



# The Informer

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.

## Holiday Luncheon Set for Wednesday, December 5th



If you have previously attended our holiday luncheon, you won't want to miss this one. If you haven't yet, you may find that you'll never want to miss one again. Please join your friends and former colleagues at the Mile Square Park Golf Course Clubhouse in Fountain Valley.

We enjoyed them so much last year, we invited the Aliso Niguel High School Choir, directed by Choir Master Jason Harney, to entertain us again with acoustical choral holiday music.

Remember, at each Holiday Luncheon, member names are drawn until someone who is present wins the Progressive Drawing. Our drawing has again reached \$500, so 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, November 28. Check-in starts at 11:00 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. Our Holiday Luncheon is always well-attended, so please allow time for parking. We hope to see you there!



## Presidents' Message

From the Desks of Linda Robinson and Doug Storm

HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL! On behalf of your REAO and AREOC Board of Directors we wish you many merry, magical times throughout this holiday season. 2019 is standing in the wings and will likely present new opportunities and challenges for everyone. The upcoming year will be very exciting, yet unpredictable. As retirees we recognize we have the knowledge, experience and ability to manage whatever the

future brings. Nevertheless, it's good to know that your REAOC organization, with a 6,100-plus membership, remains united in efforts to keep our retirement benefits secure. That said, let's make this holiday season the best-ever and celebrate the 2019 New Year with renewed energy and purpose.

**ELECTIONS** By the time you have received this edition of The Informer the contentious, mid-term elections will have concluded. Newly elected and re-elected officials will be faced with daunting responsibilities like setting priorities and resolving competing social, economic, political and international issues. Retirees are

a huge voting bloc in determining the direction of our country and it is hoped each elected official will be acknowledged for his or her successes and held accountable for failed or negative outcomes resulting from his or her actions—especially any actions that might affect retirees and retirement security. As we've said before, retirees CAN accomplish a great deal when we remain united, active and informed. It is important to stay engaged and to participate when possible. It's worth the effort.

### HEALTH INSURANCE SEMINAR

On November 7th REAO co-sponsored a Health Plan Seminar with

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## Progressive Drawing \$500.00

John Linder of Fountain Valley would have won \$400 at the September luncheon had he joined us. You must be present at the time of the drawing to win! See you on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at Mile Square Park.

# Holiday Luncheon Entertainment

## Aliso Niguel High School Choir with Director, Jason Harney

We are pleased to have the Aliso Niguel High School Choir (ANHS) to perform holiday songs again this year. ANHS is one of the top high school choral programs in the Southland. These highly accomplished students offer four classical concerts each year and a lighter Cabaret Show. In recent years, the students have been joined by professional orchestral players to perform: Vivaldi's *Gloria*, the Faure's *Requiem*, Monteverdi's *Beatus Vir*, Randall Thompson's *Frostiana*, Rutter's *Requiem*, and Mozart's *Regina Coeli*. ANHS students have previously toured to Carnegie Hall, New York, San Francisco, and Hawaii and have performed at the 70th

Anniversary Commemorations at Normandy for D-Day and at the 500th Anniversary Commemorations of the Reformation in Berlin, Leipzig, and Prague.

Their Choir Director, Mr. Jason Harney, received his Bachelor of Music in Choral Conducting at Chapman University while garnering the Choral Conducting Award for 1996 and earned a Master of Arts in Worship Leadership at Azusa Pacific University. Mr. Harney has also served as the Director of Music Ministries for Red Hill Lutheran Church in Tustin.

We are grateful to be entertained by so much talent and are looking forward to the concert.

## Presidents' Message

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County staff and health plan representatives to discuss 2019 health plan options and insurance rates. The seminar was well-attended and we want to give a big thank you to all who participated.

**LITIGATION UPDATE** The Harris, Jahn, McConnell et.al. V County of Orange class action lawsuit has been revived. On September 5th a ruling was received from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Please refer to Page 5 of this newsletter for detailed information or go to the REAOC website at [www.reaoc.org](http://www.reaoc.org) to review court documents and the published ruling/opinion of the 9th Circuit 3-judge panel.

In closing, we want to invite you to the REAOC Holiday Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting scheduled

on Wednesday, December 5th in the banquet room at Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley. The agenda will include the annual election of Officers and Directors, outstanding musical entertainment and wonderful camaraderie. Please plan to attend and share the magic of the season with great retiree friends. Take care, be well and stay united, retirees.

--Linda Robinson

--Doug Storm



## REAOC

P.O. Box 11787  
Santa Ana, CA 92711-1787  
Phone: 714-840-3995  
Website: [www.reaoc.org](http://www.reaoc.org)  
E-mail: [reaoc@reaoc.org](mailto:reaoc@reaoc.org)

### OFFICERS

Linda Robinson	Co President
Doug Storm	Co President
Rebecca Guider	Secretary
Bill Castro	Treasurer

### DIRECTORS

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

### 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.

## Operation Santa Claus and Senior Santa & Friends



Since 1962, Operation Santa Claus has been providing gifts to children who are abandoned, neglected, abused, needy, or placed in foster care in Orange County. In 1992 a Board was formed to reach out to more children and to needy seniors and disabled adults, who may be isolated from family and friends, through Senior Santa and Friends. Our REAOC Holiday Luncheon will provide a designated box for donations, if you wish to offer some holiday cheer to those in need.

Gift suggestions for toddlers are items that make noise and books with buttons that produce sounds when pressed. Teens appreciate gift cards, electronics, colognes and lotions. Gift cards to Target, Walmart and chain grocery stores are welcomed gifts for seniors and disabled adults.

Cash donations and gift cards payable to Operation Santa Claus or Senior Santa and Friends can be mailed to: Social Services Agency, P.O. Box 22006, Santa Ana, CA 92702-2006. Please make checks payable to: Operation Santa Claus or Senior Santa and Friends.

During the month of December, gifts can be delivered to the Holiday Store at: 1505 E. Warner Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 or to County libraries, most courts and many County facilities. Please call 714 679-2438 for hours of operation. To receive a tax deductible letter, please include a legible name and address with your donation. You may also donate online to Operation Santa Claus at: <http://ssa.ocgov.com/volunteer/dona->

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS Neal Kelley Presentation



REAOC's Fall guest speaker, Neal Kelley, Orange County's Registrar of Voters (ROV) for the past fifteen years, graced retirees with a wealth of information on new ways to vote, timelines and other benefits to voters. Good news, next June, you won't need a stamp to mail your completed ballot. The County will pay for postage.

As you are well-aware, nationwide, concern about election security has been foremost. Neal helped set our minds at rest about the Orange County voting system. Orange County uses a detection device that alerts ROV of any attempted system intrusion. Any time a computer code gets through to attempt to hack our voting system, ROV is immediately alerted by Homeland Security, 24 hours/day, seven days/week. Using the example that banks are secure but are still robbed, he indicated

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*tions/osc\_donation* and to Senior Santa and Friends at: [http://ssa.ocgov.com/volunteer/donations/sr\\_santa\\_donation](http://ssa.ocgov.com/volunteer/donations/sr_santa_donation). To receive more information, please call 714-679-2438 or for Senior Santa and Friends call 714-825-3111.

To volunteer go to [www.signup-genius.com/findasignup](http://www.signup-genius.com/findasignup).

nothing is foolproof. A virus could possibly still get through any system. However, due to this alert, ROV can now audit the election after its completed. Further, Orange County has paper ballots and ROV can count them to verify election results if all else failed.

Congress has allocated money for cyber security issues and he assured us that Orange County will receive \$9.2 million dollars to buy new equipment. Additionally, our California Governor allocated \$134 million for counties to boost their systems, so Orange County will receive a portion.

Mr. Kelley shared that our partners in this election security business are comprised of Homeland Security, the FBI, Orange County Sheriff's Department, the Office of District Attorney and the Election Systems Commission. A few years ago, Orange County did not have that much support, so a huge change for the better has resulted. Further, a nine-month partnership has been initiated with CalTech, who will audit ROV as a third party, independent reviewer of data and provide a report on our security.

Mr. Kelley encouraged retirees to check the ROV website, <https://www.ocvote/> for a fifty-page "playbook" that provides additional detail and ended his presentation stating, "It is an honor to serve you."



# Bob Knight ~ What Have You Been Doing?



**W**hile attending my first REAOC luncheon on September 2018, I was invited to reflect on my time working with the Orange County Social Services Agency and to share some of my activities since retirement.

In 1960 I began working with the Orange County Welfare Department as a Public Assistance Worker, following four years with the U.S. Air Force and graduation from Fresno State College. The building was located across Ross Street from the Santa Ana Police Department. The County's population was only 700,000 people. By the time I retired in 1992, I had worked in 13 separate locations, and the County had grown to over 2.41 million people.

The wonderful Assistant Director who hired me told me to report for my first day on Friday, July 1, 1960 (Monday was a holiday on which I would be paid). I could not believe my luck. My beginning salary was a fabulous \$417 a month.

My very first field visit was to the apartment of a recipient of the program titled, "Old Age Security." The woman invited me in and then

declared "you killed my husband!" Her husband had been driven to the County Hospital where he died. Note: UCI Hospital was formerly a County Hospital.

Initially public assistance workers had a dual role dealing with financial eligibility and social services. Sometime during the 1960s Kennedy/Johnson era, these roles in the department were split. I was assigned to financial eligibility.

A summary of my diverse career with the County is included. I advanced through three primary position areas: Public Assistance Worker (1960), Social Service Supervisor (1965), and Program Analyst (1974). The programs in which I was involved at various levels were titled: Old Age Security, Aid to the Totally Disabled, Aid to the Blind, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, General Relief, In-Home Supportive Services, GAIN (Greater Avenues for Independence), the General Relief Work Program, and the Cuban Refugee Program. Over the years I worked in both the Employment and Children Services Divisions, and for two years I was Vice-Chair of the California Welfare Directors' Association's committee on In-Home Support Services and Adult Protection Services.

Although much of my work was routine, I was frequently emotionally impacted by the difficult lives of people that we serve. For example, I met with a Cuban refugee who had escaped the country using only a small rubber boat. At one time I was ordered by the court to physically remove an infant child from his independent adoptive parents and return

him to his mother. I also spent some time out on a city walkway with a newly evicted woman and her son.

While with the agency I was able to obtain master's degrees in Public Administration from the University of Southern California and Social Work from the California State University, Long Beach.

The combination of experience with the county and advanced degrees has led to an exciting time of retirement, including paid and volunteer time as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. While still living in Orange County, I conducted geriatric-psychology groups for two years at Pacifica Hospital in Huntington Beach. After moving to Washington State in 1996, I became involved with various older adult service programs. For three years I was a home health/hospice Social Worker with Group Health Cooperative (now Kaiser Permanente). I served two terms as president of a Rotary club, and for eight years I was editor of the on-line monthly news magazine for Rotary District 5050 serving Western Washington and the Fraser Valley of British Columbia, Canada.

Soon after moving to Washington I began volunteering with the Snohomish Chapter of the American Red Cross Mental Health Services, which included assisting victims of fires. In October 2001 I was deployed to the American Red Cross Mental Health Services in New Jersey in connection with the World Trade Center disaster, assigned to a service center at Liberty Park. While there I met with family and friends who had lost loved ones and accom-

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# Orange County Retirees' Class Action Lawsuit Litigation Update

by Linda Robinson and Doug Storm

**O**n September 5, 2018 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals revived a Class Action Lawsuit originally brought by Orange County retirees before the Central District Court of California in January 2009. Following a number of motions, amendments and appearances at the District Court, Court of Appeals and California State Supreme Court—the Harris, Jahn, McConnell, et.al. v County of Orange case (#13 -56061) was last argued before a 9th Circuit three-judge panel in February 2014. The lawsuit alleges the County of Orange wrongly 1) reduced a Retiree Medical Grant benefit that is based on retirees' vested contract rights and 2) constitutes age discrimination by the County's unilateral decision to eliminate the benefit of a commingled insurance pool beginning in January 2008.

The panel ruled in its published

opinion that retirees adequately claimed they had an implied contract with the County providing them the right to a monthly grant for health care costs during their lifetime. The panel rejected the age discrimination claim. The reader is invited to review documents provided on the REAOC website at [www.reaoc.org](http://www.reaoc.org). The panel affirmed in part and reversed in part the lower court's ruling and remanded the case back to the District Court for further proceedings. The 9th Circuit's ruling does not mean the case won a final victory on the grant claim; it just says the case is allowed to go forward in the trial court to prove the claim with evidence.

On September 19, 2018 a request was filed with the Court of Appeals to reconsider its ruling regarding the commingled pool/age discrimination claim. The request asserts mistakes were made in con-

cluding the claim was properly dismissed by the lower court. The Court of Appeals had to rule on this request prior to remanding the case back to the District Court. Requests for reconsideration are not often granted; however, the explanation for the request clearly identifies errors made in dismissing the claim. "In mid-October the panel denied the request to reconsider its dismissal of the age discrimination claim. No explanation was provided for the decision. The case is now ready to return to the trial court to proceed on the contract claim regarding the significant reduction of the vested grant benefit in 2007. For further information the reader is invited to review documents provided on the REAOC website at [www.reaoc.org](http://www.reaoc.org). Updates will be made available as the lawsuit proceeds through the judicial system.

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## Bob Knight

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panied them to the site across the Hudson River.

My wife and I have enjoyed traveling, including trips to Europe, South Africa, Japan, South Korea, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. In April 2018 we moved to Florida to be near our daughter. We have joined a Rotary club and an Episcopal Church, and we look forward to new adventures as we enter this new chapter in our lives.





# In Memoriam

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

## July 2018 – October 2018

Batchelder, Norman OCTA  
 Blohm, Pauline HCA  
 Bruney, Joseph SSA  
 Crum, Arlene Probation  
 Descoteaux, Normand Sheriff's Dept  
 Dickson, Donald Superior Court  
 Enright, James Probation  
 Fobber, Melinda Assessor  
 Herbel, Glenn OC Public Works  
 Hernandez, Leticia SSA  
 Hill, Celestina HCA  
 Irvin, Richard OC Public Works  
 Kim, Itara Probation  
 Kinneberg, David County of Orange  
 Lupascu, Doina SSA  
 Miller, David Sheriff's Dept  
 Pearson, John OCCR  
 Rahnner, Robert Probation  
 Rees, Earl Vector Control  
 Russell, Robert Sheriff's Dept  
 Schoff, Rosemary Probation  
 Silva-Scavo, Laura HCA  
 Taylor, William OCTA  
 Thoman, Mary Assessor  
 Ventura, Marilyn SSA  
 Voss, Barbara, SSA  
 Westrum, Susan HCA  
 Wick, Doris Superior Court  
 Barela, John Registrar of Voters  
 Barnard, Roberta SSA  
 Bennett, Shirley OCCR  
 Brandt, Lincoln City of San Juan  
 Capistrano  
 Braun, Mary UCI  
 De Marco, Ralph HCA  
 Diethorn, Audrey HCA  
 Faley, Mary Superior Court  
 Grant, Robert Probation  
 Hall, Judi Probation  
 Horne, Lucinda SSA

Hoyle, Viola Sheriff's Dept.  
 Jones, Donald CEO - GSA  
 Kane, John HCA  
 Kleegeer, Sonia HCA  
 Mays, Charles (Ken) CEO  
 Mc Nichols, Joyce SSA  
 Munoz, Isabel HCA  
 Murphy, Claire CEO  
 Nelson, William Sheriff's Dept  
 Parks, Carolyn OCTA  
 Smith, John Superior Court  
 Solis, Baldemar Sheriff's Dept  
 Wadginski, Francis Probation  
 Whitcom, Edna  
 Williams, Robert County of Orange  
 Abdel-Sayed, Taghreed Sheriff's Dept  
 Anthony, Philip Board of Supervisors  
 Boike, Mark Sheriff's Dept  
 Bournival, Robert OCTA  
 Bowen, Lillian Superior Court  
 Chandler, Patricia OCTA  
 Clavin, Mary Auditor-Controller  
 Conf, Mai Anh HCA  
 Corbin, Virginia HCA  
 Draeger, Robert OC Waste and Recycling  
 Florio, Geraldine Sheriff's Dept  
 Gervais, Carl OC Public Works  
 Gettman, Carolyn OC Public Works  
 Harding, George OC Public Works  
 Hunter, Wondra OCTA  
 Johnson, Charles Probation  
 Krauss, Veronica OCTA  
 Lees, Leonard HCA  
 Lewis, May Ellen UCI  
 Litscher, Ruth Probation  
 Lotts, Mary OCCR  
 Lowie, Robert OCTA  
 Macias, Peggy SSA  
 Martindale, Steven OC Public Works  
 Mc Murtry, Marilyn SSA  
 Miklas, Margaret Auditor-Controller  
 Mowbray, Samuel Sanitation District  
 Oliphant, Everett HCA  
 Panchal, Constance SSA  
 Parrish, Amy Treasurer-Tax Collector  
 Peterson, Arthur District Attorney

Peterson, Robert District Attorney  
 Ratawessnant, Parichart SSA  
 Romano, Anne HCA  
 Schoepf, John HCA  
 Servin, Margarita SSA  
 Shaner, Richard SSA  
 Straub, Elvira HCA  
 Trent, Elizabeth UCI  
 Truong, Yen OCCR  
 Turner, Richard OC Public Works  
 Walsh, Ralph Sheriff's Dept  
 Woods, Robert HCA

## Surviving Spouses

Asper, Vera  
 Davis, Patricia  
 Leocadio, Maria  
 Williams, Joanna  
 Chaisson, Miriam  
 Cheatham, Norma  
 Cowder, Cecil  
 Fogle, Irene  
 Hitchcock, Dorothy  
 Kincaid, Margaret  
 Benveniste, Mary  
 Burton, Eunice  
 Gillaspay, Lauralee  
 Hartnett, William  
 Kellison, Marjorie  
 Kish, Adeline  
 Lavacot, Robert  
 Mcraney, Georgia  
 Niesley, Jack  
 Reese, Ralph  
 Robinson, Gary  
 Vaessen, John  
 Washbon, Hazel  
 Wilson, Rosa



# Hemet Chapter Holiday Luncheon

**When:** Tuesday, December 18, 2018  
at 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** The First Presbyterian  
Church, 515 E. Kimball, Hemet

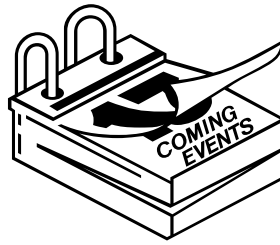
**Price:** Only \$9.50 per person

**Menu:** Chicken Marsala, Rice Pilaf,  
Green Salad, and Chocolate Éclair.

The Hemet Chapter invites new members 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 December 6, 2017 to reserve your seat.

## Hold These Dates

The following dates have been reserved for our 2019 luncheons:



January 23

March 27

May 22

September 25

December 4

## Holiday Luncheon Menu for December 5

Roasted Tri-tip with Teriyaki Sauce  
Garlic Whipped Potatoes  
Garden Vegetables

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.

## Welcome, New Members

**CEO:** Jean Pasco

**Child Support Services:** Cindy  
Prideaux

**District Attorney:** David Vullo,  
Carolyn Carlisle

**HCA:** Dawn Robinson, Kathryn  
Schwabl, David Horner, Kimberly  
Bloom, Shirley Halbur

**JWA:** Thomas Ruff

**OCCR:** Patricia Campbell

**OCSA:** Steven Armand, Stanley  
Davis, Clifford Barnard, Michael  
Genovese, Marcia Gorden, Julie

Wilson, Teresa Baisz, Steven  
Cunningham

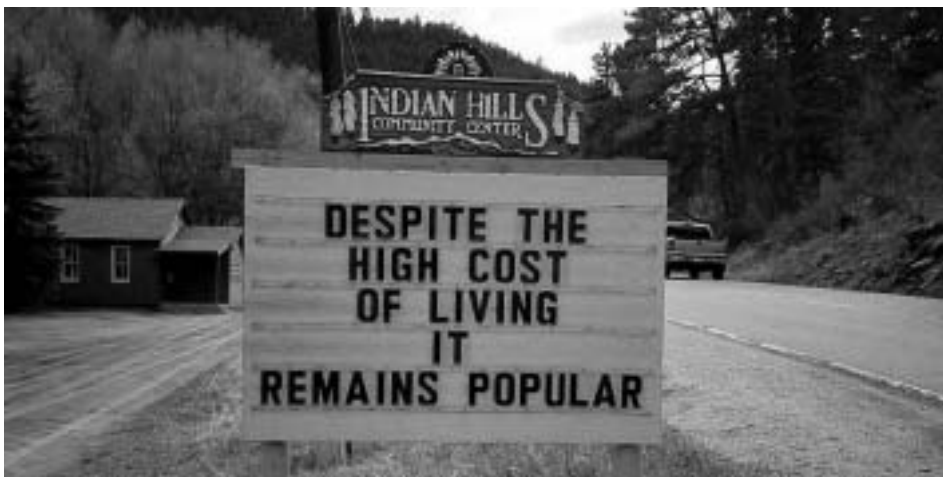
**Probation:** Glenn Blanton, Xinghui  
Chen, Shivanand Mondkar

**SSA:** Viorica Alice Bocancea,  
Douglas Howerton

**Superior Court:** Sharon Prowse,  
Melinda Hoyt, Monica Baldi, Irene  
Rey, Ronald Klar, Lori Myers,  
Marina Tuileta, Bessie Gomez

**Not Stated:** Kathleen Roque

**Surviving Spouse:** Nancy Mays,  
Robyn Tunstall



## Luncheon Reservations Due Wednesday, Nov. 28, 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!

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P.O. Box 11787, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1787

## INSIDE THE INFORMER

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**Dated Material – Please Deliver Immediately**

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First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
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Gardena, CA