

P.S.

POST SCRIPT

NEWS FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

JUNE 2010 • VOL. 21, NO. 2



Election for LACERA Boards Set for July



An election for the **Seventh and Alternate Members of the Board of Retirement and the Fourth Member of the Board of Investments** will be held Tuesday, July 27, 2010. The open positions are **Safety Member seats**, which carry three-year terms commencing January 1, 2011.

The County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk will begin mailing ballots to eligible safety members by Friday, June 25. Safety members of LACERA as of March 1, 2010 are eligible to vote in the election. If you are an eligible voter and do not receive a ballot by July 6, you may request a duplicate ballot through your Departmental Election Coordinator on

or before July 13. Completed ballots must be received by the County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on July 27, 2010 to be eligible for counting.

For further information on this year's election, visit the Board of Supervisors' Election Information web site: bos.co.la.ca.us/lacera_election.htm.

Keep Your Beneficiary Information Current

It's important to have a Beneficiary Designation Form on file with LACERA and to make sure LACERA has the most current contact information on your designated beneficiary(ies). In the event the unthinkable happens, the information will be helpful to LACERA — and your beneficiary — should it be necessary for LACERA to pay death benefits on your behalf.

New County employees are asked to complete a Beneficiary Designation Form in conjunction with their election of a LACERA retirement plan. The form designates who the employee would like to receive any death benefits that may be payable should he or she die while in County service.*

cont'd on pg. 7

IN THIS ISSUE

articles

- 2 From the Executive Desk
- 3 What's Your Membership Date?
- 3 Did You Know?
- 4 Inside My LACERA
- 5 Daughters & Sons Day
- 5 Workshop Schedule
- 6 FAQs-Beneficiaries

*Pre-retirement (active member) death benefits are included in all LACERA contributory retirement plans (Plans A, B, C, and D). They are not included in non-contributory Plan E. The surviving spouse or domestic partner of an active Plan E member may be eligible to receive benefits through the County's Long-Term Disability and Survivor Benefit Plan.

Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association

Members of the Board of Retirement:

LES ROBBINS

Chair
Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

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

EDWARD L. BLECKSMITH

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

WILLIAM DE LA GARZA

Elected by Retired Members

EDWARD "ED" C. MORRIS

Alternate Member
Elected by Retired Members

WILLIAM R. PRYOR

Elected by Safety Members

Members of the Board of Investments:

HERMAN SANTOS

Chair
Elected by General Members

JOHN M. BARGER

Vice Chair
Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

DIANE A. SANDOVAL

Secretary
Elected by Retired Members

MARK J. SALADINO

County Treasurer & Tax Collector
Ex-Officio Member

WILLIAM R. PRYOR

Elected by Safety Members

SIMON S. RUSSIN

Elected by General Members

MICHAEL S. SCHNEIDER

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

LEONARD UNGER

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

ESTEVAN R. VALENZUELA

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



Behind the Scenes at LACERA

To many folks, LACERA is synonymous with retirement. As a result, some of them may assume the work we do on their behalf will begin many years from now, when they apply for retirement. Actually, our work begins long before that.

Yes, we will be working to facilitate their retirements, whenever they decide to retire; however, it's important to know that we are *already* working on their behalf and will continue to work on their behalf throughout their active careers and retirement. Our work for them continues even after they are gone... through the eventual payment of survivor benefits.

We think of ourselves as the guardians of our members' futures — of *your* future. So, to help you get a better idea of who we are and what we do, I invite you join me on a behind-the-scenes "tour" of your retirement association.

Divisions

LACERA is comprised of 15 divisions representing a broad range of business and professional disciplines: Administrative Services, Claims Processing, Communications, Disability Retirement Services, Disability Litigation, Executive, Financial & Accounting Services, Human Resources, Internal Audit, Investments, Legal, Member Services, Quality Assurance & Metrics, Retiree Health Care, and Systems.

Hundreds of Dedicated Employees

The broad range of services we provide requires the expertise of each of these disciplines and the dedication of the people who staff them. While the Retirement Benefits Specialists at our public counter, our workshops, and in our Call Center are "visible" to our members, the vast majority of our staff works behind the scenes.

"We are the guardians of our members' futures — of *your* future."

They include our Investment experts who, under the supervision of the Board of Investments (BOI), grow the Fund, manage the portfolio, scrutinize the work of external investment managers, and safeguard the integrity of the Fund...

cont'd on pg. 4

What's Your Membership Date?

Here's a little quiz. Which of the following answers is correct?

Your LACERA membership date is:

- A. The day you were hired for your County job
- B. The first day of the month following your hire date as a permanent County employee working at least three-quarter time
- C. The first day you worked for the County as a temp

If you answered "B," you are correct!

Sometimes people get confused between their County hire date and their LACERA membership date. Employment as a County temp, an agency temp, or a permanent County employee working *less than three-quarter time* does **not** qualify for LACERA membership. To qualify as a LACERA member, you must work at least three-

quarter time as a permanent employee of the County (or outside District) and earn service credit in a LACERA retirement plan.

Your LACERA membership date is the month following the month of your permanent hire. You begin earning County service credit on your membership date.



Member Stats

- ▶ Active LACERA members total 95,788*
- ▶ 82,878 are general members
- ▶ 12,910 are safety members

*As reported in LACERA's 2009 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Does not include deferred members.



Did You Know?

Defined Benefit (DB) Plans

LACERA invests the funds and your employer bears the risk of adverse investment performance.

Defined Contribution (DC) Plans

Employee decides how to invest the funds and bears the risk of adverse investment performance.



Upcoming Holidays

LACERA will be closed **Monday, July 5** in observance of **Independence Day** and **Monday, September 6** for **Labor Day**.



As individuals consider retirement, their usage of the following features on My LACERA increases:

- Retirement Benefit Estimate Calculator*
- Additional Retirement Credit (ARC) Calculator

**Visits to this feature increased by one-third during the month of March. March is the most popular retirement month for County employees.*

The type of information displayed on My LACERA changes as an active member transitions to retirement. When the Board of Retirement approves a member's retirement date, the soon-to-be-retired member sees the following new categories on his or her My LACERA account:

- Monthly Allowance (Your retirement benefit)
- Direct Deposit
- Tax Info

At that time, the following menu items disappear:

- Retirement Benefit Estimate
- Additional Retirement Credit (ARC)

These changes generally occur a few weeks prior to the member's retirement.

Connect with your personal retirement network on My LACERA. Look for My LACERA on the lacera.com home page.



while the Financial & Accounting Services specialists administer LACERA's fiscal operations and prepare its financial reports. Among the many services provided by our Legal Office is the monitoring of securities fraud class actions and the active pursuit to recover LACERA losses. Through Legal's efforts, LACERA has recovered more than \$40 million for the Fund.

Our Claims Processing specialists adeptly handle the processing of the promised benefits. It falls to Internal Audit to oversee our risk management and governance processes, while our Quality Assurance specialists ensure the benefits are accurately administered. Budget preparation, along with the intake, processing, output, mailing, and storage of documents is efficiently handled by our Administrative Services personnel. (In a typical year, LACERA processes between 350,000 and 400,000 pieces of incoming and outgoing mail.)

LACERA's vast computer network, web sites, hardware, software, and electronic business operations are skillfully maintained and supported by our Systems Division. Our Systems programmers, analysts, and technicians continuously monitor the technology market and recommend and install new products to enhance our operations. They are the people who keep us up and running, and protect the security of our network.

Applications for disability retirement are processed and thoroughly investigated by our Disability Retirement Services Division. When necessary, the cases are litigated by our Disability Litigation Division.

Our Human Resources analysts manage staff recruitment and arrange training classes for LACERA personnel.

The specialists in our Retiree Health Care Division administer a Health Care Benefits Program that provides medical and dental/vision benefits for more than 40,000 retirees, survivors, and their eligible dependents. The Program is provided under an agreement with the County of Los Angeles.

This newsletter is brought to you by the professionals in our Communications Division. Communications is also responsible for our web development and content, and creation and production of all our printed materials.

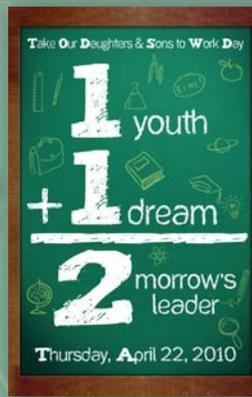
Our Boards

LACERA is governed by two Boards: the Board of Retirement (BOR) is responsible for the overall management of the retirement system; the BOI is responsible for establishing LACERA's investment policy and objectives, as well as exercising authority and control over the investment management of the Fund.

The BOR delegates the day-to-day management and operation of LACERA to its CEO. LACERA also has two Assistant Executive Officers.

So next time you think of LACERA, think of the more than three-hundred LACERA employees and the cadre of board members who work behind the scenes each day to protect your future.

LACERA TAKES ITS DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK



A group of LACERA offspring ages 8-12 spent April 22nd at LACERA in celebration of Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

This year's theme of 1 youth + 1 dream = 2 tomorrow's leader encouraged the kids to follow their dreams and believe in their abilities to achieve success. With that in mind, the kids "worked" their way through various LACERA divisions, learning, participating, and having fun as they went.

Our Investments Division explained the importance of saving money and offered tips on how to save. The kids participated in several mind-challenging (and fun, of course) games throughout the day, including a round of "Are You Smarter than an Attorney" hosted by our Legal and Disability Litigation Divisions and math-oriented games led by our Financial & Accounting Services

Division. Our Communications and Human Resources Divisions (HR) gave LACERA's next generation opportunities to express their creative sides. In Communications, the kids created a take-home book filled with their original artwork and writing samples; they also tapped into their artistic talents in HR by creating a collage depicting what they wanted to be when they grow up.

Perhaps the most popular activities of the day (not including the ice-cream break) were the hip-hop dance class, American Idol karaoke session, and the up-close and personal visit with a deputy from the Sheriff Department's Canine Unit and his four-legged partner.

The kids were unanimous; a day at LACERA was much better than a day at school!

New Member & Pre-Retirement Workshops

June 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		S	N	3	4	5
6	7	G	N	10	11	12
13	14	G	N	MS*	18	19
20	21	G	N	24	25	G**
27	28	G	N			

July 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	H	S	N	8	9	10
11	12	G	N	15	16	17
18	19	G	N	22	23	24
25	26	G	N	29	30	31

August 2010

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

G = General Members Pre-Retirement

S = Safety Members Pre-Retirement

N = New General Member

H = Holiday

*M/S = Medicare and Social Security Presentations only, not Pre-Retirement Workshops

**10:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. at West Covina Regional Library, 1601 West Covina Pkwy, West Covina, CA 91790. Does not include presentations by Great-West or long-term care providers.

Call 1-800-786-6464 to Register

Unless otherwise indicated, workshops are held at LACERA from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Most include presentations by Great-West and long-term care providers. New Member workshops run from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Frequently Asked Questions **FAQs**

Beneficiaries

1. Q: Who is considered an eligible survivor when an active LACERA member dies?

A: An eligible survivor is the spouse or domestic partner who married or entered into a registered domestic partnership with the member prior to the member's death.

In the absence of a surviving spouse or domestic partner, the decedent's unmarried minor child(ren) under the age of 18 is deemed an eligible survivor. Eligibility may be extended through the age of 21 if the eligible child(ren) remains unmarried and a full-time student in an accredited educational institution.

2. How are benefits paid when an active member dies?

A: Depending on the circumstances of the case, benefits may be payable as a lump-sum cash payment or a continuing monthly allowance, or a combination of the two.

3. Where can I see my beneficiary information?

A: The names and addresses of your beneficiary(ies) and their relation to you are posted in your My LACERA account. Also, the Annual Benefit

Statement LACERA mails you each year in the month after your birthday lists the names, addresses, and

birthdates of your beneficiary(ies). It also shows the benefit percentage you have designated them to receive.

LACERA Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association
300 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101 / PO Box 7060, Pasadena, CA 91109-7060 / www.lacera.com / 626/564-6132 • 800/786-6464

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

IMPORTANT: Read the attached Beneficiary Designation information before completing this form. If your spouse or domestic partner is your primary beneficiary, you cannot name another primary beneficiary. If your spouse or domestic partner is not your primary beneficiary, you may name multiple primary beneficiaries. All members may name one or more secondary beneficiaries. Indicate the percentage share for each beneficiary in whole percentages; do not use fractions. The percentages for all primary beneficiaries must total 100 percent; the percentages for all secondary beneficiaries must also total 100 percent. If percentages are not specified, benefits will be divided equally.

Married with 3 children:		Single Parent:	
Primary Beneficiary	Percent	Primary Beneficiaries	Percent
Spouse	100%	Son	sharing benefits 50%
Secondary Beneficiaries	Percent	Daughter	50%
Son	34%	} 100%	
Daughter	33%		
Son	33%		

EXAMPLES

Naming Primary and Secondary Beneficiaries
Note: In the event a primary beneficiary predeceases you, benefits will be divided equally among your remaining primary beneficiaries or, if none remain, to your secondary beneficiary(ies).

MEMBER'S NAME: _____ MEMBER'S SSN: _____
Primary Beneficiary(ies) _____

Percentage*	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	
Relation to Member				Apt. No.
Address				
Birth Date (MM/DD/YY)		City	State	Zip Code
Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>		Social Security No.		Home Phone
Email				Cell Phone

Percentage*	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	
Relation to Member				Apt. No.
Address				
Birth Date (MM/DD/YY)		City	State	Zip Code
Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>		Social Security No.		Home Phone
Email				Cell Phone

Percentage*	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	
Relation to Member				Apt. No.
Address				
Birth Date (MM/DD/YY)		City	State	Zip Code
Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>		Social Security No.		Home Phone
Email				Cell Phone

Percentage Total* _____ *Percentages must total 100%.

TEAR OFF AND MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO LACERA.

RSD 504 (6/09)

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION FORM

Retirement Questions? Give Us a Call 1-800-786-6464

Quote:

"Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can."

-- Danny Kaye

Keep Your Information Current cont'd from pg. 1

Some active members, depending on how long ago they were hired and which LACERA retirement plan they elected, may not have completed a Beneficiary Designation Form. Or even if they did, the information on the form may no longer be current.

If you have any minor children (including adoptions), it's also important to submit their original certified birth certificates to LACERA to keep on file. (LACERA will image the document and return it to you.) This will ensure LACERA is aware of any minor children who could become eligible for benefits.*

Where to Find Your Beneficiary Information

You can view your beneficiary information online on My LACERA. The information also appears on the Annual Benefit Statement (ABS) LACERA mails you each year in the month following your birthday. You can make changes to the beneficiary information on your ABS by marking the changes on the page and mailing the corrected page to LACERA in the envelope provided.

You can also adjust your beneficiary information over the phone by calling 1-800-786-6464.

Issues to Consider Prior to Retirement

Only Option 1 (not available in Plan E) offers full flexibility to change your beneficiary at any time. This is because Option 1 provides any named beneficiary with a lump-sum benefit (equal to the remaining balance of the member's accumulated contributions), rather than a monthly survivor allowance. The beneficiary is only paid in the event the total retirement allowance received by the member during his or her retirement

did not equal or exceed the member's accumulated retirement contributions. Since it does not provide a continuing allowance, the age of the parties is not a factor.

Want to Change Your Beneficiary Info?

- **Call LACERA at 1-800-786-6464 to change by phone**
- **Get the form on the Brochures & Forms page of lacera.com**

Most Retirement Options offered by LACERA retirement plans do not permit you to change your beneficiary after retirement. This is because most of the Options (Unmodified + Plus and Options 2, 3, and 4) provide a reduced allowance during the member's lifetime and a percentage of that allowance to the eligible beneficiary upon the member's death. At retirement, LACERA's actuaries use both the age of the member and the designated beneficiary in calculating the amount of the reduction to the member's allowance.

Exceptions

Under the **Unmodified Option**, a retired member may name his or her eligible spouse, domestic partner, or minor child to receive a monthly survivor allowance upon his or her death.* If the member's eligible survivor predeceases him or her, the member may name a new beneficiary. In such case, the new beneficiary will receive any remaining portion of the member's accumulated contributions. The new beneficiary will not be eligible for a continuing allowance.

Beneficiary Eligibility for Retiree Health Care

Upon the death of a LACERA retiree, any survivor or beneficiary who is eligible to receive a continuing monthly allowance from LACERA and who qualifies as a surviving eligible dependent is generally eligible to enroll in LACERA-administered health care coverage.**

When an eligible survivor notifies LACERA of a member's death, LACERA mails a health care benefits information packet to the survivor. The packet includes information on benefits and premium rates, along with an enrollment form. **To avoid late enrollment rules, the survivor must notify LACERA within 30 days of the member's death.**

It's important to keep in mind that survivors or beneficiaries who are not eligible for a continuing monthly allowance are not eligible to enroll in a LACERA-administered health plan. However, survivors and dependents who had continuous coverage under the decedent's LACERA-administered health plan, but are not eligible for a continuing monthly allowance, may apply for continued health care benefits (for a maximum of 36 months) under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA).

**Surviving minor child(ren) are eligible for survivor allowances only when there is no surviving spouse or domestic partner. Survivor allowances to an eligible minor child continue until the child is no longer eligible.*

***Member's surviving spouse, domestic partner, minor child(ren), or disabled dependent children who meet prescribed eligibility requirements.*

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS



PG2
**Behind the Scenes
At LACERA**



**Front Page
Board Elections**

More Inside!
JUNE 2010

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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