

LACMC CONNECT



2019 LACMC Spring Conference

Volume 1 | Issue 3 | August 2019

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Our Spring Conference at the Hyatt in Indian Wells was outstanding. From the quality of the venue to the engaging speakers, the planning committee deserves kudos for the tremendous effort in making our conference such a success. The conversation with the CEO was a big hit with all wanting more interaction with the Chief. The Leadership on the Line panel with the Fire Chief, Public Works and Animal Care and Control Directors received high marks. Of course, our World War II nurse and dentist were extremely inspirational.



I want to thank Director Marcia Mayeda and her team for leading the Bylaws Committee and coming up with a better than ever guide to move the organization forward. The strength and success of an organization is contingent upon having sound bylaws and quality members to lead the organization.

Thanks to our executive team we've been able to focus on our three pillars: communication, mentorship and membership. Kashari Jones and her team have produced two top quality newsletters highlighting members and management programs. Mory Mostafavi briefed the Spring conference attendees about starting up a mentor program. The first step was developing a survey tool to assess interest. Derrick Robinson identified items eligible for LACMC membership. We have a ways to go in recruiting the eligible/potential members. Look for ways to recruit in our next newsletter.

Aim High
Ruth A. Wong
President, LACMC

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."

-John F. Kennedy

MESSAGE FROM RETIRED EMPLOYEES, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (RELAC)



Thank YOU for inviting me and including RELAC to your recent Spring Conference in early May. I got to talk with and try to answer so many questions from attendees. Obviously most were from those closing in on their last years before retirement and who had more immediate questions for me and for LACERA who was with us at the conference. RELAC is a continuing resource throughout retirement for all County employees. Many hundreds of former Management Council members extend

their involvement through RELAC, especially as they understand the importance of protecting those benefits they worked so hard to earn.

I would encourage anyone with questions to contact RELAC directly through its website, www.relac.org.

*Brian Berger,
RELAC, Vice-President
LACMC, Past President*

LET'S GET SOCIAL

Follow us on our social media accounts!

Twitter: [@LACMC](https://twitter.com/LACMC)

LinkedIn: [Los Angeles County Management Council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/los-angeles-county-management-council)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Chien-Ju Wang, DHS
Adriana Zarate-Lee, CSSD
Ernest Bille, Sheriff
Mildred Chin, Assessor
Sandra Gonzalez, WDACS
Cynthia Hernandez, CSSD
Alicia Oropeza, DPSS
Amy Boteiho, Public Library
Juan Carlos Martinez, DPSS
Ralph Johnson, CIO
Alison Waszmer, ACC
Ryan Edpao, ISD
Diana Hiriarte-Ayala, ISD
Margaret Chung, DPSS
Steve Dominguez, DMH
Alvin Martin, DPSS
Christle Chumney, Public Library
Natalia Guevara, DCFS
Dana Pratt, DCBA
Whitney Moore White, WDACS
Adriana Payan, AC

FAREWELL TO COUNTY SERVICE

Hortensia Diaz, DPSS
Indira Richards, CEO
Darnell King, DPSS
Judith Miller, Mental Health
Valaria Tebis, WDACS
Katherine King, Parks
Renee Jennings, DPSS
Agrisino Alonso, AC



2019 LACMC Spring Conference

COUNTY SIGNS NEW CONTRACT WITH EMPOWER RETIREMENT

On December 11, 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved a new five-year contract with Great-West Financial, the parent company of Empower Retirement. The County has contracted with Great-West as the Third-Party Administrator (TPA) of our Horizons 457(b) and Savings 401(k) Plans since 1997. The new contract became effective July 1, 2019. Administering the 457(b) and 401(k) Plans takes a team of County stakeholders from the Plan Administrative Committee, which is comprised of members from the Chief Executive Office, Auditor-Controller, Department of Human Resources, Treasurer and Tax Collector, County Counsel, CCU, SEIU Local 721 and one Board of Supervisors appointed member. In addition, a team of subject matter experts provide invaluable expertise and support with the day to day and complex regulatory, information security and contracting process. Members from Countywide Payroll, CEO - Chief Information Office, CEO – Contracts, CEO – Risk Management, an outside consultant and outside tax counsel round out the County's team. All of these professionals worked hard to enhance services and reduce costs for this contract.

The new contract incorporates the following enhancements:

- A new Empower local office to be co-located at the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) headquarters in Pasadena;
- Four additional retirement counselors and one administrative staff will enable the County to better meet the education and retirement readiness needs of participants; and
- Lower monthly participant fees

LACERA has allocated space at their Pasadena headquarters to house Empower's 11 local representatives. This will allow County employees to easily visit the TPA and LACERA at one location. This co-location will make it much more convenient for you to get a comprehensive look at your future financial retirement picture. The office is located at 300 N Lake Ave, Suite #210, Pasadena, CA 91101 (www.lacera.com)

COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT REVIEWS

Are you on track financially to have the type of retirement income you want?

Do you know how much income you will need in retirement to continue your current lifestyle?

Do you know how your 457(b) Horizons and/or 401(k) Savings Plan(s) work with your LACERA account?

A Comprehensive Account Review will provide the answers to many of these and other questions.

Last year, Empower began providing Comprehensive Account Reviews (CARs) for Plan participants. This one-on-one meeting provides a comprehensive assessment of a County employees' current financial retirement picture as well your monthly estimated retirement income based on your LACERA benefit, 401k/457, Social Security (if applicable), and any other outside investments you may have. Along these same lines, the refreshed empower website (www.countyla.com) now allows participants to set a retirement income goal which provides participants the ability to see their retirement readiness and how they compare with their peers. County participants can request a Comprehensive Account Review by calling 1-800-382-8924. Press 0 then wait for recording and when prompted to speak with a local office representative, say YES to schedule a CAR with the local office. The new additional counselors will help serve more participants, but these reviews are becoming very popular so be sure to inquire as soon as you can.

LACMC members should check out the new website and set up that CAR as a goal for this summer!

STAYING IN THE PLAN

Did you know you can keep your money in the 457(b) Horizons and 401(k) Savings Plans long after you retire or separate from service?

The benefits of staying in the plan include:

- Low costs
- The same wide choice of investment options you currently enjoy as an active employee
- Convenient account management
- Flexible distribution/withdrawal options
- Retirement account consolidation, if eligible

Check out the full Comprehensive Account Review and Staying in the plan articles in the November 2019 issue that will cover each of these benefits in more detail.

MEET AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Steven Hernandez, Office of the Assessor



Hi, Do you know me?

Meet Steven Hernandez, Assistant Assessor. Steven is responsible for Administration, Information Technology, Legal Services and Legislation for the Assessor.

What you don't know is that Steven does try to have a life outside of work. There are a number of things that interest Steven. Anyone who knows him knows that he is a rabid USC Law Alum and follows USC football religiously. But that is not what you want to know.

What you want to know is that Steven loves to cook. He takes pride in cooking and one of his specialties is cooking Thanksgiving Dinner for his large family. Usually the guest

list includes 20 or more people. How do you cook enough for 20 or more people? Well you roast 2 turkeys, and a ham. Well that takes care of the main course but he doesn't stop there. People love potatoes and Steven provides at least two versions of potatoes. For sure mashed is the most popular but shredded potato casserole and scalloped potatoes also make the list. Stuffing for the turkey is a must and over the years he has cooked up to four different styles at one dinner. Steven created his own stuffing that he makes from scratch and has never written down the recipe but it seems to be a favorite amongst his family. Finally no dinner is complete without brown sugar yams and pineapple casserole but Steven's son Nick has taken on that duty and uses his grandmother's recipe. When asked what he likes about cooking...Steven says "I enjoy the challenge of creating!



Cooking gives me an opportunity to put my creative talents in play." When asked if he cooks more than just Thanksgiving Steven said "Of Course! What is great about cooking is that sometimes failure can lead to success. I tried to cook a meal and it went bad. In my struggle to recover from my mistakes, I invented a very popular dish with my family that only I know how to cook it."

So...Does Steven do anything else? When asked Steven said, "well I have been known to sing...but that's for another day." If you see Steven anywhere, don't be afraid to ask him about his singing days.



2019 LACMC Spring Conference

Los Angeles Air Force Base Retiree of the Year 2019

BGen Ruth A. Wong, U.S. Air Force (ret) was named as Los Angeles Air Force Base Retiree of the Year for 2019. The award recognizes outstanding service as a retiree who understands the importance of reintegration of veterans into their communities. General Wong oversees the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for Los Angeles County. The department operates a one-stop service center in downtown Los Angeles assisting veterans and families with benefit claims, housing, legal, mental health and employment services.

The award was presented by Colonel Ann Igl, Los Angeles Air Force Base Commander, at the 2019 Retiree Expo, Armed Forces Retiree Appreciation Day.



Chat with us! Contact Dear LACMC at:
letschat@managementcouncil.lacounty.gov
We would love to hear from you!

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Management Council employees who retire can maintain their membership by completing a LACMC retiree form to authorize the retiree dues amount of \$4.00 be deducted from their monthly benefit amount?

If you have questions about retiree benefits or how to continue LACMC membership, please contact Membership Committee Chairperson Derrick Robinson at DerrickRobinson@dpss.lacounty.gov.

We would like to hear your comments, thoughts, ideas and suggestions. Please contact the editors at the following email:
LACMC.connect.editor@managementcouncil.lacounty.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Conference
October 24, 2019
Details TBD

Holiday Gala
December 6, 2019
Details TBD

EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

August 15, 2019 - "Public Sector Transparency and Accountability: What Should I Know?"

Town Center Hall-Social Hall
Room
11740 Telegraph Road
Santa Fe Springs, California
90670

September 2019 -
"Mindfulness Practices to Enhance Performance and Life Balance"
Details TBD

October 2, 2019 - "Budget & Finance for Non-Budget Personnel"
Details TBD

2019 LACMC Spring Conference



LOS ANGELES COUNTY



*Creating and Strengthening
Leaders!*