

The Informer

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.

REAOC Luncheon

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

ur next luncheon will be at the Elks Lodge located at 1751 S. Elks Lane, Santa Ana, CA. The Elks Lodge will be serving braised short ribs, mashed potatoes, vegetable, a green salad and a cheesecake with raspberry sauce for dessert. Come visit with your fellow retirees, enjoy a delicious lunch and receive important updates from the REAOC Board of Directors. You could win one of several door prizes, a table centerpiece or the Progressive Drawing in the amount of \$100. You must be present to win!

Reserve your place by calling or emailing the REAOC office or by sending the form found in this *Informer* newsletter. Your check must arrive at the REAOC office no later than Wednesday, January 17, 2024. Check-in starts at 11 a.m. and lunch is served at noon.

As you are aware, the December luncheon also functioned as the REAOC Business Meeting. One of the primary duties at this luncheon, and per our REAOC Bylaws, is to elect the new Officers and Directors of the REAOC Board. The slate of Officers and Directors was shared at the September luncheon and voting took place at the Holiday Luncheon. The following retirees were elected to serve you for the coming year:

President's Message

From the Desk of Roger Hilton

n behalf of REAOC and AREOC, Happy New Year. We hope you all had a fantastic holiday with family and friends. As we welcome in the new year, we will see some changes to the REAOC Board.

I am happy to serve as your newly-elected president; thank you for your support. All the REAOC Board (both newly-elected and returning members) echo their thanks and gratitude for your support, as

well. A sincere thanks to Doug and Linda for being co-presidents for the past 16 years. It takes a lot time, passion, and knowledge to lead a successful organization such as REAOC.

I plan and hope to run the organization as successfully as Linda and Doug. While some subtle changes might be felt as I become familiar with both my new role and the new



Board, it is my goal that leadership look and feel like it has over the last decade-and-a-half. Fortunately, we will have Doug and Linda staying on as past presidents to help guide us along the

journey. Other returning faces include the awesome Executive Director, Ilene Bárcenas, who is staying on to mentor a new executive director; Sara Ruckle-Harms, who is remaining on the REAOC Board and will continue as the AREOC President; Larry Leaman, who has agreed to continue the "Weekly News," and of CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Officers

Roger Hilton
Dot Ronan
Linda Robinson
& Doug Storm
Carol Wiseman
Sharon Tabata

Directors

Tom Cooney Sara Ruckle Harms John lagjian Christina Lozado Stephen Schrieber-S

Stephen Schrieber-Smith Larry Leaman – Director Emeritus

President Vice-President

Past Presidents Secretary Treasurer When we have new REAOC Board members, we need to say good-bye to those who have served us so well. Please join us in thanking Bill Castro (Treasurer), Gaylan Harris, Larry Leaman and Frank Eley (Directors). Together they dedicated dozens of years of volunteer work to protect the benefits we worked so hard to obtain. Larry Leaman has agreed to

Bio for Dot Ronan, REAOC Vice-President

ot Ronan is a Southern
California native and has been a REAOC member since retiring from the Orange County Sheriff's Department in 2012. She joined OCSD in 1982 and worked in front-line law enforcement, a variety of sworn management positions and within Sheriff's administration before retiring at the rank of Lieutenant.

Dot has extensive broad-based management experience including but not limited to state regulatory compliance for law enforcement training, legislative analysis, grants management, law enforcement operations, budgeting, and administration. Dot is a proven leader with highly developed administrative and political acumen and strong problemsolving skills.

President's Message

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course, John lagjian and Tom Cooney are staying aboard. I thank all of the past Board members for their contributions and welcome the newly elected Board members with new energy and fresh ideas.

I have spent most of my career working in employee labor organizations, including over 10 years as a board member on OCERS. I look forward to this new role as your president. Your retirement security and quality of life is very important to me and to the Board of Directors and we are committed to giving you the best representation and ensuring retirees have a voice.

Thank you and stay active and healthy.

- Roger Hilton

Following her retirement, Dot worked for two years as a Senior Law Enforcement Consultant for the State of California's Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training, and later as an Independent Law Enforcement Training Consultant. Given her past experience with monitoring and tracking legislation. Dot reached out to REAOC to express interest in the duties and responsibilities of the Legislative Director position on the Board and has since taken a keen interest in promoting and supporting the overall mission and goals of REAOC.

Luncheon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

move from a regular Director assignment to REAOC's first Director Emeritus. He will also continue to provide all the articles and funnies for the weekly newsletter. We are thankful for the many years these retirees have served REAOC so well. We will sincerely miss them.

The final change is the position of Executive Director. After more than 14 years, Ilene Bárcenas will be retiring from her REAOC duties soon and Buffy O'Neil has agreed to become the new REAOC Executive Director. Ilene has enjoyed being the voice at the end of the REAOC phone and the person who has had the pleasure of working with all of you and the REAOC Board of Directors. We wish her well.



REAOC

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

OFFICERS

Roger Hilton President

Dot Ronan Vice-President

Linda Robinson

& Doug Storm Past Presidents

Carol Wiseman Secretary

Sharon Tabata Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Tom Cooney Sara Ruckle Harms John lagjian Christina Lozado Stephen Schrieber-Smith

Larry Leaman Director Emeritus

APPOINTED STAFF

Ilene Bárcenas Executive Director
Buffy O'Neil Executive Director
John lagjian Membership Chair
Vacant The Informer Editor
Norma Roberts Board Watch Chair
Roger Hilton CRCEA Delegate
Dot Ronan Legislation Chair
Stephen Schrieber-Smith

& Carol Wiseman Scholarship Co-Chairs

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, email, 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 the Elks Lodge in Santa Ana on the fourth Wednesday of January, March, May and September, and on the first Wednesday of December. The past local chapter of REAOC in Hemet is being considered for reactivation.

2024 Keith L. Concannon Scholarship Program

s you may have read in the November/December 2023 Informer, we are once again excited to announce the continuation of the Keith L. Concannon Scholarship Program and beginning January 2. 2024, electronic scholarship applications and the informational packet may be requested by email at reaoc@reaoc.org or by calling the REAOC office at (714) 840-3995. You will need to provide an email address so that we may send the electronic application and informational packet to you or your relative. The informational packet will include detailed instructions on who can apply for the scholarships and what is needed for the process. The deadline for submitting electronic applications will be April 1, 2024. REAOC will grant up to six scholarships this year; each scholarship will be in the amount of \$2,000.

This will be our 20th year to have

such an opportunity to honor the bright and accomplished students in their pursuit of a college or advanced degree. Applicants must be related to a REAOC member although Orange County residency is not required. Students who are related to a member of the REAOC Board of Directors or the Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply. Students who have already received a REAOC scholarship grant are not eligible to compete for another scholarship. Our newly appointed REAOC Board members, Board Secretary Carol Wiseman and Director Stephen Schrieber-Smith, have volunteered to lead the efforts as the Co-Chairs of the Scholarship Committee.

Qualifications: Applicants must be full time students having at least a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Students must be either high school seniors who have been accepted as full-time candidates for a

college degree program in fall 2024; or students already pursuing a degree at an accredited educational institution. Accredited institutions include colleges and universities, institutions authorized to provide full credit toward a bachelor's or higher degree, and accredited institutions authorized to train students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation.

Deadline: Complete applications, including the response to the essay question, must be electronically submitted to REAOC by April 1, 2024. The official high school or college transcripts and reference letter must be mailed separately with a postmark of no later than April 1, 2024. The application instructions in the informational packet should be thoroughly reviewed as requirements may have changed.

REAOC encourages all of your eligible family members to apply for one of our 2024 scholarship grants!

Bio for Stephen Schrieber-Smith, Director

ello. I am a County of Orange retiree since 2015, after 31 years of service. Joining REAOC shortly thereafter, I currently serve on the "Board Watch" committee and am applied to join the REAOC Board of Directors.

I grew up in Ohio, a product of rural Midwest values, fresh sweet corn, ketchup, and frostbite. I graduated from a small land-grant liberal arts college in Missouri with a BA in Religion and Philosophy. After surprisingly not finding immediate employment in those fields, my wife, Nanci, and I travelled the country working odd jobs and experiencing the rich diversity the country has to

offer until, thankfully, my old car broke down in California.

In California I continued to experience a variety of employment opportunities including food service, railroad work and construction. I also completed an M.A. in Behavioral Science and Gerontology which led to my employment with the County of Orange in 1988. I started in the Community Services Agency's Area Agency on Aging office and then transferred into the Social Services Agency where I spent the balance of my career. I promoted through a variety of positions with Older Adult Services (Elder Abuse and IHSS) and CalWORKs doing case work, supervision, and then management, ending my service as an Assistant Regional Manager. Non-work highlights include working with the committee that established the current Management classifications, the 2.7 at 55 retirement tier, creating the Orange County Managers Association (OCMA) and then serving as OCMA President before my retirement in 2015.

Since retirement I have continued to enjoy my time ushering at the South Coast Repertory theater, hiking, snorkeling, SCUBA diving and travelling the world with my wife.

Bio for Carol Wiseman, Secretary

fter early childhood years spent in Nebraska and Montana, Carol moved with her family to Orange County California and has lived there ever since. A week after graduating from California State University, Long Beach with a B.S. in Business Administration with an Emphasis in Accounting, she joined the County of Orange family, serving proudly for just over forty years.

Her first nine years with the County were spent in the Auditor-Controller's Office, first as an Internal Auditor and later as the supervisor of the County's Employee Benefits Office. Carol then joined the leadership team of the Social Services Agency with roles including Financial Services Manager, Deputy Division Director of Financial and Administrative Services, Director of Administrative Services Division. Agency Chief Deputy Director, a short stint as Agency Director after the retirement of the Agency Director, retiring in August 2019 as Agency Chief Deputy Director. Throughout her career with the County and even in retirement, Carol has enjoyed the privilege of mentoring others, both in the Social Services Agency and the County as a whole, helping them to realize their greater potential.

An active community volunteer, Carol is a certified therapy dog handler and has teamed with three different dogs over the past 20 years developing and leading programs while sharing the joy of dogs with others, participates in numerous fundraising walks supporting a variety of community-based organizations, and is a member of P.E.O., a philanthropic organization which promotes educational opportunities for women. Since joining REAOC, she has participated as a member of its Board Watch Committee.

Carol enjoys spending time with her dogs, friends, and family (maybe or maybe not in that order); walking and hiking; reading; going to movies, live theater, concerts, and museums; and venturing out on local day trips.

Bio for Christina Lozada, Director

hristina Lozada retired from the Orange County Sheriff's Department in August 2021 after 32 years of service. She considers herself incredibly lucky to be part of the 2.7% at 55 retiree group. She spent her entire county career working at the Sheriff's in the Professional Standards Division. She was promoted to several positions and worked in various units within PSD. During her time in PSD, she was assigned to the Information Desk, Background Unit, CCW permits and Business Licensing, Evaluation and New Hire Desk. Position Control Unit. Recruiting Unit and Tech. Support/Special Projects/ PRA. In her role as an Office Supervisor and Special Projects Tech Support, she assisted the HR Records Manager, HR Manager, and Sworn Management staff with high- priority and complex projects.

Christina is a mother of two and

grandmother to six grandchildren. While working at the Sheriff's, she volunteered for the Drug Use Is Life Abuse program, Wilderness Camp for underprivileged or at-risk youth, Dream Lift for disabled children, Operation Santa Claus toy drive, DUILA Golf Tournament, and as a chaperone for high school students trip to Washington, D.C.

Now that she is retired, she enjoys volunteering at a local food bank, school drop-offs and pick-ups for her grandchildren, spending time with her family and grand pups, nature walks when time permits, solving sudoku, water sort puzzle, and wordscapes games. Her current hobbies are trying new cuisine, traveling, and marking off her travel bucket list. She hopes to provide her many years of experience to assist the Retired Employees Association of Orange County.

Welcome, New Members

Child Support Services: Maria Berumen,

Jose Najera

County Council: Joyce Bell Freeman **District Attorney:** Richard Sturm

HCA: Jennifer Anderson, Ithamar Lopez, John White III, Mark Odom, Joan Eugenio **Human Resources:** Stacy Kennedy

OC Public Works: Joseph Cummins, Lucy Flores, Michael Granada, Satinder Verma **OCSD:** Debbie Collier, Slavco Arsovski, Christina Lozada

Probation: Gail Cook

Public Defender: Sophia Leon

SSA: Christina Ayala, Sara Blanco, Mai Khanh Nguyen, Jose Villasenor, Gina

Baglino

Superior Court: Louis De Fusco III, Marizabel Dantic, Gracie Valenzuela, Jill Adams, Sonya Martinez

Treasurer-Tax Collector: Loreta Afable Not Stated: Howard Newton

Surviving Spouse: Mary Ann Andahl, Joyce Bell Freeman, Bill Fogarty

Bio of Sharon Tabata, Director

retired in March 2022 with over 32 years of service with the Auditor-Controller and Sheriff-Coroner Departments. I graduated from California State University, Fullerton, with a B.A. degree in Business Administration – Accounting and started with the Auditor-Controller shortly thereafter. I had the opportunity to provide accounting support to the Environmental Management Agency, Health Care Agency and John Wayne Airport. I was in Internal Audit for five years and also served in Central Operations as the Claims Manager and General Ledger Manager. I was also a member of the CAPS+ General Accounting Team as

the County implemented a new
County Accounting and Personnel
System. I transitioned to the SheriffCoroner's Department and retired
from there as the Assistant Director
of the Financial/Administrative
Services Division. Soon after I
retired, I began working for the City
of Laguna Beach as the Financial
Manager until they could find a permanent person for the position. I
continue to assist them with special
projects. I am a member of the
Orange County LA Rotary and enjoy
line dancing in my spare time.



Progressive Drawing

Phyllis Webb of Seal Beach would have won \$500 at the December 2023 luncheon when her name was drawn to win the Progressive Drawing. As Phyllis did not attend the luncheon. another ticket was drawn for the winner. Retiree Martha Downs. from SSA, had the lucky ticket and won \$500. Remember, you must be present at the time of the drawing to win! See you on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at The Santa Ana Elks Lodge when our next Progressive Drawing will be for \$100!

In Memoriam

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

October 2023 - December 2023

Jose Ambriz, Sanitation District Petronella Arnold, UCI Donald Barner, District Attorney Ronald Booth, OCPW Stuart Bridenball, OCTA Elizabeth Buckner, HCA Julian Cimbaluk, Superior Court Dion Clauser, OCSD Judith A. Cobb, HCA Susan Cue, HCA Leslie Corinne Dowden, Probation Brian Fung, HCA Mary Ann Gaido, OCCR Carl Herrigstad, Sanitation District Tamara A. Higuera, SSA Tuat V. Huyn, SSA Bradley Jacobs, Assessor Lucy Kano, UCI Joan C. Kelly, HCA Rita E. Kennedy, UCI Glenn Krause, HCA Adrian Kuyper, OCPW Florence Y. Lee. Auditor Controller Michael Mc Auliffe, OCTA
Jan Mc Neil, OCPW
Clyde Palk, SSA
Earl Paull, Auditor Controller
Ronald Peoples, OCSD
Martha E. B. Phillips, SSA
Charles Pierce, Registrar of Voters
Diana L. Prather, SSA
Kathy A. Rogers, Law Library
Julie Sherwood, HCA
Jane G. Sloop, Probation
Ronald L. Taylor, HCA

Quang Trong Than, HCA
Stella Ulloa, Superior Court
Darlene Wilson, OCPW
Surviving Spouses
Susanne Wenying Chu
Sharon Crow
William Davies
Bruce Fox
Lois Hinck
Betty M. Pendergraft
Laura V. Wright
Peter Young



PHOTO BY DOROTHE / PIXABAY.COM

How to Protect Your Home From Burglars, According to Burglars

Abbreviated from an article by Ian Lecklitner, MEL Magazine

he burglary numbers show that burglars love to burgle in December, when people are either away for the holidays and/or hoarding expensive, stealable gifts in their homes-but we all know burglaries can happen at any given moment. The Allen, Texas police department recorded a lengthy video interview in 2015 with an incarcerated career home burglar named Michael Durden, and several retired burglars have also given anonymous advice about defending your home from burglaries on various internet forums.

So, I studied the video, scanned the forums and put together the most useful tips that these burglars gave to prevent others from being burgled. I reached out to home security expert and Crime School podcast creator Chris McGoey for his thoughts on these defensive tactics. Get ready to stop some crime!

OWN A NON-FLASHY HOME

Durden and numerous other online burglars claimed that higher-status homes were their main targets, whereas crap homes were undesirable. If you have anything extraordinarily flashy in front of your home, consider being a little more prudent with your wealth to encourage potential intruders to go elsewhere.

HAVE A WIRELESS ALARM SYSTEM

Emphasis on wireless, because as Durden explained, burglars can easily cut the wires on less advanced systems. Durden also emphasized the importance of displaying stickers and signs related to your alarm system on both the front and back of your home.

According to a study that involved interviews from 400 incarcerated men and women convicted of burglary, as many as 60 percent admitted to being deterred by alarm systems.

GET THE MAIL AND EMPTY THE TRASH

Homes that appear to be vacant are easy targets for burglars, according to Durden, and forgetting simple chores is a sign that you could be on vacation.

Own Big, Angry Dogs



"As a rule of thumb, burglars don't like dogs," he says. "They don't like dogs that make noise, but they especially don't like dogs that are going to bite them. Now, if you have a wimpy little dog that's going to roll over on its back and let the burglar pet him, that's not going to do much good."

While McGoey says he doesn't have dogs, what he does have is a "beware of dog" sign on his fence to deter burglars, which is a great—and cheaper—idea! "To a certain extent, that will work," he says. "Some burglars will look at that alone and say, "Well, I'm not going to go into this place. There's a dog there."

HAVE A PRIVATE HOME

According to Durden and other burglars, being able to see clearly into your home, often through a windowed front door, allows prowlers to scope out your interior for valuables

and the presence of people.

The same holds true for windows. "Keep your windows shuttered when you're not home," Durden suggested. Likewise, he said that leaving some lights on *inside* the home when you go out can lead potential burglars to believe that there might be someone home, encouraging them to move on.

HAVE NOSY NEIGHBORS AND A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (BUT MOSTLY NOSY NEIGHBORS)

Meddlesome neighbors can be a huge crime deterrent. "I applaud the efforts of Neighborhood Watch," Durden said. "There have been so many times that I've gone and cased a neighborhood, and stayed away from that neighborhood because it was obvious to me that there were people out walking."

KEEP VALUABLES OUT OF THE BEDROOM

Durden said that he would spend between five and seven minutes in each house, during which time he would check the master bedroom, looking into drawers and closets, followed by the office, where he said people often kept credit cards and the like. Therefore, Durden suggested locking away banking and credit information, and hiding valuables, like family jewelry, in the garage, the attic or even in the ceiling.

So, there you go. Make friends with your neighbors, pretend you have a dog, turn on indoor lights and keep those valuables somewhere other than your master bedroom or office!

lan Lecklitner is a staff writer at *MEL Magazine*.

Who to Contact When You Have Changes

I f you move, have a new or changed email address or telephone number or if you have a name change, there are actions that are necessary so that you continue to receive your benefits, newsletters, emails, and other communication.

If any of the above pertains to you, you need to notify REAOC, the Orange County Employees' Retirement System (OCERS) and the County of Orange Employee Benefits Center with the latest information.

To contact REAOC – call (714) 840-3995 or go to reaoc@reaoc.org to email the new/changed information.

To contact OCERS – call (714) 558-6200 or go to https://www.ocers. org to go to their website and signinto "MyOCERS" to update your information.

To contact the County of Orange Employee Benefits Services Center – call (833) 476-2347 or to go to the benefits website by contacting My OC Benefits[™] directly at *mybenefits*. ocgov.com.

Please remember, through your REAOC membership, you are entitled to apply for supplemental benefits such as dental and/or vision coverage or other insurance when you

retire, when you have a change of life event or during the annual open enrollment period.

Even though we make these benefits available to you as a REAOC member, we do not know your selected supplemental benefits. This is considered confidential medical information. If you have questions about your supplemental benefits, you will need to contact the insurance administrators listed below.

Pacific Group Agencies – administers Ameritas PPO and Cigna HMO dental, VSP vision, travel insurance, pet insurance, Legal Shield, life insurance, etc. They can be reached at (800) 511-9065.

If you were a member of OCEA when you retired, you may have the Delta Care Cam 42 HMO plan or the VSP vision plan. If you have questions regarding these plans, please call OCEA at (714) 835-3355.

Recipe Corner

Easy Hawaiian Bread Pudding

This bread pudding is a dump and bake dish that's so easy to make!

Prep Time: 15 min • Cook Time: 45 min Total Time: 1 hour • Servings: 6



Ingredients

- 1 King Hawaiian Sweet Round Bread
- 2 tbsp melted butter
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tbsp honey
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup finely chopped macadamia nuts

Preparation

- 1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease an 8 x 8 inch baking pan.
- 2. Break bread into small pieces and spread evenly throughout pan. Drizzle melted butter on top of bread.
- 3. In a mixing bowl, combine eggs, milk, sugar, honey, cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla. Beat with a whisk until eggs are completely beaten.
- 4. Pour over bread. Lightly push down on any bread pieces not soaked in egg mixture. Sprinkle nuts across. Bake for approximately 45 minutes or until custard is set.

Recipe from *Kirbie's Cravings*, a food blog based in San Diego sharing recipes. https://kirbiecravings.com/easy-hawaiian-bread-pudding/

Luncheon Reservations Due Wednesday, January 17, 2024

| Print Name: |
|--|
| New/Changed Email Address: |
| # of lunches at \$17.00 each: # of Vegetarian lunches: Enclosed is my check for \$ Please make your check payable to REAOC and mail to: REAOC, P.O. Box 11787, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1787 Check-in begins at 11:00 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. |

PLEASE CAR-POOL!



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The Informer

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

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Dated Material - Please Deliver Immediately

