



# The Informer

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.

## Holiday Luncheon Set for Wednesday, December 4th



Our holiday luncheon is the best attended luncheon of the year. If you have attended in previous years you

know the great opportunity it provides to see old friends and former colleagues. It will also give you a chance to catch up on retiree issues and enjoy some excellent entertainment. Please enjoy the season and attend our holiday luncheon.

Due to popular demand we have invited the Aliso Niguel High School Choir, directed by Choir Master Jason Harney, to return for a third year. They will entertain us with acoustical choral holiday music.

No one has won REAO's progressive luncheon drawing to date. The drawing has reached \$500.00. What that means is we will draw names until someone present at the luncheon is declared the winner. You must be present to win.

Be sure to reserve your seat by sending the form on page 7 and your check to the REAO office no later than Wednesday November 27.

Check-in begins at 11:00 a.m. and the program starts at noon. Please allow ample time for parking. We hope to see you there.

## Presidents' Message

### *Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Greetings to All*

**O**n behalf of the entire REAO and AREOC Board of Directors it is with great enthusiasm we wish you the best holiday season ever; one filled with family, friends and a renewed appreciation for the magical moments and true meaning of the holidays we celebrate. 2020 will be here in the blink of an eye—perhaps preceded by mass quantities of food, beverage, sports and shopping excursions. Enjoy it all as Thanksgiving gatherings, twinkling lights, lit candles and holiday music take center stage. The festivities can be delightful; however, beware of stress, as the holidays can bring about some frenzied or hectic moments. We highly recommend we all take personal time-outs for relaxation and fun on a regular basis—especially this time of year. Enjoy your well-earned retirement. Cheers and Best Wishes to ALL!

**CURRENT ACTIVITIES** As you

read this issue of *The Informer* daylight savings will have ended, we will have honored and celebrated Veterans Day and readied ourselves for November and December holiday celebrations. Let's talk about celebrations! Your REAO Board is proud to notify you that Frank Eley, the Retiree-Elected member of the OCERS Board of Retirement has been appointed, in lieu of election, to continue his role on the Board for another three years. Congratulations, Frank! Your work is greatly appreciated, not only by retirees, but by many active employees and "retirees in waiting."

MORE congratulations are in order for the newest member of TEAM REAO, Michael Schumacher, who has built an impressive resumé during his 32 years of service with the County of Orange. Michael brings with him an incredible amount of

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## Progressive Drawing \$500.00

Donald Dear of Dove Canyon 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 4, 2019 at Mile Square Park.

# REAOC By-Law Amendments

The Retired Employees Association of Orange County is proposing the following by-law amendments. The amendments will be voted on at our annual meeting, December 4, 2019. The meeting will be held at the Mile Square Park Banquet Facility, 10401 Warner Ave, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 1200 P.M.

Your Board of Directors is recommending two amendments to the current REAOC By-laws.

- Change the number of Directors from five to six. This action would change the Board composition from ten members to a total of eleven and eliminate the potential of a tie vote. This action would also create a new position to absorb the growing demands on the Board Members.
- Provides the REAOC Board of Directors the ability to create one or more Emeritus Board member

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## Presidents' Message

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knowledge, expertise and experience to the REAOC membership and to your REAOC Board of Directors. WELCOME, Michael!

And now, it is with mixed emotions that members of the REAOC Board accepted Director Robin Maddox's resignation from the Board. Robin has been an amazing, inspirational member of Team REAOC and has served as the Editor of this newsletter for the past four years. She has served with incredible commitment, dedication and professionalism. Thank you, Robin for all the hours you have spent on behalf of retirees and this Board of Directors. With gratitude, we wish you only the best in every aspect of your life. Read more about Robin on page 4.

**HEALTH INSURANCE WORK-SHOP** Health coverage and costs are of utmost importance to everyone, especially retirees. On October 29th REAOC co-sponsored a Health Plan Workshop with County staff and health plan representatives to discuss 2020 health plan options, plan

changes and upcoming insurance rates. The workshop was well-attended and we thank everyone who participated.

**CLOSING REMARKS** Thank you all for your membership in REAOC, for your support and participation. We would like to invite you to attend the upcoming REAOC Holiday Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 4th in the banquet room at Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley. The agenda will include the annual election of Officers and Directors, outstanding entertainment and wonderful camaraderie. Let's celebrate this special time in our lives together. Plan to be there to share the magic of the season. Take care, be well and stay united, retirees.

Linda Robinson and Doug Storm  
Co-Presidents, REAOC



# 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

## DIRECTORS

Frank Eley  
Michael Schumacher  
Gaylan Harris  
John Iagjian  
Larry Leaman  
Sara Ruckle-Harms

## APPOINTED STAFF

Ilene Barcnas	Executive Director
John Iagjian	Membership Committee
Vacant	<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.

As we have had in the past, at our REAOC Holiday Luncheon we 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:

## Voting in Orange County is about to Change What you need to know

**W**ith the passage of California Senate Bill 450 in 2016, California counties were given the opportunity to implement the most expansive changes to the voting process in recent history. The bill creates the Voter Choice Model where multiple polling places are replaced with neighborhood Vote Centers. These new Vote Centers will be carefully selected facilities that are highly accessible and open four to ten days prior to the election.

The move to Vote Centers was prompted by a gradual shift in voter behavior and perception. This voting model change will go from a one day, one place concept to a system that works around voters' schedules, expectations and lifestyles. In recent years, voters have migrated to the vote by mail option. Currently 61% of registered Orange County voters are permanently using the vote-by-mail system. This high number of vote-by-mail voters demonstrates they have chosen to vote on their own terms, at a place and times convenient to them. The number of vot-

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*[http://ssa.ocgov.com/volunteer/donations/osc\\_donation](http://ssa.ocgov.com/volunteer/donations/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.



ers casting their ballots at traditional polling places has dropped by twenty percent since 2004. At this rate, in just a few years, we will see ninety percent of voters in the permanent vote-by-mail status. Under the previous system, this would mean our existing one thousand polling places would stand nearly empty on Election Day.

There are many new benefits that come along with the Vote Centers while the ability to electronically cast your ballot remains an option. Vote Centers will be open four to ten days prior to Election Day. They will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. including Saturday and Sunday. In addition to electronically voting, you can drop off a vote-by-mail ballot, pick up a replacement ballot and register to vote. Check in will be faster and more secure. The Centers will have disability access and ample free parking. You will be able to use any of the 200 Vote Centers in the county as you choose. A budget analysis projects a \$10 to \$20 million initial savings and hundreds of thousands of dollars in each subsequent statewide election.

Voting begins a month before Election Day when every voter will receive a vote-by-mail ballot. You can take advantage of many alternatives to avoid congestion. You can vote at home, then use a drive-thru ballot drop off box at a Vote Center, return you ballot in person or mail it via the U.S. Postal Service. Vote Center changes are coming in 2020 so get informed. Visit: Orange County Registrar of Voters-Vote Centers for more information.

# Robin Mattocks ~ What Have You Been Doing?



**R**EAOC Board Member Robin Mattocks has stepped aside after serving REAOC members for four years. During our Fall luncheon, Robin was honored by the Board for her service, and notably for her ability to “herd cats” as the Editor of *The Informer*. In fact, Co-President, Doug Storm, described this as “herding feral cats” to meet deadlines, stay on schedule, obtain necessary information and ensure a clear message is communicated. When Doug realized he would be assuming responsibility for editing, he requested that she not “grade” the next newsletter.

Robin reported she will help as needed during the transition and lamented that most of all, she will miss working with each Board member. She will miss serving REAOC at the OCEA Health Fair, Open Enrollment for REAOC members, the occasional trip to Hemet and all the interactions with members and potential members. She plans to attend our luncheons and actively participate as able.

Robin’s initial County career began with the Sheriff’s Department,

transcribing crime reports from dictation and searching for prior arrests, active warrants, etc. for authorized law enforcement officers. She moved to the Sheriff’s Personnel Bureau to transcribe personnel investigations, support background investigations of potential deputies and civilian staff and fill in for Sheriff Brad Gates’ secretary. From there, Robin’s career ascent began through many County entities. She promoted to Office Supervisor with the Social Services Agency, promoted again to a higher-level Office Supervisor with the Human Resources Department. While earning her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology, she worked as a Recruiter and eventually promoted to management in the mid-1980s.

She became a Human Resources Generalist involved in all aspects of HR Management and, either directly or indirectly, served most County agencies and departments from a centralized HR assignment or was assigned to an agency team. Her centralized work included managing, investigating and responding to all agency and department Selection Complaints which included providing depositions, representing the County in arbitrations and providing training to recruitment staff. Her centralized assignment also involved providing employee relations and classification advice and training for the centralized Law Enforcement Team Departments.

Her team assignments included Health Care Agency, Environmental Management Agency (subsequently reorganized into other County agency configurations) and the District Attorney’s Office. Ultimately, Robin spent most of her time with the

Social Services Agency team. Having been assigned to other departments, Robin requested and was granted a return to Social Services twice for a total of five service periods. Her last post prior to retirement was supervising the managers who were providing employee relations support to Children and Family Services.

Robin’s flexibility and HR Generalist expertise resulted in a few reassignments during some of the most challenging times for the County of Orange. With the County bankruptcy, Robin was “loaned” to the General Services Agency HR team to assist during the decentralization of functions. When the Orange County Fire Authority was formed, she was “loaned” to assist with their transition from the County to the Authority. As the Public Authority was formed for the In-Home-Supportive-Services function, she became the new director’s best friend for HR issues and was “on loan” yet again to the Planning Department leadership transition supporting their temporary Director Larry Leaman, who had retired and returned to lead the department.

Since retirement ten years ago, Robin has remained fully engaged in all manner of activities. She returned to work several times as an Extra Help retiree, first providing training to the Public Works Department recruitment staff and upon HR recentralization, developed and provided County-wide recruitment and assessment training. In the second Extra Help assignment she supervised the Social Services recruitment team.

After 35+ years, Robin found it

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# Recent Fraud Alert for Seniors and Caregivers: Genetic Testing Scam

**T**he U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General is alerting the public about a recent fraud scheme involving genetic testing. The fraud occurs when Medicare is billed for a genetic test or screening that was not medically necessary and was not ordered by your treating physician.

Scammers are offering seniors free genetic testing or actual cheek swabs for genetic testing in order to gain their Medicare information. Once obtained, the information is used for identity theft or fraudulent Medicare billings. Seniors are being targeted through telemarketing calls, booths at public events, health fairs and door to door solicitations. Seniors who agree to the testing and provide personal and Medicare information may receive the swabs, or a

testing kit in the mail. Seniors have actually been swabbed at public events and the swabs submitted for testing.

Once the sample is collected it is forwarded to a lab for testing. The tests are performed and Medicare is billed. The scammers submit fraudulent billings to Medicare in hopes of collecting money. Victims also frequently have their financial identities stolen and suffer additional losses. Since the testing has no record of being ordered by a medical professional, Medicare refuses to pay and victims may be responsible for the testing costs, which may add up to several thousand dollars.

How do you protect yourself

- If a genetic testing kit is mailed to you, don't accept it unless it was ordered by YOUR physician. Refuse the delivery or return it to the sender.

Keep a record of the sender's name and the date you returned it.

- Be suspicious of anyone who offers you free genetic testing and then requests your Medicare number. If your personal information is compromised it may be used in other fraud schemes.
- A physician that you know and trust should assess your condition and approve any requests for genetic testing.
- Medicare beneficiaries should be cautious of any unsolicited requests for their Medicare numbers. If anyone other than your physician's Office requests your Medicare information, do not provide it.
- If you feel you have been the victim of a Medicare scam report it immediately at 1-800-447-8477.

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## Robbin Mattocks

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tough to leave County service, but she bravely did so, first by taking on a few HR consulting gigs. Then Robin discovered a whole new venue to hone her talent—Theatre. She spent five years acting with a theater company, Act Out Murder Mystery Dinner Theater. These mysteries/comedies parodied characters from the entertainment industry while interacting with the audience.

Robin has experienced several very significant health challenges over the past ten years. She faces her health challenges as she has always taken on difficult situations, head on. Robin is not only a tough person in a small package, she is a

survivor. We trust she will continue to thrive and make the most of all that life has to offer.

Robin continues to enjoy ballroom and other dancing, hiking, working out at the gym, involvement with her spiritual community, traveling and performing (singing and acting) with the South Coast Chorale, a social justice musical theater group centered in Long Beach. Their next show is called, "Thankful," with performances scheduled for November 2 and 3 at The Scottish Rite Theater. Other 2020 season events include a cabaret, a concert commemorating the end of the holocaust and performances in Riverside and

Minneapolis of *Man Behind the Dream* about Bayard Rustin, Martin Luther King Jr.'s mentor. More information and tickets can be obtained at [www.sccsingers.com](http://www.sccsingers.com).

In the near future Robin and her fiancée are renovating their OC homes, including one to rent, planning their wedding and traveling. We wish her the best in all of the exciting changes in her life and want her to know she is already missed by everyone in her County family and her REAOC family.



## REAOC has a part-time paid position available

Are you interested?

REAOC is looking for a special person interested in working for our Association on a part-time basis for up to twenty hours per week. This paid position is as an assistant to our Executive Director and applicants should have the following qualifications:

- General knowledge of County functions
- General knowledge of the OCERS retirement system
- Able to attend five REAOC luncheons per year (4th Wednesday in January, March, May and September and the 1st Wednesday in December)
- Able to attend REAOC board meetings the 2nd Wednesday of each month
- Able to work with board members and vendors to facilitate and create the REAOC Informer Newsletter (5 editions per year)
- Good computer skills, knowledge of Word, Excel and Powerpoint software and willingness to learn newsletter specific software
- Able to assist the Executive Director as needed, including phone calls, member inquiries and special events.

If you are the person we are looking for please call the REAOC office at 714-840-3995 M-F between 8:00 and 12:00. Salary is negotiable.

## By-Law Amendments

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positions. To qualify you must be a REAOC member in good standing, have served on the REAOC Board for a minimum of eight years and be willing to serve on a limited basis. This position will allow REAOC to continue to receive the benefits provided by long-term active board members who possess special skills or make special contributions following their active service. The Emeritus position shall not have a voting right as other Directors of the Association. He/she will also be listed on the REAOC letterhead as a Director Emeritus and would sit at the head table at the REAOC luncheons.



## In Memoriam

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

### June 2019 – October 2019

Albertson, Barbara, SSA  
Almario, Jose, Sheriff's Dept  
Anderson, Melvin, OCTA  
Blanton, Velma  
Bottorff, Clark, IWMD  
Bottorff, Clark, OC Waste and Recycling  
Cadambi, Suresh, SSA  
Clarke, Edward, Probation  
Covarrubias, Ramon, DA  
Do, Hue SSA  
Eberhart, Warren, John Wayne Airport  
Eisenhut, Donna, OCCR  
Fleming, Daniel, SSA

Franco, Mary, SSA  
Gerhard, Donald, OC Public Works  
Guevara, Norma, UCI  
Haas, Patricia  
Handy, Adelaide, Probation  
Hoskin, Charles, OC Public Works  
Johnson, Darren, Fire Authority (OCFA)  
Keene, John, Probation  
Khidir, Christa, Sheriff's Dept  
Lohnes, George, City of San Juan Capo  
Matthews, Jacqueline, JWA  
Moorehead, Janet, Probation  
Nerese, Jody, SSA  
Pearce, Allen, OC Public Works  
Pederson, Marilyn, Health Care Agency  
Pendergraft, Roy  
Perkins, Howard, County of Orange  
Pflaster, Linda, SSA  
Reed, Lois Sheriff's, Dept

Rodrigues, Clara, UCI  
Ross, Edman, District Attorney  
Scaggs, Aquila, OCTA  
Schnitzler, Marian  
Smith, Robert  
Tollison, Sandra, SSA  
Upton, George, Assessor  
Voss, Fred, County Executive Office (CEO)  
Whitney, Vergene

### Surviving Spouses

Kennedy, Rachel  
Morgan, Fines  
Quintanilla, Elida  
Remp, Gayla  
Simpson, Harriet  
Vonda, Bryan

## Hold These Dates

The following dates have been reserved for our 2020 luncheons:



### Fountain Valley

January 22

March 25

May 27

September 23

December 2

### Hemet

February 18

April 21

June 16

October 20

December 15

## Hemet Chapter Holiday Luncheon



**When:** Tuesday, December 17, 2019  
at 11:30 a.m.

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

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

**Menu:** Chicken Marsala, Green Beans,  
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 10, 2019 to reserve your seat.

## Holiday Luncheon Menu for December 4

*Roasted Tri-tip with Teriyaki Sauce  
Garlic 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.

### Luncheon Reservations Due Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019

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!

## NOTICE TO REAOC MEMBERS WHO DO NOT PURCHASE MEDICAL INSURANCE THROUGH THE COUNTY OF ORANGE

If you do not buy medical insurance through Orange County the MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD is from October 15 – December 7, 2019. Open enrollment is when you can make changes to your health and drug insurance policies. This does not affect people who do buy insurance through the county.



## Welcome, New Members

**Auditor-Controller:** Patricia Aguirre

**County Counsel:** Linda Rachell, Anna Strahan

**District Attorney:** Sandy Wood

**HCA:** Jean Cheng, Irene Finke,  
Timothy Beason, Charlotte Egan

**OCCR:** Kathy Rogers

**OC Public Works:** Laurie Keogh

**OCSA:** Laima Boyd, Blanca Ramos

**Probation:** Julie Chay

**SSA:** Carol Wiseman, Charles Griffin

**Superior Court:** Elva Gomez,  
Kathleen Cornejo, Jenny Thompson

**Not Stated:** Maria Livingston,  
Marjorie Rose-Hollins

### Surviving Spouse

Robert Fulton

Hashim Khidar

# The Informer

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

## INSIDE THE INFORMER

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Proposed By-Law Amendments

Voting in Orange County—Upcoming Changes

Dated Material – Please Deliver Immediately



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