



# The Informer

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.

## Luncheon Set for Wednesday, May 24

We have a full agenda for our May luncheon. A delicious menu (on Page 7), presentation of REAO scholarship awards, a salute to our veterans, volunteer recognition, important retirement information and possibly a surprise speaker are scheduled so don't miss this one.



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 page 7 and your check to arrive at the REAO office no later than Wednesday, May 17. Check-in begins at 11:00 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. Please carpool if possible.



## Presidents' Message

From the Desks of Linda Robinson and Doug Storm

Memorial Day is just around the corner—so too, is a new summer season. On behalf of the entire REAO and AREOC Board of Directors we wish you safe and relaxing times during the upcoming months. Be happy and well as you celebrate Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. Be adventuresome—create new and exciting memories during the Summer of 2017.

Enjoy those "Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer" and set your inner, personal computer on REFRESH. Most of all—relish those summer days of retirement. You certainly worked long and hard to earn them!

### MEDICAL PLAN COVERAGE

The 2018 Retiree Medical Rate process is currently underway. REAO Board members and volunteers met with the County in February and March. Meetings are not usually held this far in advance. We appreciate REAO's involvement this early in the process. During those meetings, County staff and consultants provided initial experi-

ence data used in the development of 2018 premium rates and asked for input regarding proposed plan design changes for the coming year. Rates are generally adopted by the Board of Supervisors in July. Those rates will be posted on the REAO website at [www.reaoc.org](http://www.reaoc.org) as soon as they are available. Additional meetings with the County will be scheduled to provide retiree input and recommendations for the County to consider.

### 2017 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Scholarship Awards will be announced and award recipients recognized at the REAO May luncheon. The Scholarship Committee has spent much time and effort following strict guidelines to complete the process for determining award winners for the Keith L. Concannon Scholarship Program. Finalists are chosen following a rigorous application and evaluation process. We want to congratulate all recipients as well

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## Progressive Drawing

**\$300.00**

Kyle Soldan of Fountain Valley would have won \$200 at the March luncheon if he was present at the luncheon. Remember— you must be present at the time of the drawing to win. See you on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at Mile Square Park.

## Presidents' Message

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as all members of the committee for their success and diligence.

### 2017 COLA and STAR COLA

A Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2% will appear on May pension checks for all retirees. Additionally, the OCERS Board of Retirement approved a 2017 STAR COLA (Supplemental Targeted Adjustment for Retirees) effective the same time. The purpose of the STAR COLA is to restore purchasing power to retirees who have lost more than 20% of their purchasing power since retiring and applies to the longest-retired OCERS members. Only those retirees who retired on or before April 1, 1980 are eligible to receive the STAR COLA adjustment.

**LITIGATION UPDATE** The Harris, Jahn, McConnell vs. County of Orange Class Action lawsuit remains open in the federal court system. The case was last heard by a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals panel in February, 2014; however, no ruling has been issued. Status report requests have received no response. As you may recall from previous newsletters, this second lawsuit included claims of age discrimination and challenged unilateral changes to retiree medical grants. UPDATE: Action is currently underway regarding the age discrimination claim portion of the lawsuit. When the County split the medical pool the argument was that people were targeted based on "retirement status" rather than age. Attorney Michael P. Brown, argued the County targeted retirees knowing that retirees were on-average older, therefore, the County did, in fact, target age. A "Notice of

Additional Authority" to the court has been filed citing recent court decisions that support retiree arguments that targeting retirees is tantamount to targeting "older people." This latest filing may initiate movement in the case. The new filing may be reviewed on the REAOC website.

It's been an eventful and busy time for members of your Board of Directors and for all the invaluable REAOC volunteers who work on behalf of us retirees. We want to extend our thanks and appreciation for all the time and effort that goes into making REAOC such a successful organization. We are pleased to say that our membership now exceeds 5,900 retirees. If you know of anyone who is an OCERS retiree but has not yet joined REAOC, please encourage them to do so. There is strength in numbers.

In closing, we want to sincerely thank each of you for your support, participation and membership in REAOC. Please stay active, informed and united. Take care and be well. Enjoy your summertime, retirees!

– Linda Robinson

– Doug Storm



## REAOC

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Website: www.reaoc.org  
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### 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
Vacant	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.

# Karaoke Entertainment in March

by Robin Mattocks



**K**udos to our Treasurer, Bill Castro, who arranged for retiree, Tom Horton and his wife Tina to host karaoke for our March luncheon. They have a repertoire of more than 28,000 songs including Country, Pop, Rhythm and Blues, Standards and Soul, Rock and Roll and Disco. Bill Castro began and belted out Neil Diamond's *Sweet Caroline* and others followed suit. Participants were shy in the beginning but after the first few songs, retirees were rocking and rolling. Even a few of our first-timers to a REAOC luncheon surprised us.

My former HR colleague, Ralph Dumke, who lives in Oregon, was able to join us at this luncheon. He swore to me that he thought he was hearing the great Patsy Cline reincarnated. New member Irene Stephens sang a few of Patsy's songs including, *Crazy*. Sam Brandt, who has been a REAOC member for five years and attended his first luncheon sang *Ring of Fire*, while filling in for Johnny Cash. Michael Manchester donned a Janis Joplin persona to perform *Me and Bobby McGee*. The Everly Brothers showed up to sing

*Bye Bye Love* with Wayne Wiley's perfect harmony. Our own REAOC Executive Director, Ilene Barcenas and Sharon Sedgewick, who makes our beautiful center pieces and assists with check-in, joined me to portray Diana Ross and the Supremes and sang, *Stop, in the Name of Love* as we attempted some impromptu choreography to compliment the performance. Bill Castro agreed to an encore performance and transformed into the great Chuck Barry with Johnny B. Goode. Co-President Linda Robinson and Board Director Frank Eley appeared as Sonny and Cher singing, *I Got You Babe*. They were the icing on the cake for me. I have never seen such enthusiasm singing that song, much more so than the originals. We all loved how Frank mimicked Sonny's mannerisms.

Overall, retirees seemed to be having a good time laughing, applauding and singing along with the performers. I wouldn't be surprised to see Tom and Tina Horton at a future REAOC luncheon. To check out Tina's tunes, go to [traveltina@sbcglobal.net](mailto:traveltina@sbcglobal.net) or call (714) 222-5133.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Linda Robinson and Frank Eley; Sharon Sedgewick, Ilene Barcenas and Robin Mattocks; Irene Stephens; Wayne Wiley and Robin Mattocks; Bill Castro

# Walt de Vries, "Looking Back In Time"

by Robin Mattocks

I had the pleasure of sitting with Walt De Vries at a luncheon some time ago and learned that he has a wealth of history just waiting to come forth into print. Luckily, Walt was willing to share his experience prior to and during his employment at the County of Orange and his many activities in retirement. Walt has been featured previously in The Informer and he has more to share with us now. He said he probably has enough material for two or three issues, if he had the time to write it.

**Employment History** In 1937, Walt worked as a Machine Apprentice for four years in Cleveland, Ohio. Only eleven months after he married the lovely Flo, he was drafted and served in the Navy for two years during World War II as an Electronic Technician on a light cruiser in the South Pacific. Walt subsequently used the G.I. Bill to graduate from CSU Fullerton. After discharge, he re-entered the Machine Tool Industry for a while until he was hired as an Equipment Engineer for the Aerospace Industry at "Autonetics" in Anaheim from 1962 to 1970. "It's a small world," I told Walt. "My father also worked for Autonetics at the same location during those years." Like the County, Autonetics employed so many and Walt and my Dad had never crossed paths to Walt's knowledge. Walt shared, "in 1970, Aerospace tanked and that's when I went to work for the County."

Walt passed the written test for County Administrative Analyst classification and worked in the County Administrative Office (CAO) assigned to the A.I.M Program. Flo was also



hired by the County as a Stenographer.

Walt emphasized, "my job description was any damn thing the boss wants done." However, his primary responsibility was to again conduct time studies. He measured how many minutes/hours were required to perform specific tasks to determine and project necessary staffing. "We went out there with clipboards and stop watches and, if you went with a Social Worker, you recorded drive time, interview time and everything else they did." For example, time studies in the Building and Safety Department resulted in allocations such as, "if you had 80 active building permits, you were entitled to six inspectors. Eventually, this program fell out of favor with the Board of Supervisors and they scrapped the whole program," but he went on with other responsibilities in the CAO until he retired in 1984.

**Retirement** Throughout his retirement, Walt has completed some unique projects. He restored an old family car, a 1950 Ford, and restored one of the oldest known Dodges, a 1914 Dodge Brothers. The Vehicle

Identification Number (V.I.N.) was only three digits; 309. He and Flo joined the Horseless Carriage Club and enjoyed many car shows and tours.

Walt is very proud of his family's accomplishments. In 2005, Walt and Flo's grandson, Michael, who was a Norco High School Senior, applied for and was awarded a REAOC scholarship for his Music Major degree at California Baptist University Riverside. Today, Michael is the Director of choral music at Corona's Centennial High School while also working on his doctorate degree for Music Administration at U.S.C. Michael is to be commended, as it is not easy working in a responsible job while also attending college, especially at the doctoral level. It's also nice to receive feedback that our REAOC Scholarship Program is paying off for its participants and for our work force.

Walt and his wife, Flo, were active with REAOC for over thirty years. From 1993 to 2010, Walt volunteered as a REAOC Board Director and worked very hard to protect retiree benefits. As reported in the September, 2013 issue of The Informer, Flo said he was a volunteer with REAOC longer than he was a County employee.

Unfortunately, last year, Flo, who was Walt's wife for over seventy years, passed on. She was a lovely, intelligent lady, who volunteered and supported REAOC along with Walt. We are grateful for the many years of service both Walt and Flo provided REAOC. Walt continues to grace us

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# Hemet REAOC April Luncheon

by Robin Mattocks

I had the privilege of accompanying our Co-Presidents, Doug Storm and Linda Robinson, to visit and meet our Hemet retirees a few weeks ago. The Hemet REAOC luncheons provide an opportunity for Hemet retirees and those who live in local areas such as Murrieta, Temecula, the Moreno Valley and Lake Elsinore, to socialize and break bread together.

Linda and Doug shared important updates and OCERS Suzanne Jenicke spoke about recent impacts to and resolution of retirees' benefits and pension checks resulting from the recent changes at the Benefits Center.

I used this opportunity to request input about any information Hemet

retirees would like included in *The Informer* and encouraged them to submit a paragraph or more about what they have been doing with their lives. Retirees want to know how their former coworkers and associates are enjoying retirement and what activities each occupy their time.

Some highlights for me included meeting, in person, the ladies who coordinate and provide me with the Hemet luncheon information, Joyce Emery, Jane Pabitzky and Mary Little. I reconnected with several acquaintances and was especially happy to share a meal and catch up with one of my former Human Resources mentors, Mike Adams.

If any of you get a chance to attend the Hemet luncheon, I think you will find the program, food and fellow retirees enjoyable.



# Lexophile Humor

- ◇ Stealing someone's coffee is called mugging.
- ◇ The other day I held the door open for a clown. It was a nice jester.
- ◇ No matter how far you push the envelope, it'll still be stationary.
- ◇ Whoever invented "Knock-knock" jokes should get a no-bell prize.
- ◇ Energizer bunny arrested: charged with battery.
- ◇ I put my grandma on speed dial. I call that instagram
- ◇ Ants are healthy because they have little antibodies.
- ◇ The past, present and future walked into a bar. It was tense.



## Walt de Vries

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with his presence and wisdom at most of our luncheons.

Walt's philosophy, "Every REAOC luncheon is a reunion. Retirees who had professional contacts now reunite in a social setting. Introduction of first time diners, mostly new retirees, means that REAOC is constantly renewed. Retirement may end professional relationships. REAOC is

the opportunity to maintain friendships and contacts." Walt shared that he thinks "Looking Back in Time," can be a regular column for *The Informer* and he would encourage others to write a paragraph or more about their County experiences and retirement interests/activities for future issues.

**Editor's Note:** With a sufficient number of retirees who contribute, Walt's wish may become a reality. Each of you are encouraged to send your stories to us at the REAOC address in order that your fellow retirees have the answers to: "What Have You Been Doing With Your Life."

# For the Love of L.A. and Following Our Dreams

by Judy McLane

**H**ave you seen the movie *LaLa Land* yet? It stars the adorable duo of Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone. They play dreamers in Los Angeles—he is a passionate and struggling jazz pianist, and she is an aspiring and struggling actress. While the story is part relationship seeking, part dream weaving, it is also clearly a love story to L.A. After all, what other city in the world can boast more dreamers, artists, and makers than L.A? The creative energy and magic that is generated every day in this city could light up a hundred cities.

I watched the movie, mesmerized on so many levels. All the familiar locations throughout the city, the romance of song & dance, even the scenes of our well-known traffic. But what struck me in my core and has stayed with me for the last week is the passion of pursuing a dream. The focus, the energy, the joy, sweat and tears of following that dream. Can't remember the last time I felt like that.

Is chasing a dream with such abandon only in the purview of the young? Maybe the passion takes on a slightly different intensity, but shouldn't we still have and pursue

dreams of our own?

If the answer is yes, and I think it is, then think about something you've always longed to do. Are you currently in pursuit? If so, good for you and please share!

Or have you been telling yourself that "someday" you'll get back to the dream? Maybe you're like me – not even sure yet what the dream is or could be. Even the unknowingness is kind of exciting. Gives me a sense of purpose to try and figure it out.

My husband had a great answer. He said his dream now is to fully explore and express being who he has always wanted to be, namely, an artist. With many fewer obligations and expectations, he feels a sense of freedom to go for it. I say, "hear, hear (but remember, Tuesday is still trash day.)" Such a dream killer.

One thing I am sure about is that I don't want to let any more time slip by without giving myself a chance to find the dreams and goals that fuel that fire in the belly, or at least an ember, once more.

How about you? Have you been holding back? If you answered yes, why? And what are you waiting for? Or if you're in the throes of passion, fill us in—please!

So while I'm at it, I think I'll let myself dance and sing my way to La La Land (the real city) for regular injections of that creative energy. Who knows what inspiration is waiting just around the corner.

For more articles like this, go to [HarmonyDesigned.com](http://HarmonyDesigned.com) and sign up for the newsletter!



## In Memoriam

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

**December 2016 – April 2017**

Frieda Barkan, SSA  
Scott Belasco, Public Defender  
Evelyn Brice, Auditor-Controller  
Janice Brown, SSA  
Sarah Burgess, OC Public Works  
William Crookshanks, OC Fire Authority  
Larry Doran, SSA  
Donald Honomichi, OC Sanitation  
Cleveland Jones, Probation  
Jimmy Newcomb, OCCR  
Dorothy Parker, OC Sheriff's Department  
Fred Pavloff, OCCR  
Beverley Riddell, HCA  
Peter Weiss, SSA  
Priscilla Wong, HCA

**Surviving Spouse:**

Phyllis Bailey



# MEMORIAL DAY



# Welcome, New Members

**Assessor:** Debi Murray  
**CEO/CAO:** Bill Gayk, Sharron Anderson  
**Clerk/Recorder:** Betty Ostrow  
**HCA:** Helen Amposta, Maria Aguilar, Terri Middlesworth, Karen Newe, Michelle Zink  
**Human Resources:** Mary Valdez  
**OCCR:** Sylvia Mencias, Janet Tott, Devereau Sellin, Howard Wendell Huth, Laurie McIntyre, Joanne Taylor  
**OC Fire Authority:** Kimberly Knoble  
**OC Public Works:** Allen Menendez, Jeff Heard, David Soto, Richard Kinsella, Michael Nguyen, Mary Collins  
**OC Sanitation District:** Roy English, Michael von Winckelmann, Mark Roberts  
**OCSD:** Susan Strehle, Noel De La Llana, Janice Jones, Teofil Nicolae, Eduardo Concon, Tom Hunt, Irma Levy, Gilbert Alvililar, Robert Sutton, Linda Sutton  
**OCTA:** Patrick Howard, Jr.  
**OC Waste & Recycling:** Wade Griffith  
**Probation:** Gwendolyn Harris, La Tanya Carter  
**Public Guardian:** Kelly Rehnberg  
**SSA:** Sharon Jones, Michael Manchester, Sandra Kangas, Ann Myers, Carmen Castro, Oanh Tran, Michael Waterhouse, Paula Rohde, Joanne Munro, Amarante Chavez, Sheryle Ford  
**Superior Court:** Brenda Bujalski, Jacqueline Truong, Martha Varela, Mary Lou Correa, C. Ausilio  
  
**Not Stated:** Eileen Zickefoose, Diana Miltenburg, Paul Harralson



# Hemet Chapter Luncheon

**When:** Tuesday, June 13 at 11:30 a.m.  
**Where:** The First Presbyterian Church, 515 E. Kimball, Hemet  
**Price:** Only \$9.50 per person  
**Menu:** Beef and Turkey Croissants, Potato Salad, Fruit Salad and Chocolate Éclair

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 Jane Pabitzky at (951) 237-3240 or Mary Little at (951) 485-7738 by Thursday, June 1, 2017 to reserve your seat.



## Hold These Dates



September 27  
December 6

I'd rather look back  
at my life and say  
**"I can't believe I did that"**  
instead of saying  
**"I wish I did that."**

# Menu for May 24th

*Grilled Chicken with mushroom  
marsala sauce*

*Chive mashed potatoes*

*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, May 17, 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

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

## INSIDE THE INFORMER

May Luncheon

Looking Back in Time – Walt De Vries

March Karaoke Entertainment

For the Love of LA - Lala Land Review

Dated Material – Please Deliver Immediately

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