



The Informer

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.

Spring Luncheon Set for Wednesday, March 23rd



Come celebrate Spring with friends, REAO members and guests at the March 23rd

luncheon at Mile Square Park Golf Course Clubhouse in Fountain Valley. A special menu is being prepared, see page 7 for details. And, as always, the tables will be decorated with beautiful center pieces that will be taken home by a lucky retiree or guest at each table.

Steve Delaney, OCERS CEO, will be the featured speaker at the March luncheon and will provide an update on our retirement system. You'll also hear the latest on Retiree Health Benefits and other pertinent Retiree information. Prizes and surprises await, including the \$150 Progressive Drawing! You could be the next winner but you must be in attendance to win. Don't miss out.

Make your reservation today by sending in the form on page 7 with your check to arrive at REAO no later than Wednesday, March 16th. Check in starts at 11:00 AM and lunch is served at noon. Please car-pool if possible.

See you on Wednesday, March 23rd!

Presidents' Message

From the Desks of Linda Robinson and Doug Storm

March is a time of transformation and renewal. It brings with it the arrival of Spring and daylight savings. What a great time of year. C. Rossetti says it well: "Spring is when life's alive—in everything."

May each of us find time to recognize and enjoy that "aliveness". Let's all take time to relax, re-energize and renew our appreciation for life and the beauty of Spring.

The new year has started out at a fast pace. Members of your Board of Directors have participated in monthly Board meetings, maintained constant communication with our attorneys regarding litigation activities, planned two retiree luncheons, attended CRCEA meetings, published two issues of *The Informer*, commenced plans for a new membership drive, monitored Board of Supervisor meetings, provided REAO website updates and engaged in the establishment of goals and objectives for our companion, non-profit organization, the Association of Retired Employees of Orange County.

In addition to these on-going activities, a subcommittee of REAO has been meeting with County Human Resources representatives to create a dialog addressing 2012 health insurance issues and future challenges. The subcommittee is comprised of both of us plus Sara

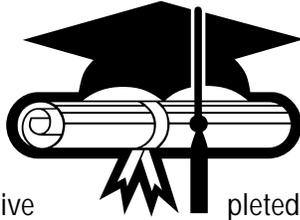
Ruckle-Harms and Gaylan Harris. While the subcommittee has no negotiating status we receive information and ensure the concerns of our members are made known. At the time of this publication, we will have participated in approximately six meetings. The exchange of information and concerns has been cordial and informative. These meetings in no way affect our lawsuit against the county but merely attempt to create a continuing dialog regarding health insurance issues as those issues are of paramount interest and substantial impact to our members. We will keep you posted as the process continues.

On the legal front the California Supreme Court has granted our request for calendar preference. This is good news and means our case will be moved ahead of other cases in front of the court; this due to the impact of the county's action on retirees and the age of our members. We anticipate this will allow the case to be heard during this calendar year. As you read in the last issue of this

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Scholarship Applications Due April 1st

REMINDER: All 2011 Keith L. Concannon Scholarship applications along with official transcripts must be postmarked no later than Friday, April 1, 2011. Eligible applicants must be related to an active REAOC member and have a GPA of at least 3.0. They include high school seniors entering college for the fall 2011 semester, or students already attending an accredited educational institution as candidates for a degree program, or attending an accredited institution that is authorized to provide a training program to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation. Orange



County residence is not required. Applications are available at the REAOC website, www.reaoc.org, at the March luncheon, and by calling the REAOC office at (714) 840-3995. Completed applications should be mailed to REAOC at PO Box 11787, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1787.

All candidates will be notified in May, and successful candidates will receive their Scholarship awards in a presentation ceremony at the May 2011 luncheon. Family members are invited to attend the luncheon as well.

Good luck to all the candidates!

REAOC

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

OFFICERS

Linda Robinson	Co President
Doug Storm	Co President
June Marcott	Secretary
Chuck Hulse	Treasurer
Bob Griffith	Past President

DIRECTORS

Gaylan Harris	John Iagjian
John LaRoche	Frank Madrigal
Sara Ruckle-Harms	

APPOINTED STAFF

Ilene Barcenas	Office Manager
John Iagjian	Membership Committee
John LaRoche	<i>The Informer</i> Editor,
	Luncheon Committee
June Marcott	Board Watch &
	Scholarship Committees
Linda Robinson	CRCEA Delegate
Lou Scarpino	Legislation

Presidents' Message

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newsletter, opening, opposition and reply briefs were submitted to the Court in the latter part of December. By the end of January, three amicus briefs were submitted by interested parties in support of REAOC including one by the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CALPERS); another by the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA) which included Sonoma County Association of Retired Employees and the Retiree Support Groups of Contra Costa County; and a third by the California Federation of Teachers, California Community College Independents Organization and the Fresno Unified Retirees Association. Two amicus briefs were filed in support of the County from the League of California Cities and the California State

Association of Counties. All briefs are posted on the REAOC website for your review.

In closing we want to thank each of you for your membership in REAOC and continued support of our organization's efforts to protect the benefits we earned while employed by the County. We will continue to strive to bring our issues to the surface and safeguard the quality of life for County of Orange retirees. Take care and be well.

- Linda Robinson
- Doug Storm



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 the members. 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. Association membership is limited to OCERS Retirees and their spouses. Membership dues are \$3.00 per month, payable through payroll deduction. The mission of REAOC is to promote and maintain the fellowship and camaraderie of OCERS Retirees and their spouses by sponsoring social and recreational activities, and by maintaining contacts via a newsletter and other means of communication. A secondary purpose of REAOC is the 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.

Association of Retired Employees of Orange County (AREOC)

by Larry Leaman

About a year ago the Board of Directors of REAOC formed a companion non-profit organization named the Association of Retired Employees of Orange County, or AREOC. This organization was formed to eventually take the lead in activities related to protecting the rights and benefits earned by retirees, and to allow REAOC to return to its focus of social support and activity. I have been pleased to serve for the last several months as a volunteer to AREOC as it has gone through basic organizational planning. I served as the Chairman of a work group charged with developing a clear and concise statement of mission, vision and values for AREOC.

The task sounds simple – develop a mission statement that explains why the organization exists, a vision statement that describes where the organization hopes to go over a period of years, and a statement of values that the organization both subscribes to and defines how we all want to be treated. As is often the case with group work, what seems like something that appears simple proved to not be so simple because of diverse ideas, viewpoints and values. But the job was completed, and on January 12, 2011 the AREOC Board of Directors approved the following statements:

Mission: The mission of the Association of Retired Employees of Orange County (AREOC) is to protect retirees' rights and benefits.

Vision: The vision of the Association of Retired Employees of Orange County (AREOC) is to be a

recognized, unifying voice for the protection of retiree rights and benefits.

Values: The values of the Association of Retired Employees of Orange County (AREOC) are:

1. Integrity – honesty
2. Inclusive
3. Stable
4. Informed – knowledgeable
5. Dignity
6. Communicative
7. Effective

Given this statement of what AREOC is and is about, the AREOC Board also adopted a 2011 work plan for this work group in furtherance of the Mission Statement. Tasks include developing a strategy for building alliances and coalitions with organizations also interested in protecting the rights and benefits of retirees and the development of a brand identification in the form of a logo.

The 2011 Board of Directors for AREOC is: Sara Ruckle-Harms, President; Nicole Macias, Treasurer; Lou Scarpino, Secretary; Bob Griffith; Gaylan Harris; Chuck Hulse; John LaRoche; Larry Leaman; Frank Madrigal; Linda Robinson and Douglas Storm.

These are challenging times in the arena of public policy and public finance, and we need to be tuned in to what is happening and strategize to protect the interests of retirees. I am happy to help AREOC carry out its mission.



REAOC Membership Drive

by John Iagjian

I have not written to you regarding REAOC membership for a while now. It's high time I did, folks. And what better way to introduce what we're doing but to state that REAOC is having a membership drive right as I'm writing this article.

About one and a half years ago Doug Storm had the great idea of having sign-in sheets for those attending the bi-monthly pre-retirement presentations sponsored by OCERS. Since then I have been collecting the sign-in sheets after each session. Recently a Membership Committee consisting of Mary Jones, Jeanette Tozaki, and myself has been established to call all the folks on our sign-in sheets that said they will be retiring within a year or so from the date they attended a presentation.

The second thing we'll take on is to look into establishing an associate membership in REAOC so we can create more of a seamless transition from active employee to retiree. Associate members will be aware of all the issues facing retirees and will therefore be in a position to make better decisions about retirement matters. They will have many of the benefits and privileges of membership, except they will be unable to vote on REAOC matters at our general/luncheon meetings.

The third prong of this three pronged approach is to inquire with OCERS to see if we can include a membership drive article for the *At Your Service* quarterly magazine published by OCERS.

Meanwhile, I want to take this

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Council On Aging – Orange County

Jacqueline Lauder, Director of Education for the Council on Aging - Orange County, was our guest speaker at the January 26, 2011 REAOC luncheon. Jacqueline coordinates all educational components of the five services/programs that the Council provides. During her very informative presentation she stated that financial elder abuse is on the rise and stressed that we should not give our Social Security, credit card, or bank account numbers to anyone over the telephone. She also distributed copies of Senior Guide O.C. 2011 which is a valuable resource for our members, their families and friends. She stated that REAOC members who live outside of Orange County can also contact them and they will be referred for services in their residential area.

The Council on Aging – Orange County was formed as a nonprofit organization in 1973. The Council serves over 70,000 of the most vulnerable population in Orange County – senior citizens – directly assisting them in living safer, more dignified and independent lives.

Mission Statement

“The mission of the Council on Aging – Orange County is to promote the independence, health and dignity of older adults, through compassion, education and advocacy.”

With a small, committed professional staff and relying on assistance from volunteers the Council operates the following five programs:

Advocates for Nursing Home Residents (Long-Term Care Ombudsman Services)

State Certified Long-Term Care Ombudsmen protect the rights of



Jacqueline Lauder, Director of Education for the Council on Aging - Orange County

28,000 older adults living in nursing and residential care homes located throughout Orange County.

Health Insurance Counseling (HICAP – Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program)

HICAP provides educational seminars, individual counseling and limited legal assistance with Medicare and related insurance coverage, as well as unbiased information and assistance with original Medicare, HMO's, Medigap Plans, Medi-Cal, employer health plans, long term care insurance and military benefits. Counseling is available in person at more than 55 sites throughout Orange County, or by telephone at 1-800-434-0222.

Financial Abuse Prevention (FAST – Financial Abuse Specialist Team)

FAST, a voluntary partnership consisting of multidisciplinary public and private professionals provides educational awareness of financial elder abuse issues on a national and community level while providing recommendations to appropriate agencies for the investigation of financial abuse cases.

Friendly Visitors (Caring Connections Friendly Visitor Program)

The Caring Connections Friendly Visitors Program provides frail, isolated, older adults and persons with disabilities who have no family members or support system, with healthy companionships, social interaction and nurturing relations to help them achieve mental, physical and spiritual health.

Education (Continuing Education Program)

Accredited continuing education programs are provided for allied professionals and the community, featuring topics and issues critical to the support and care of our older adult population and those who serve them.

The Council on Aging – Orange County is a private, nonprofit corporation and is funded by individual donations, community funds, corporate sponsorships, foundation grants, United Way, and federal and state programs. Additional information on their programs may be obtained as follows:

Council on Aging – Orange County
971 East 4th Street, Suite 200
Santa Ana, CA 92705-3917
(714) 479-0107
www.coaoc.org

Just Imagine Tours

Tours are approximately one hour in length and include a personal tour of the offices. As a guest you will learn more about the history of the Council on Aging, the programs serving older adults and their families and the future plans to continue to meet the needs of the older adult community in Orange County. Tours are scheduled for 10:00 am on March 16 and April 20 and 5:00 pm on March 24 and April. RSVP to Dan Bent at (714) 479-0107 ext. 223.

In the News

Edited by Helen Lotos

Orange County: For a second time the Board of Supervisors has been stymied by a court ruling in its fight to undo pension plans granting retroactive benefits to sheriff's deputies by a prior board vote. On Jan. 26, justices for the 2nd Appellate District in Los Angeles sided with the deputies' union, agreeing that the pension plan's retroactive benefits did not violate the state constitution. The *OC Register 1-27-11* reported that Supervisor John Moorlach, who has spearheaded the Board's fight to roll back a pension plan that guarantees retired deputies nearly 90% of their salaries at age 50, said the fight will continue. The county's lawsuit was thrown out in February 2009 by a LA superior court judge and the county appealed. The board has spent \$2.26 million as of July 2010 pursuing the lawsuit, according to the Register. "My thought was that it would always go to the Supreme Court," said Moorlach, adding: "The fat lady hasn't sung."

Board Chairman Bill Campbell, in his online Jan. 28 Report, said the board will consider whether to appeal the decision to the state supreme court in a closed session on Feb. 8.

A new report from the OC Health Care Agency finds that over the last 18 years the average life expectancy in the county has increased by 4.6 years, from 76.9 in 1990 to 81.5 years in 2008. Notable demographic differences in specific populations persist, according to an HCA press release dated Jan. 24. Asian/Pacific Islanders have the highest average life expectancy of 84.7 years and

Hispanics have the second highest at 83.1 years, while blacks and whites have the lowest life expectancy in the county at 80.4 and 80.3 years, respectively. Females in OC have a life expectancy of 83.2 years, compared to males at 79.6 years. The full report, "Life Expectancy in Orange County – 2010," is available online at www.ochealthinfo.com/pubs/life.

Sacramento: The California Foundation for Fiscal responsibility, a Citrus Heights-based group famous for its database of state and local workers with six-figure pensions, wants to reduce existing retirement formulas, according to the *Sacramento Bee 1-20*. The foundation's idea would force every public employee pension plan in California "to use tougher standards to figure out the spread between their pension promises and the assets they have to make good on those promises." Those new standards would undoubtedly increase the estimates of the funds' "unfunded liability," reported the *Bee*. Foundation point man Dan Pellissier says it will take \$2 million to collect enough signatures to get the proposal on the 2012 ballot and another \$28 million or so to fight the ad war with unions that will ensue. He thinks the support is out there.

San Bernardino County: Rising pension rates for county employees will wield a \$16.4-million blow to the county's budget and will likely result in more layoffs and reduction of services, CEO Greg Devereaux said. Compounding the issue, he said, is that the county's contracts with its two biggest labor unions, the San

Bernardino County Safety Employees Benefit Association and the San Bernardino Public Employees Association, are up for renegotiation next year, and raises are merited, according to the *San Bernardino County Sun 1-19*. The board approved increases in the employer contribution rates in January. The rates for general county employees increased to 14.72% from 12.32%, while safety employee rates grew to 31.23% from 26.82%, reported the *Riverside Press-Enterprise 1-13*.

Marin County: An opinion piece in the *Marin Independent Journal 1-18* states that "according to a Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report, there are 130 governmental entities in Marin that operate at a cost of \$5,422 for each and every resident of the county, consisting of the county government, its planning commission and 57 county advisory boards, 11 municipalities, 19 school districts, one community college district, 33 special districts and seven special-purpose districts. The challenge now becomes which services are residents willing to pay for and can those services be delivered with equal or greater levels of service for less cost than the present fractured arrangement. All locally elected officials recognize a new paradigm is required to reorganize the delivery of governmental services in a time of economic challenge that will likely last a decade."

Sonoma County: Taxpayers and county government employees will have to pay roughly \$6.4 million more in contributions to the county's

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In the News

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pension system starting in July 2012, according to the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat* 1-21. The increase is the result of a unanimous vote by the pension system's board members to lower their fund's estimated earnings projection by a quarter percent. The old rate, in place since 2003, was 8%. The change to 7.75% is a more conservative projection that shrinks the assumed annual income from investment earnings, which make up the largest source of pension funding.

Solano County: In an effort to save a significant chunk of change, the county will offer eligible employees an extra incentive plan to retire early, according to the *Vacaville Reporter* 1-12. The board of supervisors voted 4-1 in favor of the Public Agency Retirement System's supplementary retirement plan, which will be offered to eligible miscellaneous and safety retirement plan members. Those employees who take the offer would receive a supplemental retirement benefit equivalent to 6% of their final pay, which is base pay plus longevity.

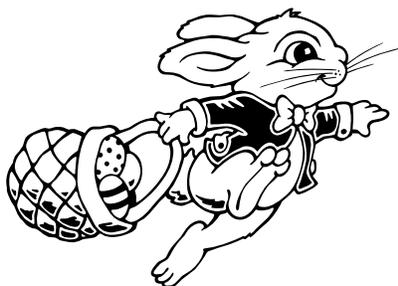
Nationwide: In their bids to reform K-12 education, state leaders in Florida, Idaho and New Jersey are calling for eliminating teacher tenure, reported the *Christian Science Monitor* 1-18. If the legislatures go forward with such proposals, they'll join more than a dozen states that have recently changed their teacher evaluation and dismissal systems or are considering such moves.

New York: Mayor Michael Bloomberg said reforms of the city's pension system would be his admin-

istration's No. 1 priority in the weeks ahead, reported the *LA Times* 1-20. He said he wanted to raise the retirement age to 65 for non-uniformed workers. The change, which would apply only to new hires, would save billions of dollars over the long term, he said. Year-end bonuses would also be eliminated, saving about \$200 million a year.

Massachusetts: Nearly all of future state and municipal employees would work five years longer, contribute more to their pensions and have their benefits slashed if they retire early under a bill Governor Deval Patrick and legislative leaders unveiled, reported the *Boston Globe* 1-19. The minimum retirement age for almost all workers, including elected officials, would be raised from 55 to 60.

Minnesota: Republican lawmakers want to use furloughs, layoffs, wage freezes, lowered benefits and early retirement to reduce the state government's workforce by 15% over the next few years, reported the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* 1-20. Republicans said they also want to create a new state-worker model where pay and benefits equal those of the private sector.



CRCEA Spring Conference

The California Retired County Employee Association, CRCEA, Spring Conference is scheduled for April 17 – 20, 2011 and will be hosted by the Retired Employees of San Diego County (RESDC). The conference will be held at the Kona Kai Resort located at 1551 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego. Additional information can be obtained in the March 2011 edition of the RESDC newsletter, Network, which is on their website at www.resdc.net.

REAOC Updates via E-mail

REAOC officers often send e-mails to our members in order to keep them informed of current events and activities, such as the status of the lawsuit challenging the reduction of retiree health care benefits. If you are not on REAOC's e-mail list, please forward your name and e-mail address to reaoc@reaoc.org. This will help to ensure you have the latest information in between editions of *The Informer*. Thank you.

Membership Drive

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opportunity to wish each and every one of you great health and a very prosperous new year; and if you know anyone who is a County retiree but not a REAOC member, please urge them to join our ranks by contacting Ilene Barcenas at reaoc@reaoc.org or they can call Ilene at (714) 840-3995. Thank you so much!

Hemet Chapter Luncheon

REAOC's Hemet Chapter will hold its next luncheon on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church located at 515 E. Kimball in Hemet. The cost is \$9.50 per person. Make your reservation by calling Jeri at (951) 672-4594 or Erma Phillips at (951) 654-4312.

Upcoming luncheons will be held on the second Tuesday in June and October 2011.

On the Calendar: 2011 REAOC Luncheons



Wednesday:
 May 25
 September 28
 December 7

AREOC Litigation Fund

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Enclosed is a check in the amount of:
 \$ _____

Please make your check payable to AREOC Litigation Fund and mail the check with this form to:

REAOC, P.O. Box 11787,
 Santa Ana, CA 92711-1787

Thank you very much for your contribution to this fund!



Progressive Drawing \$150.00

Elaine Gourdin of Anaheim would have won \$100 at the January luncheon had she joined us. You must be present at the time of the drawing to win!

See you on Wednesday, March 23 at Mile Square Park.

In Memoriam

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

August to December 2010

Alexander, James
 Battelle, Buryl
 Boettger, Ben
 Carpenter, Joseph
 Conti, Eleanor
 Johnson, James
 Krakower, Jeanne
 Lang, Caherine
 Lee, Norma
 Lewis, Robert
 Longman, Karen
 Mc Alpine, Donald
 Mitchell, Alan
 Mugica, Ysmael
 Park, Robert
 Samson, Lawrence
 St John, William
 Thurston, Franziska
 White, Juanita

Surviving Spouses

Dawson, Reba
 Harden, Marjorie

Springtime Luncheon Menu for March 23rd

Three Meat Lasagna

Grilled Vegetables

House Salad with Italian or Ranch Dressing

Garlic Bread

Dessert

Coffee and Iced Tea



Directions to Luncheon at Mile Square Park, Fountain Valley

Mile Square Golf Course is located in Mile Square Park, 10401 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley. From the San Diego Freeway (405), take the Warner Ave. exit and proceed East on Warner. Turn into Mile Square Park Golf Course Clubhouse entrance at Ward St. and park (parking is free). Mile Square Park is bounded north by Edinger Ave., south by Warner Ave., east by Euclid Ave. and west by Brookhurst.

Luncheon Reservations Due Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Print Name: _____

E-mailAddress: _____

of lunches at \$17.00 each: _____

of Vegetarian lunches: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Check-in begins at 11:00 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. Please make your check payable to REAOC and mail to: REAOC, P.O. Box 11787, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1787

Also enclosed is a separate check for \$ _____ payable to AREOC Litigation Fund.

PLEASE CAR-POOL!



Welcome, New Members

Assessor: Richard Swanson, Carlos Navarrete

Auditor/Controller: Norma Perez

Clerk of the Board: Susan Counts

County Counsel: Barbara Stocker

District Attorney: Eva Garcia, Jo Marie Escobar, Linda Romo

HCA: Amy Dale

OCERS: Christine Dollar

OC Fire Authority: Marilyn Pizza, Wendy Moreno, Michael Hall

OCPW: David Martinez, Karol Potter

OC Sanitation: Everett Thompson

OCSD: James Henderson, Lenora Crane,

William Pierce

Probation: Maria Gibbs, Shirley Hunt, James Arkyns, Jr., Michael Armitage

Public Defender: Christopher Hilger

Public Works: Gerald Beaudoin

RDMD: Bob Baker

SSA: Ingrid Harita, Maria Michel, Karen Rambo, Melanie Mc Callum, Helen Dwojak, Sandra Orosco, Gregoria Hernandez

Not Stated: Jorge Pineda, Carolyn Thompson, Bennet Perlson

Surviving Spouse: Nancy Kelly



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P.O. Box 11787, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1787

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GARDEN GROVE, CA
PERMIT NO. 1

INSIDE THE INFORMER

Spring Luncheon Set For Wednesday, March 23rd

2011 Scholarship Deadline

Membership Drive

AREOC

Council on Aging - Orange County

In The News

Dated Material – Please Deliver Immediately