



The Informer

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.

Holiday Luncheon/ Annual Business Meeting Set for Wednesday, December 7th



Come celebrate the holidays with friends, REAO members and

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

Entertainment will be provided by the Surf City Singers from the Academy for the Performing Arts.

We will once again be collecting unwrapped gifts and gift cards for Operation Santa Claus/Senior Santa and Friends. Please help brighten someone's life this holiday season.

You'll hear the latest on Retiree Health Benefits and other pertinent Retiree information. Prizes and surprises await, including the \$50 Progressive Drawing!

Make your reservation by sending in the form on page 7 with your check to arrive at REAO no later than Wednesday, November 30th. Check in starts at 11:00 AM and lunch is served at noon. Please car-pool if possible. See you on Dec. 7th!

Presidents' Message

Holiday Greetings from Linda Robinson and Doug Storm

On behalf of the entire REAO Board of Directors we wish everyone a peaceful, safe and joyous holiday season. May you recall fond memories of holidays past and create beautiful, new memories to warm your hearts for many years to come. Holidays can be very busy and stressful and we highly recommend you attempt to set aside moments for "you" to relax as you celebrate the joy and beauty of the season with your family, friends and loved ones. CHEERS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL!!

LITIGATION UPDATE: The California Supreme Court heard arguments on October 3rd in REAO's retiree medical lawsuit. You may recall that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals requested certification of our case to the State Supreme Court last summer. The highest court in California accepted certification and agreed to expedite the hearing date. REAO was represented by the San Francisco law firm of Rosen, Bien and Galvin, LLP (RBG). RBG has substantial experience arguing cases before this Court. Working closely with long-time REAO counsel, Michael Brown, previously of Moscone, Emblidge and Sater, Ernest Galvan of RBG argued on behalf of approximately 5,000 County of Orange retirees. For additional information regarding the hearing please visit the REAO website at www.reaoc.org. The website will link

you with an audio transcript of the hearing. We understand the Court will issue its decision before the end of the year.

ITEMS OF INTEREST: While REAO is not a party to the class action lawsuit of Harris, et. al. vs. County of Orange, your Board of Directors is monitoring the progress of the case closely as it affects many members of our Association. On Tuesday, October 11th Attorney Michael Brown presented substantial arguments before a three member panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals requesting a reversal of the Santa Ana District Court's decision to dismiss this case. Please visit the REAO website at www.reaoc.org to hear an audio transcript of the hearing. The outcome of the hearing will be posted as soon as it is available.

The last few months have been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Candidates for 2012 REAOC Officers and Board Members

At the December 7, 2011 luncheon REAOC members will elect Officers and Board Members for 2012. The following incumbents were nominated at the September 28th luncheon:

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

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/business meeting and add your vote to affirm this group of officers and directors.

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



Reminder: It's Open Enrollment Time

Open enrollment in a County of Orange retiree health plan for 2012 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.

Presidents' Message

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

very busy. Your Board of Directors has participated in numerous retiree-related meetings, hearings, events, pre-retirement seminars, luncheons and conferences. We want to extend our sincere thanks to all REAOC and AREOC officers and directors for their valuable time, effort and commitment to all of us retirees. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Office Manager Ilene Barcenas for her expertise, dedication and willingness to drop everything to help respond to REAOC and Board members.

Lastly, we want to sincerely thank all of you, our loyal members, for your support, help and participation during this entire year. We look forward to seeing you at REAOC's Annual Business Meeting and Holiday Luncheon on December 7th. 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
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

Bill Castro
Gaylan Harris
John Iagjian
John LaRoche
Sara Ruckle-Harms

APPOINTED STAFF

Ilene Barcenas	Office Manager
John Iagjian	Membership Committee
John LaRoche	<i>The Informer</i> Editor, Luncheon Committee
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 \$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.

Senior Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Program

The Orange County Board of Supervisors approved agreements for Senior Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (SNEMT) effective July 1, 2011. This program fills a critical need for Orange County's frail older adults.

The purpose of the program is to provide a coordinated community-based system of non-emergency medical transportation for older adults who lack other reasonable means of medical-related transportation and to assist older adults to remain independent and healthy at home and avoid premature institutionalization. Seniors may utilize this service for life sustaining medical care such as dialysis, chemotherapy or radiation treatment, surgery or non-elective procedures, rehab, dental, vision and non urgent medical visits.

The SNEMT program is available to all persons age 60 and older, including all Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) ACCESS eligible clients. SNEMT is currently funded through local

Tobacco Settlement Revenue and Federal New Freedom Funds.

It is anticipated that in early FY 2011-12, the SNEMT program will benefit from increased funding provided by OCTA's Renewed Measure M (M2). Approximately one percent of the total net M2 revenue has been approved by the voters in support of expanding mobility choices for seniors and persons with disabilities, which will supplement SNEMT services.

The current SNEMT contracted service providers include:

- St. Anselm's Cross-Cultural Community Center (Area 1 – North County)
- Age Well Senior Services, Inc. (Area 2 – South County)
- Abrazar, Inc. (Area 3 – Central/West County)

For information on how to connect with the SNEMT program, as well as many other County programs for older adults and caregivers, please call the Office on Aging at (800) 510-2020.

Letter to the Editor

The following letter was included with an AREOC Litigation Fund contribution. The letter included the following note: "You may put this in *The Informer* if you wish. Maybe it will make people loosen up."

My Dear People,

I'm so very thankful for the privilege of having so many learned persons watching out for us poor multitudes. I wonder how many retirees understand what a bargain they are getting for their money. I would so much like to send more but am 92 years old and have used up all my savings. I don't know what I would do if we hadn't gotten all the COLAs.

*Thanks again, Leonard R. Gibbons,
"Former Board of Directors" EMA*

Editor's Note: We appreciate hearing from our members and for their generous contributions to the AREOC Litigation Fund.

2012 Scholarship Applications

REAOC's eighth annual Keith L. Concannon Scholarship Program will be launched in January 2012. Applications will be available at the January 25, 2012 luncheon at the Mile Square Park Banquet Facility. Applications may also be requested on or after January 2nd by contacting the REAOC office by phone at 714-840-3995, by e-mail at reaoc@reaoc.org or by accessing the REAOC website at www.reaoc.org.

Applicants may include high school students entering college in September 2012 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 (Associate Member's relatives may not apply for these scholarships). 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 2012 edition of *The Informer* and on the REAOC website.

In the News

Edited by Helen Lotos

Orange County: The County is the most expensive county in Southern California to live in with the average family of four needing to bring in \$75,668 to cover housing, child care, health insurance and other expenses, according to a report released in early October (*OC Register*, 10-5). Statewide, the county is sixth highest for cost of living. A household earning California's \$8-an-hour minimum wage would have to work more than four full-time jobs to make that 76K income, noted the Insight Center for Community Economic Development, which provides services and support for low-income communities.

The Board of Supervisors approved -- on a 4-1 vote -- a budget reduction plan on Oct. 7 to address the loss of \$49.5 million in vehicle license fees that Gov. Brown took to balance this year's state budget. According to Supervisor Pat Bates in her Fifth District Report, 10-7, reductions include eliminating 87 positions, 43 of which are currently filled, mainly affecting public safety departments. "Efforts will be made to prevent layoff," she said, "but the reality is that with a cut of this magnitude, layoffs are difficult to avoid." Supervisor Shawn Nelson voted against the recommended cuts by the CEO. As part of his dissent, Nelson said he had suggested "a more fiscally responsible, common-sense approach... by eliminating unnecessary departments such as the Office of Independent Review and requiring that employees pay the full employee contribution portion of their retirement" (*Nelson's e-*

newsletter, 10-7). Supervisors have authorized hiring outside attorneys to explore legal action to recoup the funds from the state. Chairman Bill Campbell said the Board will work with the law firm of Best, Best and Krieger to examine the County's potential remedies (*Campbell's e-newsletter*, 9-14).

The Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs (AOCDS) reached a mediated settlement with the County regarding reimbursement for the legal fees they expended defending themselves against the County's failed lawsuit that challenged the constitutionality of its "3% at 50" retirement benefit that was negotiated in 2001. The County will pay AOCDS \$1.3 million in the settlement (AOCDS news release, 10-5).

Future raises and promotions given to the County's top managers will be strictly controlled under newly adopted policies intended to prevent excessive salaries (*OC Watchdog*, *OC Register*, 10-11). The Board of Supervisors approved the new rules in early October following an audit of the Human Resources Department. The new rules require Board approval for all executive manager positions; limit executive managers to a single discretionary pay raise of salary adjustment in a given year; and the CEO must approve all raises and pay adjustments before they are final.

San Diego County: On Sept. 7, the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association (SDCERA) Board of Retirement approved a proposal to charge retirees for the cost of administering health care plans in 2012 and future years, but delayed a

plan to charge retirees for past years' administrative fees (2008-2011) to allow time for further research into alternate funding sources, according to Retired Employees of San Diego County President Susan Mallet (*RESDC's Network Monthly Newsletter*, October 2011). The decision will result in a deduction of \$4.12 per month for each participant, retiree and dependent in a SDCERA-sponsored medical plan, and the same amount monthly if the participant is also in a SDCERA-sponsored dental plan, for a total monthly deduction of \$8.24. Further, Mallet noted, in 2012 each medical plan participant will receive a \$12.32 reduction in the monthly medical premium as a distribution from the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program, part of the federal Affordable Health Care Act. According to Stan Coombs, RESDC's Benefits Committee Chair, SDCERA has 31,000 active and retired members with \$8.3 billion in assets. At last report, he said, the County system was 84% funded, primarily due to the 2009 (financial) crash, but pays out only \$407 million in annual pensions, about 5% of total assets, and receives three-quarters of that back in contributions alone. Overall, the fund increased about 11% in fiscal year 2010, and reported earnings of 21% during fiscal year 2011. The fund has bounced back from a \$5.4 billion low point in February 2009 to the current \$8.3 billion, a 52% gain in 29 months (*RESDC's Network Monthly Newsletter*, October 2011).

Los Angeles County: The county

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

REAOC Establishes Associate Membership Category

By John Iagjian, REAOC Membership Chair

Beginning this summer REAOC established an Associate Membership category. For the past three months, I have been distributing flyers identifying the benefits of associate membership, as well as an application, during the pre-retirement presentations I conduct at OCERS. So please share this information with your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances who might still be working. They can now join REAOC as associate members while still employed with the County.

Our thinking was to create an opportunity for those still employed to learn about retirement issues. We are convinced associate members will have an enhanced perspective of local, state and national retirement

issues. By attending our luncheons and reading our newsletters, they will gain information that will assist them in making more informed and critical decisions during their remaining active employment years – decisions that could impact their retirement benefits. Associate members will also enjoy a more seamless transition when they retire from active employment. 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.

This will also be a way for us to grow our membership, because we believe once they become associate members, they will become full members upon retirement.

Remember, the more members we have, the stronger we are as an organization. The cost of associate membership is \$1/month, and if they join during the year, their membership dues will be prorated to the end of the year. If you know someone who is a County retiree or active employee with an interest in becoming a REAOC or Associate 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.

I want to take this opportunity to wish every one of you a joyous Holiday Season, great health for the coming year, and a very prosperous New Year.

Thank you so much.

In the News

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

will pay \$575,000 to settle part of a federal lawsuit claiming that District Attorney Steve Cooley and his managers waged an anti-union campaign, according to a settlement agreement filed in court (*Los Angeles Times*, 10-5). The settlement, which must be approved by the board of supervisors, would pay \$125,000 to the prosecutors' union and \$450,000 to Deputy Dist. Atty. Marc Debbaudt, who a county employment commission found was transferred in retaliation for his union activity.

San Bernardino County: County supervisors need to be willing to stand up to employee unions to solve a \$134-million budget gap the county will face over the next five years,

CEO Greg Devereaux said in his remarks at a Fontana Rotary Club luncheon (*Riverside Press-Enterprise*, 10-5). Despite reductions of \$84 million in the 2011-12 budget adopted in June, the county's expenses will continue to outpace its revenue due to rising pension costs and employee salaries and benefits, he said.

Riverside County: County supervisors said that employees must start contributing more toward their own retirements, a move that would translate into immediate, long-term savings for the cash-strapped county, according to the *Riverside Press-Enterprise*, 10-4. Supervisor Marion Ashley said that it was an error for the county to pick up the employee share of retirement costs. "A prior board made a huge mistake," Ashley said. "The county was rolling in

money and the future looked bright." But times are different now, he said, as the county struggles to balance ongoing expenses with revenue. The county faces an estimated \$80 million budget gap next year. General county workers pay 8% of their salary toward retirement for the first five years of employment. After that, the county makes the contribution. Public-safety workers pay 9% for the first three years. The benefits were provided in lieu of regular salary increases in past years, Ashley said. The controversy continues while Ashley and Board Chairman Bob Buster said supervisors and managers should lead by example and also begin contributing toward their own retirement. Supervisors are expected to consider a formal proposal later.



In Memoriam

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

June 2011 – September 2011

- Braumiller, Irma, SSA
- Colamonico, Dominic, Sanitation
- Conologue, Alexander, HCA
- Danvers, Leroy, CEO
- Davis, Joseph, OC Public Works
- Davis, Rosamond, UCI
- Dent, David, OCTA
- De Young, David, Probation
- Eckles, William, OC Public Works
- Feldman, Marion, SSA
- Fenn, Howard, Probation
- Heaton, Eileen, Superior Court
- Hensley, P. Joyce, OCPL
- Hillstrom, Genevieve, Superior Court
- Ingalls, Carlton, HCA
- Kashyap, Surendra, County Clerk/Recorder
- Maher, David, Public Defender
- Mayfield, Shirley, OC Public Works
- Mc Gee, Mabel, UCI
- Nelson, Eleanor, Probation
- Quintanilla, Raul, OCSD
- Roman, Kay, UCI
- Schwarz, Felix, HCA
- Seals, Marilyn, HCA
- ShIPLEY, Charles, OC Public Works
- Shroll, Robert, OC Public Works
- Simard, Norma, Auditor Controller
- Staump, Charles, OCSD
- Stoklosa, Dortha, Superior Court
- West, Jane, OC Community Resources

Surviving Spouses

- Deuel, Cecelia
- Harris, Inez
- Hoshino, Joyce



Robert Krattli \$250 Progressive Drawing Winner



Robert Krattli was very surprised to hear his name called as the winner of the \$250 progressive drawing at the September REAOC luncheon. He worked for the Orange County Department of Education for 17 years and retired in 1989. Robert attends the Christian Science Church in Costa Mesa where he is a Board member and was a Reader. He is also active in the Orange County Interfaith Council. He also keeps busy managing his rental properties.

Robert regularly attends the REAOC luncheons and is often accompanied by family members. His son Robert Junior, who had just graduated with a BS from Duke and will be studying to become a surgeon, attended the May luncheon with him.



Federal Benefit Payments Are Going All-Electronic

The U.S. Department of the Treasury now requires all federal benefit and nontax payments to be paid electronically. People applying for Social Security, Veterans benefits or other federal benefits on or after **May 1, 2011**, will receive their payments electronically starting with their first payment. People currently receiving federal benefit checks will need to switch to an electronic payment option by **March 1, 2013**.


Those who do not choose an electronic payment option at the time they apply for federal benefits or those who do not switch by the deadline will receive their benefit payments via the **Direct Express® Debit MasterCard®** card, so they will not experience any interruption in payment. If you are already receiving benefit payments electronically you do not need to take action. You will continue to receive your payment as usual on the payment day.

Having federal benefits paid electronically by **direct deposit** into the bank or credit union account of your choice or into a **Direct Express®** card account is safer, faster and more reliable than receiving paper benefit checks. In 2010, more than 540,000 Treasury-issued checks were reported lost or stolen, and had to be reissued.

With **direct deposit**, the Treasury Department sends an electronic message to your bank or credit union account on your usual payment day with the exact amount of your benefit payment from Social Security, VA or

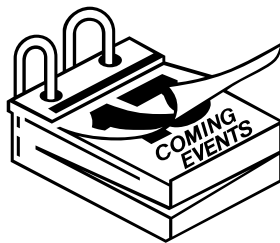
CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Hemet Chapter Luncheon on December 13th

 REAOC's Hemet Chapter will hold its next luncheon on Tuesday, December 13, 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 February and April 2011.

On the Calendar: 2012 REAOC Luncheons



January 25
 March 28
 May 23
 September 26
 December 5

Holiday Luncheon Menu for December 7th

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

Robert Krattli of Costa Mesa won \$250 at the September luncheon because he was present at the luncheon. Remember – you must be present at the time of the drawing to win!

See you on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011 at Mile Square Park.

Federal Benefit Payments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

other federal agency. You don't have to worry about your money being stolen out of your mailbox and there's no need to make a trip to cash or deposit a check. Plus, it's better for the environment and saves taxpayer dollars.

Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service

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.

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. 30, 2011

Print Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

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

Auditor Controller: Susan Fothergill,

Kathleen Permenter

CEO: Paul Kiburis

County Counsel: Deborah Cox

GSA: Mohamad Akhbari

HCA: Anthony Britton, Marilyn Pritchard

HR: Shelley Carlucci

OC Public Library: Maureen Aschoff

OCPW: Gus Fischer, Daryl Chamberlain,

Leonard Wexler, Mary Valleau, Tony

Chacon

OC Sanitation District: John Linder

OCSD: Christine Bishop, Thomas Nasser,

Rafael Fuentes, Michael Tynes, John

Radka

Probation: Corazon Mallari Mangahas

Public Defender: Deborah Kwast

Superior Court: William Cregan, Cheryl

Farias, Teresa Fletcher, John D. Crain,

Sheela Jackson

SSA: Marsell Simaan, Terresia Lambert,

Martha Carrete, Gary Thompson, Ngan

Ha Nguyen, Frances Solorzano, Kathleen

Greene

Not Stated: Noemi Hawkins, Edwin

Ratledge

Surviving Spouse: Lorraine Nelson



The Informer

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.

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

Luncheon Set for Wednesday, December 7th

Associate Memberships Now Available

2012 Officer & Board Member Candidates

Federal Benefit Payments Going All-Electronic

Senior Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Program

Dated Material – Please Deliver Immediately