



# The Informer

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.

## Holiday Luncheon Set for Wednesday, December 1st



Come celebrate the holidays with friends, REAO members and guests at the December 1st luncheon and annual business meeting at Mile Square Park Golf Course Clubhouse in Fountain Valley. A special menu is being prepared, see page 7 for details. And, as always, beautiful holiday centerpieces will adorn the tables and be taken home by a lucky attendee at each table.

REAO members and guests enjoyed a very informative and entertaining presentation on skills and tools to improve brain health and memory wellness by Dr. Arnold Bresky at the September 2010 luncheon. Entertainment at the Holiday luncheon, which will include a sing along of favorite Christmas songs, will be provided by the Dickens Carolers.

In addition to the Holiday Festivities, you'll hear the latest on Retiree Health Benefits and other pertinent Retiree information. Prizes and surprises await, including the \$50 Progressive Drawing! You could be the next winner but you must be in attendance to win. Don't miss out.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## Presidents' Message

Holiday Greetings from Linda Robinson and Doug Storm

The entire REAO Board of Directors wishes everyone a happy, safe and peaceful holiday season. It is your membership, ongoing support and participation in REAO throughout the year that gives County of Orange retirees the ability to address current and emerging issues which touch the lives of so many of us. You have our admiration and respect. During the holidays we hope you can take time for yourself—to relax, to enjoy the beauty of the season and to celebrate life. CHEERS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL!!

**LITIGATION UPDATE:** As reported in the last Informer the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals requested a certification of our case to the California Supreme Court. The State Supreme Court accepted certification in mid-August and our attorneys at Moscone Emblidge & Sater LLP filed a Motion for Calendar Preference with the Court on August 31st. We are awaiting a decision to expedite our case and will keep you informed via e-mail and our website when we receive the Court's determination. On September 17th our attorneys filed REAO's opening brief with the State Supreme Court. The 62-page brief is posted on the REAO website. The county has 30 days to respond and REAO will reply to that response within 15 days. As available, briefs will be posted on our website for your review. In the event our case is expedited we anticipate a hearing in

early 2011. Thank you for your patience and support in this long and arduous process seeking to gain back benefits you earned while employed by the County of Orange.

**2011 HEALTH PLAN ENROLLMENT:** Significant changes have been made to retiree health plans effective January 1, 2011. Open enrollment starts November 1st and ends November 23rd. You should have received correspondence from the county by now explaining the changes and costs. If you have not received any communication, and you are currently enrolled in a county health plan, please contact the county's benefit center at 1-866-325-2345 and speak with a benefits specialist or call County Human Resources/ Employee Benefits at 714-834-5315. As reported in the last Informer, your Board of Director's and volunteers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Candidates for 2011 REAOC Officers and Board Members

**A**t the December 1, 2010 luncheon REAOC members will elect Officers and Board Members for 2011. The following incumbents were nominated at the September 22nd luncheon:

Co-President	Linda Robinson Doug Storm
Vice-President	*
Past President	Bob Griffith
General Secretary	June Marcott
Recording Secretary	Frank Madrigal
Treasurer	Chuck Hulse
Director	Gaylan Harris
Director	John LaRoche
Director	Sara Ruckle-Harms

John Iagjian was nominated to fill the vacant Director position. There were no additional nominations from members attending the luncheon. Retirees are fortunate to have this group of dedicated, hard working people to lead us through these difficult times. Please attend the December luncheon and add your vote to affirm this group of officers and directors.

We will also be voting on revisions to the REAOC bylaws. You can view the proposed revisions on the REAOC website at [www.reaoc.org](http://www.reaoc.org).

\*The Vice-President position will remain vacant to allow for Co-Presidents.



## Presidents' Message

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

worked diligently to challenge the calculations used to determine the 2011 Wellwise and Sharewell plan cost increases; however, despite solid arguments supporting lower increases, the Board of Supervisors adopted 2011 increases of 24.6% for both plans. As it stands now, those increases will go into effect January 1, 2011. To ensure the continuation of future health coverage through the county, we encourage retirees to remain in one of the county plans, if it is possible. Please contact employee benefits and/or attend one of the county seminars scheduled in November to understand more about plan offerings, changes and costs. In closing, it has been a pleasure to work on behalf of all County of Orange retirees during 2010. We thank you for your support during these challenging times. If you know other retirees who are not REAOC members, please encourage them to join us. We hope to see you at the December 1st Holiday Luncheon. The agenda will include election of Officers and Directors, discussion of By-Law changes, delightful musical entertainment and grand camaraderie. Take care and be well.

- Doug Storm
- Linda Robinson

## REAOC

P.O. Box 11787  
Santa Ana, CA 92711-1787  
Phone: 714-840-3995  
Website: [www.reaoc.org](http://www.reaoc.org)  
E-mail: [reaoc@reaoc.org](mailto:reaoc@reaoc.org)

### OFFICERS

Linda Robinson	Co President
Doug Storm	Co President
June Marcott	General Secretary
Frank Madrigal	Recording Secretary
Chuck Hulse	Treasurer
Bob Griffith	Past President

### DIRECTORS

Gaylan Harris  
John LaRoche  
Sara Ruckle-Harms  
Vacant

### APPOINTED STAFF

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

*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 \$1.00 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.

# In the News

by Helen Lotos

**S**tatewide: The cost of living for California seniors far outpaces the federal poverty guidelines in every county in California, according to the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and reported in the *Sacramento Business Journal*, 9-14. The report was released prior to a Capitol hearing in mid-September on the need for a new elder index to evaluate the needs of seniors across the state.

“One size does not fit all,” Steven Wallace, associate director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, said in a news release. “California’s high costs make a single national income standard like the federal poverty guidelines totally inadequate for seniors.” Data show basic needs for seniors in local counties cost anywhere from \$5,570 to \$22,984 more than the national federal poverty guideline of \$10,830.

The standard is based on the cost of food alone and is used to determine income eligibility for many public programs – including Supplemental Security Income and Medi-Cal – to allocate funding for other programs, and as an evaluation measure when determining program effectiveness. The federal government has acknowledged it is time to improve the outdated federal poverty guidelines and announced it will release a supplemental poverty measure in fall 2011.

The new Elder Economic Security Standard Index – commonly known as the Elder Index – measures actual costs of basic necessities for older adults. Introduced two years ago, the Elder Index is a county-specific

benchmark that shows how much it costs to cover most basic needs. It includes food, housing, health care and transportation. Data released was calculated using the most up-to-date information publicly available from several federal agencies.

The California Supreme Court on October 4 unanimously upheld unpaid furloughs for more than 200,000 state employees during the last fiscal year, but ruled that the governor lacks unilateral authority to reduce work weeks and pay for state workers (*LA Times*, 10-5). Although the ruling spares the state from having to reimburse workers for reduced pay during the first year of furloughs, it requires future governors to have the consent of the unions or the legislature before forcing mandatory unpaid days off.

On September 30, the governor vetoed two bills introduced in response to the City of Bell pay scandal: a measure barring employment contracts with automatic pay raises and legislation that would cap pensions (*LA Times*, 10-1). The governor also vetoed two bills aimed at ending pension spiking.

After a yearlong scandal involving alleged influence peddling and corruption, the governor on September 30 signed a bill that will regulate the activities of outside deal-makers who help investment managers secure government pension fund money (*LA Times*, 10-1). The pension bill, backed by the CalPERS board as well as the state treasurer and controller, requires that so-called placement agents register as lobbyists before they can pitch investment

proposals to the \$200-billion pension fund’s staff and board members.

The state’s deeply troubled labor market took another hit in August as employers laid off more workers than expected, renewing fears that the state’s economic recovery has stalled (*LA Times*, 9-18). Employers cut 33,500 jobs, marking the third straight month of losses and pushing the state’s unemployment rate to 12.4% up from 12.3% in July, according to data released by the Employment Development Department. California has lost 113,000 jobs since August 2009.

**Orange County:** The County has been cutting spending and working to reduce public pensions, Supervisor Pat Bates told a group of 50 Dana Point business owners in a State of the County speech at a Chamber of Commerce event. In light of a tough economy and the recent Bell scandal, all eyes are on government spending this year, something Orange County has tried to rein in, Bates said (*OC Register*, 9-24). “Government spending appears out of control and I am most proud of the efforts our administration has made in this area. We have consistently passed responsible, conservative balanced budgets.” She highlighted a recent 5% pay cut taken by supervisors, a county hiring freeze and a reduced pension deal agreed to in June as examples of the county cutting back.

**Long Beach:** City Council approved plans to slash dozens of police office jobs in an effort to cut an \$18.5-million deficit (*LA Times*,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



# Operation Santa Claus/ Senior Santa and Friends

Operation Santa Claus has been in operation since 1962 providing gifts to children who are abandoned, neglected, abused, needy, or placed in Foster Care in Orange County. In 1992 a Board was formed with the purpose of reaching out to more children and including needy seniors and disabled adults through Senior Santa and Friends.

Last year Operation Santa Claus/Senior Santa and Friends distributed over 41,000 gifts to children and teens, and 2,500 seniors and disabled adults were served.

Donation boxes for both programs will be available again this year at the December 1st REAOC luncheon. Gift suggestions for tod-

dlers are items that make noise and books that have buttons that make sounds when pressed. Teens would be happy to receive gift cards for Best Buy, clothing stores and Target, as well as electronics, watches for girls and boys, colognes, and lotions. Gift cards to Target, Wal-Mart and chain grocery stores are welcomed gifts for seniors and disabled adults.

Cash donations and gift cards payable to Operation Santa Claus or Senior Santa and Friends can also be mailed to: *Operation Santa Claus, 1505 E. Warner Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705*. Donations may also be dropped off at the Holiday Store located at 1505 E. Warner Ave., Santa Ana or at County libraries. To receive a tax deductible letter, please

include a legible name and address with your donation.

Volunteer opportunities exist if you would like to donate your time. Volunteers work a 4-1/2 hour shift and are needed in December to assist at the holiday store with welcoming shoppers, check out, stocking shelves, off loading trucks, sorting and much more. Enjoy the camaraderie of other volunteers while helping to get the toys out to the needy children. To schedule your volunteer shift or for more information please contact Mona Gustafson at (714) 679-2438.

Thank you for your contribution and for helping to brighten someone's life this holiday season.

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## In the News

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

9-16). Under the plan adopted, fire stations will rotate closures and 64 police and 21 fire positions may be eliminated. City officials said some of the cuts could be avoided if employee unions agree to forgo raises previously approved in existing contracts.

**Ventura County:** Nurses must increase their pension contributions under labor conditions adopted by the Board of Supervisors (*Ventura County Star*, 9-22). Voting 5-0, supervisors imposed management's final offer on 524 nurses and psychiatric technicians who work at Ventura County Medical Center, Santa Paula Hospital, various clinics and mental health and public health centers. The terms call for no raises

and an increase in the nurses' pension contributions from 1.5% of salary to 4.5%. Faced with large investment losses in the county pension fund, the board has been seeking the same or similar concessions from all unions.

**Santa Barbara County:** The county ended the fiscal year with a \$1.7 million surplus, according to its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (*Daily Sound*, 9-23).

According to the report, as of June 30, 2010, the county's revenues totaled \$734.5 million, with expenses at \$732.7 million. It was welcome news to a county that was facing a \$40 million deficit at the beginning of the year.

**Tulare County:** Supervisors approved a \$947.8 million budget that cuts this year's general-fund

spending by \$6.1 million while allowing the county to add 92 jobs. Most of those jobs – 73 – will be in the Health and Human Services Department. Most of the new employees will be in customer support rather than nurses or caregivers, the CAO said. The workers will help people apply for food stamps and other general relief services in order to keep up with the increased demand (*Tulare Advance-Register*, 9-22).

**San Mateo County:** About 2,000 employees, including park rangers, social workers, licensed vocational nurses and building inspectors have agreed to a contract that forgoes salary increases for the next 26 months, according to the president of the board of supervisors. The contract applies to local members of AFSCME (*Almanac News*, 9-22).

# REAOC Participates in Health Fair and Conferences

On Tuesday, October 5th, REAOC sponsored a booth at the 19th Annual OCEA Health Fair. The focus of this event is to help educate the family of County employees, past and present, about healthy living and included free flu shots for those over the age of fifty. This year there was an added test to measure

retirement. As it was last year, many of the active employees indicated they have delayed retirement largely due to worries over health care costs and the struggling economy. We provided membership information and encouraged those thinking of retiring to join our ranks. Just as it was time for the Health Fair to end the storm



*REAOC booth at the 19th Annual OCEA Health Fair. Left to right: Sara Ruckle-Harms, John LaRoche and June Marcott.*

one's body fat, percentage of water in the body and BMI. However, the REAOC goal is to reach out to active employees who are potential new members upon retirement. Our booth was staffed with volunteers, John La Roche, June Marcott and Sara Ruckle-Harms. Throughout the day there were threatening storm clouds yet more than 1,950 people attended. So many attendees that our booth ran out of our See's candy within two hours. We had to dash off to purchase more to finish out the day. We had so many questions that we began to lose our voices. Many of the active employees shared their gratitude for the actions REAOC is taking to protect their benefits in

finally came in and began to rain; a first in the history of OCEA sponsoring this event.

Our Co-Presidents, Linda Robinson and Doug Storm, along with Lou Scarpino, our Legislative Analyst, attended the CRCEA Fall Conference which was held from October 25 – 27, 2010. The conference took place in San Rafael and was hosted by Marin County. Activities included the Keynote Address by Lynn Woolsey, California Congresswoman, Sixth District, and various presentations, Round Table Session, Legislative Report, Business Session, Hospitality Receptions and an evening banquet.

# 2011 Scholarship Applications

Applications for REAOC's fifth annual Keith L. Concannon Scholarships will be available at the January 26, 2011 luncheon at the Mile Square Park Banquet Facility. Applications also may be requested on or after January 3rd by contacting the REAOC office, by phone at 714-840-3995, or by e-mail at [reaoc@reaoc.org](mailto:reaoc@reaoc.org), or by accessing the REAOC website at [www.reaoc.org](http://www.reaoc.org).

Applicants may include high school students entering college in September 2011 and students already attending an accredited educational institution as a candidate for a degree program. All applicants must have a GPA of at least 3.0 and be related to an active REAOC member. Orange County residency is not required. Anyone who previously submitted an application and previous scholarship award winners may reapply if they currently meet the requirements. Be sure to read the application requirements and follow them carefully as they may have changed.

Look for additional details in the January/February 2011 edition of *The Informer* and on the REAOC website.



## Hemet Chapter Luncheon on December 14th

 REAO's Hemet Chapter will hold its next luncheon on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 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 February and April 2011.



*Arnold Bresky, M.D., Preventive Gerontologist, award winning author and renowned lecturer, speaking at the September 2010 REAO luncheon*

## Judith Hall \$200 Progressive Drawing Winner



**J**udith Hall retired on June 17, 2010 after working for Orange County for 30 years. She was an employee of the Social Services Agency and worked as a Social Worker in the Cal-WORKS program at the Santa Ana Regional Center.

Judith attended her first REAO luncheon on September 22nd and was not yet aware of the Progressive Drawing. She stated she was really surprised when she heard her name called and was very happy to have won \$200. She plans to use some of the winnings to try acupuncture. Judith is enjoying retirement and is a volunteer at the Orange County Office on Aging.

## Holiday Season

The holiday season is upon us with many holidays to celebrate during the next three months. Whichever of the following holidays you choose to celebrate, the REAO Officers, Directors and Appointed Staff would like to take this opportunity to wish you a joyous Holiday Season and all the best in the New Year.

Thanksgiving	November 25, 2010
Chanukah	December 1 - 9, 2010
Christmas	December 25, 2010
Kwanzaa	December 26, 2010 - January 1, 2011
New Year	January 1, 2011



## Cash Dues

If you pay your REAO dues by check instead of automatic deduction from your monthly retirement check, its time to send in your dues for 2011. Please send your check for \$36 (payable to REAO) to REAO, P.O. Box 11787, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1787.

Please note this annual payment process takes a considerable commitment in staff time, banking activity and an additional audit process. We are requesting you e-mail us at [reaoc@reaoc.org](mailto:reaoc@reaoc.org), or call us at 714-840-3995 and we will gladly mail you the necessary OCERS deduction form to pay your REAO dues through an automated deduction from your monthly retirement check. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

## In Memoriam

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

### July 2010 – October 2010

Harvey, Rose Lee  
McCullough, Marie  
Palchikoff, Dawn

Piskule, Georgia  
Solt, Margaret  
Wehofer, Constance  
Westrum, Ralph  
Willis, Jack  
Young, Lois

**Surviving Spouse**  
Starr, Mary

## Reminder: It's Open Enrollment Time

Open enrollment in a County of Orange retiree health plan for 2011 is upon us. If you are an eligible participant, you should have received a package on or before November 1st. The open enrollment period runs through November 23rd. If you have had a recent address change, please be sure to notify the County of Orange Benefits Center by calling the Benefits Resource line toll-free at 1-866-325-2345. You must also notify OCERS and REAOC whenever you change your address.

## On the Calendar: 2011 REAOC Luncheons



January 26  
March 23  
May 25  
September 28  
December 7

## Holiday Luncheon Menu for December 1st

Roasted Tri-tip with Teriyaki Sauce  
Roasted Red Potatoes  
Garden Vegetables

House Salad with Italian or Ranch Dressing

Fresh Baked Rolls

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.

## Progressive Drawing \$50.00

Judith Hall of Garden Grove won \$200 at the September luncheon. Now we start the drawing over at \$50. Just like Judith, you must be present at the time of the drawing to win!

See you on Wednesday, December 1 at Mile Square Park.

## Holiday Luncheon

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Make your reservation today by sending in the form on page 7 with your check to arrive at REAOC no later than Wednesday, November 24th. Check in starts at 11:00 AM and lunch is served at noon. Please carpool if possible.

See you on Wednesday, Dec. 1st!

## 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](mailto:reaoc@reaoc.org). This will help to ensure you have the latest information in between editions of *The Informer*. Thank you.

## 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!

## Luncheon Reservations Due Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ lunches at \$17.00 each.

\_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian lunch(es)

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the AREOC Litigation Fund.

PLEASE CAR-POOL!



# Welcome, New Members

**Assessor:** Barbara Galasso  
**Auditor/Controller:** Linda Schorer, Irma DeGuzman  
**CEO:** Thomas Beckett  
**Clerk/Recorder:** Dung Ky Nguyen  
**District Attorney:** Susan Hatch-Wyrick  
**HCA:** Joan McDonald, Anthony Edmonds, Frank Farrokh Nikkhrou, Ronald Brown  
**JWA:** Yvonne Flynn  
**OCFA:** Gordon Gould, LeRoy Watt  
**OC Parks:** John Ojeda  
**OC Public Defender:** Shelly Aronson Ducker

**OCPW:** Theresia Sampouw, Pamela Geady  
**OC Sanitation Districts:** Jeffrey Jones  
**OCSA:** Patti Blume  
**Probation:** David Johansen, Carol Davies, Dana Foust  
**SSA:** Marianne Galev, Jeannie Gentry, Thomas Scott, Don McLaren, Alan Roberts, Gloria Vasquez  
**Superior Court:** Lynn Branch, Gayle McQuown  
**Not Stated:** Kathleen Danskin, Donald Rudd, Jr., Camille Gackstetter, Maureen Cook



# The Informer

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.  
 P.O. Box 1496, Brea, CA 92822-1496

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

## INSIDE THE INFORMER

Holiday Luncheon/Business Meeting  
 Set for Wednesday, December 1st

Litigation Update

2011 Health Plan Enrollment

In The News

2011 Officer Candidates & Bylaw Revisions

**Dated Material – Please Deliver Immediately**