

P.S.

POST SCRIPT

NEWS FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 2009 • VOL. 20, NO. 3

LACERA Introduces New Plan Books

In June, we introduced new Summary Plan Descriptions for all LACERA retirement plans.

Saving Money and Trees

To be fiscally, as well as ecologically, responsible, we did not print and mail 104,000+ of these Plan Books as we have in the past. Rather, we mailed postcards to all active and deferred members announcing the new Plan Books.

The postcards provided members with options; they could:

- Access the new Plan Book Section on lacera.com



- Visit the Brochures & Forms page of lacera.com to request to have a hard copy mailed
- Order a copy by calling LACERA at 1-800-786-6464

New Plan Book Section on lacera.com
To keep our members abreast of Plan

changes as they occur, we launched a new Plan Book Section on lacera.com. The section, which contains complete and fully searchable online versions of each Plan Book, will be updated on an ongoing basis over the coming years to reflect the latest legislative and procedural changes.

Keep track of your retirement plan online.

Order a plan book from the Brochures & Forms page or by calling 1-800-786-6464.

Upcoming Holidays



LACERA will be closed on:

- Columbus Day, Monday, October 12
- Veteran's Day, Wednesday, November 11
- Thanksgiving, Thursday-Friday, November 26-27.

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Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association

Members of the Board of Retirement:

WILLIAM DE LA GARZA

Chair
Elected by Retired Members

SIMON S. RUSSIN

Vice Chair
Elected by General Members

YVES CHERY

Secretary
Elected by General Members

MARK J. SALADINO

County Treasurer & Tax Collector
Ex-Officio Member

SADONYA ANTEBI

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

EDWARD L. BLECKSMITH

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

J.P. HARRIS

Alternate Member
Elected by Safety Members

EDWARD "ED" C. MORRIS

Alternate Member
Elected by Retired Members

WILLIAM R. PRYOR

Elected by Safety Members

LES ROBBINS

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

Members of the Board of Investments:

WILLIAM R. PRYOR

Chair
Elected by Safety Members

HERMAN SANTOS

Vice Chair
Elected by General Members

DIANE A. SANDOVAL

Secretary
Elected by Retired Members

MARK J. SALADINO

County Treasurer & Tax Collector
Ex-Officio Member

JOHN M. BARGER

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

PAUL HUDSON

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

SIMON S. RUSSIN

Elected by General Members

MICHAEL S. SCHNEIDER

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

LEONARD UNGER

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

Chief Executive Officer

GREGG RADEMACHER

Assistant Executive Officer

ROBERT HILL

Assistant Executive Officer

JANICE GOLDEN

From the **EXECUTIVE DESK**

Gregg Rademacher—CEO, LACERA

We Continue to Expand Your Service Options



We continue to explore new ways to expand the scope of **service options** we provide our members. The latest results of our ongoing commitment to serving you better are discussed in this issue of the *PostScript*.

Our new Summary Plan Descriptions are one such example. The new Plan Books, which reflect the latest legal and procedural Plan changes, are more complete and easier to read than ever before and — they're available in a choice of three formats: printed copies, PDFs, and a fully searchable online version displayed in the new Plan Book Section of lacera.com. This specially created section will be updated to reflect changes to the Plans as they occur.

Our dedication to fiscal responsibility is also evident in our approach to the new Plan Books. As is noted in the "LACERA Introduces Updated Plan Books" article, in previous years we introduced new Summary Plan Descriptions by generating a mass mailing to every active and deferred member. This time, rather than incur the significant costs associated with printing and mailing more than 104,000 copies, we mailed a postcard announcing our new Plan Books were available online or to be mailed upon request. I see this as a win-win! We gave members access to a new Plan Book in the format of their choice, we saved the fund tens of thousands of dollars, and we spared a few trees in the process.

Another example of our enhanced service is My LACERA, the special members-only section of lacera.com that contains each member's personal

membership data. You'll discover if you read "Inside My LACERA," on page 4, we are adding the next generation of **ARC calculator to My LACERA**, in October. Members will have a new planning tool and be able to generate a cost estimate to purchase ARC based on their actual data on file with LACERA. At the end of the estimate process, those who decide to proceed with a purchase will be able to print and mail a request to have an ARC purchase contract sent to them.

"We gave members access to a new Plan Book in the format of their choice"

cont'd on pg. 3

Russin and Santos Reelected to LACERA Boards



LACERA congratulates **Simon Russin** on his reelection to the Board of Retirement (BOR). Mr. Russin joined the BOR in 1983 and is a past BOR Chair and Vice-Chair. He is recognized as an advocate on behalf of the interests of LACERA members. During his tenure, he was active in several negotiations that produced favorable outcomes for County workers and retirees.



Congratulations to **Herman Santos** on his reelection to the Board of Investments (BOI). A leader in retirement-related issues, Mr. Santos continues to play an influential role in the battle to protect defined benefit pensions. He is a past

Vice-Chair of the BOI and has chaired several BOI committees.

We welcome Mr. Russin and Mr. Santos back to the Boards and look forward to their continued leadership. For biographical information on LACERA Board members, visit the Boards section of lacera.com.

Did You Know?

Defined Benefit (DB) Plans

Your retirement benefit amount is determined by your final compensation, years of service, and age at retirement.

Defined Contribution (DC) Plans

The benefit amount is determined by investment performance and amount of contributions.

Executive Desk

cont'd from pg. 2

To ensure we continue to serve your needs as efficiently as possible, we regularly solicit your feedback on our performance. Many of you who have visited our Public Counter or interacted with our Call Center have received surveys asking you to rate your LACERA experience. I want you to know we review all your feedback and carefully consider it as we

continually strive to improve the level of our operations.

Most recently, we asked for your thoughts and opinions regarding our newsletter. We conducted the survey through a postcard mailing and online. The response was very interesting and positive. Read about the survey results on page 6.

"Education is the great engine of personal development."

Nelson Mandela



Inside My LACERA



Access More Info... Try New Features... Be A Part Of My LACERA!

My LACERA now contains more member data and interactive features. When we introduced My LACERA in 2004, it basically consisted of one secure web page where only active employees and retirees could sign in to view a limited amount of their personalized membership data.

Today this newly expanded section of lacera.com, **My LACERA**, consists of more than **20 secure web pages** where registered users can access virtually all their personal LACERA membership data and LACERA transactions, plus utilize an assortment of interactive features. My LACERA now serves active employees, as well as anyone who receives an allowance from LACERA — retirees, survivors, beneficiaries, and ex-spouses. And it's still growing!

Next on My LACERA

Coming in October: A new ARC Calculator on My LACERA designed to estimate your cost to purchase ARC based on your **actual membership data on file**.

ARC (short for Additional Retirement Credit) provides a way to increase your years of service credit. It is not based on actual employment. The ARC you purchase will increase the total amount of your service credit, which in turn, will increase the amount of the monthly retirement allowance you will be entitled to receive when you retire.

cont'd on pg. 4

Inside My LACERA
cont'd from pg. 3

The New My LACERA ARC Calculator Will:

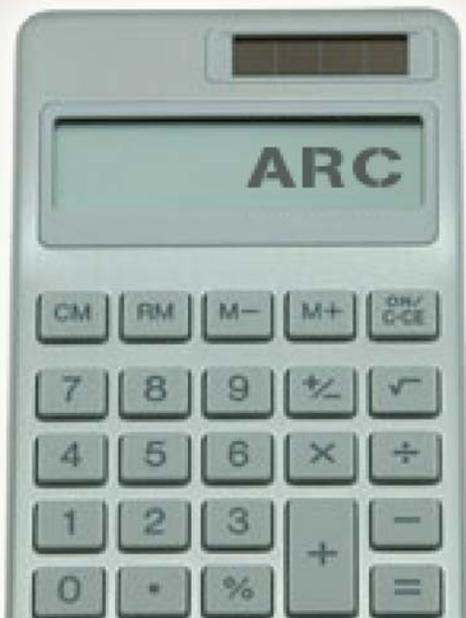
- Generate a tighter calculation than the calculator located in lacera.com, which relies solely on data provided by the user
- Show you the amount by which ARC will increase your retirement allowance
- Display your cost to purchase ARC
- Help you decide if an ARC purchase is right for you

To assist you with the purchase process, the My LACERA ARC calculator will also allow you to print a request for an ARC purchase contract, which you can mail or fax to LACERA.

Connect with your personal retirement network on My LACERA — Register now!

Find My LACERA on the lacera.com homepage.

To keep you informed about our latest advances in online service options, we're introducing **Inside My LACERA** as a regular *PostScript* feature.



October 31 is L.A. County Run for Health



5K Run/Walk and 10K Run Day

In support of the event, as well as to encourage County employees to live a healthier lifestyle, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) has designated Saturday, October 31 as L.A. County Run for Health 5K Run/Walk and 10K Run Day. The event, which will be held that day at Dockweiler Beach in Playa del Ray, includes a 1K Kids Fun Run, along with the marquee 5K Run/Walk and 10K Run.

Additionally, the BOS is encouraging all County employees to participate in free, weekly fitness and nutrition

classes offered by the County Commission for Women in conjunction with the run/walk event. David Levine, training coach for the City of Angels Half Marathon, is conducting the training classes at Griffith Park from 7:30-9:00 a.m. every Sunday in September and October.

For event updates and online registration, visit laccw.info or active.com, or call: (213) 974-1455. County employees receive a \$5 discount on registration.



To Accommodate Your Needs

We Offer
Service Options:

- **Phone:** 1-800-786-6464
- **In Person:** Visit us in Pasadena, 300 N. Lake Ave.
- **Online:** lacera.com

LACERA

FAQs - ARC

Interested in ARC? Register on My LACERA and try out the new ARC Calculator — Coming October 2009

Q: Who is eligible to purchase ARC?

A: An active member in any LACERA retirement plan with at least five years of actual County service may purchase ARC. County service may include Plan E service, dual account service (safety and general), and PERS transfer credit. Reciprocal service and purchased temporary time are not included. Deferred members are not eligible to buy ARC.

Q: How much ARC may I purchase?

A: The minimum ARC purchase is one year; the maximum purchase is a total

of five years under any Plan or combination of Plans. For example, suppose you buy three years of ARC while you're a member of Plan E and later transfer to Plan D. The maximum amount of ARC you would be eligible to purchase in Plan D would be two years. In that case you would have purchased a total of five years of ARC, which is the maximum purchasable amount.

Q: How is the cost of ARC calculated?

A: The cost of ARC is calculated using a "present value formula," which

represents the value of the increased retirement income you will receive during retirement, computed in today's dollars. In other words, the member pays the full actuarial cost of the additional future retirement benefit. By law, ARC cannot place any additional financial burden on the retirement system. The formula factors in your current age, retirement plan, and salary, along with actuarial assumptions for salary increases, age at retirement, and life expectancy.

Learn About Your Retirement Plan New Member & Pre-Retirement Workshops

SEPTEMBER 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		S	N	3	4	6
5	7	G	N	10	11	12
13	14	G	N	17	G*	19
20	21	G	N	24	25	26
27	28	G	N			

OCTOBER 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	S	N	8	9	10
11	12	G	N	15	16	17
18	19	G	N	22	23	24
25	26	G	N	29	31	

NOVEMBER 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	S	N	5	6	7
8	9	G	H	12	13	14
15	16	G	N	19	20	21
22	23	G	N	26	27	28
29	30					

G = General Members Pre-Retirement S = Safety Members Pre-Retirement N = New General Member H = Holiday



Call 1-800-786-6464 to RSVP

Pre-Retirement Workshops are held at LACERA from 8:30-11:30 AM; most include presentations by Great-West and long-term care providers. New Member Workshops run from 3:00-4:00 PM.

**Great-West and long-term care not included.*



WORKSHOP SCHEDULE
Visit lacera.com, Benefits, Active Members

Newsletter Survey Results

From the Director of Communications

Q: ARE LACERA MEMBERS AWESOME?



Thank you for responding to our newsletter survey! Your answers were very informative and truly food for newsletter thought. You've inspired me with good ideas for the future direction of the *PostScript*.

BIG PICTURE

Quarterly, we mail the *PostScript* to 104,000 active and deferred members. The March issue included a newsletter survey to which 1.73% of you responded - 66% mailed back the survey postcard and 34% took the survey on lacera.com. We also surveyed our 54,000 retired members who receive the *Spotlight* newsletter. Interestingly enough, the retirees' survey response rate was 12.05% with 93.61% returning the postcard by mail.

SURVEY RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

Quality of written content

Combined (postcard & online results) Response: 53% Always

Postcard: 60% Always

Online: 39% Always • 44% Often

Based on newsletter suggestions, have you visited a specific area in lacera.com

Combined Response: 53% Yes

Number of newsletters you want a year



Rating:

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Not Really



Combined Response:

67%

4x a year

Print vs Electronic: If you had a choice...?

Combined Response:

Printed Newsletter 51% • Electronic Newsletter 20% • Both 29%

Postcard:

Printed Newsletter 63% • Electronic Newsletter 13% • Both 25%

Online:

Printed Newsletter 27% • Electronic Newsletter 39% • Both 36%

YOUR IDEAS & SUGGESTIONS

- Safety member articles
- Medical plan & Medicare info
- Q&A section
- Mini-workshop section: outline a topic
- Articles of interest to employees in their 20s and those ten years from retiring

Quotes:

"Great job, hope you continue to send it to us, thanks!"

"Save trees, send via internet; give us an option to "opt out" on the printed newsletter"

"Use less expensive paper"



RESULTS YOU CAN SEE

(To read an extended version of this article visit lacera.com, Newsletter page)

You hold the results of the newsletter survey within your hands.

We reduced the newsletter paper quality and cost - again, added a Q&A section, and a condensed article, with an extended version online.

The survey results were so interesting to analyze. I see an emerging group of active members who want bite-size bits of information in an electronic style; we'll get there! Thank you for your input and suggestions.

I read all of your comments and am happy to announce you like the newsletter. We will add more of your good ideas as we go forward.

-Ms. Smart, Director of Communications

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS



PG 3

**Inside My LACERA — Access More Info...
Try New Features... Be A Part Of My LACERA!**



PG 6

Newsletter Survey Results!!

More Inside!
SEPTEMBER
2009

Editor's Note:

PostScript is published by the staff of LACERA. Signed articles represent the opinion of the writers and not necessarily the opinion of LACERA Management, Board of Retirement, or Board of Investments. Consult with professional advisors regarding legal, tax, and/or medical matters; LACERA does not offer legal, tax, or medical advice.

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