



# The Informer

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.

## REAO Luncheons

Once again, this is a reminder that the REAO luncheons for both Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley and the Hemet luncheons will remain cancelled at least through June 2021. We miss seeing all of you so much and cannot wait until we can meet in person. We will know by the next *Informer* if we have a chance of getting together in September. We really do miss you all and our time together!



## Presidents' Message

From the Desks of Linda Robinson and Doug Storm

Greetings, Retirees! It's time to put out the welcome mat to a new and promising season. Spring 2021 has landed, bringing with it the March 14th onset of daylight savings time, extended outside hours to pursue a variety of interests and the real possibility of vaccine protection in the ongoing, formidable battle with Coronavirus. What a toll Covid-19 has taken throughout the world we share and in which we live. Resilience, patience and resolve will be critical to successfully confront this pandemic. Today is a time of change and challenges on so many fronts—health, politics, economics—you name it. As we've previously written, retirees are strong, experienced and able to successfully meet the challenges we face. Remaining calm, united and informed will be critical during these demanding times.

### TEAM REAO ACTIVITIES

Despite pandemic restrictions which do not allow for in-person luncheons or business gatherings, Board members and volunteers continue to work for you and with one another as well as with other local, statewide and national associations—virtually—via Zoom. Connection is also made through conference calls, dissemination of news through the REAO website,

email correspondence, publication of the REAO newsletter, attendance at retiree-related webinars, monitoring of on-line Board of Supervisor meetings and participation at Orange County Employees Retirement System (OCERS) monthly Zoom meetings. We are all indebted to REAO's Executive Director, Ilene Barcenas, for her outstanding abilities to multi-task, organize and keep REAO functioning smoothly and successfully while meeting the multiple, on-going needs of our REAO membership and this Board. Thank you, Ilene, for your tremendous dedication and skills!

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Keith Concannon Scholarship process is underway and relatives of current REAO members are encouraged to apply. Please refer to the last issue of *The Informer* or to the REAO website at [www.reaoc.org](http://www.reaoc.org) for specific instructions. This program is an excellent way to give back to the community by financially assisting the next generation in their educational endeavors. Recipients of these scholarships have been very appreciative of REAO members for the support and help you've provided toward their academic achievement. The deadline for submittal of applica-

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# Welcome to Our Newest REAOC Board Member

# REAOC

Please join us in welcoming Tom Cooney, our newest REAOC Board member. Tom shared the following bio with our REAOC members:

Along with my parents the family moved to California in 1967 from the Bronx, NY after my HS Graduation.

I graduated from California State University at Los Angeles in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science, Business Major. I began parallel service in private industry and the U.S. Army Reserves after graduation.

I joined the Southern California Gas Company, a subsidiary of Pacific Enterprises. They also had another small subsidiary in the oil and gas industry that piqued my interest and I joined that subsidiary when it had about \$2 Million in joint venture assets. I advanced to a junior officer position with Pacific Enterprises Oil Company primarily overseeing internal auditing and participating in its mergers and acquisitions. The oil and gas business grew from its \$2 Million in assets to and independent oil producer with domestic and international assets of over \$1 Billion.

After seeing the business grow, the recession years of the mid-1990's came and to avoid bankruptcy of the parent, the eventual downsizing of the subsidiary and sale of its oil and gas assets became necessary. Armed with a lot of oil and gas industry experience, and a parachute for a soft landing after layoff, I grew to love southern California too much

to leave for the oil patch.

I happily joined the Orange County Marshal's Department in 1997 as a Staff Analyst in Budgets and simultaneously worked on the project to successfully merge the Marshal's Department with the Sheriff's Department enjoying many years thereafter in budgets, contract law enforcement, and team efforts to restructure court security statewide culminating in a change in California State Law signed by then Governor Gray Davis that streamlined funding for all 58 counties.

I retired from the County of Orange in 2013 with 15+ years of public service, 22+ years of private industry service, and six years with the U.S. Army Reserves.

After retirement, I was invited to join the AREOC Board as its Treasurer adding Secretary to that title in 2020 where I remain as one of its officers and most recently was invited to join the REAOC Board as its newest Director in 2021.

If you are reading this and are looking for a meaningful way to serve post-retirement, the retiree organizations offer an opportunity to do just that. Let the REAOC Board know.



P.O. Box 11787  
Santa Ana, CA 92711-1787  
Phone: 714-840-3995  
Website: www.reaoc.org  
Email: reaoc@reaoc.org

### OFFICERS

Linda Robinson	Co President
Doug Storm	Co President
Rebecca Guider	Secretary
Bill Castro	Treasurer

### DIRECTORS

Tom Cooney  
Frank Eley  
Gaylan Harris  
John Iagjian  
Larry Leaman  
Sara Ruckle-Harms  
Michael Schumacher

### APPOINTED STAFF

Ilene Barcnas	Executive Director
John Iagjian	Membership Committee
Vacant	<i>The Informer</i> Editor
Vacant	Luncheon Committee
Norma Roberts	Board Watch
Linda Robinson	CRCEA Delegate
Michael Schumacher	Legislation
Rebecca Guider	Scholarship Committee

*The Informer* is published 5 times a year. Readers are encouraged to write *The Informer* expressing their views and comments on the subjects of interest to them.

The mission of REAOC is to promote and maintain fellowship and camaraderie of OCERS retirees and their spouses by sponsoring social and recreational activities and by maintaining contacts via the newsletter, the REAOC website, e-mail, or other means of communication. A secondary purpose is tracking and dissemination of information relating to pension and legislative actions, financial matters, physical and mental health care, volunteer and employment opportunities and other concerns that may be of interest to our members.

OCERS retirees and their spouses are eligible for regular association membership. Dues are \$3.00 per month, payable through payroll deduction. Active employees, who will receive their retirement through OCERS, are eligible for Associate Membership. Dues for associate members are \$1.00 per month payable for the year each January.

Luncheons are held at Mile Square Golf Course in Fountain Valley on the fourth Wednesday of January, March, May and September, and on the first Wednesday of December. A local chapter of REAOC is active in Hemet.

# Finding Something to be Grateful For

By Judy McLane; harmonydesigned.com, reprinted with the author's permission

Some might say that the year 2020 coming to an end is the thing they're most grateful for these days.

I get that. Like you, I experienced 2020 as a mind-numbing, head-spinning, heart-wrenching, faith-testing, and angst-ridden year.

And yet. I find much to be grateful for from 2020 as I engage in this new year. Because, in spite of the horrendous challenges, it was also a year of deep thought and reckoning—within ourselves, our own communities, and our national community. We had endless conversations about our personal values and character and why it all matters, what is our place in this world, what home really means, and how slowing down and closing in helped many of us to find joy in the smallest pleasures as if they were gifts from the gods (and they probably were).

I've heard more friends and oth-

ers express childlike glee at watching birds out their window, or the emerging growth of newly planted seeds. Together in technology-enabled gatherings, we've shared so many laughs, and some tears, made a few memories and mostly just "held" each other in ways that communicated "we're here, we're together, and it'll be ok." On safe outings, we've explored neighborhood and community parks, Sunday drives and picnics even on a Monday or a Thursday. And of course, all the cooking and baking and eating and streaming we could take in. Good stuff for the soul, if not the belly.

Simple and satisfying pleasures long forgotten and newly embraced. We've learned—well, some of us have—to be more present in the everyday, in the communities in which we are members, and in the relationships that sustain us. The reliance we have on each other has

never been so pronounced.

And then. There have been so many losses. The sheer volume of lives lost or upended with little relief in sight is shocking and wrenching to our very core. At least it should be. Some loss was more personal than others. People we loved, character in our country that we assumed was bedrock, relationships that changed or shifted downward right in front of us. Losses all. Heart and soul crushing.

And still. A wise prophet of our time, Mr. Springsteen, said recently about this time and age, *"You learn to accept the world on its terms without giving up the belief that you can change the world. A successful adulthood includes the maturation of your thought process and very soul to the point where you understand the limits of life, without giving up on its possibilities."*

Love that.

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## Presidents' Message

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tion is April 1, 2021.

### **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

We look forward to the time group gatherings and luncheons can be safely held. We sincerely miss our face-to-face presentations and interactions with attendees at the REAOC Fountain Valley and Hemet luncheons. As soon as possible, luncheons will be scheduled again, and we hope nobody has lost directions to those two locations. Until then, please know we think of you often and hope you are safe, healthy and as happy as you can be.

### **NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR**

We would like to announce the appointment of Mr. Tom Cooney as the newest member of the REAOC Board of Directors. Tom has served as an Officer on the AREOC Board for 5½ years and has regularly attended REAOC Board meetings. Tom spent 15+ years in Orange County government and 22 years in the private sector. He brings significant financial, organizational, line and management experience to this Board. Welcome, Tom!!

In closing, please be aware of

our appreciation for each of you—your membership, continued participation and on-going support of REAOC. The importance of staying informed and united in today's world of politics and special interests is imperative. This is YOUR organization and every member of the Board of Directors thanks you for your commitment. Take care, be well and stay united, retirees!

– Linda Robinson and Doug Storm

## Welcome, New Members

**Assessor:** Dennis Tsai, Karen Speers

**Auditor Controller:** Nga Le, Albert Zavala, Julie Hameri

**CEO:** Darlene Schnoor

**Child Support Services:** Rosemary Savedra, Patricia Welch

**District Attorney:** William Zidbeck, Susan Laird, Tammi Dominguez, Sandra Kirkwood, Mary Morical,

**HCA:** Sharon Dobbs, Linda Booth, Rodney Butler, Yung-Cheng Chen, Adele Cohen, Yin Ying Liu, Jorge Lopez, Michelle Lopez, Gregory Masters, Huberto Mayo, Delores Reed, Alan Reynolds, Susan Richfrasen, Aida Sanchez-Nunez, Joseph Sanchez-Nunez

**OC CR:** Leticia Monsivais, Eleonor Ubina, Shirley Davis, Juanita Luevano, Jacqui Voss

**OCERS:** Margarita Castillo, Richard Oakes

**OC Fire Authority:** Jenny Cradle, Donna Felkner, Martin Kendrick, Marc Stone, Serene Tang

**OC Public Works:** Soheil Binaei, Katayoun Mahbourian, David Nguyen

**OC Sanitation District:** Frank Chavez, Allan Dumlao

**OCSD:** Douglas Earl, Virgil Bagstad, Victoria Miller, Douglas Leonard, Marinella Garcia, Marcella Alvarez, Manivone Saycocie, David Barnes, Oscar Bautista, Jeffrey Blake, Robert Capps, Monica Cenicerros, Robert Gunzel, Krista Hoskins, Richard Kirk, Rudy Mena, Hoang-Oanh Nguyen, Wayne Rehnelt, Linda Solorza, Vicki Trudeau, Librado Trujillo, Virgil Washington

**OCTA:** Richard Smith, Bill Blackwell, Thomas Brower, Robert Rokes, Tryal Edmundson, Darryl Harris, Franet Hazard, Michaella Jackson, Tonzonhea Jones, Maryann Kemsel, Ron Peterman, Thao Tran

**OC Waste & Recycling:** Greg Dayak,

## TEMPORARY WAIVER ALLOWS LICENSES FOR DRIVERS 70 AND OLDER TO BE RENEWED WITHOUT AN OFFICE VISIT

What do you do if you know your birthday is coming up and with that birthday, your California driver's license needs to be renewed? Going to the DMV and taking a test, standing in line, etc. during Covid times seems like a no-no. Luckily, the State of California's DMV agrees with you! Governor Gavin Newsom has temporarily waived the California law requiring drivers age 70 and older to visit a DMV field office to renew their license for the length of California's State of Emergency or until modified.

The process for obtaining a driver's license renewal is so much easier than it normally is when one must go into the office. Licenses with an expiration date between March 1, 2020, throughout the Covid-19 emer-



gency are eligible for this new way of renewing your license. Nearly all California drivers are now eligible to renew their license online or by mail—even if their renewal notice states an office visit is required.

If this applies to you or one of your loved ones or friends, you can read or share this information on how this renewal can be done. Please go online to <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/news-and-media/seniors-now-eligible-to-renew-drivers-licenses-online/>

Rosie Gonzalez, Dick Harabedian, Selwyn Weinert

**Probation:** Karen Nelson, Michael Patton, Carmen Hernandez, Linda Barry, Pamela Clark-Holmes, John Stiver

**Public Defender:** Dinah Granafei, Daniel Robles, Benjamin Savill

**SSA:** Edith Hartzler, Valerie Dinh, Parvaneh Dehnavi, Gladys Lizazaburu, Debra Sherwood, Ana Knight, Betty Pham, Hossein Foroughi, Agustin Matus, Wes Cleveringa, Nick Kazerooni, Luz Ramirez, Ann Hobson, Madeleine Gerges, Cristela Kharrat, Katherine Peeples, Martha Burrel, Diane Miller, Deborah Phillipson, Irma Salazar-Allen, Fanny Gomez, Nora Anaya, Mary Barrett, Randall Bradford

**Superior Court:** Douglas Koerner, Julie Doran, Debbie Cepeda, Deborah Pinkham, Carol Boyd, Rogelio Rodriguez, Elena Villela, Randall

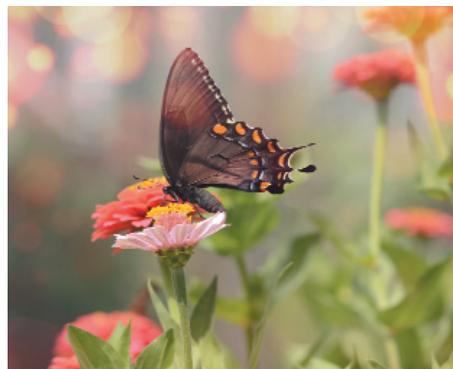
Bradford, Julie Chambers,

**Treasurer-Tax Collector:** Leslie Morales, Melissa Dobbins

**UCI:** Ben Cruz, May Cruz

**Not Stated:** Janice Gregory, June Steffen, Brenda Freund, Edith Knott, Terry Valadez Moran, Martha Alas, Claireann Ferrier

**Surviving Spouse:** Allen Farnsworth, Shirley Tappero, Patricia Bartosiewski, Irene Leiby



## Who Do I call?

It is somewhat confusing to determine who to call with your questions regarding your REAOC benefits, your County Health Plan benefits, your retirement, etc. Hopefully the chart below will assist you in determining who you should call with your questions.

For information regarding your **retirement check, pension benefits or tax forms:** Orange County Employees Retirement System (OCERS):  
*www.ocers.org* 714-558-6200

For information regarding **DeltaCare Dental Plan** administered by OCEA:  
*www.ocea.org* 714-835-3355

For information regarding **Vision Services Plan (VSP)** administered by OCEA:  
*www.vsp.com* 800-877-7195

For information regarding **Ameritas PPO Dental Plan, Cigna HMO Dental Plan, and other supplemental benefit plans like pet insurance, travel insurance, Legal Shield, etc.** that are administered by Pacific Group Agencies, Inc:  
*www.pgagencies.com* 800-511-9065

For information regarding **Medical Eye Services Vision Plan (MES)** administered by Pacific Group Agencies, Inc.:  
*www.mesvision.com* 800-877-6372

For information regarding **Amplifon:**  
Amplifon Hearing Health Care 877-846-7075

For information regarding **your medical insurance:**  
Orange County Employee Benefits Office Benefits Resource Center  
My OC Benefits™  
*www.mybenefits.ocgov.com* 833-476-2347

### OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

**Orange County's Credit Union**  
*www.orangecountyscu.org* 888-354-6228

**Medicare**  
*www.medicare.gov* 800-633-4227

**Orange County Council on Aging**  
*www.coaoc.org* 714-479-0107 (OC) or  
909-256-8369 (IE)

**Social Security Administration**  
*www.ssa.gov* 800-772-1213

## 2021 Keith Concannon Scholarships

AS A REMINDER, THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE DUE VERY SOON. If you have not already done so, scholarship applications and the instructional packets with the scholarship requirements may be requested by sending an email to *reaoc@reaoc.org* or by calling the REAOC office at (714) 840-3995.

The completed applications, including the response to the essay question and certification must be electronically submitted to REAOC by April 1, 2021. The official high school or college transcript and reference letter must be mailed separately with a postmark no later than April 1, 2021. The application instructions in the packet should be thoroughly reviewed so that all of the requirements are met. An applicant cannot be considered for the scholarship award if all of the required items are not present in their submittal.

Please encourage your family members to apply for a 2021 scholarship grant! If you have any questions regarding the scholarship applications or the deadlines, please contact the REAOC office at the above number.



## Recipe Corner

### One-Pot Thai Peanut Chicken Pasta

Prep time: 15 min • Cook time: 13-15 min

Ready In: 30 min • Servings: 6



#### Ingredients

- 1 carton (32 oz) chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 2/3 cup creamy peanut butter
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 to 2 tablespoons Sriracha sauce
- 1 tablespoon olive oil or toasted sesame oil
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 lb uncooked linguine
- 1 medium red bell pepper, seeded and sliced
- 1 medium orange or yellow bell pepper, seeded and sliced
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 2 cups shredded deli rotisserie chicken
- Juice from 1/2 small lime
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 3 tablespoons chopped roasted peanuts
- 3 tablespoons thinly sliced green onions

#### Directions

1. In very large stock pot, heat chicken broth and water to boiling over medium-high heat. Add peanut butter, soy sauce, honey, Sriracha sauce, oil and ginger; stir until evenly incorporated.
2. Rinse linguine under water. Break in half, and add to pot, submerging completely, along with bell peppers and carrots. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook 13 to 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until linguine and veggies are tender and sauce is reduced and thickened.
3. Remove from heat; stir in chicken and lime juice. Top with cilantro, peanuts and green onions before serving.

This recipe makes great leftovers! Store leftovers in resealable plastic or glass container. If necessary, add a little extra broth or water to the pasta before reheating.

**Nutrition Facts** - Not available.

Recipe by: Betty Crocker

<https://www.bettycrocker.com/recipes/one-pot-thai-peanut-chicken-pasta/1cf1c602-ad49-4b73-a04a-4f887b9ba960>

## In Memoriam

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families and loved ones of those who meant so much to so many.

#### November 2020 – January 2021

Karen Angers, OCFA  
Edward Blankenship, JWA  
Cecilia Boutin, HCA  
Susan Calhoun, Child Support Svcs.  
Cynthia Carter, OCTA  
Kenneth Crothers, OCPW  
Margaret Frey, SSA  
Ralph Garcia, OCTA  
Jerry Golding, Probation  
Robert Graham, UCI  
Harold Henriksen, OCCR  
Syamak Kashkooli, Assessor  
Vang Lee, OCTA  
Ricardo Mendoza, SSA  
Yvonne Mitchell, Probation  
Alan Nestlinger, OCPW  
Charles Oliver, OCTA  
Nolan Osborn, OCFA  
Terence O'Toole, OCTA  
Raymond Peterson, OCTA  
Ralph Reichstein, OCPW  
Donald Rice, Superior Court  
Kayla Robinson, Sheriff's Dept.  
Joe Romero, OCPW  
Ema Rubio, Probation  
Robert Skelly, DA  
Irene Smith, Superior Court  
Jayne St. John, OCPW  
Hans Stretton, OCTA  
Fred Thibault  
Mary Toombs, OCPW  
Paul Urka, Probation  
Eva Vagner, Assessor  
Joseph Vaughn, OCPW

#### Surviving Spouses

Ruthmarie Beisner  
Mary Cate  
Russell Dudevoir  
Wendel Handy  
William Hunt  
Maggie Johnson  
Juanita Waite



## Just to take the edge off the Covid boredom!! Who knows if it's true?

INTERESTING STUFF – just for fun! Thanks to REAOC member Fred for sharing.

★ Many years ago, in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled “Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden” and thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language.

★ The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime-time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

★ Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.

★ Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.

★ Coca-Cola was originally green.

★ It is impossible to lick your elbow.

★ The State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work is Alaska.

★ The percentage of Africa that is wilderness is 28%; now get this, the percentage of North America that is wilderness is 38%!

★ The cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven? \$16,400!

★ The average number of people airborne over the U.S. in any given hour? 61,000 (well, maybe not right now!!!)

★ Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair. (Just a minute ...let me check.)

★ The first novel ever written on a typewriter? *Tom Sawyer*.

★ In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence, we have “the rule of thumb.”

★ The San Francisco cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.

★ Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

- Spades – King David
- Hearts – Charlemagne
- Clubs – Alexander, the Great
- Diamonds – Julius Caesar

★  $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$

★ If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

★ Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2nd, but the last signature was not added until five years later.

**Q.** Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what?

**A.** Their birthplace

**Q.** Most owners name their boats. What is the most popular name requested?

**A.** Obsession

**Q.** If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter “A”?

**A.** One thousand

**Q.** What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common?

**A.** All were invented by women.

**Q.** What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

**A.** Honey

**Q.** Which day are there more collect calls than any other day of the year?

**A.** Father's Day

★ In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase “goodnight, sleep tight.”

★ It was the accepted practice in

Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the Mead he could drink. Mead is a honey wine and, because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

★ In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts. So, in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them “mind your pints and quarts and settle down.” It's where we get the phrase mind your P's and Q's!

★ Many years ago, in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. Wet your whistle is the phrase inspired by this practice.

★ At least 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow!

★ Don't delete this just because it looks weird. Believe it or not, you can read it.

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aula-city uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid. Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the first and last ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it wouthit a porbelm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

Amzanig huh?



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RETIREED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. Box 11787, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1787

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**Dated Material – Please Deliver Immediately**

Presorted  
First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Torrance, CA  
Permit No. 1