

LACMC CONNECT



2022 LACMC Appreciation Breakfast



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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope this newsletter finds you refreshed after the holidays and start of a new year! It was wonderful to see many of you at the Rose Bowl for our holiday event. How interesting to see “behind the scenes” at the Rose Bowl and hear about 100 years of history there. We recently received the feedback from attendees, which was very valuable. We understand there were shortfalls in various areas, and will work hard to ensure these do not happen again.

As always, the new year brings changes to the LACMC Executive Council. Dr. Jonathan Lucas resigned from the County to embrace new endeavors. Retiree John Wicker and Alternate Public Defender Erika Anzoategui have left, and we thank them deeply for their service and support.

We welcome two new department heads: Rafael Carbajal from Business and Consumer Affairs, and Terrie Hardy from Child Support Services. Additionally, Library’s Chief Deputy Yolanda de Ramus has joined the Executive Council. Re-elected for another term of service are Jim Allen from ISD, Ruben Marquez from Public Defender, and McKandy Leger from Human Resources. During our Executive Council meeting in January, we selected the next highest voted candidate, Rita Tufenkjian from the Chief Executive Office, to fill the seat vacated by John. We look forward to working with these dedicated professionals in continuing to provide the content and resources you look for from LACMC.

In 2023, I would really like to see more mentors join the LACMC mentoring program, as we have more mentee requests than mentors to meet the need. This is an extremely valuable and worthwhile program, and as a mentor myself I can attest to the benefits for both the mentor and mentee. Mentoring is a great way to develop leadership and coaching skills and use them in the development of your own career. We have many outstanding professionals in LACMC that have talent to share



with others. Please join me as a mentor and help us expand this program to even more LACMC members.

Our Spring Conference will be an invigorating and motivating opportunity to develop more professional skills and network with your colleagues. We have several outstanding speakers lined up, as well as a Chief Deputy panel. Our leadership panels are highly popular, and I know you won't want to miss it! The Spring Conference will be held right by the beach at the Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort on March 23 and 24, 2023. Register now before it sells out!

Finally, you might have heard about how the Department of Animal Care and Control issued a license for a young girl to keep a unicorn (if you haven't, just search "unicorn license" on the web). The world-wide support and positivity this generated has certainly been a highlight of my career in animal welfare. One of the characteristics of unicorns is that they can grant magic wishes. I hope all your magic wishes come true for you in 2023.

Warmly,

Marcia Mayeda
President

UPCOMING LACMC CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

2023 SPRING CONFERENCE

Thursday, March 23, 2023 & Friday, March 24, 2023

Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort

633 East Cabrillo Boulevard
Santa Barbara, California 93103

General Registration

January 19, 2023 through February 15, 2023
(or until sold out)

Single Occupancy \$375
Double Occupancy \$325

Refund deadline: February 1, 2023

REGISTER AT:

specialevents@managementcouncil.lacounty.gov

2023 BREAKFAST WITH SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER, 5TH DISTRICT

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Descanso Gardens

1418 Descanso Drive
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011

\$45 per person

Registration will open on March 15, 2023.

Mark your calendar!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Manuel Zapata, LASD
Rowena Nelson, LASD
Erick Lopez, DHS
Arnisha Barrera, DPSS
Chanel Smith, CEO
Rocio Quinones, DPSS
Michael Xie, CEO
Elizabeth Tanner, Public Library
Julieta Hovhannisyian, DPSS
Kanasha Tyree-Curtis, DMH
Noel Harvey, DPSS
Patrick Malekian, DPSS
Anna Petrosyan, CEO
Eva Keqi, CEO
Katrin Aslanian-Vartan, CEO
Allison Clark, CEO
George Moreno, PD
Rogelio Gamião, CEO
Tamara Gayden, PD
Natanael Fufa, ISD
Nune Petrosyan, DMH
Alvaro Avelar, DPSS
Ian Rudge, CSSD
Diana Tovmasyan, DPSS
Shannon Giddings, DPSS
Hector Zamora, DPSS
Semaj Hughes, DCBA
Jennifer Cheng, APD
Aldo Ynigo, Public Library
Kevin Liu, DEO
Julia Dixon, APD
Maria Holland, LASD
Tsovinar Marukyan, DHS
Ismael Lopez, ISD
Noaldo Montecinos, DPSS



LACMC INTERVIEWS

Andrea Vona

Department of Parks and Recreation

Q1) Why did you join LACMC?

I joined the Los Angeles County Management Council as an opportunity to network and learn from other managers and leaders about their successful strategies for achieving positive outcomes within the landscape and layers of the County.

Q2) How long have you worked for the County of Los Angeles (County)?

I have worked for the County of Los Angeles for four years.

Q3) Was the County your dream job as a child? If so, why? If not, what was your dream as a child and how did you land with County?

Working with the County was not necessarily my dream job as a child, but I have always been driven to make a positive difference in the world. I am enthusiastic about the mission and values of the Department of Parks and Recreation, rooted in land, community, resiliency, and equity.



Q4) Are you a 1st-generation County employee? If not, tell us about it.

Yes, I am a 1st generation County employee.

Q5) How can LACMC improve on creating and developing its members?

Perhaps by offering more awareness building about the Management Council and the benefits provided by the Council. Informal networking opportunities and local seminars are also fun and interactive ways to get members to gather and learn from one another.



A MESSAGE FROM THE RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

RELAC REPORT

PAPER BALLOT VICTORY, HOLIDAY LUNCHEON, GENERAL MEETING AND AMICUS BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF LACERA LAWSUIT HIGHLIGHT ACTIVITIES OF RETIREE ORGANIZATION

(Editor's Note: RELAC (Retired Employees of Los Angeles County) is the premier organization that advocates on behalf of retirees. This column is the first of quarterly articles containing information on its activities.)

RELAC worked with LACERA to reverse the County's plan to force all retirees to vote either online or by phone in the 2023 election of LACERA board members. The lack of paper ballots would disenfranchise many members, who are elderly, and some even living outside the U.S. The County has agreed to provide paper ballots with the option to vote telephonically or online.

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RELAC concluded a busy year with a well-attended holiday luncheon in December that included hundreds of new toys in support of the County Fire Department's annual Spark of Love toy drive.

"Once again RELAC members stepped up to make sure children in need across the County woke up on Christmas Day to enjoy toys and games from Santa," said Brian Berger, President. "We have a great partnership with County Fire that spans several years and benefits underprivileged children," he said.

The annual luncheon was held at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Whittier. More than 225 retirees enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch and were delighted to win various raffle prizes such as gift cards to popular eateries and RELAC merchandise. Many members traveled from as far away as Arizona to attend the holiday event.

A County Fire representative thanked RELAC members for ongoing support of the toy drive. He said each year the toys collected are distributed to non-profit agencies that provide vital services to needy families.

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RELAC conducted a general membership meeting on Thursday, January 26, 2023, 9:30 a.m. in Conference Rooms A, B & C at the headquarters of the Department of Public Works, 900 S. Fremont Ave., Alhambra.

Dr. Laura Trejo, Director of the Department of Aging and Disabilities, gave an informative and inspiring keynote address on ways retirees may use wellness techniques, good nutrition and regular exercise to maintain a productive quality of life well into retirement.

A former director of the City of L.A.'s Area Agency on Aging, Dr. Trejo is a highly regarded expert on and sought-after speaker on issues affecting the elderly.

The meeting included presentations on the RELAC scholarship program, its support of the L.A. Regional Food Bank, upcoming activities and services provided by the Pacific Group Agency (PGA). RELAC members also voted on amendments to its bylaws and director compensation. Some attendees left the meeting with raffle prizes, including gift cards and RELAC merchandise.

The next general membership meeting will be held in the Spring. Additional details concerning date, time and location will be given in the next RELAC Report.

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In addition, RELAC has filed an amicus brief in support of LACERA's lawsuit against the Board of Supervisors. The brief may be viewed by visiting RELAC's website, www.relac.org.

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Information on RELAC, its mission and how to join may be obtained from the website at www.relac.org.



2022 RELAC Holiday Luncheon
Photo Credits: Victoria Pipkin



Visit Empower's Security Center to read about the Security guarantee, tips and how to protect yourself.

Protect your County of Los Angeles 457(b) Horizons and 401(k) Savings Plan accounts

The County of Los Angeles and Empower are committed to helping you protect your identity, privacy and assets. We want to help you defend yourself against cybersecurity threats, phishing, and other types of fraudulent communications and activities — whether they're conducted through email, text, phone, mail or social media.

Follow these tips and best practices:

- ✓ **Register your County of Los Angeles 457(b) Horizons and/or 401(k) Savings Plan accounts (if you haven't already) and add your phone number and personal email address information**
Log in to countyla.com and register your account to reduce the chance that someone else can access your account or take your account over. Provide your personal email address, check your account frequently and pay close attention to security alerts that you receive.
- ✓ **Choose a stronger username and password**
A username and password unique to your account is the only way to go! Change your passwords often and don't reuse passwords. You can reset your password only through our secure website at countyla.com.
- ✓ **Let us know where to find you**
Keep your personal email and phone number updated for possible security alerts. If our only communication option is through an email address that has been hacked or compromised, then we're only communicating with the fraudster.
- ✓ **Always use multi-factor authentication (MFA) and never disable it**
Your 457(b) Horizons and/or Savings 401(k) account has multi-factor authentication, which sends a one-time code to your cell phone or email account on record allowing you to access your account securely. Multi-factor authentication requires access to another device, which improves the security of your account. Set up MFA on any account that allows it, and never disable it. Using MFA to your cell phone is one of the best ways to keep fraudsters out of your accounts. It's harder to hack a mobile phone than an email account; as such, consider using text messaging for multi-factor authentication rather than email.
- ✓ **Monitor your account: Review your account and respond to security alerts**
Your 457(b) Horizons and/or Savings 401(k) account are automatically set up to send status notifications that inform you of account activity. Review security alerts immediately. If you see account activity that you didn't request, contact the Empower Security Center immediately at **(844) 773-6797**.

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

As a member of LACMC, this is a Great Opportunity for you to showcase your talents and skills by joining one of the following interactive committees.

LACMC Membership Drive

Invite your colleagues to take a look at LACMC by sharing this newsletter with them.
More details to follow....

If your colleagues want to join now, share the following link with them.
<https://managementcouncil.lacounty.gov/CreateAccount>

Communications Committee

We are looking for a member who has excellent writing, communication, computer and social media skills to join our exciting Communication team.

If the above describes you and you are ready to show your communication skills, please contact Jim Allen, Communication Committee Chair at jallen@isd.lacounty.gov

Education Committee

We are looking for a tech savvy member, who can assist us with some of our IT functions, such as WebEx meetings and electronic equipment.

Are you ready to showcase your talents? If so, please contact Jackie Guevarra, Education Committee Chair at jguevarra@bos.lacounty.gov

Special Services Committee

We are looking for one dedicated LACMC member to facilitate our procurement and inventory for all conferences, and networking events. If this fits YOU, please contact Kashari S. Jones, Special Services Committee Chair at kjones@ceo.lacounty.gov.



2022 LACMC Holiday Gala

A MESSAGE FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (LACERA)

Hello, LACMC members! We are glad to have the opportunity to update you on the latest news from LACERA as we start setting our path for 2023 and beyond.

As mentioned in our September article, in 2022 we initiated our strategic planning process, seeking broad and candid input from our staff, members, and other stakeholders to inform our priorities and goal setting. The strategic plan is now in its final preparation stages and expected to be adopted by LACERA's boards in April. Once in place, the plan will guide our efforts for the next several years as we optimize services and operations and provide enhanced resources for members.

On the operations side last year, we were highly focused on upgrading call center and internal processes to serve our members more efficiently. We made numerous improvements in those areas, such as adding new wait-time and callback features to our phone system, upgrading our online scheduling system for virtual and in-person appointments, and implementing other software solutions. We expect some additional key projects to roll out in 2023, like the first phase of our new organization-wide case management system projected to go live in May.

Another area we will concentrate on for the foreseeable future is the development of digital resources for our members. Our most valuable platform for providing those resources 24/7 is our website, **lacera.com**. We are always looking at ways to engage and educate our members about their LACERA benefits, how they can prepare for retirement, and what to expect when they do retire. Since there are important steps to take at every career stage, we recently created two distinct new areas with updated resources to help members with pre-planning and the retirement process itself.

Steps to Prepare provides a timeline to guide members from the time they join LACERA through pre-retirement. The timeline is broken out for those early to mid-career, three to five years from retirement, and six months from retirement (the time to start the process), with the important action steps to take at each stage.

Our **Ready to Retire** section provides a chronological series of retirement steps to help members navigate the process (or self-retain if they wish) and includes a checklist, all the forms that members will need to be submit, plus extensive resources to help them make informed decisions.

Please encourage your employees to visit **lacera.com > Active Members > Retirement Planning** to make sure they are on track in preparing for a secure retirement. We also ask that you remind them to set up a My LACERA account. In addition to creating retirement benefit estimates based on their data on file, they should see if their beneficiaries are up to date and start purchasing service credit if they have prior County, government, or military service.

These new sections are just the beginning of how we will be developing lacera.com alongside My LACERA in the coming months and years. Our ultimate goal is to connect members with comprehensive tools and educational materials throughout their career journeys—provided in the format they prefer, whether it be written content, video, or ultimately interactive modules—and lead them to available self-service transactions on My LACERA.

Of course, the more we encourage members to go online, the more important it is that we help keep them safe and maintain their data security. This is a multifaceted effort led by our Information Security Division. In addition to maintaining a robust security infrastructure, our program includes outreach to members and employees on how to keep account information secure, including educational

cybersecurity articles and, for our staff members, regular training and vigilance exercises.

On the technical side, we also just went live with multifactor authentication (MFA) for My LACERA. When signing in, members may receive an email or text alert asking them to confirm their identity to access their account. Please let your employees know that they should log into My LACERA and click “Profile” to verify or update their personal, not work, email or cellphone number, so we have a way to instantly confirm it is really them logging in. The best way to get to My LACERA is to visit lacera.com, then click on the green My LACERA button on the upper right of the homepage.

For members who cannot get logged in to their My LACERA account, it is now faster to get assistance from LACERA. They can contact the call center at 800-786-6464 (hours are from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday) and press 1 for expedited My LACERA service.

We look forward to providing you more updates throughout the year. Until then, take care, and stay safe and healthy!

Luis A. Lugo
LACERA Deputy Chief Executive Officer

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.managementcouncil.lacounty.gov)

To access the LACMC website,
please click or scan here:



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

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