



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

RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

Sept/Oct 2017 Vol 52-5

President's Message

by Dave Muir

I'm so happy that RELAC's three candidates in the LACERA election were successful. Thanks to all of you who took the time to vote and who voted for Les Robbins and me. Our third candidate was J.P. Harris, and since no one filed to run against him, he was automatically elected.

With Les serving as the retiree member on the Board of Retirement and J.P. serving as the alternate retired member on the Board of Retirement, RELAC will be in a strong position to help you find the right person at LACERA to assist with any issues you may encounter. As the newly elected member of the Board of Investments, I will make sure the interests of retirees are fully considered and protected. This is especially important when it comes to the actuarial valuation, which serves as the basis for adjusting member and County contribution rates. It is important to the security of retirees that the funding of the retirement system remains strong and continues to improve.

I was pleased that the unions did not endorse candidates to oppose us for the three retiree positions. This is the first time I can remember that our candidates did not face union opposition. I believe this is because union management respected the records that Les, J.P. and I established while serving on the LACERA boards in the past. Most of the time the unions' interests and the retirees' interests are aligned.

The three-year terms of office for the new LACERA board members commence on Jan. 1, 2018. At that time, Les will replace Bill de la Garza as the retired member on the Board of Retirement, J. P. will replace me as the alternate retired member on the Board of Retirement, and I will replace Diane Sandoval as the retired member on the Board of Investments.

Special thanks go to Bill and Diane for their many years of dedication and hard work in faithfully serving retirees on the LACERA Boards.

By the end of his term this year, Bill will have served 15 years on the Board of Retirement. He played a key role in making things better for retirees, including (i) the establishment of the alternate position on the Board of Retirement, giving retirees an additional voice in the Board's deliberations, (ii) the increase in the retiree death benefit from \$750 to \$5,000, and (iii) the enactment of legislation that requires RELAC to receive notice of LACERA proposals that would affect retiree benefits and requires the Board of Retirement to consider any comments RELAC may submit.

Diane will have served on the Board of Investments for 12 years by the end of her term. Her highest priority has always been to ensure the retirement fund's continuing ability to pay our retirement benefits. She was a forceful voice on the Board, given her long experience managing LACERA's financial operations, and her education in retirement funds management at the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University, and U.C. Berkeley.



RELAC Director Steve Duron Dies

We are sad to inform you of the death of RELAC Director Steve Duron, a member of the Board since January 2014. Duron, a 44-year employee of the Parks and Recreation Department, was regional operations manager when he retired in 2012. He was hospitalized in May and died Aug. 4. He is survived by his wife, Marianne. Duron's death came as the RELAC newsletter was going to press.



Muir and Robbins Elected to LACERA Boards

RELAC will continue to play a strong role in protecting retirees' pensions and health care benefits with the election of Directors Dave Muir and Les Robbins to the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association's Boards of Investments and Retirement.

Muir, president of RELAC, received 65.99 percent of the vote in the election for the eighth (retiree) member of the Board of Investments, with former RELAC Board Member Simon Russin receiving 34.01 percent.

Robbins was elected to the eighth (retiree) member position on the Board of Retirement with 58.46 percent of the vote. Russin also ran for this seat and received 41.54 percent of the votes.

Muir and Robbins will replace RELAC Directors Diane Sandoval and Bill de la Garza on the LACERA boards, respectively, in January 2018. Sandoval and de la Garza did not seek new terms.

A third RELAC director, J.P. Harris, ran unopposed for the alternate retiree seat on the Board of Retirement, and will replace Muir in that position.

The Boards of Investments and Retirement govern LACERA, an independent government entity which administers and manages the \$48 billion retirement fund for Los Angeles County and outside special districts.

The RELAC Board endorsed Muir, Robbins and Harris, saying their election would help protect retirees' pensions and health care benefits.



Muir



Robbins

Investments Board

by Diane Sandoval
Retiree Representative,
LACERA Board of Investments



According to the latest memorandum from Jon Grabel, LACERA chief investment officer, the total fund finished its fiscal year (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017) with a balance of approximately \$52.5 billion. Fiscal year net returns of approximately 12.7% exceed the targeted investment return assumption of 7.25%. The primary drivers of the positive returns were non-U.S. and U.S. equities. All other asset classes, with the exception of commodities, also ended the year with positive returns. A reminder – these returns are estimated until audited by LACERA's independent auditor. The annual audit is scheduled to be completed in mid-October.

Based on these preliminary fiscal year returns, the funded status of the overall LACERA fund will improve. Alas, we will have to wait until LACERA's actuary completes the actuarial valuation study for the 2017 fiscal year. As LACERA begins a new fiscal year, I for one will keep my fingers crossed that the LACERA portfolio continues to earn returns meeting/exceeding the investment assumption rate.

Although LACERA's globally diversified portfolio performed well across all asset classes (except commodities), we must keep in mind that the LACERA Board and staff are always focused on the long-term. LACERA invests for decades, not years.

Enjoy the cooler weather – stay well!

SAVE THE DATE

Sept. 28, 2017

General Membership Meeting
Knollwood Country Club, Granada Hills

Oct. 5, 2017

Day at the Races
Santa Anita Park

Oct. 14, 2017

Annual Picnic
Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area, Irwindale

Dec. 11, 2017

General Membership Meeting
Diamond Bar Center

Jan. 17, 2018

Annual Recognition Luncheon
Almansor Court, Alhambra

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

June 2017 - July 2017

Assessor – Kenneth Rose

Board of Supervisors – William Crowe

Children & Family Services – Richard Croft

Child Support – Gloria Cabral

District Attorney – Rod Chapman, Vickie FitzPatrick

Fire – Dan Anderson

Health Services – Suzanne Collins, Divina Ferrer, Kathleen McAdam, Leda San Luis, Yosef Shiferaw

Internal Services – David Yamashita

LACERA – David Redman

LAC+USC Medical Center – Miriam Galindo, Hoss Hojjati, Darcus Taylor

Mental Health – Nancy Crosby, Andrew Kuykendall, Peggy La Rose

Olive View Med. Cntr. – Dellone Pascascio

Probation – Lucky Kpaki

Public Defender – Ernestina Barcenas, Stuart Glovin

Public Health – Wha Byon

Public Library – Carole Hollis, Joan Mead

Public Social Services – Helen Anderious, Lynn Bayer, Philip Browning, Judith Calvin, Patricia Elliott, Alice Gaffney, Laura Hauther, Han Hoang, Mary Matthew, Yuvathana Paing, Joel Thacker

Public Works – Kannaka Phinyo

Sheriff – Isabel Bass, Brian Camou, Darla Cano, Richard Castro, Trendel Coley, Douglas Fetteroll, Josefa Futralan, Duane Harris

Superior Court – Priscilla Caillouette, Roberta Martin

Workforce Dev. Aging & Comm. Svcs – Sonja Ivey-Rojas

Department Not Designated – Charles E. Cole Jr.

New Active Members – Hellen Carter

New Associate Members – Daniel Barcenas, Charles Bass, Jin S. Byon, Donald Cabral, Deborah Camou, Dave A. Cano, Lynda R. Castro, Kathy Crowe, Dennis B. Ferrer, Karen Fetteroll, Ramiro Futralan, Cesar Galindo, Wongelawit Haddis, Vicki L. Harris, Giti Hojjati, William F. Martin, Phany Paing, Vuthi Phnyo, Lynn Redman, Edgardo San Luis, Joel Thacker



Thanks for New Member Referrals

We would like to thank the six members who recruited colleagues to join RELAC during June and July. We continue to ask your assistance with recruitment. For membership applications and brochures, contact the RELAC office or go online at www.relac.org. Remind the new members to write your name on their application.

Our thanks to these RELAC members (shown in bold) for referring new members (shown in italics).

Judith Blanton, *Vickie FitzPatrick*, District Attorney

Don Fandry, *Brian Camou*, Sheriff

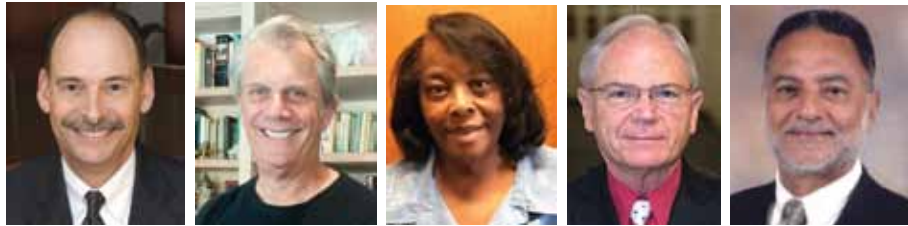
Richard Frankenstein, *Gloria Cabral*, Child Support Services

Judy Hammond, *William Crowe*, Board of Supervisors

Patricia Rose, *Richard Croft*, Children and Family Services

Linda Tarnoff, *Lynn Bayer*, Public Social Services.

We hope to see your name on this list in the next edition.



Harris Berger Nelson Robbins Walia

Five Directors Elected to New Terms

Congratulations to the five members of the RELAC Board of Directors who have been elected to new three-year terms beginning Jan 1, 2018. The directors are Brian Berger, J.P. Harris, Dyanne Nelson, Les Robbins and Greg Walia.

No RELAC member filed a petition to run as a candidate for the Board, resulting in the automatic re-election of the current directors whose terms expire Dec. 31, 2017. All five had been endorsed for re-election by the Board of Directors.

Three of the members are new to the Board, appointed this year to fill vacancies created by the resignations of two directors and the death of another.

Berger, a 32-year County employee who was director of special services with the Department of Children and Family Services when he retired in 1999, was also former head of the Animal Care and Control Department and acting chief deputy to Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich. He was appointed to the RELAC Board in June 2017 to replace Simon Russin, who resigned.

Harris, a member of the RELAC Board since 2012, is currently chairman of the Membership/Recruitment/Marketing Committee and was recently elected to the alternate retiree seat on the LACERA Retirement Board. He was a lieutenant in the Sheriff's Department when he retired in 2010 after 35 years with the department.

Nelson was appointed to the RELAC Board in April 2017 to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of George Hernandez. She was the County's payroll operations manager when she retired in 2011 from the Auditor-Controller's Office after more than 38 years with the County.

Robbins, a 30-year member of the Sheriff's Department when he retired as a sergeant in 2004, is a former executive director of the deputies union ALADS and a 19-year member of LACERA's Board of Investments and Retirement. He was appointed to the RELAC Board in March 2017 to fill a vacancy created by the death of Mary Lou Bangar.

Walia, who was personnel officer for the Public Works Department when he retired in 2000, joined the RELAC Board in 2003 and served as president in 2009 and 2010. He has served as vice president the past four years, is also treasurer this year, and heads the Office Management Committee.

Retirement Board

by Les Robbins
Retiree Representative-Elect
LACERA Board of Retirement



I am very pleased to inform all of you that both Dave Muir, our RELAC president, and I were elected to the Board of Investments and Board of Retirement respectively. I am very proud of this victory and wish to thank all RELAC members for taking the time to vote and have your voice heard. Elections do matter and there will be no shortage of issues facing LACERA in the coming years, not the least of which will be the issue of health care in this country, and as retirees we have to pay attention to what is happening here.

I know that we all feel pretty secure with the retiree health care benefits that we enjoy as L.A. County retirees, and we should be very proud and pleased with what we have. Previous LACERA trustees were very forward thinkers and they put together a near bullet-proof retiree health care program. Having said this, pay attention to the word "near" as our ability to control our benefits is pretty sound. What we can't control is the much bigger picture of health care in general throughout the country, and as we have all witnessed these past several weeks, Congress has found out, along with our president, that "Health care is complicated."

The point that I am trying to impress on everyone is that while our benefits at the current time seem safe and secure, when the world of health care and insurance is rocked, we will feel the impact. There is a lot that can go wrong as I look forward and try to figure out just what the plan is from Congress, and unfortunately since they don't know what it is, I certainly don't know either. What I do know is that their actions, or INACTIONS, have ramifications and some of them could impact us in ways in which we may find very deleterious. I know that LACERA has consultants and very capable staff who are watching what is going on in Washington very carefully. We will do our best to keep our retirees and active members informed, and we will hope for the best.

In closing this article, I want to once again thank all of you who voted for me and Dave Muir. I think that our election to these two positions at LACERA will serve our membership very well.

RELAC DIRECTORS RECRUIT MEMBERS



Don Fandry at retired Sheriff's employees reunion.



Linda C. Hopkins at Management Council Conference.



Evelyn Gutierrez at Filipino Employees Celebration.



Letters To The Editor Write On!

Your thoughtful card brought a smile to my face on my 93rd birthday. Thanks!
Faye Schwartz, Los Angeles, California

I appreciate your gifts and communication with the retirees. You always show great care! I read LACERA's story of how this amazing organization works non-stop for each one of us to be sure we receive our benefits. I wish you all success and happiness in life. Thank you.

Helen Anderious, Rancho Cucamonga, California

The last few issues of the newsletter have been particularly interesting. Keep up the good work!

Lawanda Allee, Pasadena, California

Thanks for another outstanding newsletter. They just keep getting better and better. Glad to see Brian Berger is now on the RELAC Board. For decades, almost every County-wide management organization I joined (e.g., Management Council, Speechcrafters, charitable giving campaigns), Brian was always there in a leadership role. Brian was a personable role model, providing service and offering all of us encouragement and practical advice from his vast experience on how to accomplish the missions/projects we were assigned to complete.

Barry Hunt, Inglewood, California

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you (*Dave Muir, president*) and the Retired Employees of Los Angeles County for your support of the annual Deputy Sheriffs Reunion held in McArthur, California. Announcing this event in the RELAC newsletter and your donation of promotional items distributed to the attendees helped once again to make this event a great success. This was our 37th year for this event and we hope to have many more. Once again, our sincere and heartfelt thanks for your support in this event and all the other support you provide for the retired employees of Los Angeles County.

The Attendees, Annual Deputy Sheriffs Reunion, McArthur, California

I'm writing to thank you for the resources you've put together (on the website) to help those who serve. My father-in-law is a disabled vet and lung cancer survivor and it has meant the world to be able to find resources to help him pay for everything he needs. You're really doing a great service for people like him. I cannot thank you enough.

Natalie Kelly, Forever Curious (forevercurious.org)

I'm Susan from Military Helper. We are a group dedicated to serving and helping military service members, veterans and their families. I was doing research for our next article when I came across your website. I loved the info I found; it was most helpful. I figured I'd reach out to let you know and share some other resources I found helpful that you may have missed. Thanks again.

Susan Williams, Military Helper (militaryhelper.org)

(Ed. Note: We added a suggested link to the Veterans Affairs website for benefits for elderly veterans, prompting Williams to send the following letter.)

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for sharing the resources with your audience. Your updated (website) page looks awesome! Thank you.

Susan Williams, Military Helper (militaryhelper.org)

I would like permission to reprint excerpts from the "Inside LA County" column

in the July/August 2017 RELAC newsletter. The items would be published in the "miscellaneous news" section of the Lake Park, La Mirada community monthly newsletter called "The Breeze."

Wedad Khalil, La Mirada, California

(Ed. Note: We were pleased that Khalil found the information of interest and wanted to share it with others, so, of course, gave permission to have it reprinted.)

The consensus among my County friends is that your (*Judy Hammond, editor*) involvement has really enhanced the newsletter. Good journalism, no fake news.

Ron Hansen, Eagle Rock, California

I very much enjoy your column about what is happening in the County. I think it is the highlight of the publication.

Ellen Alkon, M.D., Rolling Hills Estates, California

FOR SALE

CEMETERY PLOTS – Three plots, Green Hills Cemetery, Rancho Palos Verdes, California. Prime location (Sunnyside Area). Asking \$1,200 ea. Call Linda at (562) 708-4305.

KENMORE REFRIGERATOR, LAUNDRY WASHER, LAWN MOWER - Asking \$1,800 for all. Call Orlando at (562) 472-4596.



REMINDER:

L.A. County Day at Fair is Sept. 10

Just a reminder that L.A. County Day at the Los Angeles County Fair is Sunday, Sept. 10, featuring a County parade, department booths, and reduced admission ticket coupons. For complete information and to print discount ticket coupons, go to RELAC's website at www.relac.org.

Horizons 457(b) and 401(k) Savings Plans: Retirees: IRS Has Minimum Distribution Rules for Individual Retirement Accounts

(You cannot keep funds in your individual retirement accounts (IRAs) indefinitely. The following information was provided by the County of Los Angeles as an overview. Empower Retirement administers the Horizons 457(b) and 401(k) savings plans for County employees and has detailed information on its website. Go to <https://countyla.gwrs.com> and once you have signed onto the site, go to the loans and withdrawals category at the bottom of the page and select distribution options brochure. The U.S. Internal Revenue Service also has detailed information, including a worksheet to calculate minimum required distributions, on its website at www.irs.gov. Type "required minimum distributions" in the search bar. RELAC members may contact Empower Retirement at (818) 547-0515, ext. 67473 for further information.)

Under IRS regulations, you must receive at least the minimum amount required at your required beginning date (RBD). Your RBD is April 1 of the calendar year following the calendar year in which you reach age 70½ or leave employment with the County of Los Angeles, whichever is later. If you wait until April 1 of the calendar year following the calendar year in which you reach age 70½, you will be required to take a second distribution by Dec. 31 of the same calendar year.

You can choose from any of the following options to meet the required minimum distribution (RMD):

- **Full Lump-Sum Distribution** - If you take a single lump-sum distribution of your entire account balance on or before your RBD, you will meet the RMD.
- **Partial Lump-Sum Distributions** - You can take a partial lump-sum distribution each year in an amount sufficient to meet the RMD. You are responsible for determining the amount that will satisfy the RMD.
- **Periodic Payments** - You can schedule periodic payments from your account for a fixed dollar amount or for a fixed number of years. However, neither payment selection may exceed your life expectancy.
- **Automated Minimum Distribution Request** - You can choose to receive the minimum annual payment required under current U.S. Treasury regulations by authorizing Empower Retirement to calculate the minimum amount each year and make payments to you.

The IRS may impose a penalty tax on amounts that are not distributed as and when required under the Internal Revenue Code. Empower Retirement does not assume any responsibility or liability for ensuring that distributions are elected in a timely manner. You are responsible for ensuring that distributions are elected and taken in a timely manner. If no election is chosen, the Plan will force the RMD annually.



RELAC Board Member Evelyn Gutierrez, at right, and Dianne MacNeil are shown outside the East L.A. Library bookstore, where they volunteer.

L.A. County Library Looking for New Friends

The L.A. County Library needs new "Friends" at its community branches. Library Friends volunteer to assist with library events, special programs, book sales and enhancing services.

RELAC Board Member Evelyn Gutierrez is a "Friend" of the East L.A. Library and volunteers four hours a week to staff the bookstore. "I enjoy meeting local families and children who are looking for that special book they need. Volunteering for over 10 years, I have seen young children grow into pre-teens and teenagers. They become an extended family and share their school projects, sports events and favorite books with me. Families also pop in and donate their used books to the bookstore for others to enjoy. It is a great feeling to see our youth enjoy reading."

If you wish to learn more about becoming a Library "Friend", visit the County Library website at colapublib.org and click on "Library Friends" at the bottom of the page. You may also visit one of the 15 Friends groups with a website at libraries like Agoura Hills, Bellflower, Claremont, Culver City, Duarte, East L.A., Manhattan Beach or West Hollywood. Your donations of new or lightly used books are also welcome.

VETERANS CORNER

Volunteers Needed at Military and Veterans Affairs Department

The County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) serves the community of military veterans by providing a connection to local, state, and federal benefits. Volunteers help provide a compassionate bridge for veterans and their families to the services they need. Volunteers with the MVA represent the true spirit of giving back by assisting those individuals who have sacrificed for the nation through military service. The efforts of the MVA are greatly enhanced by the gracious efforts of volunteers. If you are a veteran, a family or friend of a veteran, or have a special interest in serving veterans, please consider joining the department team. Current volunteer opportunities: Clerical/Office Assistance -- Process and review documents, answer questions and provide information to the public, maintain records, use office equipment and computers, etc. Artifacts/Historian -- Assist MVA historian with curating duties related to military artifacts residing at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall. Special Projects-- Based on your personal skills and abilities, specific projects to enhance the department's goal of connecting veterans with their benefits. To volunteer with the MVA, call: (213) 742-9547 or e-mail: ttortorici@mva.lacounty.gov.

RELAC "DAY AT THE RACES"

SANTA ANITA PARK

by Mary K. Rodriguez
Chair, Recreation Committee



LAST CALL FOR RESERVATIONS!

Come join us to celebrate RELAC's annual "Day at the Races," which will be held at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia on Oct. 5, 2017. We will again be seated in the Sierra Vista Terrace, which offers a great view of the track.

The race track is charging \$53 per person. **However, RELAC is subsidizing each ticket by \$3 so your cost is \$50** and includes admission, a racing program (available when you enter the park), a delicious buffet lunch, a seat at a table with a private TV monitor and general parking. **Parking and admission gates open at 10:30 a.m., post time is at 1 p.m. and lunch will be served between 12 noon and 2 p.m.**

The reservation deadline is Sept. 21, so please fill out the coupon and send in your check ASAP. Tickets will be mailed to you on Sept. 26.

In the past this event has been enthusiastically attended by our members. Everyone enjoys it and has a lot of fun. **Be sure to come early - although plentiful, seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.** See you there!

RELAC DAY AT THE RACES

Santa Anita Park
Thursday, Oct. 5, 2017

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: (_____) _____

Number of Tickets _____ @ \$50 each

Total Amount Enclosed = \$ _____

Enclose a check for your total payable to RELAC and mail to:
RELAC
1000 S. Fremont Ave., #15
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802
Must be received by Thursday, Sept. 21

News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich
Assistant Executive Officer



I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer. I'm writing this at the end of July and we're enjoying some much needed temperature relief. I know where I live the temperatures were pretty brutal in early July. Here's hoping the rest of our summer is moderate and enjoyable!

This month I want to focus on privacy protection, specifically, on the efforts our call centers (both the member services and retiree health care) and Member Service Center (MSC) take to ensure your information is protected.

Before I get into those specifics, I would like to recognize and acknowledge our top-notch systems staff, who are extremely focused and diligent in their efforts to protect our data network. This team ensures our software is continually updated and prepared to defend against exploits, constantly monitors our network for any potential data attacks, and conducts constant testing to make sure our safeguards are working. We couldn't be prouder of this team and their efforts as they do their part to protect your privacy.

Back to the topic of the day. LACERA has an identification policy requiring our call center and MSC staff to verify a member or their survivor before we discuss any account specific information. This process is a two-step process that we refer to as the secure verification process.

The secure verification process starts with a basic identification process where our specialists will ask all callers or visitors for their name, employee ID number, date of birth, and address. In some cases, we may also ask for Social Security number if the employee ID number is not available, if they are a survivor, or if they are a beneficiary. We use this information to locate your account in our member services system. Once you have passed this process, the specialist can answer any general, non-member specific question you may have. For example, the specialist can explain what Plan D is, but cannot confirm whether or not the member is enrolled in Plan D.

In order to answer member specific questions or make changes to your account, our specialists must complete the second part of the secure verification process. This process involves asking a series of random data specific questions about your account or employment history that only you are likely to know or asking you to provide the answer to some secure verification "challenge questions" that you have previously set up. Once you pass the secure verification process the specialist can assist you with any question or request you may have with few exceptions. By the way, if you pass the secure verification process using the data specific questions, our specialists will also ask you if you would like to set up "challenge questions and answers" to make your next call easier.

I bet some are asking what a "challenge question and answer" is? If you have logged into My LACERA online you were asked to set up a series of "challenge questions and answers". We provide you with a list of potential questions you could use as your challenge question and you provide the answer, or you can create your very own question and provide an answer. Each time you log into My LACERA or contact the call center you are asked some of these "challenge questions", and as long as your answer matches the answer you provided to us when you set them up, you are logged into My LACERA, or if you're calling us we can assist you over the phone.

If you cannot pass the secure verification process, our specialists will be unable to discuss member specific information with you over the phone. If this happens you may try again later or you may submit your request in writing.

Members or survivors visiting our Member Services Center are asked to show their driver's license or ID, military ID, or passport as a form of verification. Our specialists may also choose to use the secure verification method if you can't provide one of the accepted forms of ID.

Every so often, I will speak with someone who is frustrated with our secure verification process because they don't have access to their records or don't like the time it takes to complete the process. We certainly understand this frustration, but we ask that you remember we do this for your security. Believe me, after 25 years in the customer service business, I can tell you these processes are necessary and they work.

The "challenge question and answer" form of secure verification is by far one of the most secure forms of verifying who you are and one of the easiest for our members to remember. If you haven't already, I highly encourage

Just Saying:

Quote of the Day

"To remain silent when they should protest makes cowards of men."
Thomas Jefferson

(Submitted by Bill de la Garza, RELAC Board Member)

continued on p.11

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RELAC NEWSLETTER

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Monday - Thursday
Closed Friday,
Saturday, Sunday &
Public Holidays

Golf News

by *Gil Sandoval*
RELAC Golf Director

Los Verdes Golf Tournament - July 31, 2017

The "A" flight was a repeat for Ken Swan as he easily beat all comers to win with a net 70. Don Hughes and Gil Sandoval at net 76 finished second and third, with Don beating Gil on a card off. Except for Ken, it was not a good day for the "A" players at this beautiful ocean course. I guess we were interested in the view!

Harlan DeBie tried to win another tournament, but Rex Loughran had other ideas as he won with his net 70 in the "B" flight. Harlan, Al Kelly and Pete Serrano tied at net 72 with Harlan taking second and Al Kelly beating out Pete in a card off to take third.

The "C" flight was an easy win for Eddie Otero as he won with a net 70. Jim Meek played a steady game while taking second place at net 72. Also, repeating his finish in third place was Richard Duran with a net 76, improving his score by 10 strokes over last month.

Cari DeBie played with confidence again, winning the ladies flight with a net 73. Molly Silva followed in second place with a net 83 and Charlene DeBie took third with net 90. Again, the course was tough on the ladies, except for Cari.

The next tournament is at Lakewood Golf Course on Oct. 16 at our normal 8 a.m. start.

The golf entry form may be obtained on the RELAC website: www.relac.org. Please click on "Calendar of Events" (Oct. 16 Golf). If you cannot download it from a computer, please call the office to have it mailed to you.

LOS VERDES RESULTS:

"A" Flight Winners (19 and under)

1 st	Ken Swan	(70)
2 nd	Don Hughes	(76)*
3 rd	Gil Sandoval	(76)

"B" Flight (20-27 Handicaps)

1 st	Rex Loughran	(70)
2 nd	Harlan DeBie	(72)*
3 rd	Al Kelly	(72)*

"C" Flight (28 up Handicaps)

1 st	Eddie Otero	(70)
2 nd	Jim Meek	(72)
3 rd	Richard Duran	(76)

Women's Flight

1 st	Cari DeBie	(73)
2 nd	Molly Silva	(83)
3 rd	Charlene DeBie	(90)

*Winner in a card off

Closest to the Pin on Par 3's

Men : # 3 - Eddie Otero
5 - Pete Serrano
12 - Tony Asuncion
17 - Rich Carlson

Women: #3 - Cari DeBie
#5 - No Winner
#12 - Molly Silva
#17 - Cari DeBie



NEXT TOURNAMENT
MONDAY, OCT. 16, 2017
Lakewood Golf Course,
8 a.m. Start
Entry Deadline -
Sept. 29, 2017

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

by *Diane Sandoval*, Chair
Regional Support/Special Events Committee

By the time you read this article, summer will be behind us. It's time to dig out our fall and winter clothes. I won't mention that the holidays are just around the corner! Oops! I just did!!!

Just in case you are wondering, there's still time to send in your reservation for our **Annual Picnic on Oct. 14. Deadline to send in your reservations is Sept. 28.**

The committee has planned a fun-filled day for you. Be sure to arrive early and enjoy hot dogs and a cold soft drink or beer while listening to "oldies but goodies" music provided by the Bobby Z Band. RELAC has also arranged for a wildlife exhibit provided by the Whittier Narrows Nature Center beginning at 11 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m. We will also have our traditional bingo games and door prize raffle.

Remember, lunch will be served between 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. so don't be late!

Cost is only \$25 per person (RELAC subsidizes approximately 30% of cost). Look for the flyer and coupon on page 13 for further details and to send in your reservation and check payable to RELAC. No one will be admitted without an advance reservation.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

RELAC's Recognition Luncheon on Jan. 17, 2018 is once again being held at The Almansor Court in Alhambra. RELAC is honored to announce that Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell has accepted our invitation to be our featured speaker. Sheriff McDonnell was sworn in as the 32nd sheriff of Los Angeles County on Dec. 1, 2014.

Sheriff McDonnell began his law enforcement career in 1981 as a 21-year-old graduate from the Los Angeles Police Academy. He served 29 years at the Los Angeles Police Department, holding every rank from police officer to second-in-command. Prior to taking command of the largest sheriff's department in the world, he served five years as the chief of the Long Beach Police Department.

Sheriff McDonnell has had a long distinguished career protecting and serving the public. Please plan to attend. Be sure to look for further details in our next issue.

Meetings at other venues are still being discussed. There is a possibility RELAC will return to Orange County. If you know of a good location with adequate parking, please contact the RELAC office.

Keeping Up With Retirees

We asked four RELAC members to let us know what they have been doing since retirement. Their articles follow.



ELLEN ALKON, M.D.

I have had nearly a century affiliation with Los Angeles County. No, I'm not that old. My parents were among the first physicians employed at Olive View. My pathologist father was director of laboratories, and my mother, Jane Skillen, M.D., directed the surgery unit. I lived on the grounds from age two weeks to age 16. Olive View had housing for staff and it was a lovely small town to grow up in. There was a post office, library, small store, dining hall and two communities, one of employees and their families, the other of ex-patients. For information about the life and views of the first superintendent of Olive View, William Henry Bucher, see "Surgeon General" edited by my father, Emil Bogen, M.D., and published in 1935.

I left Olive View when I was 16 for Stanford, returning for visits and at age 21 to get married in our home on Sycamore Street (now an office warren). I then moved on to Chicago, Berkeley, Annapolis and Minneapolis for education and work. I never expected to be employed by the County, but in 1980 my husband became a chaired professor of English at USC and Al Karp hired me as coastal region chief in the Preventive/Public Health section of the Department of Health Services. My subsequent positions partially reflect the frequent reorganizations of the department. Within a year my position was renamed public health chief, West Area Health Services. I led the staff in development of a planning process that resulted in clear performance objectives and accountability. From 1987-1993 I was downtown as medical director for public health programs, where strategic planning was one of my responsibilities. From 1993-2000 I was back in the coastal cluster as medical director with addition of the Long Beach Comprehensive Health Center to the cluster. In 2000 I became director of public health education for physicians, a position that allowed me to arrange public health experiences for physicians-in-training. Since most physicians are part of the public health system, they need to know their public health responsibilities.

I retired in 2006 because the commute from our Rolling Hills Estates home kept taking longer. In retirement I have three types of activities: public health-related, organization-related and me-related. Public health-related includes being a 120-day retiree working with physicians-in-training. I love meeting the future generation and giving them important and surprisingly new-to-them concepts. I also volunteer for public health organizations, including Southern California Public Health Association (life-time member of the governing board and currently representative to the Emergency Medical Services Commission) and the American Association for Public Health Physicians (on its Board).

Second, I am involved in many organization because it is one way to accomplish my goals. With retirement I have become active with new organizations: the American Association of University Women, The League of Women Voters and the Peninsula Village.

Third, I have "me activities" for health and pleasure. I have a skilled group of Kaiser physicians who do what medicine can do and I do what I can do: changed my diet to non-oil vegan and exercise half an hour a day either swimming or using my stationary bicycle. Pleasure includes going to local concerts, learning to play the beautiful harpsichord my husband built, playing fetch with our corgi Brigitte, reading many of the fascinating books my husband continually brings into the house, and talking with our two wonderful lawyer daughters.

Life with and in the County has been good.



ROBIN GUERRERO

My County career began in 1975 as an intermediate typist clerk in the Administrative Services Division of the Department of Personnel. I soon became the secretary to the chief of the Employee Development Division, then in 1977 transferred to the Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC) in the Business License Commission, where I eventually held the title secretary-reporter. I moved into TTC's Executive Office and worked for the Administrative Services Division chief and head of staff services John Coplen and Kris Foote, respectively, where we handled most of the department's personnel and budget responsibilities.

When the Department of Collections merged with TTC, I joined the newly formed human resources division, and under the training of Lu Takeuchi and others in the division, I gained valuable staff analyst experience that prepared me for my next career move. I transferred to the Board of Supervisors' Executive Office in 1985, where I eventually held the position of deputy executive officer over Board operations, responsible for the Board's agenda, minutes, records management and later Commission Services. For the last five years of my career I was the manager of our new Customer Service Center and Records Management Division. One of my long-range projects was digitizing the Board's oldest official meeting records. It is still ongoing, with the ultimate goal of making these historical records accessible on the Internet. During my Executive Office career, I worked for five executive officers and had some wonderful mentors, beginning with Georgette Dame during the '80s and '90s.

I retired in March 2015, one month shy of 40 years. I started my retirement with a fun and educational trip to Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia and Washington, D.C., where we visited many historical points of interest. After taking about six weeks off, I returned to the Executive Office on a part-time basis to continue working on the digitizing project I had begun in 2010.

I have a special interest in local history and volunteer at the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum in the City of Industry, where I give tours once or twice a month.

My husband, Ed, and I attend most of our 10-year-old grandson's baseball, hockey, and football games, and I take care of our 2-year-old granddaughter a few times a month. We travel as often as possible, including visits with our son, daughter-in-law and two granddaughters living in Washington. We went to Hawaii and took a couple Caribbean cruises, one of them with our kids and grandkids. This past May we went to Italy for three weeks, which included a seven-day Mediterranean cruise. In July we took our annual trip to Lake Tahoe and also rented a house on the boardwalk at Newport Beach for a week with our family. Several shorter trips are in the works for the remainder of the year, including taking our boat on a Labor Day weekend trip to Lake Mead.

The retirement life has been quite rewarding: I get to help my working daughter with our grandkids, socialize with friends, and continue experiencing new places; and I am most thankful to still have a foot in the County workforce working on a project I am passionate about.



Robin Guerrero, center, with daughters Alexis Downey Beadle, left, and Shawna Hansen.

We still live in West Covina and just finished a major landscaping of our front and back yards. We added a spa to our pool and completely redesigned it, and added a fire pit with permanent seating and an "outdoor kitchen". Why, I don't know because I would rather be traveling. It all started with the need for a new driveway...

BOB MOSBY

Bob Mosby with partner, Toni, at luau.



I began my career with the County in 1973 as a student professional worker in the Public Health Laboratory. After about a year and a half, I landed a full-time position as an assistant public health investigator (PHI), assigned to Glendale Health Center. After completing training and working in the community for almost two years, I transferred to PHI administration to work in the General Communicable Disease/Custodian of Records unit. Later I transferred to Torrance Health Center as a PHI as I had come to miss community-based work. After a few years at Torrance, I was promoted to supervising PHI, with responsibility for PHI staff at Harbor, Torrance and Bellflower Health Centers. Later I returned to PHI administration to supervise the operations of that office and after a couple of years was promoted to the chief, PHI position.

I am very proud of the achievements of PHI. This unit has a reputation for responding to the more unique and challenging situations that arise in public health. Throughout my tenure as chief I witnessed staff solve some seemingly impossible situations. This is due to the quality of the professional and support staff that I was privileged to have.

Immediately following my retirement in 2009, I bought a house in Lake Arrowhead and said goodbye to urban living. I love the small town atmosphere, the friendly people and the clean air. I now have time to pursue my interests, which include sport fishing, photography and, as of late, amateur astronomy. My daughter gave me a nice telescope for Father's Day. I am still learning, but already I have seen Jupiter and Saturn.

Since moving to the mountains, I have become very involved in the community. Five years ago, I volunteered with an organization called Rebuilding Together Mountain Communities (or Christmas in April, as we like to call it). This has been a rewarding experience. We perform repairs on the homes of people who are elderly, disabled or low income. Unfortunately, most of our clients are all of the above. Our goal is to keep people warm, safe and dry. On the last Saturday in April, volunteers carry out the needed work. Realistically, we cannot always complete the work in one day, so work may take place weeks before and/or after Rebuilding Day. I began working on the selected homes for the first two years. Later I joined the Board of Directors. In this capacity, I have been involved with home selection and function as the official photographer. This year we selected seven homes for repair out of 25 applicants. It is heart-breaking that we cannot help everyone with the budget we have. However, we conduct emergency repairs throughout the year and install grab bars for anyone upon request. A few of this year's applicants not selected for Rebuilding Day received emergency repairs.

I am also a member of the Mountain Sunrise Rotary Club. This year I served as the club treasurer and will again next year. I am also the club photographer.

I am a member of a Relay for Life team that raises funds to benefit the American Cancer Society. After surviving breast cancer about seven years ago, my partner, Toni Martinez, formed a Relay for Life team. She has continued to captain this team every year and raise thousands of dollars for cancer research, education and services. I help her with the fund-raising and participate in every relay event. Oh yeah, I am also the photographer.

Toni and I have done some traveling, including trips to Hawaii and National Parks (Bryce, Zion, Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon). We have made numerous trips to San Simeon and traveled to Lubbock, Texas to attend my son-in-law's graduation from Texas Tech Pharmacy School. We are looking forward to our upcoming trip to Alaska.

MIKE LEWIS

I love Los Angeles County!

I had the great fortune to begin my career there in 1973 as a student worker in the office of newly appointed, then quickly elected, Supervisor Pete Schabarum. It was an exciting time; Jim Hayes had just joined the Board along with Baxter Ward. Up until then it was the biggest change in the Board that the County had ever witnessed.

I've said many times that working on the eighth floor of the Hall of Administration is like drinking from a fire hose from the minute you arrive to the minute you leave. My 16 years there were pretty remarkable. After seven years of increasingly responsible positions, I was made chief deputy at the tender young age of 29. It may still be the record for the youngest chief deputy in the County.

The County saw many changes during that time: contracting out the operations of the airports and golf courses; expansion of rapid transit; reform of the pension system (before it was critical); and massive construction of parks, courthouses, sheriff and fire stations and entire communities. During that time I also served on the Board of Directors (including as president) of the Rapid Transit District, the predecessor agency to today's MTA. Together, Supervisor Schabarum and I pushed successfully for the creation of the Foothill Transit Zone, which today is the second largest bus operator in the region.

When it became clear to me that Supervisor Schabarum probably wouldn't run for re-election, I had to make a decision: did I stay somewhere in the County or begin my own consulting business. I chose the latter and I've been consulting with developers, property owners and the construction industry for 28 years.

It was a big shift from getting a paycheck twice a month to having to sign paychecks twice a month, but I never once regretted it. My advocacy efforts on behalf of my clients still keep me involved with civic leaders at the County and City of Los Angeles as well as regional boards overseeing air and water quality.

Working for myself instead of a politician has given me a lot more time for fun and travel. My Facebook page is loaded with photos of food from all the great restaurants in Southern California. I've been skiing all over the world. I have made several trips to Costa Rica for sport fishing. I'm on a mission to see every show in Las Vegas, and in October I will become a grandfather for the first time. For the last 15 years I have chaired the annual celebrity bowling tournament for the Foothill AIDS Project. Got to meet a lot of really interesting and talented actors, musicians and athletes. For the last 18 years my husband, Mark, and I have been restoring our mid-century modern home in Hacienda Heights.

Last year I finally decided to begin collecting my LACERA retirement simply for the great, inexpensive health insurance. That really simplified my life and my finances.

This year I agreed to chair BIZFED, a pro-business advocacy organization made up of 160 business associations, the county's largest landowners and some of Southern California's largest employers. We represent 320,000 employers with 3 million employees. That puts me right back in front of the Board of Supervisors testifying on important policy issues.



Mike Lewis with Maxi B of the Mary Jane Girls

I still consider the County my "family" and have great respect for the institution and the people that make it run. Although I officially left the County 28 years ago, looking at my career choice, I guess you could say that my life just moved from one side of the public counter to the other!



Pellissier



Osborn



Villanueva



Lindsey



Spencer



Rooke

PASSAGES:

Compiled by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

APPOINTMENTS:

Dr. Jonathan Lucas, 49, named the new chief medical examiner-coroner, at annual salary of \$350,000. Most recently the chief deputy medical examiner for County of San Diego, he is the fourth person in 16 months to lead the department. **Kenneth Clayman** named interim public defender, at hourly rate of \$145. Clayman is former public defender of Ventura, Solano, Napa and Santa Barbara Counties. Former Board of Supervisors Executive Officer **Patrick Ogawa** appointed by Supervisor Janice Hahn to the County Mental Health Commission. Ogawa, a 30-year County employee, retired in March 2016. **Alex Villarruz** appointed chief operating officer of Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, at salary of \$162,184. County Library Director **Skye Patrick** appointed to the Executive Board of the Urban Libraries Council, said to be the premier membership association of North America's leading public library systems. **Lucas Rivera**, who oversaw Grand Park in downtown Los Angeles, joins former County official Miguel Santana at County Fairplex in newly created position of senior vice president. **Cielo Castro**, deputy to Supervisor Hilda Solis, is Santana's new chief of staff. **Juliann Rooke**, chief operating officer of Descanso Gardens, promoted to executive director to replace retiring David Brown.

RETIREMENTS:

Laura Zucker, executive director of the Arts Commission since 1992, after more than 30 years of service. **Cynthia Oliver**, 38 years of service in the Department of Health Services, the past 7 ½ years as CEO of Martin Luther Jr. Outpatient Center. **Leland H. Tipton**, 46 years of service, including 16 as a deputy public defender and 30 as Municipal Court commissioner/judge and Superior Court judge. **David Brown**, who joined Descanso Gardens in 2005 as executive director to help transform the site into an important historic and botanical Southern California landmark. **Richard Bruckner**, director of regional planning since 2010.

DEATHS:

Bob Spencer, 63, senior public information officer and former public affairs manager for past eight years in Public Works Department. **Dr. David Aaron Goldstein**, 71, who was instrumental in bringing hospital medicine and palliative care programs to LAC+USC Medical Center and Keck Medical Center. Former L.A. Municipal Court Judge **Bernard Selber**, appointed to L.A. Superior Court in 1965 and supervising judge of Santa Monica Superior Court in 1981-82. **John Bailey**, 67, who retired as captain in County Fire Department after 31 years. **Scott E. Franklin**, 85, who served 36 years with the County Fire Department and was chairman of the State Water Commission in the 1970s. He was known in the last few years with the Fire Department as Rx 1, referring to his development of the vegetation management program (the prescribed burn program that has saved hundreds of homes from wildfire). **Bill True**, who became chief of administration of the Health Services Department when the County and City of Los Angeles departments merged in 1964. Retired Sheriff's Sgts. **Robert Dearmore** (retired 2004 after 32 years) and **Joseph Barrett** (retired 1996 after 34 years). **Royce Diener**, 99, honorary life director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic who led the effort to finance and refurbish the Hollywood Bowl during his 25-year tenure on the Philharmonic Board. **Leta Galentine Reynolds Farnsworth Warmington**, 95, who served as director of volunteer services at LAC+USC Medical Center from 1968 to 1981. **Henri Pellissier**, 89, LAFCO commissioner for more than 30 years. **Elliot Fisher**, 72, a deputy district attorney for 30 years.

ELECTIONS:

Two long-time Sheriff's Department employees -- Sheriff's Lt. **Alex Villanueva** (30-year veteran) and retired Cmdr. **Bob Lindsey** (32 years) -- say they will challenge incumbent Sheriff Jim McDonnell in next year's election.

RECOGNITIONS:

A video about the extension of the Expo Line to Santa Monica that was written and produced by **Barbara Osborn**, communications director for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, won the National Association of Governmental Communicators' best video award. Kuehl said the piece got a million hits. "It's the only time in my life I've ever gone viral."

CORRECTION:

The *Passages* column in the July/August 2017 edition misidentified a photo of Paul Turner as Paul Crost. We apologize for the error. The correct photos of both men are to the right. Justice Turner recently died of liver cancer. Crost was appointed as a member of the County Employee Relations Commission.



Lucas



Patrick



Bruckner



Turner



Crost

RETIREMENT NOTES

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Leland H. Tipton, 75, who retired July 31 after nearly 30 years of service, said he hopes to do "as little as possible" as a retiree. He plans to focus on hobbies, write on historical topics, enroll in painting classes, and garden. He said he might also join his wife, Mary Ann, in volunteer work for Democratic candidates. Tipton was a public defender from 1971-87. He and his wife served in the Peace Corps in Uganda from 1967-70.

David Brown, 72, who retired as executive director of Descanso Gardens on Aug. 31, said he didn't even know the names of plants when he was hired in 2005. But it wasn't his lack of horticulture expertise the Board cared about; it was his vision and ability to bring far-reaching plans to life. "He's definitely been a visionary," said his replacement Juliann Rooke. "When you look at what Descanso looked like five years ago and what it looks like today, it's a very different landscape. I think David Brown leaves very large shoes to fill." Brown said it had been a "sheer pleasure" to serve at Descanso. "The thing I want to be remembered as is the guy who had ideas," he said. "I love having ideas. I love seeing them grow and mature and then become reality."



Supervisor Janice Hahn presents retirement scroll to Superior Court Judge **Leland H. Tipton**, who was joined at the ceremony by his wife, Mary Ann.



Supervisor Kathryn Barger presents retirement scroll to **David Brown**, who retired as executive director of Descanso Gardens after 12 years of service.



Cynthia Oliver receives retirement scroll from Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas after 38 years of service in the Department of Health Services, the past 7 ½ years as CEO of Martin Luther Jr. Outpatient Center.

Retirement is...

Retirement is great. I volunteer for several organizations in Los Angeles County. Keeping busy is really keeping me going, and I enjoy them all. Retirement is great.

*Don Fandry, Retired 1992
Deputy, Sheriff's Department*



RV Outing Notes

Jeanne Klauk,
Assistant Coordinator of
the RV Club



Well, we have taken the summer off, so there is no adventure to report on. We will be in Chula Vista Sept. 18. This is one of our favorite RV parks. It is on the San Diego Bay and next to a nice park. They have a large clubhouse with a good kitchen. The swimming pool and spa are excellent. The dogs enjoy their dog yard and, of course, walks in the park. Al and Diana Medina are hosting this outing. Then on Oct. 23 we will meet again at Emerald Desert RV Resort in Palm Desert. Leon Stegall is in charge of this campout. The deadline for reservations is Sept. 19. This should be a nice outing. We haven't been to this RV park in a few years, so it will be fun to be there again. The coupons are on the RELAC website. If you need information or help, call me at (562) 896-8904 and I will assist. Hope to see some new members joining us. We have a very good time.



RELAC In Lights

More than 200 members attended the Annual RELAC Night at Dodger Stadium. The Dodgers lost, but it was a great game and everyone enjoyed themselves.

LACERA News continued from p.6

you to take a few moments to either log into My LACERA or work with a specialist to set up the "challenge questions and answers" to make your secure verification process as quick and smooth as possible.

Protecting our members and their survivors is a big part of what we do here at LACERA. It's so important it's part of our mission: "To Produce, **Protect**, and Provide the Promised Benefit".

Well, that's it for this month. Until we chat again, I hope you enjoy every day of your retirement. You earned it!

Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond
Newsletter Editor



When the so-called conservative majority ruled the Board of Supervisors, an emphasis was placed on contracting out services when it was more economical, but the new liberal majority wants to change that. They prefer to hire County employees. The current budget provides for 109,881 employees, 886 more than last year. The Department of Health Services, which uses a lot of contract employees, has assured the Board it is working with the county director of personnel to find ways to expedite the hiring process so the department can reduce its reliance on contract positions. The Board has also asked DHS to review its physician recruitment practices and work with labor unions to recruit and maintain full-time physicians currently training in County hospitals and facilities. "County jobs are good jobs. They're a pathway to the middle class," said Supervisor Janice Hahn, who has led the effort to diminish the use of Prop. A, the initiative voters approved that called for use of contract services to save money.

The Board of Supervisors is looking at expanding a pilot program implemented in November 2016 that makes quick placement with relatives the first option for foster children removed from their homes. Placing children with familiar adults helps to mitigate the trauma they have already faced, and often there are no immediate foster families ready and willing.

Supervisors have directed the development of what is being dubbed the Fair Chance Ordinance to establish policies and procedures that would make it easier for those with criminal records to get a County job. Supervisors said they want to decrease systemic barriers to reintegration for former inmates.

The Foothill Gold Line extension from Glendora to Montclair is breaking ground Oct. 21. It is expected to take eight to nine years to complete the 12.3-mile light rail project, which will have stations in Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont and Montclair.

The County in August implemented a mobile stroke pilot program, the first of its kind in the state. The unit, which acts as a mutual aid resource anywhere in the County, has equipment that allows patients who have suffered a stroke to be treated onsite.

She has a way with words. In opposing an action to put sheriff deputies on school campuses, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl commented: "I sometimes have served as a positive force, and sometimes I'm just the turd in the punchbowl, as they used to say, and that's how I am today." The supervisor argued it inappropriate to have any kind of armed, uniformed law enforcement officers on campuses.

The Board of Supervisors was among the government agencies whose website was hacked by an apparent pro-ISIS group, which posted such messages as "You will be held accountable Trump, you and all your people for every drop of blood flowing in Muslim countries." County officials said no personal information was compromised by the breach.

Supervisors have increased the number of dogs allowed in single family residences in unincorporated areas from three to four. They said with so many dogs available in shelters, individuals should be allowed to adopt an additional pet.

Little-known fact about Supervisor Janice Hahn: She played girls softball at Lutheran High School in Los Angeles and became athlete of the year in her senior year.

The new Don Knabe Golf Center and Junior Academy, the 20th golf course operated by the County Parks and Recreation Department, has opened in Norwalk. The Parks and Recreation Department operates the largest municipal golf system in the nation.

The County's Office of Cannabis held 18 "listening sessions" in unincorporated areas to get suggestions from residents and businesses before developing pot regulations.

The District Attorney's Office has charged 14 gang members with orchestrating and carrying out assaults directed by the Mexican Mafia on other gang members in County jails between July and December 2016.

The Internal Services Department has opened a new center in El Segundo that consolidates and modernizes the County's information technology infrastructure. The new center, replacing 49 data centers scattered across the county, provides greater security and efficiency for millions of documents and transactions.

The County has increased the minimum wage in unincorporated areas to \$12 per hour at businesses with 26 or more employees and \$10.50 for those with 25 or fewer employees.

The County's \$30.1 billion final budget includes \$3 million for the newly established Office of Immigrant Affairs within the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs that will provide legal services to immigrants facing deportation proceedings. It also includes funding for an innovative program that will place artists within County departments as "creative strategists."

The Sheriff's Department is providing a nasal anti-opiate spray to deputies in hopes of preventing overdose-related deaths, in response to the epidemic public usage of prescription opiates and heroin. The Orange County Sheriff's Department began a similar program two years ago.

Shoppers in seven cities do not have to pay the County's new quarter-center homeless sales tax because they had already reached the state

Continued on p.13

WONDER WOMEN ON THE BOARD



Supervisors Urge Fire Chief to Hire More Women, Accomplish Wonders

Wearing Wonder Woman headbands, the four female County supervisors urged Fire Chief Daryl Osby to recruit more female firefighters. Only 45 of the department's 2,866 employees are women, and less than half of the fire stations have sleeping and bathroom quarters for women. Chairman Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas supported the objective, sans a headband.



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September 2017

Inside L.A. continued from p.12

cap. Meanwhile, the state Fair Political Practices Commission is investigating whether L.A. County illegally spent funds to advocate for the homeless tax ballot measure. Homelessness continues to rise: a new report says homelessness surged across the County by 23 percent in the past year.

Former Sheriff Lee Baca lost his initial bid, but was continuing to file legal motions to stay out of prison while he appeals his obstruction of justice conviction. Former Asst. Sheriff Todd Rogers filed a lawsuit alleging he was pressured to take early retirement after reporting what he felt was illegal conduct by department officials, including Sheriff McDonnell. (The D.A.'s Office looked at Rogers' claims, but did not feel there was sufficient evidence of a crime.) Deputies union ALADS won its court challenge to keep personnel files confidential, preventing Sheriff McDonnell from turning over to the District Attorney's Office a list of 300 deputies whose past misconduct could damage their credibility if called to testify in criminal cases. McDonnell has appealed the ruling to the state Supreme Court.

Supervisors revoked a \$50 fee charged defendants before they could be represented by public defenders or court-appointed lawyers, which brought in \$300,000 in 2016, after being told that some could not afford the fee.

The Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission has urged Sheriff Jim McDonnell to stop using drones. While some members wanted to adopt strict regulations on usage of the aircraft, the majority had concerns over safety and surveillance so want no drone usage.

RELAC ANNUAL PICNIC

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Music will be provided by
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(If you want to sit closer to the music)

MEMBERS & ADULT GUESTS



Oct. 14, 2017 Annual Picnic Registration Form

Adults Only

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone# _____

Guest Names:
(please provide names of guests; on attached list if necessary.)

No. of Tickets _____ @ \$25ea. = \$ _____ Total

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For more information:

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E-mail: admin@relac.org

NO Admission without Advance Registration

Pick Up Tickets at the Event

RSVP by September 28, 2017

Reflections:

Richard and Sally Gilfoy ...
Now and Then.

Ronnie and Nancy: Roads vs. Trails

by Richard Gilfoy

(RELAC member Richard Gilfoy took advantage of an early retirement opportunity in 1983, retiring from the Road Department survey section at age 50. He had earlier worked for the County Engineer Department. After retirement, Gilfoy and his wife, Sally, moved to Washington, where he volunteered with the U.S. Forest Service at Mt. St. Helens for a short time. During the past 34 years, the couple have traveled and visited most of the states in their motorhome. In the article below, Gilfoy recalls a special day in his life as a county surveyor.)

Getting an early start this morning. I'll be hiking up the same canyon as yesterday, keeping a sharp look out for that big rattler that buzzed me a warning. I'm carrying a load of surveying equipment, plenty of water, everything I need to get the job done. My goal is to locate a good point on the ridge line and establish ground control for the aerial survey, making sure it is clearly visible from the air.

Starting out on the ocean side of the Santa Monica Mountains (Malibu), working for the L.A. County Engineer Department, I will be establishing a ground control point for the topographic map they want to make. When done, I will hike over to and through the 20th Century Fox Ranch to be picked up late in the afternoon. This means I will be going into an area where often some movie is being filmed; I will need to be alert and quiet as I approach. Having not seen or heard another person all day, I'm surprised to see two dismounted horse riders in the oak-and-sycamore-filled canyon. I yell to them, "Hey, Buddy, do you know what time it is?" Somewhat startled, the man responds back, "Who are you, and what are you doing here?" As I approach, I see it is Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy! I explain why I am here, telling them I had started out this morning from the Pacific Coast Highway area and was hiking through to my pick-up point. His original warm greeting and smile now turns to a scowl and marked displeasure. Questions and comments ensue: "Why does the County need a road here?" "You're just going to interfere and mess up all the good equestrian trails by building a road that is not needed and nobody wants." "All you guys want to do is pave over everything." And, "It will never happen if I have anything to say about it."

I don't feel that he is directing his anger at me personally. It is the County Road Department he's upset with. Nancy Reagan is very pleasant, saying very little; this clearly is Mr. Reagan showing concern for the unhindered equestrian trails.

Looking back on that 1964 encounter, it's interesting to note that a few years later, near the site where I had my surprise visit with the Reagans, the award-winning television series "M.A.S.H." set was built, and many of the episodes were filmed at the Century Ranch along Malibu Creek. In 1966, Ronald Reagan was elected governor of California. Now he had control of thousands of miles of roadway, which, of course, gave him some say if and where roads should be built. Later, when he was elected to be the 40th president of the United States in 1980, many more thousands of miles of roads were under his influence, and he would have a bigger say whether or not to support federal funding for such projects.

In 1974 the State of California purchased the Century Ranch property. The majority of the new parklands were donated by entertainer Bob Hope. Malibu Creek State Park was established and contains 8,215 acres, including the Ronald Reagan Ranch (Yearlings Row).

I have no idea if Mr. Reagan used his influence or the power of his office to make this property a state park. But the reality is the road was never built, and the public now has access to miles of equestrian trails.



Tom Hibbard
and Supervisor
Pete Schabarum
led the effort
to establish a
trauma care
network in L.A.
County.

Establishing Trauma Centers in Los Angeles County

by Tom Hibbard

(RELAC member Tom Hibbard served as a health deputy and later chief deputy to Supervisor Pete Schabarum for 18 years (1973-1991). It was Schabarum, at Hibbard's suggestion, who brought in the motion to set up a countywide trauma center network.)

Perhaps the most satisfying accomplishment while serving as a deputy to Supervisor Pete Schabarum was the launch of a countywide network of trauma centers to serve patients with traumatic injuries.

In today's world, it is perhaps hard to understand, but the idea of asking hospitals to arrange and finance necessary staffing and facilities needed to provide faster and better service to seriously injured patients was originally vigorously opposed.

And, you may also be surprised to learn the County's pilot paramedic program was at first opposed. Were it not for a visit by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn to Gov. Ronald Reagan in 1970, legislation establishing the county's pilot paramedic program would have been vetoed.

I got the idea for trauma centers from Dr. R. Adams Cowley, who established what he called a shock trauma center in Baltimore, Maryland. My boss, Supervisor Pete Schabarum, brought in a motion to the Board of Supervisors in September 1979 calling for a study to consider the feasibility of establishing a network of trauma centers in Los Angeles County. Several years later the system was launched, with the first trauma center opening at LAC+USC Medical Center in December 1983.

It is my opinion, from what I observed happening in this field, that had not Los Angeles County launched the concept, it might have taken a number of years before trauma centers became a reality. I saw them open in places throughout the state and across the nation as a result of what we did.

Orange County opened trauma centers before our county because they only had two and they were both county facilities, but the public debate was taking place in L.A. County.

Virginia Hastings in the Department of Health Services took responsibility for determining how a trauma center should look -- as in details of what that concept meant -- and getting the system launched. After retiring, she went on to San Bernardino County and did the same for them.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Antelope Valley Rehab. Center – Gabrielle D. Gonzalez

Assessor – Catherine M. Appleman, Marion Hallner, Donald L. Holman, Cynthia Howard, Rodolfo F. Rapadas

California Children's Services – Doris B. Lauffer, Mary A. McClain

Chief Executive Office – Robert A. Stringer

Chief Information Office – Alvine F. Drinkard, Odessa L. White

Child Support Services – Edward Davison, Nancy M. Nassar, Joy M. Stokes

Children & Family Services – Gayle L. Adams, Mercedes Ewing, Miguel Garcia, William E. Gay, Edmund A. Giedraitis, Robert L. Grant, Moises M. Hernandez, Inez Herrera, Kay L. Ingram, Ivan J. McMullen, Kingsley O. Ogbobor, Rachel I. Perez, Robert Spader, Ruth R. Suniga, Rose E. Valdez, Walter R. White

Communications – Shirley J. Slane

Consumer Affairs – Ruby L. Bryant

District Attorney – Paulette S. Marlowe, Chun C. Pak, Kenneth B. Scidmore Jr., Robert W. Sleeth, Donna J. Snitow

Engineers – Robert J. Brown Jr., Eldon E. Hixson, Edwin E. Williams
Fire – John C. Bailey, Harold Carlson, George O. Castruita, Robert A. Falb, Thomas G. Ford, Scott E. Franklin, Jerry E. Fryer, Rita L. Haywood, Clete A. Hinton Jr., William B. Hoke, Trenton T. Merical, Lee R. Munger, Roy L. Pearson, Floyd R. Powers, Lawrence M. Rankin, Warren C. Vermillion

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Health Plan Administration – Eleanor Goodfellow, Helene Zaslove

Health Services Administration – Virginia Dobson, Henry J. Dudley Jr., Emma Pacheco, George D. Trahan, Sarah Wallace

Internal Services – Pedro Calzada, Alvin R. Connish, Donald R. Dill, Teruko N. Garneau, Charles P. Gatti, Blas Gerardo, Nancy K. Goya, Emmitt L. Hollie, Ronald J. Petersen, Eleanor Spicer, Ruben Zepeda

King/Drew Medical Center – Sabrina L. Bourgeois, Jean E. Carlin, Moses L. Chadwick, Ernestine Clark, Lila A. Escario, Flora Lee, Arthur Loa, Lola Simmons, Hattie E. Todd, Daisy E. T aylor

LAC+USC Medical Center – Pedro Escobar, Mark G. Freehauf, William F. Gardner, Halina Gawlinska, David A. Goldstein, Elizabeth Grimmett, John A. Holguin, Patsy A. McGee, Isaac Mitchell, Thelma Pannell, Gayle Persons, Erma L. Scott, Jannette P. Villanueva, Thomas D. Whiting, Lois E. Williams

Long Beach General Hospital – Dorothy B. Williams

Mechanical – Robert R. Brumpton, Henry Duran, Hubert D. Gregory

Medical Examiner-Coroner – Remigio V. Rubio, Eric S. Wright

Mental Health – Hector G. Garcia, Lizzie E. Price, Ambrosio Rodriguez, Norma J. Valle

Municipal Court – Ruth Parham (Antelope), James H. Weaver (Long Beach)

Museum of Art – Eleanor C. Hartman

Olive View/UCLA Hospital – Dennis W. Cope, Gabriella B. Friedland, Ryo Hashiguchi, Alex R. Hernandez, Minnie Kelman, Betty E. Ness, Marie A. Smith, Renee A. Spargur

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Rancho Los Amigos Hospital – Marna R. Adams, Orlando L. De Guevara, Charleen A. Durkee, Petra Hammond, Margaret M. Murphy, Peggy A. Pavlich, Mary C. Thrash, Alberta Tucker, Marjorie Wilson

Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk – Jerry D. Wall

Regional Planning – Robert B. Kinkad

Sheriff – Jeffrey Aryan, Joseph D. Barrett, Donald H. Blakeman, Christophe L. Bonomo, Millwea Brooks Jr., Edward Brown, Gerald R. Butler, Rudy Campos, Claudia M. Clancy, John J. Characky, Orangie L. Cole, Arthur F. Conley, Richard L. Crane, Robert D. Crisp, Robert J. Dearmore, Joseph G. Delaby, Esther Dobrenen, Leon E. Durlene, Stella M. Forsell, Gloria D. Foster, Sylvia C. Freeman, Deola Gandy, Corinne Gish, Arthur Guerra, Alvern V. Hallmark, Emory G. Hatcher, Frannie Jefferson, John L. Kilson, James G. Liddle, Elsa F. Liu, Becky L. Martin, Thoms G. Matsunaga, Robert E. McHaney, Florence T. Okamuro, Kenneth A. Rehbein, Cynthia V. Reyes, Leroy Sana, Kenneth D. Smith, Jack L. Strong, Dee O. Tolman, Patrick D. Traynor, Warren M. Trester, Lewis G. Warlick Jr., Herbert A. Watts, Kenneth L. West, Lanny R. Wheatley, Bruce A. Witt

So. Calif. Air Pollution Control – Edward B. White

So. Coast Air Quality Mgmt. – George Rhett

Superior Court/County Clerk – Roy V. Bean, Clyde D. Brown, Delores Moore, Nancy L. Peters, Rosaria Rodriguez, Mary L. Van Noy, William A. Weir

Treasurer & Tax Collector – Gloria A. Arenas

Department Not Designated – John M. Hodgkins Jr.



RETIRED EMPLOYEES
of LOS ANGELES COUNTY
1000 South Fremont Ave. Unit 15
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

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U.S. POSTAGE
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General Membership Meeting

Mary K. Rodriguez, Chair, Program Committee



THURSDAY, SEPT. 28, 2017

KNOLLWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
12040 Balboa Blvd.
Granada Hills, Calif. 91344

Featured Speaker:
Tressa Thompson
Senior Driver Ombudsman with DMV
"Seniors and Safe Driving"

9 a.m. - Complimentary Refreshments

10 a.m. - Meeting Begins

Retiree Information
~ DOOR PRIZES ~

Please bring your RELAC membership card



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

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

Driving Directions:

From westbound 118 Fwy:

- Exit Balboa Blvd. (Exit 40)
- Turn right onto Balboa Blvd.
- Keep going north on Balboa
Past Knollwood Dr.
- Enter parking lot on right hand
(approx. 0.6 mile from Balboa exit)

From eastbound 118 Fwy:

- Exit Balboa Blvd. (Exit 40)
- Turn left onto Balboa Blvd.
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Past Knollwood Dr.
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