

P.S.

# POST SCRIPT

NEWS FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

MARCH 2014 • VOL. 25, NO. 1

## LACERA Welcomes Reappointed Board Members Robbins and Valenzuela

**Congratulations to Les Robbins and Estevan Valenzuela on their appointments to LACERA's boards by the Board of Supervisors.**

### Board of Retirement (BOR)

**Les Robbins** brings a lifelong career of public service to the BOR. Prior to his retirement in 2004, he was a Sergeant in the County Sheriff's Department and served seven terms as president of The Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS). No stranger to the Board, Mr. Robbins began lending his time and expertise to LACERA in 1998, when his fellow safety members elected to him to his first BOR position. Since that time, he has represented the interest of County employees in a variety of elected and appointed positions on both LACERA boards, including multiple terms as BOR chair. Mr. Robbins' background in public service also includes ten years on the Long Beach City Council and participation in numerous civic and professional committees. He

holds a B.A. from California State University, Long Beach.

### Board of Investments (BOI)

Having served four previous terms on the BOI, **Estevan R. Valenzuela** brings a unique blend of experience and perspective to his current position. He has previously held executive positions on the BOI, including Chair and Vice-Chair, and has served on the Audit Committee. Mr. Valenzuela is the CEO and CFO of CRA/LA, a Designated Local Authority, which is the successor agency to the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles. Experienced in both the private and public sectors, his resume includes CFO and Regional Administrator of the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles, past president/CEO of the Los Angeles Development Bank, and former

Senior Manager, Ernst & Young LLP. Mr. Valenzuela is a graduate of Harvard College.

Mr. Robbins and Mr. Valenzuela are each serving three-year terms that expire December 31, 2016. Visit the Boards section of [lacera.com](http://lacera.com) for additional biographical information on LACERA board members.

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**Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association**

**Board of Retirement:**

**YVES CHERY**

Chair  
Elected by General Members

**MARK J. SALADINO**

Vice Chair  
County Treasurer & Tax Collector  
Ex-Officio Member

**WILLIAM DE LA GARZA**

Secretary  
Elected by Retired Members

**MARVIN ADAMS**

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

**ALAN J. BERNSTEIN**

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

**VIVIAN H. GRAY**

Elected by General Members

**SHAWN R. KEHOE**

Elected by Safety Members

**JOSEPH KELLY**

Chief Deputy Treasurer & Tax Collector  
Alternate Ex-officio Member

**RONALD A. OKUM**

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

**WILLIAM R. PRYOR**

Alternate Member  
Elected by Safety Members

**LES ROBBINS**

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

**VACANT**

Alternate Retired Member  
Elected by Retired Members

**Board of Investments:**

**JOHN M. BARGER**

Chair  
Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

**DAVID GREEN**

Vice Chair  
Elected by General Members

**SHAWN R. KEHOE**

Secretary  
Elected by Safety Members

**JOSEPH KELLY**

Chief Deputy Treasurer & Tax Collector  
Alternate Ex-officio Member

**MARK J. SALADINO**

County Treasurer & Tax Collector  
Ex-Officio Member

**DIANE A. SANDOVAL**

Elected by Retired Members

**HERMAN B. SANTOS**

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

**JJ Popowich**

From the **Executive Desk**

**Gregg Rademacher – CEO, LACERA**



## Focused on Today, Committed to Tomorrow

At the beginning of each new year, after the “holiday dust” settles, we gear up for certain annual events. Two of those are what we here at LACERA refer to as “March Madness” and the development of our strategic plan for the year.

March is the most popular month for County retirements. That’s because anyone who retires by March 31st is eligible for any April 1st cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) the Board of Retirement may approve. March — and actually the two months preceding it — are known inside LACERA as March Madness, in recognition of the large numbers of members who visit our Member Service Center to discuss retirement and/or submit their retirement paperwork. The closer it gets to March, the greater the “madness” in our Member Service Center and Claims Processing Division.

In January, more than 1,500 members received personalized, one-on-one retirement counseling from one of our specially-trained Retirement Benefits Specialists. As of the end of January, 120 retirements were scheduled for February, and 468 were scheduled for March. I’m confident those numbers will have increased by the time you read this. I commend the Specialists in our Member Service Center and Claims Processing Division for their professionalism in dealing with the annual March Madness frenzy.

### Developing Our Strategic Plan

Every year LACERA develops a strategic plan to internally communicate the association’s goals and the actions — known as strategic initiatives — needed to achieve those goals.

Our strategic plan is the product of discussion and debate among

*“Complacency has no place at LACERA.”*

LACERA’s executive team, management, and our boards. The process actually begins each fall, at our Manager’s offsite conference. During that conference, our executive team meets with our division managers to discuss the state of LACERA and exchange ideas regarding where we want the association to go in the upcoming year and how we propose to get it there. Based on that feedback, our executive team structures a framework for the offsite conference — known as the Board Offsite — we hold for our boards, management, and executives in January.

At the Board Offsite, we introduce a draft of our strategic plan. Over the three-day event, members of our executive and management teams deliver presentations on various

cont’d on pg. 3

## Executive Desk cont'd from pg. 2

components of our strategic plan draft. During the event, board members ask questions, provide feedback, and offer suggestions. Following the Board Offsite, based on that interaction, our executive team finalizes the strategic plan and disseminates it to our boards and management.

Although we are proud of the high level of service we currently provide to our members, we continually seek to improve. Our strategic plan is designed to enhance the scope and quality of our member services and our internal systems.

### Our Strategic Initiatives

Our strategic initiatives incorporate technology, communication, education, and training.

Technology is critical to the full integration of PEPRA-related updates into our operating systems,

and modernization of our internal databases, information systems, calculation engines, knowledge bases, and content management systems.\* It is also pivotal to expanding the number and scope of self-service transactions members can implement on lacera.com.

Quality is paramount to the success of our organization. In recognition of that fact, our strategic plan includes several initiatives designed to nurture and grow quality in every aspect of our operation. Those initiatives involve the development and/or enhancement of our training programs, standardization of our best business practices, and the incorporation of auditing procedures directly into our work process.

We are also committed to the ongoing expansion of the methods by which we communicate with our

## NEWS FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

members. This includes continually improving the scope and variety of our print materials, seminars and workshops, website content, videos, etc.

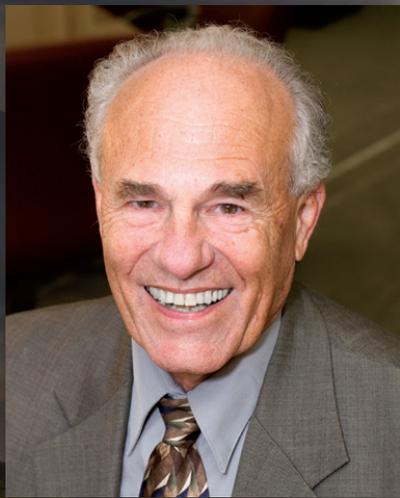
### Complacency Has No Place at LACERA

LACERA continues to be a forward-thinking association. Our boards, management, and staff constantly strive to expand and improve the quality and scope of services we provide our members. We are committed to maximizing the efficiency with which we fulfill our mission to produce, protect, and provide the promised benefits.



\*PEPRA is an abbreviation for the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013.

# LACERA Remembers Ed Morris



In December 2013, LACERA lost a valued friend, colleague, and advisor with the passing

of Edward C. Morris. Known affectionately to us as Ed, Mr. Morris was a respected member of the LACERA Board of Retirement and a retired LACERA employee.

His association with LACERA began in 1956, when he joined the office of the Los Angeles County Treasurer & Tax Collector and thus became a LACERA member. In the late seventies, Mr. Morris joined the LACERA staff. As the Manager of LACERA's Retirement Services Division, he was known for his expertise in benefits administration and his dedication to our members.

Mr. Morris retired from LACERA in 1994, after more than 38 years of County service. In 2005, he joined the Board of Retirement and served successive terms until his death.

We will remember Ed as a positive and supportive force, both as a Board member and a LACERA staff member. His wisdom, warmth, and joie de vivre will be missed by those who were privileged to know him. Mr. Morris is survived by Pat, his wife of 56 years, and his three children, grandson, and great-grandson.

Visit the **Brochures & Forms** page on **lacera.com** and you'll find an attractive, new streamlined look. More than just a "pretty new face" — the new Brochures & Forms page is intelligent, too! The redesigned page is organized by task to make finding and accessing documents easier and faster. Just select the applicable category to see the list of documents available for ordering or immediate downloading. Orders for printed documents are processed within two business days and mailed to you at no cost.

In addition, transactions that can be executed on My LACERA include a "Change Online" button, which gives you the option of signing in or registering on My LACERA.

### Categories

- Learn about Your Retirement Plan
  - Plan Books
  - New Hire Packages
- Change Your Personal Information
  - Forms to change name, address, beneficiary
  - Power of Attorney
  - Community Property brochure
- Manage Your Plans
  - Plan Transfers
  - Plan E Elective COLA
  - Purchase service credit
  - Withdrawal/Reciprocity
  - Rollover/Transfer
- Plan Your Retirement
  - Pre-Retirement materials
  - Rescind or change retirement date
- Apply for Disability Retirement
  - Disability brochures
  - Disability retirement packages
- Access Survivor and Beneficiary Information
  - Survivor Death Benefits brochure and information card
  - SCD survivor package
- Manage Your Retirement Payments
  - Direct Deposit
  - Tax forms
  - Payday Planning Calendar

Visit the new **Brochures & Forms** page today!

## 3 THINGS Butterflies

There are 17,280 species of butterfly in the world, many of them in California, but how much do you know about these ancient insects? No need to chase after these swift insects to examine them yourself; we've collected three facts:

- A species of Monarch, *Danaus plexippus*, is thought to be the fastest flying butterfly, according to entomologist Adrian Hoskins, with a top speed of 20 mph.<sup>1</sup>
- According to lepidopterist (butterfly expert) Arthur Shapiro, Ph.D., butterfly populations have declined as a result of their habitats being disrupted and fragmented.<sup>2</sup>
- The California dog-face butterfly (*Zerene eurydice*) is the official California State Insect.

<sup>1</sup>learnaboutbutterflies.com

<sup>2</sup>butterfly.ucdavis.edu

## CONNECT WITH US

Email-  
**welcome@lacera.com**

Call-  
**800-786-6464**

Visit-  
**300 N. Lake Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91101**

Website-  
**lacera.com**

# Annual Board Offsite Conference Informs LACERA Boards and Management

Keeping up-to-date on issues affecting retirement is important to LACERA's philosophy and operations. We believe our members benefit from having board members and management who stay informed on retirement-related topics. In keeping with our commitment to this philosophy, we hold an offsite educational and fiscal planning conference at a local venue each January. This year's three-day conference featured presentations by LACERA personnel and outside experts on legislation, healthcare, investments, and ethical conduct.

## Day 1: Board of Retirement

The agenda included presentations by a number of LACERA personnel and covered a variety of topics, including disability retirement, technology updates and goals, Fair Political Practices Commission rules, ex parte communication, and the impact of recent developments in California politics.

### Highlights include:

- CEO Gregg Rademacher and AEO Robert Hill outlined LACERA's strategic plan for the next three years.
- AEO JJ Popowich introduced the new Board Resources Handbook and Board Resources webpage.

## Day 2: Retiree Healthcare

The second day featured presentations by a variety of experts on the healthcare needs of seniors, local and national developments in our healthcare system, updates on Medicare and healthcare reform, the County's perspective on LACERA's Retiree Healthcare Benefits Program, and a panel discussion about the future of the healthcare delivery system.

### Highlights include:

- Retiree Healthcare Division management discussed the history and future of LACERA's Retiree Healthcare

Benefits Program.

- The manager of Benefits and Compensation Policy for Los Angeles County shared the County's perspective on LACERA's Retiree Healthcare Benefits Program.

## Day 3: Board of Investments

Investments ruled Day 3, as discussions focused on asset allocation and LACERA's Investment Strategic Plan.

### Highlights include:

- CEO Gregg Rademacher offered an historical perspective on LACERA's funding status.
- LACERA's Investments Division personnel introduced the Investment Strategic Plan and explained the fine points of asset allocation.

## Nine Retirement Plans, 150,592 LACERA Members

LACERA's membership is, of course, so much more than just a lot of numbers; we are a positive force in L.A. County. The impact of active LACERA members is felt daily through the diversity of public services they provide, while the purchases retirees make with their LACERA pension dollars generate more than one billion additional dollars into the annual County economy. Have a look at our numbers, broken out by retirement plan, as of January 2, 2014.



General Member Plans			
Plan	Active	Retirees & Survivors	Total
A	537	26,308	26,845
B	160	704	864
C	148	444	592
D	50,989	9,978	60,967
E	23,954	9,991	33,945
G	3,572	0	3,572
Safety Member Plans			
A	33	7,819	7,852
B	12,384	3,392	15,776
C	179	0	179
<b>Total Members in All Plans</b>			<b>150,592</b>

# WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

## March 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	S	5	6	7	8
9	10	G	12	13	14	15
16	17	G	19	20	21	22
23	24	G	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## April 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		S	2	3	4	5
6	7	G	9	10	11	12
13	14	G	16	17	18	19
20	21	G	23	24	25	26
27	28	G	30			

## May 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	S	7	8	9	10
11	12	G	14	15	16	17
18	19	G	21	22	23	24
25	H	G	28	29	30	31

G = General Members Pre-Retirement  
 S = Safety Members Pre-Retirement  
 H = Holiday

**Call 800-786-6464 to Register or Use the Online Appointment and Workshop Reservation System on lacera.com**

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

# Access Your Member Account on My LACERA

The features and services available on My LACERA, your secure member-only section on lacera.com, continue to expand. Be sure to take advantage of this great tool — visit regularly to monitor your personal account information and keep abreast of the latest features. Access My LACERA at your convenience; it never closes.

### New User? Steps to Register:

Registration is easier than ever!

1. Enter your name, birth date, last four digits of your social security number, and your e-mail address.
2. Answer two personalized security questions based on:
  - active members – employment data
  - deferred – County employment history or beneficiary data
  - retirees – allowance and/or health plan data
3. Create your own security questions.
4. My LACERA will e-mail an account activation link to you.
5. Click the activation link to complete registration and create your password.
6. **Success!** Registration completed.

### Returning (Registered) Users:

1. Sign in to My LACERA
2. Answer two security questions.
3. Create your own security questions, if you haven't already done so.
4. Access your account.

*It's that simple. Visit My LACERA today and check it out!*

### My LACERA Is Your Private Office on lacera.com

Sign in to My LACERA to privately review your personal retirement data and perform a number of secure account transactions, 24 hours a day.

View your:

- Member profile
- Retirement plan information
- Contributions on deposit
- LACERA interactions
- First date you are eligible to retire
- Beneficiary designations
- Annual Benefit Statement

Take care of these transactions on your own:

- Generate a Personalized Retirement Benefit Estimate
- Update or add up to three phone numbers

### Added Security

We're committed to protecting your privacy. My LACERA was constructed with the security of your personal information in mind. To verify that you have reached the authentic My LACERA section of lacera.com, look for the Extended Validation certificate each time you arrive. When you see **green** in your browser's web address bar, you'll know you've reached My LACERA and that your transmissions are securely encrypted. If **red** appears in the address bar, this is a warning that you are on a fraudulent lookalike site. If this happens, close your browser immediately.

My LACERA also uses Entrust Secure Server systems and undergoes regular security audits by professional third-party security firms.

# FAQs

## LACERA'S BOARD OF RETIREMENT AND BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

### 1. Q: Who serves on LACERA's Boards?

**A:** LACERA's Board of Retirement (BOR) is composed of nine members, an alternate member, and an alternate retired member. Four seats on each Board are appointed by the Board of Supervisors, two seats are elected by LACERA general members, one seat is elected by active safety members, and another is elected by retired members. The alternate member is elected by safety members; retirees elect the alternate retired member. The County Treasurer and Tax Collector, an ex-officio member, is required by California law to serve on both Boards.

Each Board member has a profile page on lacera.com, under the their respective Board tab. Each member's profile includes biographical information, with their credentials and history of service to LACERA.

### 2. Q: What exactly do LACERA's Boards do?

**A: Broadly, the two Boards govern LACERA.** Our Board of Retirement is responsible for the administration of the retirement system and retiree healthcare benefits program in addition to adjudicating disability retirement cases. The Board of Investments establishes LACERA's investment policy and objectives and exercises authority and control over the investment management of the Fund.

### 3. Q: When are the Board meetings held?

**A:** If you want to see the Boards in action, you are welcome to attend their meetings at LACERA. The **Board of Retirement** meets at 9:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month and the Thursday of the following week. The **Board of Investments** meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Visit the respective Board pages on lacera.com to view meeting schedules, Board and Board Committee minutes archived since 2010, and agendas. Board agendas are posted prior to each meeting.

### 4. Q: I want to discuss an agenda item with the Board. What do I do?

**A:** On the morning of the meeting, you will find "Request to Address the Board" forms on the table outside of the boardroom. Complete the form and hand it to the Board's staff secretary.

## Visit the Plan Book Section on lacera.com for the Latest Plan Updates

We take great care to ensure the information printed in our Plan Books is accurate at press time. However, changes resulting from the enactment of new legislation, LACERA policies, and/or other events or conditions occasionally occur. **To keep our members updated on the latest changes affecting their retirement plans, we post plan changes, as they occur, in the Plan Book Section online.**

### Navigating the Plan Book Section

The Plan Book Section in the **Benefits section of lacera.com** contains an electronic version of your Summary Plan Description

brochure (Plan Book) exactly as it was printed. The online versions are displayed by section and allow you to access any section directly. In addition, the Plan Book Section includes any post-printing updates.

When you arrive at the Plan Book Section, you'll see a list of LACERA retirement plans. **Select your Plan to reveal links to the following:**

- Post-printing updates
- Full electronic version of your printed Plan Book featuring a drop down section menu
- PDF of your printed Plan Book for downloading

**To directly access the full electronic version of your printed Plan Book,** select the light bulb icon that corresponds with your Plan.

*Let the Plan Book Section Online shed some light on your Plan.*





## Upcoming Holidays

LACERA will be closed:

- Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day.

## Online Appointment and Workshop Reservation System on [lacera.com](http://lacera.com)

Schedule your own appointments at LACERA:

- Reserve a seat for a Pre-Retirement Workshop
- Schedule a visit to speak one-on-one with a Retirement Benefits Specialist
- Make appointments months in advance or on as little as 24 hours notice

## Newsletter Highlights

- ▶ From the Executive Desk
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- ▶ Robbins and Valenzuela Reappointed to LACERA Boards

### 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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