



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

RELAC *newsletter*

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

May/June 2018 Vol 53-3

President's Message

by Dave Muir

Public Pension Plans Now Reviewing Investments in Gun Manufacturers

The recent killing of 17 students and teachers in Parkland, Florida has caused public pensions to come under scrutiny for investing in gun companies. An article in the March 5, 2018 Wall Street Journal reported that 12 state teachers' pension systems own shares of gun manufacturers. Two of the funds, New Jersey and Massachusetts, are under pressure to sell their stocks in the wake of the Florida school shooting. Florida's gun holdings are relatively insignificant, totaling \$2.64 million.

The ability of a public pension plan to exclude investments for social purposes is difficult, and, many advise, ill informed. The trustees of public pension funds owe a fiduciary duty to the beneficiaries of the fund to maximize investment earnings to assure that benefits promised to retirees can be delivered. Critics opposing legislative efforts to mandate divesting for social reasons argue that playing politics with the public employees and retired workers' pensions creates instability and diminishes the ability of pension funds to keep the promises they made. LACERA's outside fiduciary counsel has urged LACERA's Board of Investments "to oppose such legislative proposals whenever they appear, lest boards relinquish the very independence and authority the voters long ago established for them."

LACERA's Board of Investments has considered divesting from certain holdings in the past. In such instances, the Board has instructed its investment managers to exclude designated investments only when there was an alternative investment that would produce a return at least equal to the investment return that could be realized from the excluded investment. These "divestment instructions" have applied to South Africa investments to protest apartheid and more recently to tobacco products.

In a Feb. 27, 2018 edition of "L.A. School Report," it was noted that CalPERS (the California state pension fund) estimates it has lost more than \$8 billion due to divesting from tobacco stocks. Situations such as this have led pension funds to reject divestment proposals in favor of engaging directly with boards of directors to bring about changes in corporate behavior. With regard to guns, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren has suggested that gun companies invest in research to develop safer weapons and reduce violence by implementing "tougher self-regulation, asking retail outlets that sell their products to impose their own standards, such as higher minimum age requirements for purchase of weapons or requiring waiting periods prior to purchase."

LACERA's investments in U.S. manufacturers of firearms and ammunitions totaled \$11.9 million as of the end of February 2018. That pales in significance to the total LACERA fund of \$55.6 billion. The Board of Investments is currently undertaking a review of LACERA's divestment policies. The outcome of that review will govern LACERA's response to concerns over its gun investments.



RELAC Urges State to Allow LACERA to Correct Erroneous Denial of Disability Retirement Benefits

The RELAC Board of Directors has endorsed state legislation sponsored by LACERA to allow the payment of approximately \$800,000 to more than 85 L.A. County retirees who were erroneously denied retroactive disability benefits over a two-year period.

RELAC President Dave Muir led the effort to introduce Assembly Bill 2076 after discovering as a member of LACERA's Board of Retirement that LACERA's Disability Litigation Office was misinterpreting a provision of the Retirement Law, which led to the erroneous denial of benefits.

Although the Board of Retirement agreed with Muir, it did not have the power to reverse its earlier actions because state law precludes reconsideration of individual case decisions once they are final.

On July 3, 2017, the Board of Retirement unanimously adopted Muir's motion to sponsor the legislation after Muir, who retired as LACERA's first chief counsel in 2009, argued that the erroneous denials resulted in a matter of great unfairness and that the Board had a duty to attempt to remedy the situation.

AB2076 was introduced Feb. 7, 2018, passed the Assembly policy committee on March 14, and at the time of this writing, was on consent for a vote of the Assembly floor. If signed into law, the bill would become effective Jan. 1, 2019.

May 23 is Deadline to Apply for RELAC Board of Directors

by Dave Muir, Chair
Bylaws/Nominations/Elections Committee

RELAC members interested in serving on the Board of Directors in 2019 have until May 23 to file a letter of interest.

The current Board of Directors will review the list of candidates at its June 5 meeting and select a slate of five nominees to recommend for election. If there are six or more interested candidates for the five open positions, an election will be held in September. The new

continued on p.7

Retirement Board

by Les Robbins
Retiree Representative
LACERA Board of Retirement



Just about every health care conference that I attend these days talks about two subjects: end of life care and the costs to the health care industry of diseases in the dementia category. Health insurance only covers so much of our health care costs and a great deal of the end of life care is NOT covered by our LACERA retiree health insurance program.

I want to talk a little this month about the importance of long term care (LTC) insurance. In the past, families were large enough to handle the challenges of taking care of family members who had various types of dementia such as Alzheimer's, as well as other old age diseases that are not covered by the hospitalization portion of your health insurance. Families today are much smaller and many times even those who have larger numbers of members don't have the resources that are necessary to deal with taking ill family members into the home during their last days.

There are a couple of things that you need to know about long term care insurance. First, it is cheaper the younger you are when you purchase. Second, the healthier you are the better your chances are to be able to purchase it. What I am saying here is if you are already very ill, you may not be able to purchase it at all.

Staff at LACERA spent months looking for and vetting the products that are out there. After a great deal of work, we found an LTC company that we believe is the best in the marketplace and offers policies that meet the specific needs of the LACERA membership. Our policy is secured through a company called Life Secure. Life Secure has a couple of representatives who handle our membership and they can be reached at (626) 818-2673. LACERA also offers workshops the second Wednesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in the first floor workshop at the LACERA offices. You can make a reservation by calling the number above.

It is important to note that LTC insurance is not something that you should purchase without a one-on-one meeting with a Life Secure representative. This is rather complicated and you need to be fully aware of the benefits of our plans as well as the particulars of how LTC insurance works. There have been a lot of very bad stories about some of the LTC insurance plans that have been marketed to other organizations, such as skyrocketing premiums. I can assure you that our plan protects you very well and that the problems that other plans have experienced will not be problems that will impact our plans through Life Secure.

News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich
Assistant Executive Officer



LACERA's mission is to "Produce, Protect, and Provide the Promised Benefits" to its members. Fulfilling the second part of that mission, *protecting* your benefits, involves supporting good bills and fighting bad ones at all levels of government. It's especially important that we track the progress of bills that would affect our membership so the boards can take appropriate action.

On that note, the Board of Retirement has consistently supported the federal Social Security Fairness Act, which was introduced again in early 2017 as H.R. 1205 by Rodney Davis (R-Ill.) and S. 915 by Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and has since gone to committee in both houses. Similar versions of this act have been introduced in Congress since 2001! The act seeks to repeal the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), enacted in 1983 and 1977, respectively. These two provisions reduce the Social Security benefits of retirees who also receive pensions.

The way the WEP and GPO work can be complicated, so I won't get too far into the weeds. The WEP applies to those whose careers have been in both Social Security-covered employment (most of private sector employment) and non-covered employment (usually public sector employment). If these workers receive a pension when they retire, their Social Security benefits are reduced -- in the Social Security Administration's words -- "to remove the advantage" of the formula that gave them a higher percentage of their earnings than long-term, lower wage workers. Although that reduction cannot be more than one half of the amount of the person's pension, the formula still goes too far, giving many public employees a *lower* percentage of their earnings than covered employees. For more information, please visit: <https://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/wep.html>.

Here's how the GPO works. The GPO reduces the amount of your Social Security spouse's or survivor's benefit by two-thirds of the amount of your government pension. The spouse or survivor of a worker covered by Social Security is entitled to a benefit from Social Security based on the worker's or deceased worker's wages. In the event that the spouse or survivor is covered by a pension plan like LACERA's, the GPO reduces the Social Security benefit by two-thirds. If the two-thirds of the worker's pension is more than the Social Security benefit, the Social Security benefit could be reduced to zero. That means the GPO can completely wipe out the spouse or survivor's benefit that a Social Security-covered worker earned over their lifetime. This provision disproportionately affects women, who make up 81% of those penalized by the GPO. For more information please visit: <https://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/gpo.html>.

The Social Security Fairness Act repeal is long overdue. To punish those who worked in public service by reducing the Social Security benefits that their spouses earned is obviously unfair. As for the WEP, the Social Security Advisory Board zeroed in on the problems with the formula and recommended changes in a 2015 position paper entitled "The Windfall Elimination Provision: It's Time to Correct the Math." Hopefully there is finally enough momentum to fix these inequities that punish those who least can afford it. To date, Congress has not adequately addressed these issues. We can only hope that they will take positive action one day soon.

21st Annual Memorial Day Tribute to Veterans and Military Families to be Held May 26

Los Angeles County's 21st Annual Memorial Day Tribute to Veterans and Military Families will be held Saturday, May 26 at Arcadia County Park, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

County Supervisor Kathryn Barger will be joined by other special guests for a Memorial Day tribute ceremony at 11 a.m.

The event, which offers free admission and parking, will showcase veteran talent, opportunities for veterans, resources, wellness and history. Other highlights include skydivers, military vehicles and equipment displays, a children's area, live entertainment and a food court. RELAC will have a table at the event.

The event is co-sponsored by Supervisor Barger, the County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the County Parks and Recreation Department, and the Association of the United States Army.



What's Happening?

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair
Special Events Committee

Lots of special events to report on, as the new chair of RELAC's Special Events Committee. In addition to our annual picnic and January 2019 luncheon, committee members have focused on exploring new and exciting events that we can promote to our RELAC members.



Connecting with our County family, we have identified a number of special events that are available to County retirees and which we hope you enjoy.

May 26 – Tribute to Veterans & Military Families
Arcadia Park, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia – From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by Supervisor Kathryn Barger – Visit our RELAC booth.

June 9 – L.A. County March of Dimes DODGER DAY
6 p.m. Tickets are \$49 and include an "all-you-can-eat" buffet and a \$3 donation to the March of Dimes. June 9 is also "Manny Mota Bobblehead Night." RELAC members can purchase tickets online by using the code "RELAC." Your \$3 donation will be credited to the RELAC MOD Team. Visit Dodgers.com/LACountyMOD for tickets, use RELAC code. Check our website for updates.

Aug. 31- Sept. 23 – L.A. County Fair
Join County employees on "L.A. County Day" for a special ticket price, view the L.A. County Parade and visit L.A. County department booths. The actual date to be determined. Look for updates in the July-August newsletter and on our RELAC website.

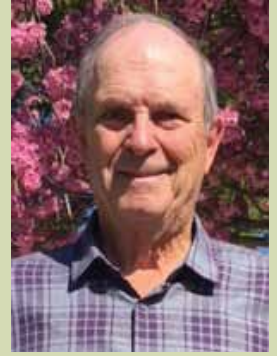
Oct. 13 – Annual RELAC Picnic at Santa Fe Dam
Area 5. Save the date for this fun event. We are celebrating our 60th birthday and honoring veterans. The Bobby Z Band will play and hold line dancing sessions.

I look forward to your suggestions and ideas on "Special Events" and request that you also check our website www.relac.org for new postings and updates. Thanks for your support!

RELAC Joins Older Americans Celebration

The RELAC Board of Directors is proud to join the County Board of Supervisors in celebrating Older Americans Month in L.A. County. The May celebration theme "Engage at Every Age" pays tribute to older adults taking part in activities that enrich their physical, mental and emotional well-being, at any age.

We sincerely thank County retirees for the difference they make in our communities by sharing their wisdom and experience with others and the next generation. RELAC Director Don Fandry, who contributes his time and support to many community organizations, will represent RELAC at the County's 53rd Annual Older Americans Recognition Event on May 17.



Don Fandry

RELAC remains committed to promoting the many contributions that County retirees make to assist others in need and to enrich lives in our diverse communities.

RELAC NIGHT AT DODGER STADIUM

by Mary K. Rodriguez
Chair, Recreation Committee

Friday, Aug. 24, 2018



The **Los Angeles Dodgers** will be playing the **San Diego Padres**. Following the game there will be a great fireworks show.

This year the actual ticket price to RELAC is \$40 per person; however, with RELAC's subsidy, **your net cost is \$36 per ticket**. Our seats are in a great spot in the lower reserved section over home plate. It should be an awesome game!

This event has always been very popular, and a limited number of seats are available. Bring your family and friends and enjoy a fun evening. Fill out the coupon below and send it along with your check to the RELAC office. **The deadline for reservations is Aug. 6.** The tickets will be mailed to you the week of Aug. 13.

Please make your reservations as soon as possible. Hope to see you there! Go Dodgers!

Dodgers vs. San Diego Padres Friday, Aug. 24, 2018

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

No. of Tickets: _____ @ \$36 each

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

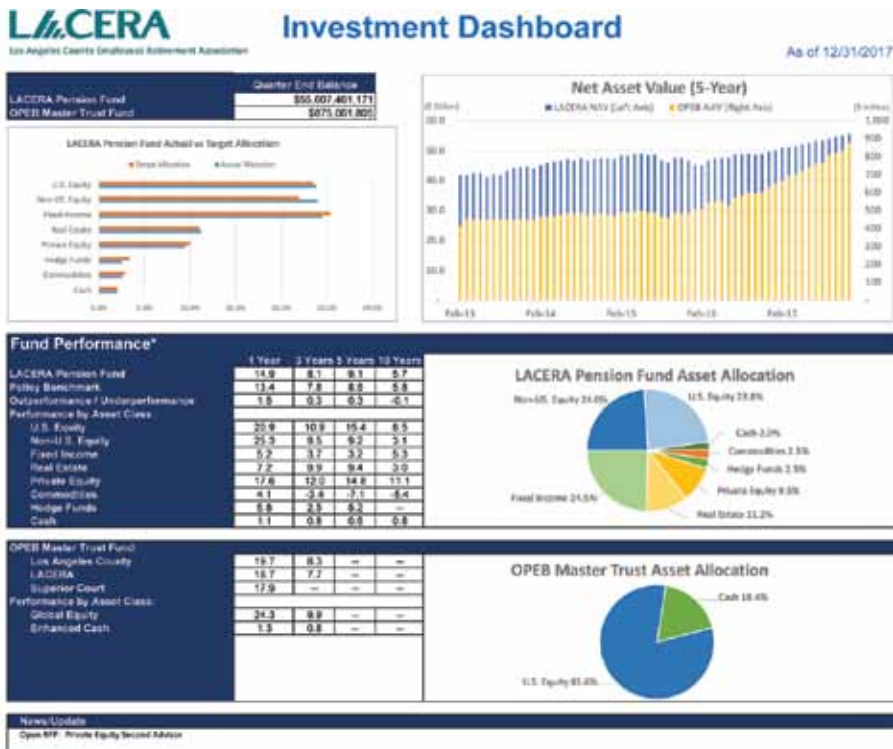
Mail Checks payable to RELAC and mail to:
RELAC
1000 S. Fremont Ave., #15
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

Deadline - Aug. 6, 2018

LACERA Introduces Investment Dashboard on Website

LACERA's investments continue to perform in an outstanding manner. The market value of the total fund increased from \$49.6 billion on Dec. 31, 2016 to \$55.6 billion on Dec. 31, 2017, an investment return of 14.9 percent! Average investment returns, after deducting fees, over three, five and 10-year periods were 8.1%, 9.1% and 5.7%, respectively. The low rate of return for the 10-year period is explained by the fact that years during the Great Recession are included.

The Investment Office has developed an "Investment Dashboard" that will be posted on LACERA's website in the near future. This great new feature provides enhanced transparency for LACERA's members and the public. The first release, covering the fund status as of Dec. 31, 2017, is included on this page. Data on the dashboard related to the "OPEB Master Trust Fund" refers to the fund maintained by the County for the retiree health care program. The dashboard will be updated quarterly.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

February 2018 – March 2018

- Assessor** – Arturo Cuevas
- Beaches & Harbor** – Chuocheng Cheng
- Chief Administrative Office** – David Janssen
- District Attorney** – Alice Gonzalez
- Harbor-UCLA Medical Center** – Joyce Stallworth, Joel Ward
- King-Drew Medical Center** – Lina Wang
- LAC+USC Medical Center** – Debra Eng, Antoniette Valtier
- LACERA** – Gregg Rademacher
- Mental Health** – Larry Gasco
- Public Social Services** – Ailene Gonzalez, David McClain, Annette Motley
- Public Works** – Hassan Eldeeb
- Sheriff** – Betty Brennan, David Chambers, Donna Moomjean, Peggy O'Neal
- Active** – Adrienne Byers, David McDivitt
- Associate Members** – Suzanne Chambers, Delia Gasco, Francisco Gonzalez, Mike Lopez, Paul Moomjean, Edward Stambuk

*Thanks for
New Member Referrals*

We would like to thank the 10 members who recruited colleagues to join RELAC during February and March 2018. Partially due to members' efforts, in 2017 for the first time in many years, we recruited more members than we lost. Membership as of Dec. 31, 2017 was 18,812. Due to our aging membership, we must remain vigilant in signing up new members in order to remain a strong organization to protect your hard-earned pension and health benefits. For membership applications and brochures, call the RELAC office at (800) 537-3522, e-mail admin@relac.org or go online at www.relac.org. Be sure to tell the new member to put your name on the membership application as making the referral.

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

- Bill de la Garza**, *Dave Muir and Diane Sandoval*, *Gregg Rademacher*, LACERA
- Henry Eng**, *Debra Eng*, LAC+USC Medical Center
- Pattijo Fairbanks**, *Alice Gonzales*, District Attorney
- Judy Hammond**, *David Janssen*, Chief Administrative Office
- Gwen Jones**, *David McClain*, Public Social Services
- Gilbert Parisi**, *Arturo Cuevas*, Assessor
- Les Robbins**, *Peggy O'Neal*, Sheriff
- Patricia Roberts**, *Betty Brennan*, Sheriff



Happy Birthday, RELAC Centenarians

Happy birthday to our members who will be 100 and older in May and June.

They are:

- Mary A. Urich**, 107, County Clerk, May 9, 1911.
- Myron Schulhof**, 106, associate member, May 7, 1912.
- Raymond K. Nimura**, 105, associate member, May 29, 1913
- Anderson Johnson**, 104, Sheriff, June 14, 1914.
- Maxine Jensen**, 102, Women's Hospital, May 4, 1916.
- Ethel Mae Lambrinck**, 102, Los Angeles Municipal Court, May 30, 1916.
- Charlotte F. Hammett**, 102, LAC+USC Medical Center, June 25, 1916.
- Carnell Wallace**, 101, Probation, May 8, 1917.
- Mary Anita Barbour**, 101, Los Angeles Municipal Court, May 26, 1917.
- Rutilia Atanasoff**, 101, Public Social Services, May 26, 1917.
- Antonia O. Perez**, 100, LAC+USC Medical Center, May 10, 1918.
- Willie Mae Bailey**, 100, LAC+USC Medical Center, May 27, 1918.
- Pearlie Scaever**, 100, Health Services, June 6, 1918.

RELAC NEWSLETTER

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Retired Employees
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Office Hours

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday - Thursday

Closed Friday,

Saturday, Sunday &

Public Holidays

Golf News

by Gil Sandoval
RELAC Golf Director



La Mirada Golf Tournament

It was a beautiful day at the La Mirada Golf Course as we had our largest turnout in some time. The wind played a role, but some of the players did extremely well. Benny Martinez won the "A" flight with a great net 68. He was followed by Michael Hernandez, who took second with a net 71. There was a tie for third, with Gary Hartley beating Chuck Adams as they both brought in net 74s.

Luis Martinez had a walk in the park in the "B" flight as his net 65 easily beat Al Kelly's second place finish at net 70. Newcomer Arthur Dass finished third at net 73.

The "C" flight were the players of the day with Terry Black winning with the low net of the day at net 60. Miguel Ortiz-Marroquin shot a great net 68 to finish second. Jim Meek was only one stroke farther back at net 69 for third place.

The ladies flight was a battle between Molly Silva and Charlene DeBie as they both had net 83s. Molly won in a card off on the second hole. The third place finisher was Marjorie Stevens-Kelly, who brought in a net 93. Unfortunately, the ladies did not hit any of the par 3s off the tee to win a prize. Well, better luck at Santa Anita in June!

The next tournament is at the Santa Anita Golf Course on June 4 - first tee at 8 a.m. Please note that the entry form can be found on the RELAC website at www.relac.org. Follow the link to activities (golf).

LA MIRADA RESULTS

"A" Flight Winners (19 and under)

1 st Benny Martinez	(68)
2 nd Michael Hernandez	(71)
3 rd Gary Hartley	(74)*

"B" Flight (20 to 26 Handicaps)

1 st Luis Martinez	(65)
2 nd Al Kelly	(70)
3 rd Arthur Dass	(73)

"C" Flight (27 and up Handicaps)

1 st Terry Black	(60)
2 nd Miguel Ortiz-Marroquin	(68)
3 rd Jim Meek	(69)

Women's Flight

1 st Molly Silva	(83)
2 nd Charlene DeBie	(83)*
3 rd Marjorie Stevens-Kelly	(93)

*Winners in a card off

Closest to the Pin on Par 3s

3 - Benny Martinez
5 - Gil Sandoval
9 - Andy Mendoza
#11 - Terry Black
#13 - Andy Mendoza
#17 - Gil Sandoval

NEXT TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 4, 2018
Santa Anita Golf Course
8 a.m. Start
Entry Deadline -
May 17

RV Outing Notes

by Jeanne Klauk
Assistant Coordinator



Klauk and Mike Reyes, coordinator

March 18 found our RELAC RV group, once again, at the Banning Stagecoach KOA. The weather was very pleasant and we were happy to see our friends again.

The KOA Park provides us with a very nice club room to fix our breakfasts and dinners. Of course, there is a lot of visiting and catching up to do.

This campout included just a small group of campers. They were Mike and Veronica Reyes, Bob and Linda Reyes, Ed Clifton, Don and Shirley Egbert, Dorie Fregeau and me. Linda Gutierrez was not to be left out, even though she does not have a camping vehicle. Linda rented one of the very nice cabins on the property not far from us. She was there to brush up on her Shanghai skills.

Our wagon masters, Dian and Leon Stegall, had to cancel at the last moment. Leon preferred to go to the hospital instead. He is doing well, though, and we hope he doesn't cancel like this again. Bob and Linda Reyes stepped up and took over the tasks of the breakfasts and main dish. Mike Reyes did the necessary financial transactions.

On Monday, Fred Weinberg joined us, as well as Diana and Al Medina (only to play cards before they left for Dodger-Angel baseball). Gil and Eloise Cardiel also joined us to get in some visiting.

Tuesday brought Ron and Betsy Morgon - who camped at the Morongo Casino, as well as Fred and Randy Forney, who guarded Betsy against the one-armed bandits. Ron is recovering from a serious surgery and we were happy to hear he is doing well.

On Wednesday, the group dined at Sizzler. Betsy won the 50/50 drawing and Mike Reyes won the gas card.

Our next campout is at Flying Flags in Buellton on May 20. I hope to see you there.





Letters To The Editor

Write On!

I was so sad when I heard the news of Frank Andrews' death. He was always one of my favorite colleagues.

Sandy Reuben, former County Librarian

(Ed. Note: Andrews, director of the Animal Care & Control Department from 1989 to 2001, died at age 85.)

Thanks so much for including the article on Frank Andrews in the March-April issue. This means so much to his family! I was going through photos from Frank's retirement and so odd to know that in addition to Frank passing away, Kenny Hahn and Larry Colvin also passed away and they were at and a part of his retirement party. Larry also served as Frank's chief deputy at Animal Care & Control when Frank just started with the department. Thanks again!

Kaye Michelson, Huntington Beach, California

(Ed. Note: Michelson was director of administrative services in the department when Andrews was director.)

Thanks for the article on Philip Browning. I was the first communications person hired when Philip and Dr. Steven Golightly took over to change the (child support) culture from DA to social service. They are the best executives I have ever worked for—astute public servants attuned to service and people.

Al Reyes, Division Chief Outreach Services, Child Support Services Department

The newsletter looks great! Thanks again for covering Kenny Hahn's passing and allowing Assessor Jeff Prang an opportunity to say a few words.

Robert Kalonian, Special Assistant to the Assessor/Public Information Officer

Your "Inside Los Angeles County" article in the March/April newsletter mentioned that 20% of foster youth are LGBTQ. I was wondering about the source for that. I am in a volunteer group looking at child welfare services for transition-aged foster youth and this statistic is of interest to our work in this area. Thanks for any clarification you can provide.

Stacey Savelle, Department of Children and Family Services Retiree

(Ed. Note: The statistic was cited by Board of Supervisors Chair Sheila Kuehl in an interview with Daniel Heimpele in the "Chronicle of Social Change.")

Please add me to your newsletter.

Joseph Langton, Principal Deputy County Counsel

(Ed. Note: Membership in RELAC is necessary to receive a newsletter. The good news: employees do not have to wait until they retire to join RELAC.)

Thank you for the lovely birthday card. Enclosed you will find an article from the Long Beach Press-Telegram that may be of interest to you. I may have retired from the Department of Public Social Services, but I am still active in the community. Be good to yourself!

Laura Mathews, Long Beach, California

(Ed. Note: We included the article in this edition of the newsletter because we thought members also would find it of interest. Mathews, at age 95, is now in her 35th year as a volunteer at the Long Beach Police Department.)

Could you please put my husband's name in your memoriam page? When I contacted RELAC, I thought his name would be included. He passed away in early September 2017, but I probably didn't notify RELAC until early November. Under the Sheriff section, please add Thomas F. Lonergan for your next newsletter. Thank you.

Irene Lonergan, Downey, California

On behalf of the Quality and Productivity Commission, I want to thank Linda Hopkins for an outstanding presentation on the Retired Employees of Los Angeles County (RELAC) at the quarterly meeting of the Productivity Managers' Network (PMN). Approximately 40 productivity managers and commissioners appreciated the informative presentation and the importance of RELAC to retired County employees and employees who are getting ready to retire. Many times employees are not aware of groups such as RELAC and often miss joining and learning about all the services offered. Managers were impressed that 800 retired employees (who are RELAC members) are 90 years or older, you have a membership of 18,000, and that RELAC is fighting to keep pensions and health benefits away from legislation that wants to change them. They were also impressed with the community work RELAC is doing and ensuring County employees stay active. Thank you for making the PMN meeting a productive learning experience for all. It clearly was a successful gathering.

J. Shawn Landres, Chair, County of L. A. Quality & Productivity Commission

Ever since I retired, I have been receiving the RELAC newsletter. Even though I moved from California to Georgia, the RELAC newsletter has never failed to arrive in my mailbox. As a retiree, please know how much I appreciate being able to keep up with all the news and events. I look forward to getting it every month.

Lorena Pulliam, Jonesboro, Georgia

Wanted to help you reach your \$5,000 mark (to raise money for the March of Dimes "March for Babies" campaign). Many thanks for taking such good care of all of us!

Dolores Parrish, Belleville, Michigan

(Ed. Note: Parrish included a donation, which we very much appreciate.)

Thank you for all the services and information you provide.

Stephanie Franklin, Los Angeles, California

Dear RELAC and Outreach Committee: Thank you so much for remembering my birthday with your lovely card. Much appreciated! Thanks.

Hanako Nakamoto, Pasadena, California

What a great surprise (to be selected as a winner in the Valentine drawing). Thank you all so much!

Eileen MacMillan, Parker, Colorado

I appreciate my Valentine \$25 check.

Sylvia Hungerford, Santa Fe Springs, California

Thank you so much for the Valentine check and the lovely heart print. And, dear ladies of the RELAC Outreach Committee, although a bit late, thank you for my birthday greetings. January was the month. This is the second time I won the Valentine drawing, although the other time was over 30 years ago. How about that? Thank all of you again.

Virginia Baughman, Los Angeles, California

Wow! Me a winner of the Valentine drawing? Thank you very much for the \$25 check! Also thank you for your services. We retired employees receive many benefits and I am always thankful! Blessings,

Inaye Bell, Los Osos, California

Thank you so much for including me in the Valentine drawing. After 30 years of retirement, it was fun and refreshing.

Mary M. Jones, Los Angeles, California

Thank you for all you do for us. Keep up the good work. Thanks for the Christmas card and the birthday card. My birthday was 1/27/1922. I just turned 96. I volunteer at different locations four mornings a week and I love it. Best wishes to all of you!

Inez Watts, Wickenburg, Arizona

Thank you so much for remembering my birthday.

Annie Motoyoshi, Redondo Beach, California

A large hug and thank you to everyone at RELAC for all the hard work you do for us retirees. And, thank you for the newsletter, pocket calendar and the Valentine check!!!

Ken Ward, Gardnerville, Nevada

Here is my membership fee for 2018. Thank you so much for the pocket calendar – great way to make appointments for doctor and dentist appointments. That way you do not miss them even though we are older. Appointments are still important and we can even mark the fun things to do. Thanks for watching out for all of us. Keep up the good work.

Gloria Boothe, Wilmington, California

Thank you for remembering my birthday, and having a special handwritten greeting on the card made it even more of a joy! I would like to add a long overdue thank you for the beautiful Christmas card that I received during the holiday season. I really appreciated that. It added to my holiday.

Patricia McGrath, Oro Valley, Arizona

Thank you so much for the lovely card for my 92nd birthday on March 6. Also, thank you for the nice Christmas card. I had the flu during the whole month of January. I coughed for over three weeks and it left me very weak. God is healing me day-by-day and I am getting stronger. I really appreciate being remembered.

Virginia Nanninga, San Marcos, California

Election Deadline *(continued from page 1)*

directors will serve three-year terms beginning in January 2019.

Directors whose terms expire this year are Donald J. Fandry, Linda C. Hopkins, Alice Prouty, Mary K. Rodriguez and Diane Sandoval.

Applicants' letters should briefly explain their interest and describe the experience and education that enhance their qualifications. The Directors Nomination Committee will interview all applicants before adding their names to the list of candidates. Pursuant to RELAC's bylaws, a person who holds, or within the past 24 months held, a leadership position with an organization which represents County retirees that has a goal or policy that may be incompatible or in conflict with a goal or policy of RELAC is ineligible to serve as a director of RELAC.

Candidates should seriously consider the following desired qualifications when applying for a Board position:

1. Have the time and be willing to commit to attending monthly Board of Directors business meetings, quarterly general membership meetings, and committee meetings scheduled on an as-needed basis. Board and committee members are compensated for expenses incurred.
2. Have the time to serve the members of RELAC by actively participating on one or more committees, including Investment, Bylaws/Nominations/Elections, Legislation, Recruitment & Marketing, Recreation, Regional Support, Special Events, and Newsletter.
3. Have the time and be willing to participate in RELAC activities and events.
4. Have a computer available to receive important messages and reports.
5. Enjoy interaction with people.

Any candidate who is not one of the five selected for the slate by the Board, or who missed the May 23 deadline for submitting a letter of interest, may file a petition signed by not less than 15 RELAC members. Such petition, along with a letter from the candidate accepting the nomination, must be received in the RELAC office no later than July 5 at 3 p.m. Petition forms are available at the RELAC office. THERE SHALL BE NO OTHER METHOD OF NOMINATION (Article VI, RELAC bylaws).

If an election is held, ballots will be returned to a designated CPA firm, which will conduct the count and report the results to RELAC and directly to each candidate. Results will be announced at the next regular general membership meeting and published in the November/December issue of the newsletter.



New Retirees

RELAC Board member Linda C. Hopkins, at left, congratulates new County retirees Sheryl Spiller, director of the Department of Public Social Services, and Victoria Pipkin-Lane, executive director of the Quality and Productivity Commission. Both retired at the end of March, and are RELAC members.

(Photo by Evelyn Gutierrez)

Keeping Up With Retirees

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



CAROLYN & PETER McDERMOTT

Ask us what we remember most about our County experience and we will tell you without hesitation that it was the opportunity to work with people of incredible skill and humility who shared a common goal - providing the best possible human services to an at-risk population too often ignored or overlooked.

PETER:

A graduate of USC, I began my 27-year County career following an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps in 1956. I initially entered as a flood control maintenance man grade I as-needed and, following Civil Service exams, became the personnel officer. Positions in the Civil Service and Probation Departments followed and set the stage for my transfer to the Department of Health Services (nee Hospitals) in 1962 as the assistant hospital administrator of the newly opened Mira Loma Hospital in Lancaster. This was followed by appointments as associate hospital administrator, Rancho Los Amigos Hospital, and hospital administrator, Long Beach General Hospital and Olive View Medical Center. I retired from County service in 1982 to become the administrator of Valley Vista Community Hospital in San Gabriel. This led to work with AIDS Project Los Angeles and the opportunity to serve the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles as the founding executive director of Serra Project-Los Angeles, a residential care program for persons with AIDS, including mothers and babies.

During my County service, I was president of the Los Angeles Lung Association and held numerous volunteer positions with the Frank Lanterman Regional Center for the Developmentally Disabled, Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), Mental Health Advisory Board, Hospice of Pasadena, and AIDS Interfaith Council of Southern California. I also served by Board of Supervisors appointment on the Mental Health Advisory Board and AIDS Commission (chairing both). After retiring again in 1994, I moved to Cape Cod, where I served on the boards of Cape Cod Hospital and Cape & Islands VNA; was the assistant harbor master for the town of Harwich; and became a USCG Auxiliant and U.S. Merchant Marine officer. Following a brief move to Punta Gorda, Florida in 2003 and working as a tow boat captain for Sea Tow, I relocated in 2006 to Tellico Village in Loudon, Tennessee, where I am currently active in the Marine Corps League, American Legion, USCG Auxiliary, Kiwanis, computer and amateur radio clubs, and community church. A Kiwanian since 1962, I was president of the San Gabriel Club in 1985 and Lt. Governor Division 10-CAL/NEV/HI 1987-88. As Coast Guard Auxiliant, I have held positions at the flotilla and division levels and am qualified as an operational Auxiliant, proctor, vessel examiner, qualifications examiner and instructor.

CAROLYN:

My County career, 1967 – 1996, was served entirely within the Department of Health Services (nee Hospitals) and included a variety of positions. Initially hired for a pilot project to improve medical record keeping at Long Beach General Hospital (LBGH), I remember telling administrator Al Karp that I didn't have enough work to do. When he was followed by Peter McDermott the following year, I would never utter those words again! After transferring from the medical director's office to hospital administration at LBGH, I first served as the secretary to the associate hospital administrator and later as the administrator's executive secretary. I credit Peter with recommending me for a position opening at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital as co-director of medical records. From Rancho I was asked to troubleshoot problems within the Health Facilities Division and then to help develop and implement ideas for a coordinated approach to nurse recruitment. This began a long and satisfying association with nursing that would follow me intermittently throughout

the remainder of my career. From 1982-88 I served the director of Health Services as special assistant, responsible for Board of Supervisors relations and correspondence review. Interacting with Board offices and health deputies remain happy memories. But it wasn't long before nursing beckoned again, and I was appointed director, Office of Nursing Affairs, and tasked with implementing the recommendations in the 1988 Nursing Resources Advisory Report. Mid-point in this assignment I was also given the duties of director, Office of Governing Body Affairs, helping to interpret licensing and accreditation compliance standards. My final service to the County was as administrative deputy/ chief of staff for Personal Health Services. I list among my career accomplishments: the implementation of a computerized Nursing Home Information and Referral Service (winner 1976 NACO award for innovative program design), initiation of Nurse Recognition Week, implementation of a facility-wide medical dictation system with direct transcription services, and hiring the County's first blind medical transcriber typist.

In retirement, I have been active in local community politics and women's clubs in Massachusetts and Tennessee; presiding over the building of a Tennessee public library and serving as its board president; working as an ER volunteer at the community hospital; a welcome ambassador and church usher, scripture reader, and committeewoman. A USCG Auxiliant since 1996, I have earned qualifications in surface and air programs and as an instructor. I write a newspaper column on safe boating and just completed two years as commander of my Tennessee flotilla. I've been fortunate to participate in post-9/11 daily safety patrols up and down the Atlantic seaboard; ferry then-President Clinton's secret service staff on vacation reconnaissance flights over Martha's Vineyard; supported the JFK Jr. search and recovery effort; and developed new, interactive training programs for Auxiliant non-pilot aviators faced with an in-flight emergency ("Fly, Land & Live") and for boating spouses who find themselves "Suddenly in Command." Proudly serving at all organizational levels, including national, I received Auxiliant of Year honors in 1998 and 2017.

Peter and I met on the job in 1968, married in 1974, and have been blessed with a loving, blended family and a life of public service. We love Tennessee, but remain connected to Los Angeles through friends, family, and continuing loyalty to the USC Trojans.

It's now time for some new adventures, so we are looking forward to taking our Bichon Frise "Sir Winston" and new travel trailer on the road as early as next month.

DAVID FLINT

When I graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1967 I applied for two entry-level jobs with L.A. County. I began my 40-year County career that year as a probation trainee at the Sylmar Juvenile Hall, at the princely sum of \$608 per month. At the time, it seemed like a fortune! A few months later I transferred to the Department of Personnel. One of my early bosses was Dick Raymond, whom I always credit with teaching me how to write.



David Flint and wife, Nancy

In 1970 I worked as part of a countywide “crash team” assigned to work on the general election. The County had just implemented a new punch card ballot voting system and things had not gone well in the primary election. I joined a legion of other staff specialists attached to the Registrar-Recorder, working under the direction of Harry Hufford. It was exhilarating and scary at the same time, with a high screw-up potential for everyone involved. Harry worked like a field general, pulling all the pieces together to improve operations and get the next one right. As he predicted, the general election was a success. I learned a lot from that experience and gained a lasting respect for Harry Hufford.

The best job I had in the County was working as a college recruiter, traveling around the country interviewing graduating college seniors for entry jobs as accountants, engineers, and administrative and personnel trainees. I managed the Department of Personnel-side of the Chief Administrative Office trainee program that brought in many of the County’s future managers, with whom I worked later in other departments over my career.

In 1973 I moved to the Museum of Art, working in personnel and budget. I think that job was the most fun and introduced me to an appreciation for art and art history I didn’t know I had. In 1976 I worked for Shirley Goldinger, the County’s first director of Consumer Affairs, to establish that new department. I moved to Health Services in late 1977, first in the budget unit and then as personnel officer in Health Services Administration working for Lee Johnson, the best boss I had in the County.

I transferred to the Public Library in 1983 and served as administrative deputy until retiring in 2008. I was closely involved in creating two special financing mechanisms to restore lost revenue to the Library caused by the state’s property tax shift in the early 1990s.

Before retiring I discovered an interest in family history and have been involved in genealogy research ever since. I was born in England and have been doing English genealogy research for the past 15 years. I devote a lot of time to that work, attending lectures and seminars, teaching classes, and occasional speaking engagements. I am actively involved in my local genealogy society and serve on the board. I also lead an annual week-long research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for about 35 people.

My wife, Nancy, and I have traveled in Europe and Canada, and made trips to England to keep in touch with family and visit the country where I spent my childhood. Earlier this year Nancy had a successful kidney transplant after nearly five years on the waiting list, and we are very grateful for that. We live in Irvine, in Orange County. We have an adult son who lives in L.A. and works in the film industry as an independent production designer and art director.

Life is good, and I love being retired. I enjoy reading the RELAC articles about other retirees, and appreciate the chance to share with you this trip down memory lane.

JIM HANKLA

My association with Los Angeles County is a long one. It started when I was 6 years old and 2,000 miles away in Louisville, Kentucky. I had contracted polio in the epidemic of 1944. The prognosis



Jim Hankla and wife, Jorene

was not good, prompting my mother to search for the best polio treatment in the U.S. That, of course, turned out to be Rancho Los Amigos in Downey. That caused my family to move to Wilmington, California and arrange treatment for me at Rancho. The rehab worked and allowed me to live a nearly normal life. Later I was honored to participate in efforts, led by Supervisor Don Knabe, to save Rancho.

My next contact with the County came in 1957 after graduation from high school. I was hired by the Parks and Recreation Department as a summer nature instructor at Legg Lake at Whittier Narrows. That temporary assignment led to a recreation director job at Carmelitos Housing Project in Long Beach, where I was able to work while attending college at Long Beach State. I rejoined the County family in 1983 as the first director of the Community Development Commission. In between, I had served as 20 years with the City of Long Beach, ultimately as executive director of Community Development, Housing Authority and Redevelopment Agency; and as executive vice president of the Virginia Peninsula Regional Economic Development Corporation, serving seven cities, counties and special districts in the Williamsburg area of southeastern Virginia. That combination of experience was to serve me well in my application for the L.A. County CDC. Two years later in 1985, I was fortunate to be selected by the Board of Supervisors as the chief administrative officer (CAO).

I was encouraged to apply for the CAO job by Harry Hufford, but I never thought I had a chance. It certainly lends credence to the old saying “Be careful what you wish for.” The CAO position was like drinking from a fire hose. It was truly about policy, but also potholes when Supervisor Kenny Hahn called to remind you of one that hadn’t been fixed. I was privileged to serve Kenny, Ed Edelman, Pete Schabarum, Deane Dana and Mike Antonovich. I loved the job and had a great team, but in 1987 John Dever, city manager of Long Beach, announced his retirement. Due to the strong city manager charter, it had always been my aspiration to manage that city and I felt I had unfinished business there. I was contacted by Mayor Ernie Kell and encouraged to apply. I declined and said, “The CAO of L.A. County doesn’t apply for jobs; make me an offer.” They did and on April 1 (Fools Day) 1987, I became city manager of Long Beach, where I served for 12 years, through floods and riots and financial challenges.

After retiring as Long Beach city manager, I was blessed with the position of CEO of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority, widely regarded as an impossible job, but with some terrific engineers and lawyers, we completed the \$2.4 billion rail corridor in April of 2002, on time and under budget. Then Mayor Beverly O’Neill requested I join the Long Beach Harbor Commission to help refocus the organization more on community environmental concerns. With my fellow commissioners, we forged an alliance with competitor Port of L.A. and literally changed the world of international shipping to one of environmental stewardship. Since leaving the commission after six years, I have worked in the field of commercial solar development as senior vice president of government relations for PFMG Solar LLC. in Huntington Beach.

Throughout my career the most important reason for whatever success I have had is teams and team work! L.A. County was among the best.

I live in Long Beach and am a coin collector. I love hunting and fishing with my two sons and I love my azaleas.

(The following story about RELAC member Laura Mathews was published in the Long Beach Press-Telegram on Feb. 13, 2018. Mathews, 95, worked for the L.A. County Department of Public Social Services before retiring in January 1979. She joined RELAC the following year.)

At 95, Long Beach police volunteer says she's nowhere near hanging up her badge

By Jeremiah Dobruck | Press-Telegram



For the last 35 years, Laura Mathews has volunteered at the Long Beach Police Department, and she has no intentions of stopping when she turns 95 on Valentine's Day.

As Mathews walked into the police station Tuesday morning, the department's top brass and more than a dozen of her fellow volunteers burst into a round of Happy Birthday, kicking off a surprise ceremony honoring her decades of service. Before Police Chief Robert Luna could

lead Mathews to a pink throne decorated for the occasion, she handed him a box of Valentine's Day chocolates. "This is for you and your staff," she said.

Police dubbed Mathews' surprise party Operation 35/95, a nod to her 35 years volunteering and 95 years of life. In that time, she's worked as an on-call translator — she's fluent in Polish, Spanish, Italian, Russian and French — served on the department's K9 Association Board of Directors, became a member of the LBPD's Senior Advisory Group and joined the department's Senior Police Partner program.

All of that is on top of Mathews' service in the U.S. Army Air Forces from 1942 to 1944, a career at the county Department of Public Social Services, two kids and a 45-year marriage. "You have invested so much time and effort into other people, and I think that's why our good Lord keeps you around," Luna said to Mathews.

To commemorate her seemingly boundless energy, the department gave her a fluffy, pink Energizer Bunny. And to signify her toughness and longevity, Luna gave her a new nickname. He called her the department's Iron Maiden. "If I put her in a police car to work a beat car in our roughest beat, you would do just fine. You would do fantastic," the chief said. "Her personality, her spunk, her passion to serve, is second to none."

Mathews moved to Long Beach in 1970. Since then, her activism in town has extended beyond the police department. She's championed everyday causes like fighting to keep a cup of coffee affordable at the city's senior center or pushing for more parkland for kids.

In 2013, she told the Press-Telegram that fighting for those who couldn't stand up for themselves was one of her proudest accomplishments in life.

Before the crowd launched into another round of Happy Birthday on Tuesday, Mathews revealed her secret to longevity. "God has always taken care of me because I haven't got the sense to take care of myself," she said. "Be good to yourself" has become Mathews' trademark piece of advice during her tenure at the department.

On Tuesday, she added one more admonition to her repertoire: Don't get angry if you see a problem. Instead, fix it. "Getting upset about something doesn't cut the cake," she said. "What it does is it just poisons your system and affects your health. It affects your spiritual life. It affects your mind. ... It's finding a solution to a problem that really makes a change." Her strategy has apparently worked.

In the middle of the party, Mathews called over the police department's volunteer coordinator. She had good news. She got her driver's license renewed yesterday, so she'll still be able to volunteer for at least two more years.

FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS – Elliptical \$50, gas grill \$100, black-and-white laser jet printer \$50, punching bag \$50, three bikes (one male; two female) \$50 each or best offer. Contact Deborah at (909) 374-9986.

CEMETERY PLOTS – Rose Hills Memorial Park, Garden of Affection section. Asking \$6,000 each (four available). Additionally, buyer pays transfer fee and endowment fee. Complete transaction will be at Rose Hills location. Contact Myra or Magi at (951) 322-2374.

2014 SMART FORTWO BRABUS SPECIAL EDITION - \$13,990 – Only 11,000 original miles. Basically brand new! Rare Brabus Special Edition Model, not very many made. Fully loaded! Navigation system, Bluetooth, heated seats, interior all custom. Specialized leather seats with Brabus logo, stick-shift and steering wheel custom done in top grain two-toned leather. Large moon roof. Paddle shifters, plus many other custom features. Always garaged. Custom fitted car cover. It's a must see, one of a kind! Ask for Laura (661) 435-2806 (cell).

Annual Sheriff Retirees Reunion Set for June 17-22

L.A. County Sheriff's Department retirees (including civilian) and their traveling companions are invited to attend the 39th Annual Reunion at Inter-Mountain Fairgrounds in McArthur, California from June 17-22.

The fairgrounds is located on Highway 299, approximately 70 miles east of Redding. This beautiful valley lies between the peaks of Mt. Lassen and Mt. Shasta. The registration fee is \$10 per person, paid upon check-in.

Attendees may bring their RV, tent or stay in one of the local motels in Fall River Mills. Full hook-up camping, showers, laundry, 30-amp and some 50-amp service is available at \$15 per night starting June 15. Those arriving earlier will pay the normal campground rate.

Activities include golf at a championship 18-hole course, horseshoes, lawn darts, Bocce ball, card tournaments, potluck dinners, steak fry, a catered dinner, a pancake breakfast, fishing, visiting a casino nearby, sightseeing or just kicking back and relaxing. Plenty of war stories, tales of then and now, and lie-swapping may be heard daily. Newly retired and surviving spouses are especially welcome!

To RSVP or obtain additional information, contact:

- Charlie or Linda Engelbart (562) 921-2838, pt4charlie@aol.com
- Tom Sargent (530) 243-8982, tsgr907@charter.net
- Richard or Judy Smith (626) 444-0686, retiredstars@earthlink.net

Retirement Notes

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor



Board of Supervisors Executive Officer Lori Glasgow, right, with family.

Detective **Tanya Owen**, retiring after 30 years in the Sheriff's Department, lost her husband, Sgt. Steve Owen, in 2016 when he was killed on duty. Yet, she does not regret their decision to work in law enforcement. "It has been an incredible journey. And in spite of the way things have happened, in spite of the fact that I'm not retiring with my husband, I can honestly tell you it was truly a privilege, and I can speak for my husband, to have served our community. And we would do this all over again, without a doubt."

Sheryl Spiller, who retired as director of the Department of Public Social Services on Feb. 28 after more than 50 years with the County – beginning with a summer job as a typist-clerk – said she was looking forward to relaxing and spending quality time with her family, which includes a daughter and three grandchildren, and plans to focus her energy on her passion for gardening.



Sheriff Detective Tanya Owen, Sheriff Jim McDonnell.

Supervisor Hilda Solis said everyone knows by his accent that **Dave Chittenden** was born in England. "We love his accent," she said during the retirement scroll presentation to Chittenden, who retired as chief deputy director of the Internal Services Department after 27 years with the County. But what many may not know, Solis said, is that he became a U.S. citizen in February 2016.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger, in presenting a retirement scroll to **Kaye Michelson**, credited her for initiating in 1995 the weekly pet adoption program at the Board of Supervisors meeting when Michelson was director of administrative services for the Department of Animal Care and Control. Barger, who normally presents the pets, said she was honored to celebrate Michelson's legacy by having her present that day's animal for adoption. Often staff members fall in love with the animals being presented and adopt them before the meeting is over. Barger said she has done so three times.



Mental Health Chief Deputy Director Robin Kay, former directors Areta Crowell and Marvin Southard, Director Jonathan Sherin.

County volunteer-extraordinaire **Jaclyn Tilley-Hill**, accepting a retirement scroll from the Board of Supervisors, dedicated her 25 years of service to Howard Scriven, Jr. of the County Department of Adoptions. Tilley-Hill said she and her husband, Randy, decided in 1976 to "pay it forward" and adopt after having four daughters. That was when they met Scriven, whom Tilley-Hill described as "an employee that represented to me the finest that the County has to offer, a gentleman of impeccable integrity, a commitment and a dedication to enhancing people's lives on a daily basis. He did it day in and day out." Scriven assisted the couple in adopting three children (in 1976, 1977 and 1983) and Tilley-Hill urged others to do the same. "I invite you all here today to open your houses, open your homes, and open your hearts, and think about what you can do to make a difference in this world, and how you can have an influence on an individual's life."



Supervisor Hilda Solis and Rita Robinson, former deputy chief executive officer.



Director of Public Social Services Sheryl Spiller and family.



Supervisor Kathryn Barger and Kaye Michelson, special assistant, Parks and Recreation.



Supervisor Hilda Solis and Internal Services Chief Deputy Director Dave Chittenden.

Passages

Compiled by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor



Jim Matthews



Antonia Jimenez



Gregg Rademacher



Celia Zavala

RETIREMENTS:

Sheryl Spiller, who in 2012 became the first African-American director of the Department of Public Social Services, with more than 50 years of service, starting as a clerk-typist. **Lori Glasgow**, Board of Supervisors executive officer, former chief deputy to Supervisor Mike Antonovich, after 26 years of service. **Dave Chittenden**, chief deputy director of the Internal Services Department, 27 years of service, including almost two years as acting director. Dr. **Robin Kay**, chief deputy director of the Department of Mental Health, who had served as acting director, with 23 years of service. **Rita Robinson**, 11 years with County, including five as a deputy chief executive officer under former CEO Bill Fujioka and three with Parks and Recreation. **Kaye Michelson**, special assistant to Parks and Recreation Director John Wicker, 38 years of County service. Sheriff's Detective **Tania Owen**, 30 years of service. The Tejon Park Equestrian Arena in Palmdale was recently renamed in honor of Owen's husband, Steve, a sheriff's sergeant who was murdered while on duty in 2016. **Fern Taylor**, head of the cable franchise section in Chief Executive Office, 32 years of service. **Mitchell Katz**, director of the County's Health Agency, granted retirement after serving almost seven years. Katz left the County Jan. 15 to work in New York. **Gail Farber**, former director of Public Works, took a deferred retirement on Feb. 2, with eight years of service. **Jaclyn Tilley-Hill**, 25 years of volunteer County service, including serving as chair of the Grand Jury, the Quality and Productivity Commission, and the Economy and Efficiency Commission. **Helen Parker**, County Counsel's Office, 37 years service.



Jaclyn Tilley-Hill



Monique King-Viehlend

APPOINTMENTS:

Antonia Jimenez, chief deputy of the Department of Public Social Services since February 2015, named acting director at \$306,333 salary. **Monique King-Viehlend**, deputy executive director since 2015 and acting executive director of the Community Development Commission/Housing Authority since October 2017, named executive director at \$230,000 salary, the first woman and African-American to lead the 35-year-old agency. RELAC member **Gregg Rademacher**, who retired as head of the L.A. County Employees' Retirement Association, named chief executive officer of the San Diego City Employees' Retirement System. Dr. **Thomas Garthwaite**, former director and chief medical officer of the Department of Health Services, appointed chairman of the Medical Advisory Board for Ondine Biomedical Inc., a medical device company dedicated to developing non-antibiotic anti-infective therapies for bacterial, viral and fungal infections. **Celia Zavala**, chief deputy of the Executive Office, Board of Supervisors, named acting executive officer at \$244,288 salary. **Tiffany Boyd** appointed to Commission for Children and Families, believed to be the first member who has been in foster care.



Robin Kay

RECOGNITIONS:

Arts for LA, the County's arts advocacy organization, has named a fellowship for cultural policy and research in honor of RELAC member **Laura Zucker**, longtime executive director of the L.A. County Arts Commission who retired in 2017. RELAC member **Jim Matthews**, a Superior Court retiree, is a new member of the Steering Committee of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, a group of volunteers that interacts with management and the fund-raising arm of CMA, and will assist with newsletter.

COURTS:

Former Internal Services Department power plant engineer **Yuri Garabekyan**, 64, sentenced to three years of probation and 500 hours of community service for manipulating county bidding procedures to award contracts to a friend's company.

DEATHS:

Joseph Scott III, 87, communications director for the District Attorney's Office, 2000-2011, and political campaign aide to former Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. **John Lynch Henning**, who began his career as a public defender and retired as a Superior Court judge in 2016. **Paul Benjamin**, longtime member of the County Assessment Appeals Board. Retired Sheriff's Deputy **Steve Belanger**, 52, from injuries sustained when he was shot in the head while on duty in 1994. Former California Supreme Court Justice **Armand Arabian**, 83, a former deputy district attorney, Los Angeles Municipal and Superior Court judge. **Robert Welbourn III**, 80, former juvenile probation officer, deputy district attorney, and member of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission. **George Richard Taylor**, 89, division assistant fire chief when he retired from Fire Department in 1983. The Probation Department Baker-to-Vegas team, which placed fifth in the mixed division of the 120-mile foot race, ran in memory of **Stephen Napoli**, 23-year veteran of the department who recently died.



Tiffany Boyd



Stephen Napoli

Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond
Newsletter Editor



Supervisors have given the initial go-ahead to replace Gladstones in Pacific Palisades with two restaurants designed by world-renowned architect Frank Gehry and operated by Wolfgang Puck. One restaurant would be casual, the other upscale. Supervisor Sheila Kuehl said the restaurant will be transformed into “a world-class, must-see, must-eat dining destination.” Gehry has also been hired to come up with a master plan to restore the 51-mile Los Angeles River. Parks and water bonds will pay for restoration, which could include park space, a pedestrian-equestrian bridge and cafes. Gehry designed Disney Concert Hall and the so-called “Grand” complex now under construction on the County parking lot across from the concert hall.

Kenneth Clayman, who recently served as interim public defender for six months, took issue with an L.A. Times editorial that said the Board of Supervisors had been guilty of “neglect” in overseeing the Public Defender’s Office. Quite the contrary, he said in a letter to the editor. During his tenure, he said, the supervisors “nitpicked and placed roadblocks. They impeded and stalled efforts to improve morale.” Clayman is one of the critics of supervisors’ decision to name Nicole Davis Tinkham, a senior deputy in the County Counsel’s Office, as interim public defender, because of her lack of experience in criminal law. “Now the supervisors’ perplexing and unprecedented decision to install a team of unequipped civil lawyers to be in charge of the country’s largest and greatest public defender’s office is appropriately resented and condemned by the offices’ lawyers as well as the legal community as a whole and public defenders from throughout the country.”

Quite a different perspective of the Board was presented by Lori Glasgow when she retired as executive officer of the Board of Supervisors. She said during private department head meetings, she has heard all say what an honor it is to work for the Board. As for her, she felt it a privilege “to work for five phenomenal individuals...”

Patient wait-times and overcrowding have been markedly reduced at LAC+USC Medical Center after staff implemented a series of no-cost, efficiency measures to improve patient flow. Chief Medical Officer Brad Spellberg, MD, said the efforts should improve patient satisfaction and reduce staff burnout. “It’s noteworthy that the hospital achieved these goals with existing staff and without having to purchase new technology, and by improving our processes.”

The L.A. Times has sued the County over what it says is “a pattern and practice” of denying access to public records and for asking “exorbitant fees” for information that could prove embarrassing.

Money to pay for the \$270 million renovation of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum comes from naming rights, gifts and donations. Thus, when the project is completed next year, the facility will become known as the United Airlines Memorial Coliseum.

The County is offering signing bonuses, student loan repayment programs, relocation expenses reimbursement, and “generous” salaries to attract “mission-driven” medical professionals committed to improving medical care at the jails.

Responding to complaints that the County Fair has become too expensive, officials announced prices would not be raised this year, vendors will offer discount prices for some traditional food items, and there will be no extra charge for special exhibits. Attendance in 2017 dropped by 7 percent to

1.23 million.

The District Attorney’s Office charged Sheriff’s Deputy Giancarlo Scotti, 31, with sexually assaulting six female inmates at Century Regional Detention Center in Lynwood.

Supervisors have asked a plan be developed by mid-June to make it easier for minor marijuana convictions to be reduced or cleared. Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas says it will make it easier for people to get jobs, housing and financial assistance. “For many, this is the second chance that was due to them, and has been a long time coming,” he said.

Supervisors have created a fellowship for graduate students wanting to help end homelessness. Fellows will be placed in offices of Supervisors Sheila Kuehl and Mark Ridley-Thomas, the Department of Mental Health, a L.A. city councilman and the City of Pasadena. It is called the Home for Good Homelessness Policy Fellowship.

A new county ordinance will require health care facilities that serve food to be licensed as food facilities, requiring their kitchens to comply with health and safety standards.

An expansion project at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center includes the first teen psychiatric emergency room in L.A. County.

The mileage of roads in unincorporated territory maintained by the County decreased by 0.19 miles in 2017. It’s now 3,185.24 miles.

What’s in a name? In 1912 the Board of Supervisors created the Los Angeles County Free Public Library. In 1932 it was renamed Los Angeles County Public Library. Then in 1989 it became the County of Los Angeles Public Library. Supervisors recently renamed the department the LA County Library. Librarian Skye Patrick said the change would simplify the name of the department, making it more memorable and accessible to customers.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has selected the LA County Library as a finalist for the 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the organization’s highest honor given to museums and libraries.

To receive emergency notifications, register your cellular telephone and landlines at Alert LA County at <http://lacounty.gov/emergency/alert-la>.

A memorial tree grove has been dedicated in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the highest point of the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, overlooking downtown Los Angeles.

A new columbarium at LA National Cemetery in West Los Angeles will allow burials once again for veterans and their spouses. The nearest open cemetery is now in Riverside.



KAY L. TROTMAN aka “Safari” Kay

When I retired as human resources director of Child Support Services in January 2006, after 37 ½ years, I had no plans to do anything but travel and enjoy life. The last four years had been full of tragedy, including the sudden loss of my mother, back-to-back deaths of my two brothers, and a severe traffic collision that left me unable to work.

I was so depressed that I felt the only way that I could continue on was to put some distance between me and the memories. I really needed to clear my head. I was losing it – and I really wanted some inspiration to move on in life.

So I took a trip to Tanzania, Africa, alone. At the time, it was the farthest destination from my home in Corona. That is the only reason I picked that destination. I had no inkling about Tanzania, I didn't know what to expect; I just wanted to be away! I wanted a life back. I didn't like what was happening to me.

It was a phenomenal trip and what I realized was that I was not depressed on the trip, and, in fact, I didn't think much about how depressed I was or had been for the past four years.

When I returned, even though the sadness hit me all over again, I had found something that really inspired me. I felt like I had a new lease on life, I felt a life, an experience that I could share with others. I started to think about it daily – what was it, what was the draw? What was it about Africa, about Tanzania, specifically? What kind of business could I do? How could I fit in? How could I incorporate the experience I just had. I needed to know the answers to my questions before I could decide what to do with the “new normal” in my life and how to go about living it.

Having worked most of my County career in part-time travel after work, selling air tickets and packaged tours to Mexico, Hawaii and the Caribbean, I knew that no longer interested me. I was intrigued by Africa! So I took the opportunity to travel to 12 different Africa nations to see what they offered. Since the safari part was uppermost in my mind, I only traveled to safari destinations. It only seemed natural that whatever I would do in the coming years would involve travel.

When I completed that two years of travel, incorporating those 12 African nations, I made a decision. I would form groups and take them to Tanzania. It was Tanzania that awakened me and inspired me, and pretty much saved my life. It was also Tanzania where I discovered a people so friendly that it beckoned me back. The Tanzanians were so warm and welcoming they made me feel like family. Today, as I'm about to celebrate my 10 years in business, I still feel the same. That is now my second home and my second family.

I knew that many travelers would be leery about going to Africa, so I built my niche market around escorting them myself. To date, I have been to Tanzania and other parts of Africa over 60 times, and escorted as many groups. They found just what I found, a spiritual journey that is indescribable, yet beckoned them back again and again. That's why much of my business is repeat business. I have now purchased two safari vehicles, partnered with a local Tanzanian, who is always my driver, to make it a more private, personal and custom experience, often keeping the group at 12 or less.

In 2013 I read an article in the Los Angeles Times entitled “Former Black Panther Patches Together a Purpose in Africa Exile.” It was about the founder of an organization that housed 20+ children trying to find a way to take the children to the beach, something they had never seen or experienced. I searched out the organization and the referenced person. We became friends as I defined my purpose and we talked about how we could help each other.

That article and subsequent meeting helped change and redesign the focus of our safaris – when we added the Make a Difference component for our guests, incorporating this village and community program. Together with the safari experience and now the Make a Difference safari, our safaris have grown stronger and more meaningful. The Children's Home survives by donations, and my guests have contributed so much over the years that it has propelled the organization to achieve many things that they might not have been able to do without

our help. The Children's Home is part of our safari family and certainly an integral part of my life, as I am to theirs.

Over the years we have raised money to bring tablets to the children, installed solar in the Children's

Home, provided dental care, paid for higher education for several of the older children, and we continue to bring much needed clothing for 21 growing children.

This community outreach program is available for people from all walks of life to sign up to share with the children. Many have participated year after year. We try to keep the cost at a reasonable level, along with our safaris. We want people to travel to Tanzania, and this “business” has never been about the money, but about the experience, what is offered and what is gained. The mission of my company is to change the focus, the negative stereotype of Africa and its people. It is an awesome experience and most say it's the highlight of the trip, and something no amount of money could match.

I know I have changed what many had previously thought was a dangerous place to go, a place that offered little to nothing, to a most beautiful, productive region that offers so much to so many. I am proud of that, especially when you consider that I certainly never had plans to start any business after retirement. Now I know this region well and have more contacts, seen more properties, and learned much more than I could have ever read in a book, or by just booking it. I get as much pleasure and enjoyment no matter how many times I return. It is always different.

I can't tell you that I can explain the answers to the questions I wanted answered. What is it about Africa, what is the draw, why do so many return time and time again? I do know, and in my heart, I feel it. To explain it is still an indescribable feeling that few can explain.

Even though I work longer and harder than I did before retiring, I am so rewarded by what this new venture has given me, how it changed my life and the lives of others, this great thing that I undertook, not knowing if or what it would become.

That was 10 years ago September 2008 and, of course, we're having a huge celebration safari in Tanzania in September 2018. What more could I ask for?



IN MEMORIAM

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

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Auditor-Controller – Paul A. Dow, Rosario P. Escudero, Harriet Taft

Beaches and Harbors – John W. Howe, Phillip Sanchez

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Children & Family Services – Jerome H. Ball, Cleopatra Balugo, Gordon A. Bowen, Christine E. Campos, Deanne Dorn, Virginia L. Harris, Barbara J. Holland, Percy M. Leblanc, Ana D. Lepe, B.J. Linton, Ruth Nunez, Mary P. Panish, Joyce L. Ross, Robert G. Teeter, Vivian G. Wiggins, Janice B. Wills, Brenda C. Wright

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County Counsel – Donald K. Byrne, Joe B. Hudgens

Data Processing – Peter C. Linares

District Attorney – Joseph Scott, Thomas G. Tomka, Maetee Wall

Engineer-Facilities – Henry G. Luna

Fire – Larry A. Anderson, Walter W. Black, Edgar H. Burcham, Lester E. Cotton, Dean S. Davey, Reynold T. Dong, Aubrey G. Farris, W. C. Gerhardt, Mark A. Nare, John A. Silk, Phillip G. Uhas, Billy F. Washington, William B. Ward, Allen A. Watts, Terry C. Welsh, John I. Werner

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LAC+USC Medical Center – Sancha G. Alaán, Stella Armijo, Erma Barbarin, Horace Blanton, Bertram F. Carpenter, Subash C. Chabra, Ruth A. Cooper, Ted L. Esters, Josephine S. Garcia, Charles E. Givens, Isabel Gomez, Daniel A. Grabski, Cecilia A. Gunkle, Maggie B. Johnson, Alice Madrid, Linda R. McDaniels, Maxson Mills, John G. Mohler, Cira J. Montesino, Debra L. Moss, Manuela Navarrete, Van T. Nguyen, Maryann Penn, Maria C. Quezada, Virginia Rebuloso, James Richmond, Mary E. Robison, Rebeca Ruiz, Adela Talamantez, Angeline A. Tancredi, Thelma E. Tolhurst, Daisy L. Yates, Julia L. Yeldell

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Public Safety – Ronald A. Workman

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Rancho Los Amigos Hospital – Patricia A. Gray-Eseigbe, Mary L. Green, Donald R. Jason, Alice L. Leguie, Mae M. Plank, Evangeline C. Quintana, Edith Sgritta

Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk – Charles Ainscough, Edgar H. Cole, Victoria E. Domingo, Rosalva De La Pena, Linda J. Johnson

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So. Cal. Air Pollution Control – George J. Betzler

South Coast Air Quality Control Dist. – Armando Lopez

Superior Court/County Clerk – Claudia V. Adkins, Rebecca E. Aguilar, Carolina G. Catle, Richard B. Colby, Mike Chavarella, Gyrome Forman, Ross M. Klein, Gloria M. Postel, Carole S. Moore, Sally L. Miller, Terry E. Newton, Patricia L. Pena, John E. Spaeth, Noriko Yoshihar

Treasurer & Tax Collector – James T. Hodges

Workforce Dev., Aging & Comm. Svcs. – Rockwell Ames

Department Not Designated – Douglas C. Adkins, Antonio Barreto, Phyllis A. Cunningham, Joan Harms, Edward H. Harter, Arthur A. Peters, Grace L. Phipps, Susanne E. Porter, Robert B. Longway, Vincent A. McLaughlin, Jimmye E. Ramsey, George I. Taylor, James F. Smith, Gilbert R. Woods, Alan W. Yee



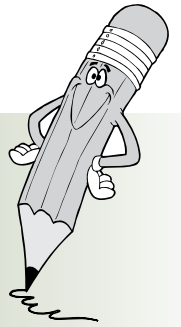
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General Membership Meeting

Mary K. Rodriguez, Chair, General Membership Committee



Tuesday, June 26, 2018

Ken Miller Recreation Center Auditorium
3341 Torrance Blvd., Torrance 90503

9 a.m. – Complimentary Refreshments

10 a.m. – Meeting Begins

Presentation by Kaiser Representative
Caroline Gutierrez
on "Alzheimer's vs. Dementia"



Retiree Information from LACERA & RELAC

DOOR PRIZES

Please bring your RELAC membership card

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

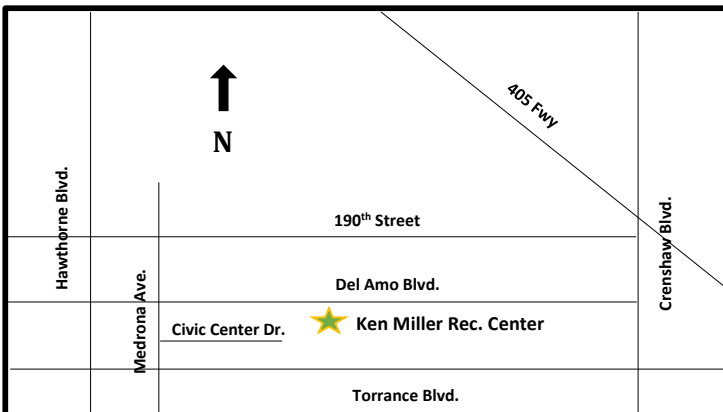
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From 405 Fwy. South, exit at Crenshaw Boulevard. Turn right onto Crenshaw Boulevard South. In approximately two miles, turn right onto Torrance Boulevard and travel west to **Madrona Avenue**. Turn right, and then turn into first driveway on the right. Turn left to the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

From 405 Fwy. North, exit at Crenshaw Boulevard South. Travel south on Crenshaw Boulevard. In approximately two miles, turn right onto Torrance Boulevard and travel west to **Madrona Avenue**. Turn right, and then turn into first driveway on the right. Turn left to Ken Miller Recreation Center.