



The Informer

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.

May Luncheon Wednesday, May 23



Please join your REAO friends and guests for our luncheon at the Mile Square Park Golf Course Clubhouse in Fountain Valley. Our annual scholarships will be awarded to well-deserving students, our veterans will be honored and news updates about potential issues that could impact retirees will be presented. Additionally, we expect Dennis Alvarez to entertain us. He has a plethora of songs and takes requests from any era.

Be sure to reserve your seat by sending the form on page 7 and your check to arrive at the REAO office no later than Wednesday, May 16. Check-in starts at 11:00 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. Come break bread with your fellow retirees and catch up before our summer break.



Progressive Drawing \$200.00

Ralph Klimek, Jr. of Tustin would have won \$200 at the March luncheon had he joined us. You must be present at the time of the drawing to win! See you on Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at Mile Square Park.

Presidents' Message

From the Desks of Linda Robinson and Doug Storm

The 2018 summer season is about to arrive; bringing with it the potential for long, relaxing and enjoyable days. Memorial Day and the Fourth of July holidays beckon us to share adventures, travels and camaraderie with family, friends and one another. On behalf of the entire REAO and AREOC Board of Directors we wish you safe, healthy and happy times during the upcoming months and holidays.

MEDICAL PLAN COVERAGE

The 2019 Retiree Medical Rate process is underway. REAO Board members and volunteers met with County staff and contract consultants in April. Subsequently, REAO has requested additional meetings to further discuss experience data and the development of premium rates, including any proposed plan design changes for the coming year. Rates are generally adopted by the Board of Supervisors in July or August. Those rates will be posted on the REAO website at www.reaoc.org as soon as they are available. We look forward to providing retiree input and recom-

mendations for County consideration.

2017 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Scholarship Awards will be announced and award recipients recognized at the REAO May luncheon. A very special recognition and thanks to REAO Director Rebecca Guider, Executive Director Ilene Barcenas, and Past Director (and Volunteer Extraordinaire), June Marcott for managing the successful completion of the Scholarship process. The Scholarship Committee spends countless hours following strict guidelines to complete the process to determine award winners of the Keith L. Concannon Scholarship Program. Finalists are chosen following a rigorous application and evaluation process. Congratulations to all award winners and members of the Committee for their success and diligence. THANK YOU to all REAO members for your support of this

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Results of REAOC Audit

by Bill Castro

Your REAOC Board of Directors is pleased to report that for the year ended December 31, 2017, the accountancy corporation of Daniel J. Leonard III, CPA, has audited REAOC's books. We are proud that for the seventh year in a row, the firm has opined that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of REAOC and the results of its operations and its cash flows. REAOC

chooses to prepare the financial statements on the cash basis of accounting and not the accrual basis, therefore, the opinion is clean except for the fact that the cash basis of accounting is used which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. Additionally, no reportable significant internal control deficiencies were noted during the audit.

Presidents' Message

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important program.

LITIGATION UPDATE As follow-up to the March/April Edition of *The Informer* (Presidents' Message), a ruling has not been received from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals panel regarding the Harris, Jahn, McConnell vs County of Orange Class Action Lawsuit. A filing of a "Notice of Additional Authority" was filed by the County's contracted attorneys and was refuted in REAOC Attorney Michael Brown's response to the filing. REAOC was recently notified of an additional change to the 9th Circuit panel which is set to rule on this case. Judge John Owens, who replaced Judge Harry Pregerson (who died last November) has now been replaced by Judge Johnny Rawlinson. This unexpected announcement could expand the timing for a ruling. Stay tuned for future updates.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Several Board members and your Executive Director attended the statewide CRCEA (California Retired County Employee Association) Spring Conference in mid-April. A

future newsletter article will provide valuable information presented at the conference. CRCEA conferences are an excellent opportunity to network and share information with other 1937 Act County Retiree Associations.

Board members and volunteers continue to serve our members through Board Watch activities, outreach at retirement seminars (NOTE: participant numbers have increased markedly during the past few weeks), provision of newsletter and website news articles, participation in OCERS meetings as well as monthly and general business activities. Who knew retirement could be so busy and gratifying?

In closing, we want to sincerely thank each of you, again, for your membership and participation in the REAOC organization. Your support for REAOC is very much appreciated. Let's stay united, active and informed. Our futures depend on it. Take care and be well.

– Linda and Doug

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
Rebecca Guider	Secretary
Bill Castro	Treasurer

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Frank Eley
Robin Mattocks
Gaylan Harris
John Iagjian
Larry Leaman
Sara Ruckle-Harmss

APPOINTED STAFF

Ilene Barcnas	Executive Director
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
Rebecca Guider	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.

2018 UCI Health Care Forecast Conference

by Robin Mattocks and Barbara Voelkel

On February 22 and 23 we attended the 2018 Health Care Forecast Conference presented by the University of California, Irvine (UCI), Center for Health Care Management and Policy at the Paul Merage School of Business. The theme was “Health Politics and Policies in a Midterm Election Year.” Five panels of medical, public health, insurance, legal, economic, scholastic, employment, administrative, and political experts discussed current challenges and future trends in health care.

Each professional had his or her own unique perspective. There were differing opinions for the US Economic Forecast. One economist described a favorable economic outlook for the US with initial applications for unemployment down, the economy back on its feet, and the symbolism of tax reform efforts important in attracting business. Another expert saw a less favorable trend as he believed the Federal budget was too optimistic on growth and the deficit would continue to grow. Other trends that could impact the economy include involuntary part-time employment and brain drain with baby boomer retirements.

For the health care economic forecast, panelists indicated that while overall costs are increasing, patient utilization remains the same, which means that medical provider prices are the issue. The experts anticipate that health care costs will continue to increase, and they agree it is impossible to make strong predictions due to the uncertainty in the political arena. Most panelists agreed

that the upcoming elections may determine the future direction in health care policy and that little federal legislation in health care will occur during the rest of 2018, except for possible funding to address the opioid problem.

Panelists discussed the status of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) both in California and on a federal level. In California, the ACA is stable and strong. It has been considered an ACA success story. On the federal level, panelists generally agreed that making improvements to the ACA would be the most cost effective way to move forward. Single payer coverage was considered by the panelists to be too expensive. Medicare could be improved because demographics (aging baby boomers) may drive that debate. One recent trend is states requesting waivers to make changes to their Medicaid programs, including work requirements and even lifetime limits.

The experts noted that employers are increasingly recognizing that they need to help employees make better health care decisions. One trend seems to be employers changing their strategy toward employee well-being, not only focusing on their health, but also looking holistically, how social, psychological and economic issues impact employee health. Employees want choice and flexibility in health care options versus “group plans” from their employers. In the past, employer strategies had focused on how employees used the health care system, but now the focus may become obtaining the best value for payment. Health care pro-

professionals would be compensated for keeping patients healthy rather than for treating illness. Prevention could be even more of a focus of the future.

Reference was made by panelists to this being the “age of disruption.” The rise of the sharing economy, with such companies as Uber and Airbnb, along with smart phones, Amazon, and Google, has disrupted the models of traditional business. Adding to the disruption is the pace of technological advances, weakened traditional institutions and values, increased population diversity, general mistrust of government, and many other factors. The new business model offers instant, easy, customizable choices in what people buy; that is the opposite of how most hospitals and health care generally work. One panelist commented that as the millennial generation ages, they may want “instant” health care—this may drive technological changes in the health care delivery system. The industry will need to change to keep pace.

One presentation of special note was by Paul Leon, the CEO and Founder of the Illumination Foundation. Mr. Leon was once a Public Health Nurse with the County of Orange. Illumination Foundation’s mission is to break the cycle of homelessness by providing stable housing and wrap around services for these patients, as well as managing their discharge from hospitals.

Another interesting speaker was Dr. Laurel Riek, Professor in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of California, San

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Karaoke Luncheon



Health Care Forecast

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Diego, who is associated with the Department of Emergency Medicine and Contextual Robotics Institute. Dr. Riek leads research in human/robot teaming, computer vision, and health care engineering. Robotics and technology are intended to support human teams to facilitate autonomous, long-term, independent living for seniors, cognitively impaired, and the physically disabled. She indicated robots (machines) can unload and put away groceries, do housework, and even cook! These machines are learning to recognize a patient's expressive face of pain, happiness, etc. to provide the correct response. Of course, future use of these human/robot teams will be determined by cost/risk/benefit analysis. Other advances on the horizon include DNA tests that can detect genetic anomalies indicating potential cancer and special socks to monitor diabetes.

Overall, the conference was informative and, while acknowledging that so much in the immediate future regarding health care will depend on the midyear election outcomes, the panelists generally expressed optimism that positive changes were coming in health care.

MEMORIAL DAY





In Memoriam

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

November 2017 – May 2018

- Adams, Maggie, OC Public Works
- Allen, Jimmie, OC Public Works
- Balcazar, Juan, OCCR
- Benson, John, Probation
- Berger, Larry, Sanitation District
- Brautigam, Robert Sheriff's Dept
- Boyd, Ruth, Sheriff's Dept
- Bui, Luyen, Health Care Agency
- Burgin, William, OC Public Works
- Buus, Larry, Sheriff's Dept
- Carlsten, Bettye, Superior Court
- Casper, Shirley, Superior Court
- Chow, Maureen, Sheriff's Dept.
- Clark, Gerelyn, Social Services Agency
- Cloutier, Marguerite, HCA
- Correa, Manuel, OC Community Resources
- de Vries, Walter, CEO
- Edwards, Alan, HCA
- Elo, James, Sanitation District
- Felton, Donald, Probation
- Foster, Albertina, Superior Court
- Giger, James, District Attorney
- Gilbert, Fredrick, Social Services Agency
- Halleen, Blanche, UCI
- Hamlin, Helen, Social Services Agency
- Harlon, Sandra, City of San Juan Capistrano
- Hicks, Terry, Sheriff's Dept
- Hookum, Dennis, OC Public Works
- Jones, Donald, OC Public Works
- Keppner, Konrad, OC Public Works
- Knight, Lary, Assessor
- Lane, William, Sheriff's Dept
- Le, Leslie, Registrar of Voters
- Lopez, Ruben, Sheriff's Dept
- Luna, Mary, Health Care Agency
- Magno, Valorie, Assessor
- McDonald, Joan, HCA
- Mitchell, Judith, SSA

Medicare Scam Alert

by Vince Vasil

This scam may seem legitimate at first, but a scam is a scam! Please get this important information to people with Medicare, their families and friends or adult kids who help parents with Medicare.

Here's what you need to know to protect yourself, family and friends throughout the US from this scam:

Starting 4/1/18 Medicare will start a year-long project to replace all current Medicare cards for beneficiaries to convert to alphanumeric ID numbers. Currently the ID number is your social security number. This is starting to hit the media.

Scammers are opportunistic. First, the new, legitimate Medicare card will come to you in the mail. You don't need to request it or do anything. It will show up.

What's The Scam? Somebody from "MEDICARE" will call to tell you that you are getting a new Medicare card. But until it comes, they will claim you need a temporary card. Fee for the card is between 5 and 50

dollars. They want personal information, bank account or credit card so they can process your temporary card.

Remember: Medicare will never call you unless you ask them to do so. Medicare does all communications by mail unless you ask them to call. Ditto for anybody saying they "work with Medicare to make sure you get everything you are entitled." This is a scam!

How Do You Protect Yourself?

First, spread the word. Feel free to share this information.

Use your answering machine to screen calls or just don't even answer a number you don't recognize.

If it has happened to you or your friends or loved ones and personal information has already been given. immediately notify the relevant establishments to protect yourself against identity theft. Note: This happens considerably more often than you may think so please don't feel bad or stupid if you've been scammed.

- Mitzell, Ramona, Cemetery District
- Nedza, Joseph, DA
- Nunez, Joe, Public Defender
- Nute, Constance, UCI
- Parrish, Dennis, Sheriff's Dept
- Pavlik, John, OC Public Works
- Pham, Danh, Sheriff's Dept
- Pierce, William, Sanitation District
- Raya, Josephina
- Reese, Shirley, District Attorney
- Reynoso, Mary, Sheriff's Dept
- Rhoades, Michelle, Sheriff's Dept
- Rosas, Henry, OC Public Works
- Scott, Anne, Superior Court
- Stocker, Suzanne, Social Services Agency
- Strachan, Gail, Probation

- Sulatycki, Jane, OCCR
- Sundquist, Hazel, Assessor
- Sundquist, Lillian, UCI
- Taisne, Jean, Sanitation District
- Tapia, Trinidad, OC Public Works
- Terry, Valerie, HCA
- Torres, Stephen, Sheriff's Dept
- Tracy, John, Sheriff's Dept
- Vail, Carol, Health Care Agency
- Vaughan, Lawrence, Health Care Agency
- Vodicka, Marie Therese, Superior Court



Stories to Entertain – A Fun-loving Retiree

The following account was emailed to us by a friend. Please, keep in mind, we have nothing against Walmart or their customers. We hope our veterans have this much fun and that you appreciate the humor.

Yesterday, I wore my Vietnam Veteran cap to Walmart. There was nothing I needed, but since retirement, trips to 'Wally World' to see the 'Walmartians' are always good for some comic relief. I feel fairly normal after watching some of the unusual characters who frequent the establishment. While standing in line to check out, the guy in front of me, probably in his early thirties, asked, "Are you a Vietnam Vet?"

"No," I replied.

"Then why are you wearing that cap?"

"Because I couldn't find the one from the War of 1812." I thought it was a snappy retort.

"The War of 1812, huh?" the Walmartian queried, "When was that?"

Please forgive me, but I couldn't help myself, "It was in 1946," I answered as straight-faced as possible.

He pondered my response for a

moment and responded, "Why do they call it the War of 1812 if it was in 1946?"

"It was a Black Op. No one is supposed to know about it." This was beginning to be way fun!

He exclaimed, "Dude, really? How did you get to do something that cool?"

I glanced furtively around me for effect, leaned toward the guy and in a low voice said, "I'm not sure. I was the only white guy on the mission." "Dude!" He was really getting excited about what he was hearing. "That is seriously awesome! But, didn't you kind of stand out?"

I couldn't imagine anyone would be so clueless or gullible. I replied, "Not really; the others were wearing white camouflage." The moron nodded knowingly. "Listen," I added in a very serious tone, "You can't tell anyone about this. It's still 'top secret' and I shouldn't have said anything."

"Oh yeah?" he gave me the 'don't threaten me look.' "Like, what will happen if I do?"

With a very serious look I said, "You have a family, don't you? We wouldn't want anything to happen to them, would we?" The guy gulped,

left his basket where it was and fled through the door. The lady behind me started laughing hysterically. After checking out and going to the parking lot, I saw dimwit leaning in a car window talking to a woman.

Upon catching sight of me he started pointing excitedly in my direction. Giving him another 'deadly' serious look, I made the 'I see you' gesture. He turned kind of pale, jumped in the car and sped out of the parking lot.

What a great time! Tomorrow I'm going back wearing my Homeland Security cap. Then the next day I will go wearing my ATF or DEA cap, and see how long it takes to empty the place. Whoever said retirement is boring? You just need to wear the right kind of cap!

OCSPA

In partnership with U.C. San Diego's TREDs program, the Orange County Strategic Plan for Aging's (OCSPA) Transportation Subcommittee, released the "Orange County Guide for Older Roadway Users."

The guide contains resources to assist older adults and their family members with questions and concerns related to safe driving.

Topics covered include:

- driving assessment,
- refresher classes,
- adaptive equipment for vehicles,
- and transportation alternatives.

Download the guide at:

<http://treds.ucsd.edu/older-drivers>
For further information, please contact Christine Chow: 949-757-3714 or christine.chow@alzoc.org.



Welcome, New Members

Auditor/Controller: Diana Luna, Sharon Michaels, Carol Swe, Cecilia Novella
CEO: Melvalois Gipson, Ines Lozano, Vicki Stewart, Elaine Renner
Clerk Recorder: Mary Gloria Rivera, Phyllis Johnson
District Attorney: Jeannie Sepeda, Priscilla Cloud
HCA: Bruce Freeman, Julie Koga, Marta Bardales McCanne, Minh L. Nguyen, Howard Snitowsky
OCCR: Donna Watkins, Maureen Zentgraf, Woon Park, Josephine Sevilla
OC Fire Authority: Kenneth Cruz
OC Public Works: Guy Batterton, Mahrooz Ilkhanipour, Edward Robb, Wilfried Niemann, Anita Cerda, Denise Weaver
OCSD: Walter Kingcade, Darrell Lum,

Catherine Montgomery, Marilyn Tarvis, Khanh Vu, Grant Fry, Karen McDaniel
OCTA: Chih-Yuan Charles Chang, Ha Vinh Nguyen
OC Waste & Recycling: Raymond Hilliker
Probation: Karla Siefkes, Elizabeth Bunetta
Public Guardian: Monique Craven, Janet Litton
SSA: Maria Segovia, Wendy Aquin, Douglas Lane, Pamela Pearson, David O'Meara, Phu Thi Ngoc Le, Lien T. Tran, Ramon Cordova, Stephen Houston, Arlyn Buck, Sonia Rodriguez
Superior Court: Lisa Ann Gramstad, George Berenson, Jodi Gamboa, Alice Hanson
Not Stated: Scott Scoville, Ann Robinson, Anthony Veloz

Menu for May



Three Meat Lasagna with Vegetables

House Salad with Italian or Ranch Dressing

Garlic Bread

Dessert

Coffee and Iced Tea



Did I Read That Sign Correctly?

*"Miners Refuse to Work after Death"
No-good-for-nothing, lazy, so-and-so's!*

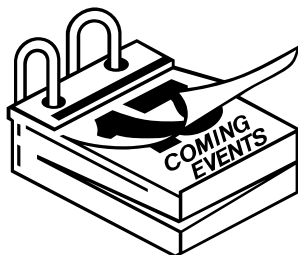
"Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant"

See if that works any better than a fair trial!



Hold These Dates

The following dates have been reserved for our 2018 luncheons:



September 26
December 5

Hemet Chapter Luncheon

When: Tuesday, June 19 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, Bread and Butter, 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 Tuesday, June 12, 2018 to reserve your seat.



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 16, 2018

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

May Luncheon
UCI Health Care Conference
Medicare Scam
Audit Results
OCSFA Update

Dated Material – Please Deliver Immediately

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