



The Informer

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.

Spring Luncheon Set for Wednesday, March 22



A delicious menu (on Page 7), important retirement information and exciting new entertainment is planned for our March luncheon. We have always known our members have talent beyond their former County jobs. Bill Castro has arranged for REAO member Tom Horton and his wife Tina to host karaoke for REAO members.

Be thinking of a song you would like to sing and when you choose one, please notify Ilene Barcenas at the REAO Office. Include your name, the song title and artist if possible. Ilene will notify the Hortons to determine whether or not the song is available for karaoke. You may also include a second alternative song in case your first choice is not available. Be sure to send your song

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Presidents' Message

From the Desks of Linda Robinson and Doug Storm

On behalf of the entire REAO and AREOC Board of Directors—Happy Springtime, Retirees. What a grand time of year. We welcome the arrival of nature's annual, transformative process and on March 12th we can enjoy the arrival of daylight savings time. This is a time of change and activity on many fronts. Challenges may confront each and every one of us on this adventurous journey we call life, but we will meet those challenges because we are a hearty bunch with incredible experience, determination and unity.

CURRENT ACTIVITY Following the January issuance of retiree pension checks a number of REAO members immediately noticed discrepancies in deductions. The majority of disparities were related to insurance coverage and grant offsets. Some retirees were told their coverage had been dropped after

contacting Secova, the new Benefits Center Administrator, while other retirees were informed of this contention directly from their service providers. REAO Board members straightaway met with County and OCERS staff to determine the extent of the problem and to seek resolution. We learned the irregularities were the result of a complex transition of contracted administrative data services from one Benefits Center vendor to another. Adding to the dilemma was Open Enrollment changes and additions. Board members have met a number of times with OCERS and County staff to discuss and resolve these important issues. Significant corrective action has been taken by the County; however, the best laid plans could still result in some recurring, unresolved individual issues. If that should occur, please contact Secova—the new administrator. The number to call is 1-800-858-7266. By now, you should have received a letter from the County explaining details of the issues raised and subsequently addressed during the contract transition.

Be assured, retiree medical continues to be a primary focus for your Board of Directors. In February, members of your Board met with

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Progressive Drawing

\$200.00

Bobby Wilson of Huntington Beach would have won \$100 at the January luncheon if he had been present at the luncheon. Remember—you must be present at the time of the drawing to win. See you on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at Mile Square Park.

Volunteers Needed for Board Watch Committee

by Norma Roberts

The REAOC Board and members need a few more volunteers to join the Board Watch Committee. The committee protects retiree rights/benefits by reviewing the Board of Supervisors (BOS) agendas and minutes and listening to the meetings in

order to identify any items that might affect retiree rights/benefits or be of interest to REAOC members.

Currently each committee member listens to four to six meetings per calendar year. The BOS now meets

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Presidents' Message

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Employee Benefits staff to begin the initial 2018 Retiree Medical Rates process. We appreciate the County including REAOC in meetings this far in advance of rate development and rate setting. Further information will be provided as discussions continue.

REAOC Board members and volunteers continue to work on behalf of retirees. Two REAOC representatives attended the 26th Annual UCI: 2017 Health Care Forecast Conference with an agenda topic of "Health Politics and Policies Under A New President" held February 23-24 in Irvine. You will read about the conference content in the upcoming *Informer*.

REAOC Board members continue regular attendance at OCERS Retirement Board meetings and provide updates regarding retiree issues. We are appreciative of the open lines of communication provided with the OCERS Retirement Board and OCERS Administration staff.

REQUESTED ACTION We need your help in making the REAOC organization as successful as possible in communicating with our members. If you do not have an email or updated email address on file with REAOC, please consider doing so. You can use the REAOC phone num-

ber or email address on page 2 of this newsletter to forward that information. Also, if you or anyone you know who is a member, does not have access to a computer, please notify REAOC so we can provide information via mail or alternative avenues of communication. We thank you for your help in this endeavor.

In closing, you can be sure that REAOC will continue to closely monitor proposed legislation or other actions that could impact the retirement benefits we have earned. We will continue to meet regularly with OCERS Administration and continue to network with the other twenty '37 Act retiree associations. Additionally, volunteers and Board members will work with CRCEA and NCPERS to stay abreast of changes that occur during this time of transition at the Federal, State and local level.

RETIREES, thank you for your support, participation and membership in REAOC. Please stay active, informed and unified. Our futures depend on it. Take care and be well.

- Linda Robinson

- Doug Storm

REAOC

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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
Jan Grimes	Secretary
Bill Castro	Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Frank Eley
Rebecca Guider
Gaylan Harris
John Iagjian
Larry Leaman
Sara Ruckle-Harms

APPOINTED STAFF

Ilene Barcenas	Office Manager
John Iagjian	Membership Committee
Robin Mattocks	<i>The Informer</i> Editor
Bill Castro	Luncheon Committee
Norma Roberts	Board Watch
Linda Robinson	CRCEA Delegate
Lou Scarpino	Legislation
Jan Grimes	Scholarship Committee

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

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

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

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

2017 Keith L. Concannon Scholarship Program Reminder

by Jan Grimes

Scholarship applications are due by April 1, 2017 and must be submitted and received electronically. Applications may be requested by telephone at the REAOC office or by email at reaoc@reaoc.org.

Remember, 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. Also ineligible are students who have

already received a REAOC scholarship grant.

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 the Fall, 2017, or students already pursuing a degree at an accredited educational institution. These 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.

NOTE: The official high school or college transcript and reference letter must be mailed separately with a postmark no later than April 1, 2017. The application instructions should be thoroughly reviewed for requirements.

Please encourage your family members to apply for a 2017 scholarship grant!

What Have You Been Doing With Your Life?

by Robin Mattocks

We are again welcoming your personal stories of interest. Your fellow retirees would like to know more about who you are, what you are doing and what you enjoy. These stories might include your County employment past that others might find interesting or humorous. This gives us an opportunity to reminisce and revisit some forgotten history. Some stories might include your interesting or unusual activities after County employment. What fills your time as a retiree? Did you go to work doing something different or remain retired? What activities bring you satisfaction and happiness. Are you volunteering, making a difference in your community, traveling, playing golf or something else?

Perhaps you are involved in an activity, very different from what you did for the County, and would like to share this with fellow retirees. I have heard some members share their

interests and pastimes such as: involvement in genealogy societies, visiting exotic places, caring for unusual animals, playing bridge, sailing and other sports.

What are your hobbies and where are you are traveling? Even a few sentences are fine. You don't have to write a book. You can simply write: "My name is _____ and I have been scrapbooking, playing tennis, restoring vintage cars, or visiting family in _____." You fill in the blanks. You may find a retiree with mutual interests. Think about submitting your story or your two sentences for consideration to be included in the next issue of *The Informer*. Submission may be made by email or mailed to the REAOC office, P.O. Box 11787, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1787. We are looking forward to remembering the good times and learning a few things about each of you.

Volunteers Needed

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only two times per month. All of the information is located online at the BOS web site. BOS meetings may be viewed live or by video later the same day from a home computer, laptop or other electronic device.

Two brief reports are written about each meeting—one on the proposed agenda and one after the Board meets and approves agenda items. The reports are sent to the REAOC Co-Presidents. Reports are only necessary for any items that may impact retirees. For more information, go to the REAOC website, www.reaoc.org and click on "Get Involved." If you are interested, please call Norma Roberts at 949-645-9421 or email her at robertscn@att.net.



Snakes, Water and Yachts

by Larry Leaman

The record-setting storms that swept California in January reminded me of another time when major rain hit Southern California.

It was early in 1969 when runoff from Saddleback Mountain and the surrounding Santa Ana Mountains caused Santiago Creek to roar to life with raging water. Irvine Lake filled and ran over the spillway, with the resultant torrent rushing through Irvine Park, causing significant loss of land and vegetation. Next on the creek was the relatively new Villa Park Dam built and operated by the Orange County Flood Control District. It filled up and the spillway became a torrent. Downstream in east Orange a large gravel pit (today Katella Avenue crosses the upper end of that pit) filled up and brought the creek to life through Orange and Hart Park. It continued through North Santa Ana where just west of Bristol Street the raging stream joined the similarly raging Santa Ana River.

Silverado Creek, which joins Santiago Creek at the mouth of Silverado Canyon, also raged and the hillsides became saturated. Loss of life occurred when part of the hillside behind the Silverado Fire Station gave way and crashed into the station where some residents had sought refuge. News accounts report that five people were killed and 17 injured in that one incident.

The junction of Santiago Creek and the Santa Ana River saw the water eroding the stream bed of Santiago Creek laterally, eating up the back yards of homes and threatening to undermine several homes to

the point they would be lost. County Flood Control crews worked to save those homes and called in the Marines from El Toro, who flew helicopters to that area. Wrecked cars hung from the copters on cables. The copters hovered over the raging water to lower the car bodies in place along the edge of the creek to help stop the erosion and save those homes. That strategy, coupled with a break in the weather, worked!

At the same time the Santa Ana River through Santa Ana Canyon was running full and fast. My colleagues in the County Flood Control Department feared that the river bank would give way where the river turns South as it exits the canyon in Anaheim, flooding Anaheim, just as it did in the late 1930s. A much denser population would have been at great risk in 1969. Fortunately, that did not happen again, but I have been told that it was a close call.

In March of that year I reported to work at my new job as Administrative Services Officer at the Harbor District on Bayside Drive in Newport Beach. This is the location where the Sheriff's Harbor Patrol Headquarters is today in Newport Harbor. Back then the Harbor Patrol was operated by the Harbor District, not the Sheriff's Department.

I quickly learned that a major tributary known as San Diego Creek that drained the area we know today as Irvine, Tustin, Lake Forest and parts of Newport Beach, ran into Upper Newport Bay on its journey to



the sea. In 1969 that meant the creek carried logs, brush and the refuse of the farming that covered thousands of acres. Keep in mind, Irvine and Lake Forest did not exist in 1969 but instead, contained various crops and a lot of wild, natural area, including vegetation.

When I arrived at Bayside Drive, I saw the Harbor Patrol boats towing in bundles of brush, logs, lumber and other material that had washed down San Diego Creek into Upper Newport Bay and then found its way to the boat slips, yachts and channels of Newport Harbor. Not only was this debris an unattractive nuisance, it presented a hazard to navigation, so the Harbor Patrol and maintenance personnel were bringing it to the Harbor Patrol docks, where it was loaded onto trucks and hauled to the nearby Coyote Canyon landfill. There was a lot of it and it was a dirty job that took weeks to clean up.

Now, here comes the surprise—the Harbor Patrol and maintenance personnel who wrestled that flotsam to the dock and on to the landfill found that some living things washed into the harbor with it, including rattlesnakes that were still alive! Need-

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Holiday Luncheon and Entertainment 🎵

THE HIGH
HOPES
FROM
HOPE
CENTER
FOR THE
ARTS



www.Hope4arts.org



REAOC MEMBERS

LEFT: Doug Storm, Ilene Barcenas and Sharon Sedgewick; RIGHT: Frank Eley, Sara Harms and Rebecca Guider

In Memoriam

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

June 2016 – January 2017

- Ronald Ashdale, OCCR
- Sharon Atkins, SSA
- Reynaldo Bautista, OC Public Works
- Rachel Bullmer, HCA
- Marian Cooper, Clerk/Recorder
- Katherine Dostal, HCA
- Leonard Gibbons, OC Public Works
- Joanne Gill, SSA
- Dorothy Glass, OCCR
- John Guy, CEO
- Joseph Hennessey, OC Public Works
- Elaine Hill, OC Public Works
- Elizabeth Hibbert
- Margaret Hicks, SSA
- Cora Hodgens, Superior Court
- Richard Huffnagle, OC Public Works
- Lenore Jacobs, SSA
- Mary Ledesma, HCA
- Lori Moore, SSA
- Paul Muzychenko
- Carol O'Loghlin
- Mary Pope, Department of Education
- Natalie Schuckmell, HCA
- Sara Jane Self, OCCR
- William Shaw, CEO
- Oscar Shearin, UCI
- Phillip Shields, OC Public Works
- Constance Spainhower, Probation
- Debbie Williams, SSA
- Steven Williams, OC Public Works
- Buna Wortman, District Attorney
- Ionia Wright
- Mary Anne Zook, OCCR

Surviving Spouse:

Tolbert Batson



Welcome, New Members

Auditor Controller: Crispina Beleber, Brent Scarborough, Steven Rodemund

CEO: Crystal Lee, Kingsley Wong, John Beck

Children & Family Commission: Stephen Kozak, Jr.

Child Support Services: Miguel Beleber, Jr., Susan Johnson, Louise Orosco, Selena Nunez

City of San Juan Capistrano: Maricella Moreno, Juliet Aruizu

County Counsel: Margaret Smitheran

HR: Michael Selders, Sandra Mounts

IWMD: Florencia Foronda

John Wayne Airport: Matthew Denison

Municipal Court: Marlene Gavelin

OC Fire Authority: Donna James, Brian Stephens, Kenneth Whitlock, Jeffery Taylor

OC Housing Authority: Darwin McKinney

OCCR: Joyce Bojorquez, Beatrice Carswell, Seiichi Nakaatari, Peter Hillebrecht, Mary Ann Gaido, Michael Francis, Brian Harpster, Helen Grange

OC Cemetary District: Mary Perez

OC Fire Authority: Velores Stasco, Christopher King, Michael Boyle

OC Public Works: Merrie Weinstock, Hossein Fard, Susana Umali, Patricia Nash, Richard Fuske, Yolanda Jordan, Rosa Hinojosa, Antonia Bradley, Michael Reetz

OC Sanitation District: David Philips, Don Crapnell, Daniel Brock, Patricia Johnson

OCSA: Robert Scott, Lair Mueller, Andrea Harris, Diana Russell, Jeremy Duval, Roy Fish, Omar Faria, Sheila Donegan, Elisandro Vizcarra, Kristi Moore, Linda Rodger, Glen Ripley, Shirley Frahs, Jacqueline Parker, Donald Turrentine, Gerald Crawford, Loan P. Nguyen, Lorraine Rios, Therese Morales, Thomas Venaglia, Raymond Grimes, Mark Bailey, Mark Kurtz, Lawrence Gabriel (Marshall's), Maria Maynard

OCTA: Martin Calli, Gayla Reenan, Raymond Lum, Edward Kessler

OC Vector Control: Jon Miller

Probation: Lawrence Bauer, Reginald Brox, Sandy Honig, Robert Arrasmith, Elizabeth

Donner, Barton Hancock, Joey Azuelo
Public Defender: Stephen Bartol, Donald Burkemeyer

Publishing Services: James Ledbetter
SSA: Pat Hammond, Marti Martin, Robin Dougherty, Laurie Jenkins, Melissa Ramirez, John Kinnear, Trinidad Medina, Dolores Delgado, Rose Aguirre, Frances Fierro, Virginia Bennett, Joseph Chavez, Barbara Yunker, Concepcion Acosta, Cindy Samson, Roberto Melendez

Superior Court: Kathy Beltran, Sharon Kennemer, Duane Neary, Carol Zavaleta, Thomas Barr, Judith Fuchs, Carolyn Liska, Kathryn Williams, Beverly Mac Laren

Not Stated: Tien Nguyen, Vinh Duy Bui, Martina Rivera, William Griffin, Susan Mullins, Timothy Heaton, John Honsberger, Samch Hamer, Melonye Mc Cann, Frank Gonzalez, Willie Oglesby, Marianna Hof, Patricia Sogan-Ray, Luz Korsgaard, William Selby, Cathy Hickle

Surviving Spouses: Kathleen Maxwell, Beverly Wahner, Esther Strauss-Thacker, Angela Nadeau, Maria Leocadio, Barbara Nelson, Gail Taylor

Snakes, Water and Yachts

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less to say, this discovery required everyone to be particularly careful.

I never heard that any of the clean-up crew were hurt by one of those snakes, but there sure was a lot of talk about how big and mad some of them were. It was an education for me and taught me that one cannot be too careful when dealing with Mother Nature. With the storms of this past January I can't help but remember 1969 and wonder what surprises the crews that clean up our harbors and shoreline after big storms found this time! Maybe it is better we not know.

Who to Call for Help?

Address Change (please notify all)

OCERS
REAOC
Employee Benefits

Beneficiary Change OCERS

Dental Insurance

Ameritas PPO Pacific Group Agencies
Cigna HMO Pacific Group Agencies
Delta OCEA

Health Insurance County

Employee Benefits
Informer Newsletter REAOC
Legal Shield Pacific Group Agencies
Luncheons REAOC
REAOC Membership REAOC

Retirement Board Meetings OCERS

Retirement Check OCERS

Supplemental Insurance Pacific Group Agencies

Pet Insurance Pacific Group Agencies

Tax Withholding Forms OCERS

Vision

MES Pacific Group Agencies
VSP OCEA

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Hold These Dates

The following dates have been reserved for our 2017 luncheons:



May 24
September 27
December 6

Who to Call

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Employee Benefits County of Orange

800-858-7266

<http://ocgov.com/gov/hr/eb>

Orange County Employees Association (OCEA)

714-835-3355

www.oceamember.org

OCERS

714-558-6200

www.ocers.org

Pacific Group Agencies

800-511-9065

Supplemental Insurance Benefits

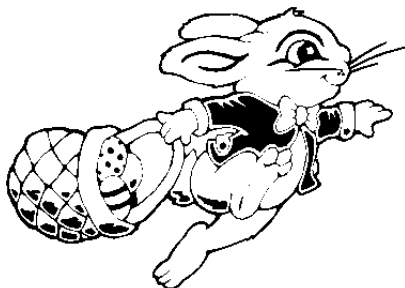
Retired Employees Association (REAOC)

714-840-3995

(hours 8 am – 12 pm)

www.reaoc.org

* * * * *



Hemet Chapter Luncheon

When: Tuesday, April 11, 2017

When: The First Presbyterian Church, 515 E. Kimball, Hemet

Price: Only \$9.50 per person

Menu: Lemon Herb Chicken, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Carrot Cake, Fresh Baked Bread and Butter

The Hemet Chapter invites new and all REAOC members who live in the area or within driving distance to join them for the luncheons.

Call Joyce Emery (951) 658-2549 or Jane Pabitzky (951) 237-3240 by Thursday, March 30, 2017 to reserve your seat.



Spring Luncheon

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requests to Ilene with your luncheon reservation and check. Also, please encourage your friends to participate. You don't have to be good; just enjoy yourself. Our Board Co-Presidents may even belt out a tune and I may make a fool of myself but will have fun doing it!

As always, you must be present to win the door prizes, beautiful centerpieces and the progressive drawing. Reserve your seat by sending the form on this page and your check to arrive at the REAOC office no later than Wednesday, March 15. Check-in begins at 11:00 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. Please carpool if possible.



Menu for March 22nd

Fettuccini Alfredo with Chicken

Broccoli and Julienne Carrots

House Salad with Italian or Ranch Dressing

Fresh 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.

Luncheon Reservations Due Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Print Name: _____

New/Changed 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

PLEASE CAR-POOL!

The Informer

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

INSIDE THE INFORMER

Spring Luncheon March 22nd

Who Do You Call?

Holiday Luncheon Photos

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Dated Material – Please Deliver Immediately

Presorted
First Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 100
Gardena, CA