

P.S.

POST SCRIPT

NEWS FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2017 • VOL. 28, NO. 4

Wishing Gregg Rademacher All the Best in His Retirement



LACERA's Chief Executive Officer, Gregg Rademacher, announced his retirement effective October 1, 2017. Mr. Rademacher joined LACERA in 1991, was appointed as the Assistant Executive Officer in 1996, and has served as the Chief Executive Officer since 2006.

It's always hard to say goodbye to someone as highly respected and well-liked as Mr. Rademacher. Throughout his tenure over the last 26 years, he has strengthened and guided LACERA in

cont'd on pg. 4



LACERA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LACERA Congratulates Newly Elected and Reelected Board Members

The results are in from the election held on Tuesday, August 1 to fill three seats on the Board of Retirement (BOR) and

two seats on the Board of Investments (BOI). The following members have been elected:

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Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association

Board of Retirement:

SHAWN R. KEHOE

Chair
Elected by Safety Members

VIVIAN H. GRAY

Vice Chair
Elected by General Members

WILLIAM DE LA GARZA

Secretary
Elected by Retired Members

MARVIN ADAMS

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

ALAN J. BERNSTEIN

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

ANTHONY BRAVO

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

HERMAN SANTOS

Elected by General Members

JOSEPH KELLY

County Treasurer and Tax Collector
Ex-Officio Member

KEITH KNOX

Chief Deputy County
Treasurer and Tax Collector
Alternate Ex-Officio Member

DAVID L. MUIR

Alternate Retired Member
Elected by Retired Members

RONALD A. OKUM

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

WILLIAM R. PRYOR

Alternate Member
Elected by Safety Members

Board of Investments:

DAVID GREEN

Chair
Elected by General Members

SHAWN R. KEHOE

Vice Chair
Elected by Safety Members

JOSEPH KELLY

Secretary
County Treasurer and Tax Collector
Ex-Officio Member

KEITH KNOX

Chief Deputy County Treasurer
and Tax Collector
Alternate Ex-Officio Member

WAYNE MOORE

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

RONALD A. OKUM

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

DIANE A. SANDOVAL

Elected by Retired Members

HERMAN B. SANTOS

Elected by General Members

MICHAEL SCHNEIDER

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

VALERIE ROSE VILLARREAL

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

Interim Chief Executive Officer

ROBERT R. HILL

Interim Deputy Chief Executive Officer

JAMES BREKK

Assistant Executive Officer

JJ POPOWICH

Interim Assistant Executive Officer

BERNIE BUENAFLO

From the
Executive Desk

Robert R. Hill – Interim CEO, LACERA



2017: PROFITABLE AND PRODUCTIVE

Greetings, LACERA members. As reported on the first page of this newsletter, LACERA's Chief Executive Officer Gregg Rademacher announced his retirement, effective October 1, so you'll be seeing a new name and face on this article from now on.

Before we get into the recap of 2017, I'd like to express some thoughts about this change. Mr. Rademacher will be missed by many people from both inside and outside of the association. As CEO, he was instrumental in leading us through numerous strategic initiatives that modernized all facets of the organization, including the deployment of advanced information technology solutions and the continuous improvement of service delivery and quality. Mr. Rademacher leaves LACERA a premier pension system that is well positioned for future success. His contributions and achievements will not soon be forgotten.

I am humbled and honored that the LACERA boards selected me to serve as the interim CEO. The boards will perform a comprehensive national search process for Mr. Rademacher's long-term replacement. In the meantime, I accept and welcome this opportunity. That's because I believe in the talented, professional,

and dedicated employees who work every day to serve you, our members, and fulfill our noble mission to produce, protect, and provide the promised benefits.

Financial Condition

The year is drawing to a close, so it's time to discuss LACERA's financial condition and service accomplishments. I'm pleased to report that our prudent investments

“The Pension Plan's investment portfolio realized a 12.7 percent return.”

in accordance with the investment policy established by our Board of Investments continue to yield positive results. In the 2016–2017 fiscal year (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017), the Pension Plan's investment portfolio realized a 12.7 percent return. The policy benchmark is 11.2 percent, which means that, in the last fiscal year, the portfolio outperformed its benchmark by 1.5 percent. The best performing sectors of the portfolio were the non-U.S. equity, U.S. equity, and private equity asset classes, which gained 22.7 percent, 18.6 percent, and 12.5 percent, respectively. Finishing the fiscal year with a balance of approximately \$52.5 billion, the Fund remains

From the Executive Desk cont'd

stable and positioned to finance the promised benefits to current as well as future recipients.

Service Accomplishments

During the last fiscal year, Member Services answered more than 118,000 phone inquiries. Administrative Services processed 332,801 pieces of mail and scanned/indexed an impressive 812,900 member documents. Over in Retiree Healthcare, specialists answered more than 54,000 calls and mailed 50,130 insurance packages.

One-on-one counseling was provided to 18,149 members in our

offices, and our specialists educated 14,503 attendees at more than 500 workshops and benefit fairs. During the last fiscal year, LACERA expanded services to members by offering neighborhood workshops and counseling sessions in Rowland Heights and Torrance. Because of the positive response, LACERA plans to increase the frequency of these neighborhood workshops around Los Angeles County in the future.

LACERA's Benefits division put 3,002 new retirees and survivors on the retiree payroll. They also ensured that 63,504 retirement allowances were paid on time each

month. Meanwhile, our Benefit Protection Unit investigated 351 high-risk cases, which included instances of fraud, lost contact, and elder abuse.

If you'd like to read more facts and figures on our financial condition and a breakdown of accomplishments, please take a look at the enclosed LACERA Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). The year 2017 has been eventful at LACERA, and I see great things on the horizon for 2018.

Pa Z Hill

LACERA Congratulates Newly Elected and Re-elected Board Members cont'd from pg 1



Herman Santos, Second Member of the BOR



Les Robbins, Eighth Member of the BOR



JP Harris, Alternate Retired Member of the BOR



David Green, Second Member of the BOI



David Muir, Eighth Member of the BOI

Mr. Herman Santos took office at the October Board of Retirement meeting. The rest of the winners will begin their term on January 1, 2018. Please join us in congratulating these members on their successful LACERA board elections.



LACERA's boards, management, and staff wish you health, love, and lasting happiness this holiday season.

Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end. - Seneca the Younger

Stay Safe During the Holidays

To prepare for end-of-the-year holiday celebrations, many Americans spend a great deal of time in the kitchen baking and cooking. Some choose to light candles, decorate a tree, or tack up outdoor lights. While all these activities are meant to be positive endeavors, they're potentially dangerous. Household fires are reported to occur most often in December and January, and most burns occur inside the home while cooking. We want you to spend your holidays injury-free, so consider these tips to prevent fires and burns this season.

Stove/oven safety

- Keep your stovetop and oven clean. Grease can ignite easily.

- Don't leave oven mitts or towels near the stove.
- Cook on back burners, and turn pot handles in.

Microwave safety

- Use only containers designed for microwave use.
- Allow food to cool before removing it from the microwave.
- Prevent steam burns by removing lids carefully.

Heating safety

- Space heaters need space—at least three feet away from anything that can burn.
- Don't leave heaters unattended.
- Don't use throw rugs in front of the stove or fireplace.

During the hustle and bustle of the holidays, you might feel short on time. However, dedicating a few hours to ensure these safety measures are in place can save you trouble in the future. After you've secured your house properly to prevent fires and burns, why not sit back and reward yourself with a warm holiday beverage? Maybe you could make some eggnog... on the back burner with the handles turned in, of course. Happy holidays!



Wishing Gregg Rademacher All the Best in His Retirement cont'd from pg 1

becoming a premier pension organization. Here are a few highlights of his accomplishments:

- Mr. Rademacher was instrumental in overseeing the establishment of the Member Services and Quality Assurance divisions.
- Under his leadership, LACERA moved to the digital age—expanding lacera.com, rolling out the My LACERA portal, and providing online self-service options.
- He expertly guided LACERA through numerous legislative and plan tier changes such as the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) and Retiree Healthcare Tier II.

Assistant Executive Officer Robert Hill will serve as the interim Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Hill joined

LACERA in 1994 and has held various senior roles, with experience spanning virtually all parts of the organization, including serving in the Assistant Executive Officer position since 2001.

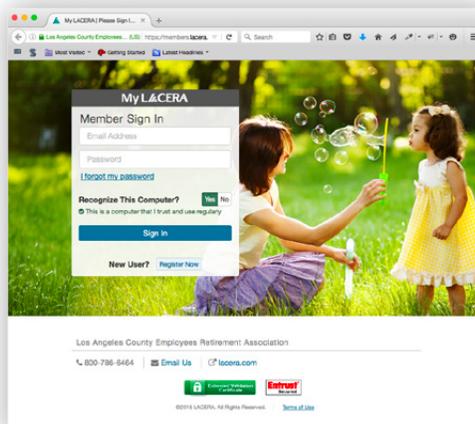
Many will feel Mr. Rademacher's loss, both professionally and personally. Interim CEO Robert Hill says, "I know Gregg to be honorable, professional, and knowledgeable. Like many of you, I think of him as a teacher, storyteller, and a person who always strives to do the right thing."

Please join us in wishing Gregg Rademacher health and happiness in his retirement. For more information about Mr. Rademacher's contributions and LACERA's future leadership plans, see the press release on lacera.com.

INSIDE MY LACERA

Keep Your Beneficiary Information Current

It's convenient to review and update your beneficiary information with My LACERA, our 24-hour online, interactive web feature that connects you to your personal retirement account. Log in to My LACERA on lacera.com by clicking the logo at the bottom right of the page.



information about your beneficiary(ies):

- Personal Information
- Address
- Benefit Percentages (if you have multiple beneficiaries)
- Review and Sign

All County employees should have a beneficiary designation on file with LACERA. Depending on how long ago you were hired, however, you may not have completed the Beneficiary Designation form. Even if you did, the information on the form may no longer be current. That's where My LACERA comes in.

Using My LACERA to Update Beneficiary Information

Active members may change their beneficiary selection(s) at any time using My LACERA, which will guide you through the four-part process of acquiring

ensure that what you entered is valid. When you make changes in your My LACERA account, your information on file with LACERA is automatically updated.

Sign in to your My LACERA account today to see how easy it is to view your beneficiary information, make changes, and verify that the information is up to date. If you haven't yet registered, please do!

Each retirement plan (General Plans A, B, C, D, E, G and Safety Plans A, B, C) has a Summary Plan Description book, or Plan Book. LACERA's Plan Books are a great source of detailed retirement information. In addition to the basic provisions of your retirement plan, such as contribution rates and retirement eligibility, you'll find explanations and helpful guidance on a range of subjects, including:

- Considerations when transferring plans (Plans E and D only)
- Retirement options available to you and the advantages of each



What's Your Plan?

- Factors such as divorce that may impact your retirement benefits
- Social Security benefits
- Post-retirement healthcare through LACERA

The full text of each Plan Book is displayed electronically on lacera.com in the Plan Book Section, under "Benefits." You can also download a PDF of your Plan Book from the Brochures & Forms page on lacera.com by selecting "Learn About Your Retirement Plan." If you prefer to have a printed version, you can order a copy of your Plan Book from the Brochures & Forms page and have it mailed to you at no cost.

FAQ'S

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BENEFICIARIES



1. Q: Where can I find my beneficiary information?

A: You can view your beneficiary information on My LACERA, our 24-hour online, interactive web feature that connects you to your personal retirement account. The information also appears on the Annual Benefit Statement (ABS) LACERA mails you each year in the month following your birthday.

2. Q: I am the spouse of a deceased member, but I am not the named beneficiary. Am I eligible to receive death benefits?

A: The rights of a surviving spouse or registered domestic partner of an active member who

dies before retirement may take precedence over the rights of any other named beneficiary. For additional information, call 800-786-6464 to speak with a LACERA Retirement Benefits Specialist.

3. Q: Do I have to provide the Social Security number of the person I wish to name as beneficiary?

A: Yes. A Social Security number (or Taxpayer Identification Number) is required before any benefits can be paid. If a member doesn't provide the number at the time of beneficiary designation, LACERA must receive this information when the death claim is processed.

3 THINGS New Year 2018

The clock strikes 12, and a whole new year begins. Whether 2017 was joyful, trying, or a bit of both, it's time to look forward to the possibilities in the new year. Millions of people do this by popping open a bottle of champagne and forming new resolutions. You're probably familiar with these traditions, but here are three things you might not know about New Year's:

- The first New Year's celebration dates back 4,000 years. Julius Caesar named January after Janus, the Roman god of doors and gates. Janus had two

faces, one looking forward and one looking back.

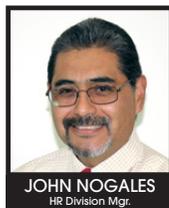
- Americans consume close to 360 million glasses of champagne during this time. The bubbly drink dates back to the 17th century when the cork was invented.
- According to statistics from the National Insurance Crime Bureau, vehicles are stolen on New Year's Day more than any other holiday. Owners of Honda Accords should be extra vigilant.

Source: patch.com

Pull Up a Chair with Human Resources



Many of the fifteen divisions at LACERA perform behind-the-scenes work that keeps the association running smoothly and effectively. One such example is Human Resources. In HR, a team of twelve people comprises three units: Employee and Organizational Development, Return-to-Work and Payroll, and Talent Acquisition and Management. Employees within these teams provide a number of different services, including performance management, conflict resolution, and career planning.



JOHN NOGALES
HR Division Mgr.

Those interested in pursuing a career at LACERA can visit lacera.com, click on the Careers tab, and conveniently apply online for any open position.

As with every other division, HR's work is always completed with LACERA's overall mission in mind: to produce, protect, and provide the promised benefits. They do this by effectively administering human resource programs and providing quality service to LACERA employees, supervisors, and managers.

December 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	G/S*
3	4	S	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	G	20	21	22	23
24	H	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	H	S	3	4	5	6
7	8	G	10	11	12	13
14	H	G	17	18	19	20
21	22	G	24	25	26	27
28	29	G	31			

February 2018

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	H	G	21	22	23	24
25	26	G	28			

G = General Members
S = Safety Members
H = Holiday

Unless otherwise indicated, workshops are held at LACERA from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Empower Retirement will offer a 45-minute overview of Horizons (457) and Savings (401k) plans; LACERA will give a 2.5-hour presentation. **Reservations are required; access the Appointment System on lacera.com or call 800-786-6464 to reserve a seat.**

*Held at LACERA from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

CONNECT WITH US!

Email welcome@lacera.com Visit 300 N. Lake Ave. Pasadena, CA 91101

Call 800-786-6464 Website lacera.com

READ THE ENCLOSED PAFR, LEARN ABOUT OUR FINANCIAL CONDITION

What's a PAFR, you ask? It's short for Popular Annual Financial Report. This year's PAFR, which reports on our financial condition and accomplishments for fiscal year 2016–2017, is enclosed for your review. We encourage you to take a few minutes to look it over. Our full Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) will be available on lacera.com in January 2018.



Retirement Plan Roll Call

Active Members as of October 26, 2017

General Plan A	173
General Plan B	57
General Plan C	68
General Plan D	44,885
General Plan E	19,328
General Plan G	20,448
Total General	84,959
Safety Plan A	7
Safety Plan B	10,701
Safety Plan C	2,158
Total Safety	12,866

Total Active Members 97,825

Public Service Announcement

Become a Volunteer Child Advocate!

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer makes a difference for children in foster care. CASA volunteers are paired to work one on one with children and help to ensure they have the services and support needed in the areas important to all children: stable placement, education, and healthcare. There are 30,000 kids in the foster-care system in L.A., and many need the support of a CASA volunteer.

Learn more about how you can make a difference in a young person's life at one of CASA of L.A.'s information sessions, which are held in different locations throughout the County. To see a calendar of events and to RSVP, visit www.casala.org. You can also call (323) 859-2888.



Upcoming Holidays

LACERA will be closed:

- **Monday, December 25,** for Christmas Day
- **Monday, January 1,** for New Year's Day
- **Monday, January 15,** to observe Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
- **Monday, February 19,** to observe Washington's Birthday

Editor's Note:

PostScript is published by the staff of LACERA. Consult with professional advisors regarding legal, tax, and/or medical matters; LACERA does not offer legal, tax, or medical advice.

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