the County Fire Protection District. The measure, sponsored by the Fire Department union, would raise an estimated \$150 million annually by imposing a new parcel tax of \$60 per 1,000 square feet, adjusting upward for inflation.

Because it was placed on the ballot by voters, it will require only 50 percent to pass instead of the two-thirds needed if placed by the government.

Also on the ballot is the latest attempt to increase the number of County supervisors and create an elected county executive. These measures have been rejected by voters in the past. The current proposal -- which is supported by Supervisors Janice Hahn, Hilda Solis and Lindsey Horvath, but opposed by Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Holly Mitchell -- calls for increasing the number of supervisors from the current five to nine. The charter amendment would also create a director of budget and management, a county legislative analyst, an ethics commission, a commission to review the County charter every 10 years, a task force to oversee reform implementation, and require departments to present their annual budget in open hearings. The measure requires there be no additional costs to or taxes imposed to implement the changes.

The Board of Supervisors have directed that all proposed County measures include a fiscal impact report on the sample ballot. Currently, voters receive a fiscal analysis only on statewide ballot measures.

Not waiting for the November election, supervisors moved forward on creating an independent ethics commission and measures they say will improve transparency and greater oversight over conduct, contracts, lobbying, financial disclosures, conflicts of interest and campaign finances. If also approved by voters in November, it would require a charter amendment to eliminate the commission. The supervisors' plan calls for an office of ethics compliance with an ethics compliance officer and an extended time before former County officials can lobby the County.

*When introducing the motion to create the ethics commission, Supervisor Kathryn Barger said she believed it would improve the transparency of supervisors' decision-making. "The votes and directives issued by our Board of Supervisors are largely personality driven instead of being guided by process, expert input, and transparency," she said.*

*Supervisor Barger says Men's Central Jail is a prime example of decisions by the Board of Supervisors getting stuck in bureaucracy and an unwillingness to make tough decisions. Despite the Board's unanimous vote to close the jail, "we're nowhere closer to shuttering its doors than we were 12 years ago. This is because there is a lack of political will to a plan to securely rehabilitate incarcerated individuals who cannot be legally diverted despite several studies that have all concluded that is the path forward."*

County real estate officials are negotiating the purchase of the Gas Company Tower skyscraper in downtown Los Angeles for \$215 million in a foreclosure sale. The acquisition -- which would require approval by the Board of Supervisors -- would allow the relocation of employees in buildings that have been deemed an earthquake risk. Engineers have indicated 33 County facilities -- including the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration -- are vulnerable to collapse during a major earthquake and officials have committed to upgrading those buildings within 10 years. Even if the skyscraper sale goes through, it is not a sure bet that the Hall of Administration would be among those targeted for employee relocation. Supervisor Janice Hahn said she is "definitely against moving County services away from Los Angeles' only civic center."

A pilot program was approved by the Board of Supervisors to spend \$5 million to eliminate an estimated \$500 million of medical debt for 150,000 lower income residents. Medical debt is often bundled and sold at steep discounts to companies which profit off of collecting on that debt. The County will partner with nonprofit Undue Medical Debt, which since 2014 has used donations to purchase medical debts, but instead of trying to collect on the debt, cancels the debt entirely. On average, \$1 can purchase and eliminate \$100 of medical debt.

A new management appraisal goal is being developed for County departments: gender equity.

Former Sheriff Alex Villanueva has filed a lawsuit against the County for placing him on a "do not rehire" list for alleged discriminatory remarks against Inspector General Max Huntsman. Villanueva says shortly after he announced his candidacy for the Board of Supervisors in 2023, the County, without his knowledge, initiated an investigation into claims he had violated discrimination and harassment policies while he was sheriff, although the accusations had been determined to be unfounded more than a year earlier. Villanueva said he learned of the new investigation, its findings, and the "do

not rehire" designation through a Los Angeles Times article. He claims his due process and First Amendment rights were violated.

A phishing e-mail attack allowed a hacker to gain log-in credentials of 53 employees in the Department of Public Health, compromising the personal information of more than 200,000 people. The attack occurred in February, but the department did not announce it publicly until mid-June. DPH said it has implemented enhancements to reduce exposure to similar incidents in the future.

Although some of the hottest days are in September and October, the County had traditionally closed its pools in August. That has now changed. Pools are now open six days a week until Oct. 31. To make that happen, the County had to recruit a record 580 lifeguards and install new lighting to accommodate shorter daylight hours.

The Chief of Protocol duties and responsibilities have been officially transferred from the Chief Executive Office to the Board of Supervisors Executive Office. In practice, the transfer was made on Jan. 3, 2022, but no ordinance was enacted to make it official.

The project budget for the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center replacement has been increased by \$60 million, bringing the new total to \$1.755 billion.

Probation Chief Guillermo Viera Rosa announced the department was being restructured to eliminate an entire layer of management in the 6,600-employee agency, affecting 14 top managers and eliminating 13 bureau chief positions. Affected employees were offered positions in other County departments. Viera Rosa said flattening the organization will make for quicker implementation of new policies, clearer lines of authority, better internal feedback, and greater transparency. He said it also pushes decision-making closer to personnel who interact with adult probationers, youth, their families, County partner agencies, and the public.

The 2024 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count estimated there were 75,000 homeless persons, with one-fourth self-reporting serious mental illness and substance use disorder. That is a decrease for the first time in seven years, though not a large one.

The graduation ceremony at Walt Disney Concert Hall for 100 high school graduates, including County Office of Education students and 29 detained youth on probation, was marred by violence after a man leaped over a second-story balcony and assaulted a graduate during the recession at the conclusion of the event. Order was restored, but subsequently a brawl involving several community members occurred outside the venue.

Lawsuit settlements continue to take a large bite from the County's coffers. They include \$24 million to two men who spent 23 years in prison for a murder they claim they did not commit; \$25 million to a deaf and autistic man paralyzed after being shot by a sheriff's deputy responding to a call for assistance from the man's sister, who said he was being aggressive toward his mother and wanted him taken to the hospital; \$17.2 million to Romelia Chaidez, who was injured in a car accident involving a sheriff's deputy; \$7,325,000 for allegedly failing to pay overtime to In Home Supportive Services providers in 2015-2016; \$3,375,000 to the father of a 29-year-old man shot and killed after he ran from deputies who stopped him for riding his bike on the wrong side of the road; and \$1.6 million to firefighter Jordan Primo, who alleged he suffered significant injuries after receiving negligent medical treatment by County paramedics at a County fire station.

*continued on p.7*

# Golf News

By Gil Sandoval  
RELAC Golf Director



## Los Verdes Golf Tournament – July 29, 2024

RELAC golfers were rewarded with a beautiful day. Although some golfers found the course challenging due to wind conditions, it was great to see the largest number of participants for this event to date.

Three players had an exceptional day - Sehchi Ishikawa, Herbert Huang, and Bill Stringer. Sehchi shot a scratch 75, the best of anyone to win the "A" Flight in a card off, as they all had net 69s. Huang placed 2nd and Bill Stringer took 3rd. Grady DeBie, the grandson of Harlan and Charlene Debie, was only one back at net 70. Nice shooting guys!

The "B" Flight was a close race, as Chuck McGlothlin edged out Les Bacon by one stroke to win with a net 70. Les took 2nd place, and Frank Davanzo finished 3rd with a net 73. It was an exciting round. My hat is off to all of you!

Al Kelly had an easy win in the "C" Flight with a net 72. Andy Mendoza and Ernest Jones III finished with net 76, but Andy took second place by beating Ernest in a card off.

Seven women played the Los Verdes Golf Tournament. We appreciate their participation. Katherine Stringer was a repeat winner at net 71. Ms. Vicki and Norma Gutierrez had a net 75, but Ms. Vicki came in 2nd by beating Norma in a card off. Ms. Vicki donated her prize back to RELAC.

Special thanks go out to the 16 new players, who joined us for this tournament, and the players who invited other members and friends. We welcome newcomers. If you know of any members, who do not have access to the website, please forward the golf reservation forms to them. We're actively recruiting to increase the golf tournament membership. I encourage you to invite others to participate. We need your help to grow.

Also, remember the entry form is not always available in the newsletter, but can be found on the RELAC web page: [www.relac.org](http://www.relac.org), following the link to activities (Golf).

The next tournament will be Monday, October 14, 2024 at the Lakewood Golf Course, 3101 E. Carson St., Lakewood, CA 90712. Entries must be received by October 1, 2024.

NOTE: Only ONE Guest per member. Enclose check with the payment and number of golfers at \$46.00 each. Make check payable to RELAC and mail with entry form to: RELAC – Attn: Golf, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15, Alhambra, CA 91803-8802.

### Los Verdes Tournament Results

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

1st Seiichi Ishikawa	(69)	\$16
2nd Hubert Huang	(69)	\$12
3rd William Stringer	(69)	\$8

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

1st Chuck McGlothlin	(70)	\$16
2nd Les Bacon	(73)	\$12
3rd Frank Da Vanzo	(73)	\$8

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

1st Albert Kelly	(72)	\$16
2nd Andres Mendoza	(76)	\$12
3rd Ernest Jones III	(76)	\$8

#### Women's Flight

1st Katherine Stringer	(71)	\$16
2nd Vicki	(75)	\$0 – Back to RELAC
3rd Norma Gutierrez	(75)	\$8

#### Closest to the Pin

Men	
#3 – Hubert Huang	\$8
#5 – Chuck Adams	\$8
#12 – Seiichi Ishikawa	\$8
#17 – Chuck McGlothlin	\$8

Women	
#3 – Cari DeBie	\$8
#5 – Katherine Stringer	\$8
#12 – RELAC	\$0
#17 – Norma Gutierrez	\$8

2nd Shot Closest to the Pin - None  
Low Putts - None

**Total Tournament Payout: \$188.00**

## Inside LA County continued from p.6

Not everyone was pleased with the decision to settle all the cases. An attorney representing one of the two deputies involved in the incident in which the deaf, autistic man was shot, said he was "utterly disappointed" that the County gave up on defending the deputies "for doing their jobs." He noted that the Sheriff's Department determined that the two deputies involved in the incident did not violate any policies with their use of force, and the District Attorney's Office declined to file charges against the deputy who fired the shot.

Even though County supervisors banned the use of pepper spray at juvenile halls five years ago, it continues to be used. Probation officers say it is necessary due to chronic, severe understaffing.

Supervisors have approved \$143 million to develop a 96-bed mental health treatment facility at the Los Angeles General Medical Center, the final phase of a project to create a Restorative Care Village at the Boyle Heights campus. The facility will be for those with the most serious mental illnesses.

For the second time this year, the state declared Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in Downey to be out of compliance with minimum standards after inspectors found – after reviewing randomly selected surveillance videotape --the County had falsely claimed it had provided programs and activities that were not actually offered.

L.A. County Superior Court experienced an unprecedented ransomware cyberattack in July, requiring it to shut down almost all its network for several days to repair and reboot its computer systems, and to close public operations for a day.

Increased violence on its buses, trains and stations prompted the L.A. Metro Board of Directors to vote unanimously to create its own law enforcement agency. It is estimated that it will take several years to get the new department up and running. Metro now contracts with the Sheriff's Department, and the LA. and Long Beach police departments. The Board also voted to speed up building enclosed protective barriers for drivers and requiring law enforcement agencies that it contracts with to be physically present on buses and trains. Supervisor Kathryn Barger said she wouldn't feel safe to ride transit if alone.

As new chair of the Metro Board of Directors, Supervisor Janice Hahn has begun using the agency's transportation systems more frequently to give her a better understanding of how they are working and what needs fixed, and is reporting her rider experiences at each Board meeting.

A voluntary confidential survey of all County employees is being conducted to determine if there are individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, asking such questions as debt owed, if currently receiving any County benefit programs, if formerly incarcerated or if a domestic violence survivor. The aim is to develop recommendations and protocols that would prevent and reduce homeless risk for employees, and prohibit discrimination against employees who are homeless or unhoused.

The Board is supporting state legislation that would require shooting targets used for training by law enforcement agencies to be "race neutral." The legislation was prompted by the discovery that a number of agencies across the country have used targets that primarily and specifically depict black men, which critics say creates biases that lead to disproportionate use of force against people of color.

# Letters To The Editor

## Write On!

Thanks for all you do for us retirees!

**Deborah G. Jackson**  
Norwalk, California

When I joined, I was told the membership fee was \$3.50. Eventually, I received a notification that the membership fee was going to be increased. What I did not know was that the membership was going to be increased by 100%. It is interesting to me that RELAC increases the membership by 100%, when LACERA only increased the monthly allowance by 2% as 2024 COLA.  
**Abraham Valladares**  
City, State

I read your message in the recent newsletter with great interest. Now, let me say I agree with the increase in dues. I do disagree with the approach you took to introduce the increase. I find it to be misleading to report a "modest increase," when you are doubling the current dues. I thought of an amount under one dollar when I read your message. Then when I learned of the actual increase, I was taken aback.

I was also annoyed that I had to dig further to find the actual amount. If the situation had been brewing over the past few years, why did the Board not take the necessary action much sooner? A 30% increase every few years would be more palatable than a 100% increase. It also gives the idea that someone is watching the budget carefully. Thank you for your time to read my letter, and I would never want to see a 100% increase in dues again. Best wishes to you and the staff of RELAC for your work on our behalf.

**Gloria Sheppard**

Thank you so much for the information on obtaining Dodger tickets. With the assistance of Ms. Toni Simmons, I was able to complete the form and write a check. She is the best! And, yes, I will need further assistance putting tickets on my phone to get into the ballpark on game day. Being retired since 1989, seems the tech world has passed me by. I am glad you are available to assist those of us who cannot navigate today's high tech. Hoping we can meet up at the game!  
**Diane Knott**

Please consider when having luncheons, meetings, etc., that most retirees are senior citizens and do not drive to unfamiliar areas.

**Hatti Lesure**  
Wilmington, California

In the RELAC Newsletter of May/June 2024, you mention in your message fun-filled activities "hopefully" including a Day at the Races at Santa Anita Racetrack. Since 2019, 42 horses have died there. Despite the scandal uncovering the lack of veterinary supervision, Santa Anita saw twelve racing and training deaths in 2022, and 17 in 2023.

The last time I attended a race there, I saw a thoroughbred shot on the track where it fell with a cloth-tent surrounding its body. But one could hear the shot. It was not a fun-filled day. Please reconsider this venue as a retiree activity. Thank you for your consideration.  
**Elayne A. Landy**  
Pasadena, CA

Thank you RELAC very much for my 95th birthday card. I also want to thank you for the 2024-25 pocket secretary date book. I love the date book and use it every year. I will use it again this year and enjoy it!

**Miyoko Yamada**  
Alhambra, California

I would like to thank RELAC for sending me the 18-month calendar for the 2024-25 calendar years. It is extremely helpful and very much appreciated!

**Patricia Munger**  
Newbury Park, California

Greetings RELAC Staff, I join with many other retirees who enjoy the RELAC Newsletter. However, one suggestion: Please add a month at the top of the "In Memoriam" pages.

**Mike Ewiing**  
Burbank, California

Greetings! I would like to offer special recognition to Mrs. Judy Hammond and the Inside L.A. County column. Always a great recap of County activity. It is my first read when I receive the newsletter. Also, greatly appreciate the pocket calendar. Definitely keeps my life organized. Thanks for everything!

**Ron Oest**  
Newhall, California

Thanks for the genuinely nice handwritten thank you note from Ms. Linda Hopkins for my donation to the March of Dimes. It was so nice to receive something with a personal touch! I hope this year's campaign was the best yet!

**Rhonda Fernandez**  
Long Beach, California

My Spring opportunity drawing win was sweet music. It was definitely a treat!

**Alice M. Gunn**  
Edmond, Oklahoma

I received the check as a result of the Spring opportunity drawing. Thank you. I have been a member for 30 years, and thank you for all you do for the retirees of L.A. County!

**Ray Kemper**  
Rathdrum, Idaho

Thank you so much for my May birthday card with the greetings. It was most enjoyable for my 93rd birthday. I did spend several days celebrating this holiday. My husband also celebrated his 93rd birthday in July. We have been happily married for 72 years!

**JoAnne Cantrell**  
Irvine, CA

Thank you so much for drawing my name at the Spring opportunity drawing. I used my win for myself. What a great surprise!

**Jacquelyn Massey**  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

## RELAC NEWSLETTER

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Number 5

Retired Employees  
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## Board of Directors

President

**Brian Berger**

Vice President

**Linda C. Hopkins**

Secretary

**Bobbie Fesler**

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**Dyanne Nelson**

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**Les Robbins**

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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



# PASSAGES

Compiled by Judy Hammond,  
RELAC Member

## DEATHS:

Firefighter **Andrew Pontious**, a 19-year veteran of the County Fire Department assigned to Station 93 in Palmdale, killed when part of a burning front-loader exploded at a Littlerock quarry.

An autopsy by the County Medical Examiner cited methamphetamine as the cause of death of Deputy **Jonathan Stewart**, 41, who was found unresponsive at the sheriff's South Los Angeles station. He had been with the department since 2006.

**Ramona "Mona" Sanchez**, 77, who spent most of her 40-year County career as a supervising medical transcriber typist with the Medical Examiner/Coroner's Office, retiring in 2008.

Glendora resident **Sandra "Sandy" Wallace Blaydow**, 75, a senior manager in the Human Resources Department with more than 38 years of County service when she retired in about 2010; from a stroke. Among her survivors is son Sean Hoodye, a defensive tactics instructor for the Sheriff's Department.

Retired sheriff's Lt. **Ronald Shreves**, who was serving at the Lancaster station when he retired in 2003 after 33 years with the department.

**Cynthia Stephanie Monaco**, 73, member of the Blue Ribbon, the Music Center's premier women's support organization, co-chairing the Children's Festival in 2023; following lengthy illness

## RETIRED:

It's official. Principal Deputy County Counsel **Richard Brouwer**, retired June 29, with more than 29 years of service. He had earlier this year filed for retirement, but then rescinded it. **Meredyth Atkinson**, a principal analyst in Human Resources Department who serves as contracts manager, retired with 33 years of County service.

## ELECTIONS:

Supervisor **Janice Hahn** named chair of the Metro Board of Directors, replacing L.A. Mayor Karen Bass.

## COURTS:

Sheriff's Deputy **Maria Torres**, 43, charged with assaulting an inmate with pepper spray at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center in Los Angeles on Jan. 20, 2022, when he would not exit his cell, and then falsifying a report regarding the incident.

## HEALTH:

Former Sheriff **Lee Baca**, 82, who has dementia, was found safe and in good spirits inside an El Monte restaurant about 1 a.m., eight hours after wandering away from his San Marino home. Five police agencies joined in the search, using air support and K-9 units, but it was an ID bracelet that Baca wears that ultimately led to his location. Baca was sheriff from 1998 to 2014.

## APPOINTMENTS:

Retired Chief Executive Office special services assistant **Christopher Anderson** appointed, at \$110 per hour, to serve as a 120-day temporary employee without the 180-day waiting period to facilitate the coordination between County departments to comply with 2015 settlement agreement with the Department of Justice regarding jail inmates with mental health issues.

Supervisor **Holly Mitchell** named to the California Film Commission.

The Department of Arts and Culture selected **Patrisse Cullors** for a one-year residency with the Homeless Initiative to dispel myths and shift narratives about people experiencing homelessness, highlight the impact of homelessness on youth, and increase awareness and understanding of the complexities and solutions of the homelessness crisis in the region.



Pontious



Stewart



Sanchez



Blaydow



Shreves



Baca

## Happy Birthday, RELAC Centenarians

### September

**Helen Budin**, 100, Public Social Services  
**WM David Dyer**, 101, Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures  
**Doris M. Shepard**, 102, Sheriff  
**Jeffrey Grayson**, 101, LAC + USC Medical Center

### October

**Chiyeko Nosco**, 101, Superior Court  
**Nancy L. Rubey**, 100, Public Social Services

# IN MEMORIAM

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

## April 2024

**Alcohol/Drug Pgms. Admin.** - Annette W. Korbin  
**Alhambra Municipal Court** - Noreene Daniele  
**Ambulatory Care** - Nora M. Cervantes, Lita R. Libatique  
**Antelope Valley Rehab. Center** - Virginia V. Marcos  
**Assessor** - Danilo M. Feliciano, Kimberly Khouv, Pearl L. McCorkle, Cristeta B. Reeder, George Rivera, John F. Smith  
**Auditor-Controller** - Vincent S. Kelly, Ethel J. Kremer, Christopher A. Musella, Vivian I. Sanchez Rodriguez  
**Beaches & Harbors** - Dawn G. Meyers, Jose E. Najar, Reginald L. Washington  
**Beverly Hills Municipal Court** - Ava L. Hamilton  
**Board of Supervisors** - Gail N. Tierney  
**California Children's Services** - Donna S. Keller  
**Chief Executive Office** - Martin Barrera III, Albert O. Lee  
**Child Support Services** - Joe Amico, Ruby M. Brakefield, Jacqueline Y. Nelson, Marilyn L. Niesen, Sila F. Portela, Joyce Eileen Woodburne  
**Children & Family Services** - Paulette T. Bower, Michele C. Bunn, Susan E. Cole, Kathryn A. Collier, Cynthia Louise Conley, Kevin Ferguson, Alice Flores, Juanita Henry, Lucille Lopez, Guillermo A. Moreno, Andrea Palm, Sonya Y. Porter, Diane Tropper, Alexandra Rose Wilhite, Cheryl A. Williams, Cynthia Willis  
**County Counsel** - Richard L. Landes  
**District Attorney** - Erlinda R. Maliksi, Marjorie V. Martin, Michael J. Montagna, Dennis J. Robbins, Laurence A. Rooker, Deborah A. Schreiber  
**East Los Angeles Municipal Court** - Leanela McMahon  
**Engineer Facilities** - Lou A. Lougee  
**Fire** - Carl D. Allen, Alvin E. Anderson, Henry H. Flores, Sherry L. Flores, Ronald L. Jenkins, Jon D. Moryl, Lawrence R. Myers, Ronald E. Oatis, Charles W. Shackelford, James F. Stevens  
**Harbor/UCLA Medical Center** - Wanda Asberry, Colleen L. Brayack, Diana Cano, Mary J. Griffith, Irma Magana, Elisa E. Martinez, Carlos Mendieta, Terryl L. Moore, Ronald J. Nelson, To Quyen T. Nguyen, Servando M. Tolentino, Cristine D. Zamora  
**Health Services Administration** - Adrienne V. Brooks, Irving King Jr., Angela L. Levias, William Mc Cormick, Rudy D. Mojarro, Beverly O. Norman, Restie Ruth Ordas, Carolyn L. Peterson, Michael Settle, Cynthia Vasquez-Burn  
**Internal Services** - Flavio C. Camu, Vittorio Kellum, Robert J. Kilton, Leroy J. Meyer, Robert G. Raine, Elsie L. Valentine, Nathaniel E. Vaughn  
**Juvenile Court Health Services** - Nunthaporn Suwanawong  
**King-Drew Medical Center** - Nathan Clair, Ruth E. English, David D. Gonzales, Sandra I. Johnson, Lois M. Patten, Ramziddin Rashada, Verta A. Timberlake, Jinghua Wang  
**LAC+USC Medical Center** - Brandee Abelar, Carla M. Becerra, Wendy L. Berry, Ethel M. Burgess, Nadia V. Casillas, Edward J. Castro, Karen Dailey, Linda K. Davis, Jan Diaz, Tennesha T. Drummer, Elizabeth E. Erickson, Abraham Farias, Amile Franklin, Raymond Gamez, Barbara R. Gardner, Frances Gibson, Latrice Limos Griffin, Hwa-Young Hong, Herman J. Johnson, Alexander V. Kuzmin, Polina A. Lisikov, Alfonso Lyles, Robert Mendez Md., Ken K. Nguyen, Inyang A. Oji, Eduardo O. Opolencia, Santos Rodriguez, Felicia C. Salazar, Maria V. Schafner, Patsy J. Smith, Deanna Nicole Wade, Angerita Wright, Shoji George Yamamoto  
**Mechanical** - Edmund L. Contreras  
**Mental Health** - Vahe Abolian, Rodney W. Burgoyne, Marcia V. Curney, Brian George Martinez, Evangelina Montalvo, David Edward Montellano, Teresa De Jesus Robles, Hector J. Robles-Monca, Raul L. Sahagun, Wahid Tanios, Jamie Widmann, Hannah Z. Wu, Stephanie C. Ybarra  
**Museum of Natural History** - Frank Vella  
**Olive View/UCLA Medical Center** - Peter Bargas, Demosthenes C. Cabrito, John J. Cummings, Diane M. Elskamp, Raquel Guzman, Doris C. Keehn, Lida Ko, Adela C. Martinez, Susie M. McCleve, Stephen M. Mwangi, Robert G. Stanchfield, Muriel L. Stapp  
**Parks and Recreation** - Derek M. Estes, Jason La Riva, John T. Sibthorp, Elbert Turner, George White Wright

**Probation** - Gerlinda Baca, Judith Bloch, Yuker Cassell, Kimberly L. Dudley, Reginald A. Dymally, Derrick J. Green, Keith L. Green, Carol Griffin, Myrna Kemp, Marion J. Mouton, Elsie K. Nusser, Joseph Porter Jr., James S. Ridley  
**Public Defender** - Heather A. Broussard, Don R. Ellertson Jr., Francisco Gutierrez, Donald R. Layman, Rosa R. Pinon  
**Public Health Program** - Bryant Rothfeld, Magdy Tawadros, Suon Thach, Kimberly Walker  
**Public Library** - Maria B. Blume, Elizabeth A. Desjardins, Harry F. Noles  
**Public Safety** - Henry L. Killings, Calvin Lee Shows  
**Public Social Services** - Debra A. Adams-Blackwell, Irma Aghakhanyan, Hilda Ajeman, Abner E. Alford Jr., Linda S. Beamon, Beverly J. Bokamper, Halla A. Coye, Janice Edwards, George Paul Faulkner, Hymie Feldman, Larry Fuller, Ralph V. Godoy, Nila L. Harrell, Brenda S. Hubbard, Solvig Marie Hux, Micheal W. Jackson, Charlotte A. Johnson, Miguel Lapayese, Joy Laureano, April Lightsy, Jose Antonio Macias, Christina T. Mapu, Mary M. Marquez, Barbara T. Marshall, Mary E. Martin, Chyrel McLeod, Bessie J. Miller, David E. Morales, Joanne D. Nelson, Calvin Norwood, Virginia M. Perry, Carol Caroline Pimentel, Carolyn A. Reece, Christine Ta, Calvin Mitsuo Tsukada, Cheryl D. Tyler  
**Public Works** - Rudy G. Aguero, Preston M. Akiyama, Eric A. Gonzalez, John E. Harrell, Pleaze Laster, Krzysztof Markowski, Charles R. Padget, Wayne Worden  
**Rancho Los Amigos Hospital** - Zoran Biocic, Gladys Jean Bond, Blanche W. Daniel, Linda Kinermon, Richard Loera, Barbara Jean Means, Valerie Walker  
**Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk** - Kenneth M. Bennett, Gwendolyn E. Cann, Benjamin W. Durham, Darryl L. Edwards Jr.  
**Sheriff** - Jacqueline Veronica Armstrong, Leonard Barrios, William B. Brown, Mary K. Burke, John S. Cosentino, Martin Dessofo, Wilma A. Findon, Alice Finkelstein, Alfredo M. Flores, Jenny O. Gallegos, James A. Greenough, Dennis L. Henderson, Arthur E. Herrera, Charles E. Hickman, Frederick E. Jordan, Erma M. Keith, Peter J. Kergil, Charles N. McGraw, Robert W. Mirabella, Armando X. Morales, Ernest Morse, Agustin A. Ngalongalay, Daniel J. Okamoto, Luis Pingarron, Victor H. Quintero-Vil, Dianna L. Richardson, Brad C. Ritchey, Cheryl D. Robinson, Antonio P. Rosales, Sidney Scypion Jr., Bruce C. Sinclair, David L. Skitch, Jonathan A. Stewart, Ben B. Taylor, James R. Thomas, Michael A. Vanesian, Anastacio Villegas, Donald R. Warris, Mable J. Wright, Tazuko Yoshimura  
**Superior Court/County Clerk** - Richard L. Brand, Paula L. Ettelson, Swamy Gravina, Karen A. Henry, Carrie A. Hunt, Patricia M. La Pointe, John D. Peck, Zachary Ritter, Maria G. Sanchez, Jo F. Schmuki, Norman J. Shapiro, Cleo D. Washington, Susan Zuckerman  
**Treasurer/Tax Collector** - William A. Chandler  
**Women's Hospital** - Lydia Lee  
**Unidentified County Agency** - Richard T. Coffing

## May 2024

**Assessor** - Vicente R. Buenviaje  
**Auditor-Controller** - Jenna P. Carrasco, Ethel L. Martin  
**Beaches & Harbors** - Rene Moreno  
**Board of Supervisors** - George A. Roqueni  
**California Children's Services** - Kathleen S. Malone  
**Chief Executive Office** - Jack R. Damate, Elliot Meyer Marcus  
**Children & Family Services** - Karen Bowman, Donnis Greene, Elvia Islas, Oliver Johnson, Debra A. Rankin, Cherrill E. Renwick, Victoria Scheele, Gina E. Tax, Barbara Grace Tilden, Sonja Tran, Barbara F. Witas, Patsy C. Yu  
**Citrus Municipal Court** - Ruth B. Cash  
**Correctional Health** - Jose G. Ante II  
**County Counsel** - Shan K. Thever  
**District Attorney** - Amelia M. Bernal, Kristie S. Hutchinson, Patricia Y. Myers, Fred V. Sainz, Burton J. Schneirow, Elton M. Sims Jr., Kim E. Smith, Diane L. Vezzani  
**Engineer Facilities** - Floyd E. Brooks, James R. Paisley, Lois S. Yagi

# IN MEMORIAM

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

**Fire** - Everett B. Millican, Dennis W. Ortiz, Michael A. Potechin, Richard E. Raabe, John W. Schreyer

**Flood Control** - Akiko Kuratomi

**Grand Jury** - Marc E. Boyer

**Harbor/UCLA Medical Center** - Damon R. Hall, Gloria J. Love, Generoso Manuel, Cresencia Ramiscal, Jeaneva Reese, Gerald A. Washington

**Health Department** - Harry H. Matoba

**Health Services Administration** - Greg Layman, Karl E. Lemmons, Vivian J. Stewart, Edward Watson

**Internal Services** - Chester Lewis Cook, Alice G. Frandsen, Sharon L. Klink, Everett Martin

**Juvenile Court Health Services** - Virginia Miller

**King-Drew Medical Center** - William F. Coleman, Linda Cunningham, Shirley H. Johnson, Margaret A. Jones, Bernice B. Kelley, Daisy M. Spence, Michael S. Tetzloff

**LAC+USC Medical Center** - Deborah A. Coffman, Theodore L. Ebenkamp, Norva J. Fowler, Evelyn Ingram, Luz Ledesma, Johnny M. Love, Teryl A. Nichols, Evelyn Radford, Jeanne Marcelle Reems, Nancy B. Ring, Carmen Soria, Anne M. Stark, Tom Thurmond Jr., Ruth Urbano, Margaret Woodard

**Mental Health** - Angelina Alpuerto, Cora Currie, Julian Kivowitz, Iris Wasserman

**Olive View/UCLA Medical Center** - Maria J. Bueno, Reina Asuncion D. Canton, Natalie G. Duncan, Samuel Y. Oh, Sheldon Payne

**Parks and Recreation** - Rito Cervantes, Tomas Colon, Deborah L. Pepe

**Probation** - Josephine Childress, Mary L. Daniels, Irene Estrada, Charlene J. Johnson, Aiko A. Kurosumi, Patricia Mc Ardle, Chenell M. Wooten

**Public Defender** - Daisy Flores

**Public Health Program** - Muriel De Koning, Richard Falasco, Retha M. Freeman, Diane Harvey, Magdalene O. Onyemere, Karen A. Roby

**Public Safety** - Alex Fortune, Mitchell C. Grace

**Public Library** - Rita G. Jones, Michael R. McLaughlin, Bruce E. West, Agnes M. Zagar

**Public Social Services** - Lilia Borrayo, Derek W. Chan, James B. D'Arcy, Matrial Merline Davis, Annie G. Espinoza, Irene H. Gentle, Radha H. Haupt, Sandra Jackson, Judith Kane, Maurice Lewis, Gabriel J. Luna-Gomez, Spring I. Mc Calman, Larry D. Mc Knight, Tomiko Morgan, Helen Novell, Michael A. Preston, Ann Rachuy, Fannie J. Spears, Esther V. Tinoco, Gina Wong, Maria Victoria Wright

**Public Works** - Jimmy Davis Jr., James A. Noyes, Khorin Salmassian, William R. Swindle Jr., Leonard A. Vanderhoof, Michael Wright

**Rancho Los Amigos Hospital** - Jeanette L. Moore, Paulette E. Wince, Thelma Joanne Wright

**Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk** - Anneke W. Meijer

**Sheriff** - Hillary F. Balancier, Harold G. Binkley, Felicidad C. Concepcion, Florence E. Harms, John V. Matarazzo, Dan M. McPherson, Johann P. Miller, Alexander W. Miller, Muriel I. Ng-Bode, Dale D. Olsen, Curtis F. Ratzlaff, Gloria J. Romero, Richard Ruwe, James E. Sanders, Phyllis Sandy-Baker, Walter C. Schiller, Yuna Shi, Ronald W. Shreves, Jennie V. Smith, Nancy E. Spears, Richard W. Staidle, Kenneth L. Swan, James E. Townsend, Linda L. Wells

**Superior Court/County Clerk** - Louie S. Deypalubos, Marilyn Glendinning, Archer K. Leung, Judith A. Meecker, Ida Oliney, Denise A. Tran

**Treasurer/Tax Collector** - Arturo V. De Joya, Norma Jean Ponce

**Women's Hospital** - Myrthe M. Vance

## June 2024

**Aging Department** - Antoinette L. Haywood

**Aids Program** - Aku A. Berecket

**Animal Control** - Elizabeth C. Sims

**Antelope Valley Rehab. Center** - Mario J. Dominguez

**Assessor** - Marikit P. Reyes, Claudette L. Taylor

**Chief Information Office** - Bufus Woods

**Child Support Services** - Juanita Pope

**Children & Family Services** - Elene Blades, Judith A. Doyle, David S. Gomez, Dolores Harge, Mary A. Harland, Evelyn Hoskins, William E. Lewis, Carolyn M. Maddox, Michael P. McMahon, Keith W. Moore, Gloria Nelson, Byron K. Walker

**Correctional Health** - Leslie R. Harrison-Brown

**District Attorney** - Iver Bye, Pamela D. Springer

**Engineer Facilities** - Herman L. Jackson, Lionel T. Stephens

**Fire** - Billy G. Fancher, Ernest T. Graham, Rex H. Hand, Lynn R. Harrison, Eugene V. McCarthy, Andrew L. Pontious

**Flood Control District** - William K. Challoner

**Harbor/UCLA Medical Center** - Pura P. Abella, Miguel Arambula Jr., Abel Cabrera Castro, Gemma D. Cofield, Gloria M. Cordova, Clarence Grigsby, Ted E. Leavenworth, Katherine M. Mar, Janet M. Mazes-Martin, Samuel R. Snodgrass

**Health Services Administration** - Peter J. Cheles, Catherine A. Johnson, Seth T. Shaw

**Human Resources** - Daniel H. Traudt Jr.

**Internal Services** - Kevin L. Baker, Francisco Macatangay, Gary R. Mathess, Sandra J. May, Richard Palladino, Jonathan Thornton

**Juvenile Court Health Services** - Janet Nozaki

**LAC+USC Medical Center** - Beatrice E. Armstrong, Mary A. Attaway, Ann Marie Blanco, Myrna M. Esteves, Alfred W. Moy, Rosalinda M. Neri, Eloise J. Nordland, Magdalena Perez, Claude Powell, Josephine Rodriguez, Pierre C. Simmons, Henrine L. Smith, Alan Tjaden, Yvonne Townsel

**LACERA** - Debra J. Martin

**Medical Examiner-Coroner** - Ramona Sanchez

**Mental Health** - Tai L. Demers, Susan E. Henderson, Louis D. Willoughby

**Olive View/UCLA Medical Center** - Jean Gahagen, Benito A. Lao, Jessie M. Lien, Ernesto Reyes, Gary K. Wood

**Parks and Recreation** - Marlene J. Davis, Leo P. Glass

**Probation** - Warren M. Cooke, Rhonda S. Cowen, Kenneth K. Kawamura, Mark J. Libatique, Bernard S. Robbins, Alphonso Shepherd, Lynne Solomon, Patricia Tate

**Public Health Program** - Andy Duong, Vera Johnson

**Public Library** - Mary H. Haaker, Richard P. Snyder

**Public Social Services** - Agnes Agyin, Warren T. Anderson, Carmelita C. Aykol, Jared G. Baker, Dorothy Jean Baylor, Debra A. Breland, Dolores Chavez, Clarice V. Cook, Florence E. Cooney-Hill, Michelle Cross, Nejdí Gregorian, Mildred L. Hackett, Margaret E. Hargrave, Clemmie James, Fannie M. Jones, Rodney Locke, Julia Lujan, Michael Louis Martin, Gladyce V. Mickelbury, Velma A. Richman, Sam Robinson, Diana J. Szyzkiewicz, Doris K. Thaug, Haydee Trujillo, Norma A. Valenzuela, Rose M. Walker, Lorn E. Yin, Stephen K. Zimmerly

**Public Works** - Miguel A. Barrera, Quentin R. Butler, Nephi C. Datwyler, Eric Lemann Hall, Leroy S. Martinez, Pablo D. Paguio, Leonard P. Paul, Manuel M. Ramos, Raynard F. Runco

**Rancho Los Amigos Hospital** - Sheryl R. Adams, Kamla Anand, Alice N. Bessman, Ronald A. Maas, Julia Nottingham, Victor Passy

**Sheriff** - Adoracion Antazo, Terrell L. Boykin, Richard L. Chambers, James E. Corrigan Jr., Manuel O. Dearmas, Richard Estrada Jr., Mark S. Granzberg, Max I. Gregory, Canuto E. Hebron, James A. Masters, George Mathew, Rosa M. Moreno, Debra L. Ray, Malani T. Rodrigo, Judy F. Smith, Shirley A. Stanzione, Edward L. Teel, Judd F. Tucker, George Valenzuela, Alice E. Vinson, Claude G. Waddle, Jacob D. Young

**South Coast Air Quality Mgmt.** - Jack Littman

**Superior Court/County Clerk** - Robert T. Altman, Hurschell D. Christian, Joyce L. Gallaher, Ana Maria Gomez, Marcia L. Goodman, Regina Manuel, Isaac Ortiz, Della Ramos, Julia Mae Walker

**Treasurer/Tax Collector** - Trudy A. Sturcke

**Women's Hospital** - Evangeline E. Bartolome, Nancy Edwards, Phenita Holden

**Workforce Dev. Aging & Comm Svc.** - Benita M. Reyes

**Unidentified County Agency** - Rita A. Coughlin



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

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## Special Events (Recreation & Activities)

*by Nora Jackson, Chair*



We say goodbye to Summer and welcome the Fall with its cooler temperatures and several themed events, ranging from interactive group drumming to dance and music performances.

### Marina Drum Circle

Christopher Ramirez of Freedom Drum Circles is back leading free, weekly sessions at Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. The one-hour sessions are conducted Sundays through October 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Drums are provided by Remo Drums.

### John Anson Ford Amphitheatre

Fiesta! - Bob Baker Marionette Theater performs Sunday, September 15, 2024, 11:30 a.m., at the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre, 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. E, Los Angeles, CA.

Upcoming shows at the venue will be Jazz Esta Morto – Marcos Valle, Azymuth, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 8 p.m.; Blue13 Dance Company, Saturday, Sept. 28, 8 p.m., and Island Woman Rise: Ruby Ibarra, Klassy, Rocky Rivera, Faith Santilla & Kimmortal, Saturday, Oct. 5, at 8 p.m.

### Marina Movie Nights

Outdoor movie screenings are underway on Saturdays at 8 p.m. at Burton Chace Park in Marina del Rey. The schedule features Mean Girls on Sept. 7, 50 First Dates on Sept. 14, Ferris Bueller's Day Off, Sept. 21, Sixteen Candles, Sept. 28, Haunted Mansion, Oct. 5, and Get Out, Oct. 12. For a complete schedule of movies, visit L.A. County Department of Beaches and Harbors at <https://beaches.lacounty.gov>.

### Coastal Cleanup Day

The County Department of Beaches and Harbors sponsors the annual Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at Dockweiler Youth Center, 12505 Vista Del Mar, Playa del Rey, CA 90293. Arts & Crafts, Can the Trash Booth and Traveling Tidepool also will be part of the activities.

**IMPORTANT!**  
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1000 S. Fremont Ave.,  
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website:  
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