

P.S.

# POST SCRIPT

NEWS FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

JUNE 2017 • VOL. 28, NO. 2

## Around 1,500 Retire During March Madness

Learn More On Page 4



## Please Review Your Annual Benefit Statement

Each year, on the 15th day of the month following your birthday, LACERA prepares your individualized annual benefit statement. The information presented in this statement includes your contribution account balance,

beneficiary designation(s), and amount of service credit earned. This data is automatically generated, has not been audited, and is not binding.

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LACERA REMEMBERS  
YVES CHERY

With sadness in our hearts, we share the news that Board of Retirement member Yves Chery passed away this past April. Mr. Chery served the Los Angeles County community as a Deputy Probation Officer and dedicated his time to helping at-risk youths, advocating

cont'd on pg. 3

## 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

**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

Chief Executive Officer

**GREGG RADEMACHER**

Assistant Executive Officer

**ROBERT HILL**

Assistant Executive Officer

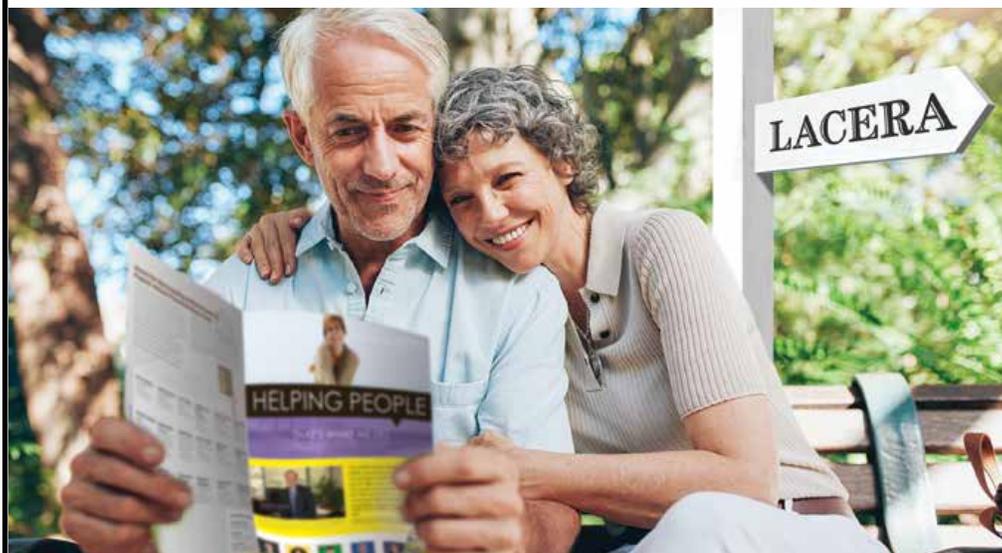
**JJ POPOWICH**

From the  
**Executive Desk**

Gregg Rademacher – CEO, LACERA



## TAKE A TOUR OF LACERA



In our March 2017 issue of *PostScript*, we introduced a new series of articles for the purpose of providing you with an inside look at each LACERA division, starting with Member Services. Although everyone at LACERA works with the same mission in mind—to produce, protect, and provide the promised benefits—the nature of our work and the methods we employ to fulfill that mission vary significantly from division to division.

As a forward-thinking association, we are constantly integrating new technologies into our business procedures and enhancing the scope and quality of services we offer our more than 165,000 members, including close to 62,000 benefit recipients. We wouldn't be able to do that without the unique skills and resources that exist in our 15 divisions, composed of Administrative Services, Benefits, Communications, Disability Litigation, Disability Retirement Services, Executive

Office, Financial and Accounting Services, Human Resources, Internal Audit, Investment Office, Legal Services, Member Services, Quality Assurance & Metrics, Retiree Healthcare, and Systems.

Join me in taking a quick tour around LACERA to learn just a few of the ways our divisions serve members, both directly and indirectly.

### Connecting with You

The **Benefits, Disability Retirement, Member Services, and Retiree Healthcare** divisions are where our highly trained Retirement Benefits Specialists and Disability Retirement Specialists reside. These are the professionals you talk with over the phone, via email, and/or in person about retirement. With unique areas of expertise, they share the common task of providing you with the service you need in a positive, supportive, and equitable manner. To speak with one of our specialists, call LACERA at 800-786-6464.

## From the Executive Desk cont'd

### Behind the Scenes

It takes a great deal of behind-the-scenes work to keep LACERA running. The **Executive Office** directs and coordinates the efforts of every LACERA organizational unit toward the effective realization of LACERA's mission as articulated through policies adopted by the Boards of Retirement and Investments. **Human Resources** provides performance and workforce management, ensuring that LACERA is staffed appropriately to best serve our members, while **Internal Audit** provides independent, objective assurance and consulting activities to ensure our operations are always improving. Also in support of streamlining and improving operations, **Quality Assurance & Metrics** trains staff and monitors staff output. This enables LACERA to provide the promised benefits in a timely and accurate manner.

Durability and cohesion in processes, technology, and communication throughout LACERA are necessary to facilitate smooth operations. **Administrative Services** is where you'll find our business management staff. Among other duties, they maintain our records and image all of our incoming and outgoing correspondence, which enables electronic distribution to the correct work group. They serve as an

integral part of a multi-division approach to business continuity. Also integral to business continuity is **Systems**, which maintains all of LACERA's computer systems, thereby connecting staff and facilitating our ability to provide services to our members. Additionally, they provide programming and technical expertise to help solve problems and innovate new and improved ways to serve members. This newsletter is among the various materials created by **Communications**, which is tasked with communicating retirement information through web, video, print, and graphics, both internally and externally.

### Financial and Legal Matters

Over on the financial side, the **Investment Office** diligently oversees, administers, and implements the policies and decisions of LACERA's Board of Investments relative to the investment portfolio of the association. **Financial and Accounting Services** maintains financial and accounting records that are used to prepare LACERA's comprehensive and popular annual financial reports, which can be found under the Investments tab on [lacera.com](http://lacera.com).

The complex laws and regulations we adhere to require expert legal

counsel. LACERA is governed by the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL), the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA), the Internal Revenue Code, and various rules and regulations. **Legal Services** provides legal representation, advice, and counsel to the Board of Retirement and the Board of Investments, LACERA, and LACERA's officers and employees. **Disability Litigation** works to achieve impartial justice based on the facts and the law, providing timely and effective legal representation to LACERA in disability retirement and service-connected survivors' benefit appeals.

Thanks for joining me on a speedy tour of LACERA; I hope you caught a glimpse of our various professions as we flew by each division. In this issue of *PostScript*, on page 7, you can take a longer look at our Benefits division, which has the vital job of processing your retirement plan benefits. Be on the lookout for more division profiles in upcoming issues, where we will share specifics about how each division works to produce, protect, and provide your promised benefits.

### LACERA Remembers Yves Chery cont'd from pg. 1

for working families as a labor leader, volunteering with the State Association of County Retirement Systems, and making sure LACERA paid our members their promised benefits. Mr. Chery was elected to the Board of Retirement in 2006.

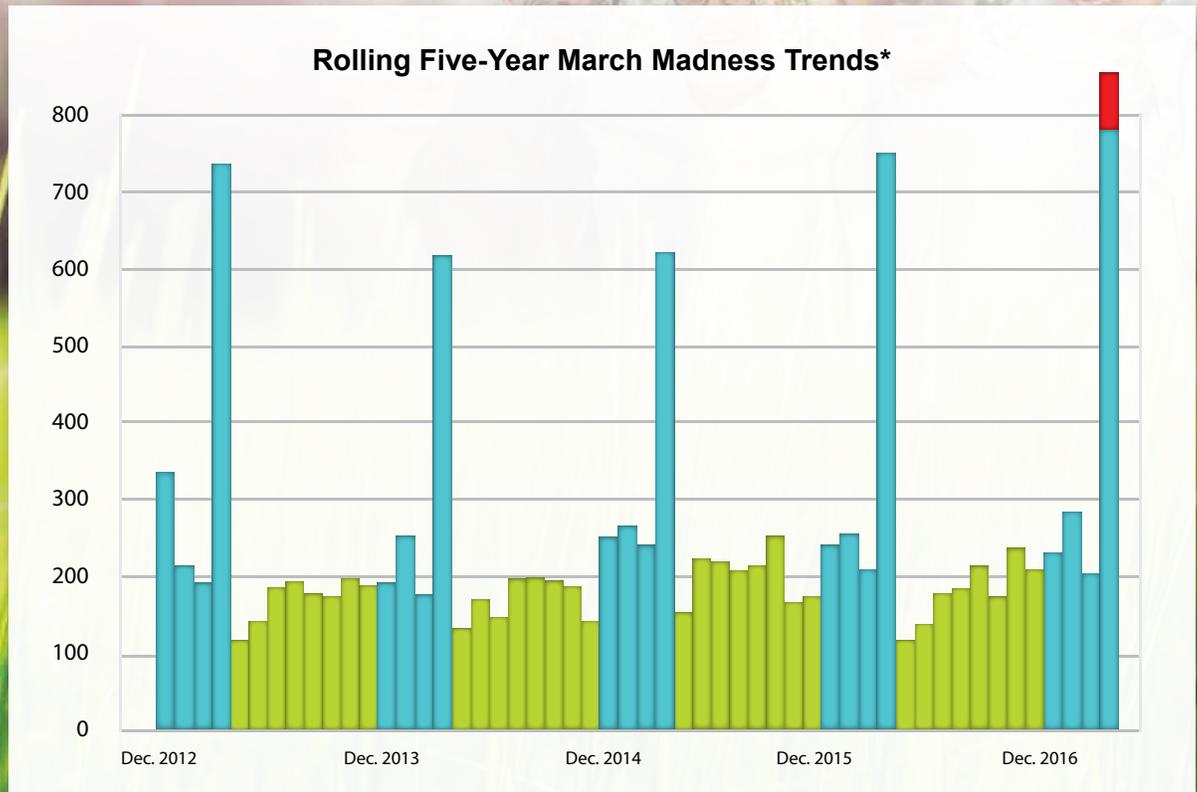
Since then, he served continuously every year and held various leadership positions, including two years as Board Chair and five years as the Board Secretary. We will remember Mr. Chery for being a passionate supporter of members'

retirement rights, a strong champion of LACERA's Outreach programs, and for his charismatic positive energy. He is survived by his wife and two children.

# Around 1,500 Retire During March Madness

At LACERA, we refer to the period from December through the end of March as March Madness. These months are popular because members who retire on or before March 31 are eligible for any April 1 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) that the Board of Retirement approves. **During March Madness 2017, around 1,500 LACERA members retired**, which is up from around 1,400 last year.

The graph below shows processing statuses for retirement elections over the last five years. The blue bars reflect completed status for the months of December through March, the green bars reflect completed status for the other eight months, and the red bars reflect pending status.



\*As of March 23, 2017



## SANDCASTLES

There are few things more evocative of summer than an afternoon dedicated to the construction of a spectacular sand structure. Water, sand, and sun are the only building materials needed; the rest is up to the architects and their colorful buckets of tools. Though it's often considered child's play, constructing a sandcastle isn't just fun in the sun. It's serious science, too!

1

The surface tension of water is critical in a successful sandcastle. Water bridges the space between each grain of sand, and with the right ratio of sand to water (eight parts sand to one part water is optimal), the bridges are strong enough for construction to commence.

2

Currently, the tallest sandcastle in the world measures 48 feet 8 inches and was created on the beach at Puri, Odisha, India, on February 10, 2017.

3

Not all sand is created equal: The finer the grain, the easier it will be to pack. In Southern California, professional sand sculptors recommend Imperial Beach, Coronado Beach, and Oceanside Pier View South Beach, among others.

# Notice of LACERA Election

An election will take place for the Second and Eighth Members of the Board of Investments and the Eighth and Alternate Retired Members of the Board of Retirement because their terms expire on December 31, 2017. An election will also take place for the Second Member of the Board of Retirement because the seat recently became vacant. The Second Members are elected by general members and the Eighth Members are elected by retired members. The newly elected members will take office on January 1, 2018, except for the Second Member of the Board of Retirement, who will take office immediately after the L.A. County Board of Supervisors declares the election results official, which is expected to be in September 2017. The terms of all new members will continue until December 31, 2020. On April 4, 2017 and May 9, 2017, the Board of Supervisors adopted resolutions establishing the procedures for the election.

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk will mail ballots to the mailing addresses of eligible general members beginning June 26, 2017. Eligible members who do not

# YOUR VOTE COUNTS



receive a ballot by July 7, 2017, and desire to vote or who have made a mistake on their original ballot and wish to correct it, shall notify the Department Election Coordinator on or before July 13, 2017, and explain in writing why a duplicate ballot is being requested. The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk must receive the request by July 14, 2017.

**Ballots must be received by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk by 5:00 p.m. August 1, 2017, to be eligible for counting.**

For more information, visit [bos.lacounty.gov/Services/ConflictofInterestLobbyist/LACERAelection](http://bos.lacounty.gov/Services/ConflictofInterestLobbyist/LACERAelection).



## LACERA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### LACERA Welcomes Wayne Moore to Board of Investments

We congratulate Mr. Moore on his recent appointment to the board. Wayne Moore brings to the Board of Investments over 25 years of experience as an executive public administrator in the County of Los Angeles. He served as director of the L.A. County MTA Office of Management and Budget, assistant general manager of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, and chief financial officer of the City Department of Public Works and of the Southern California



Association of Governments before retiring from public service employment in 2012. An active member of the L.A. community, Mr. Moore serves as board president of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic; board president of the Bridge Foundation; and a board member of the Brookmore Apartment Corporation. We thank him for his ongoing commitment to serving our community on LACERA's Board of Investments.

**June 2017**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	G/S*
4	5	S	7	8	9	10
11	12	G	14	15	16	17
18	19	G	21	22	23	24
25	26	G	28	29	30	

**July 2017**

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

**August 2017**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		S	2	3	4	G/S**
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	31		

**G** = General Members Pre-Retirement  
**S** = Safety Members Pre-Retirement  
**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 the Torrance Cultural Arts Center from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Arrive by 8:45 a.m.

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

# LACERA Hosts Daughters and Sons to Work Day



A group of LACERA employees' children, ages 8 to 12, joined us on April 20 for the annual Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day. A non-profit educational program more than 20 years old, Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work provides opportunities for girls and boys to explore the possibilities that come from developing a balanced work and family life and to share how they envision their futures. LACERA is proud to be one of the millions of workplaces across the United States to participate each year.

The 36 kids marked the day with hands-on activities coordinated around the theme, "Count on Me." LACERA's CEO, Gregg Rademacher, welcomed our guests before they began their tour of LACERA.

Highlights of the day included playing BINGO with the Disability Retirement division and visiting the Communications division to illustrate a booklet, which was copied and printed for them to take home. The kids played educational games with our Benefits, Legal, and the Financial and Accounting Services divisions; toured the Retiree Healthcare division; had Subway sandwiches and ice cream for lunch; and rounded out the day with exercises led by a visiting YMCA instructor.

On behalf of LACERA's management and staff, we wish each of our young guests all the best for this academic year and the amazing things they'll do in the future. We had a fun and meaningful day with the kids, and we look forward to seeing them again next year.



**Annual Benefit Statement cont'd from pg. 1**

When you receive your annual benefit statement, **we ask that you review your personal information and inform LACERA if anything is out-of-date or inaccurate.**\* To make corrections, you can edit the

printed statement and mail the page to LACERA, or you can sign in to your My LACERA account to submit changes. My LACERA contains your current and past annual benefit statements.

\*Note that updates or corrections to your name, date of birth, employee number, and Social Security number should be reported to LACERA and your department's personnel office. Updates to your mailing address should be reported to your department's personnel office only; LACERA uses the County payroll system's list of addresses to send you important information.

# Pull Up a Chair with Benefits



Welcome to LACERA's Benefits division. In compliance with retirement law, board regulations, and organizational policies, our team of 70 is responsible for processing timely and accurate requests for retirement plan benefits. Four sections currently comprise the Benefits division: Process Management, Core Benefits Services, Special Benefits Services, and the Benefit Protection Unit. Whether you're changing your direct deposit account, purchasing service credit, or



**BERNIE BUENAFLOR**  
Benefits Division Mgr.

applying for retirement, LACERA's most knowledgeable Retirement Benefits Specialists stand ready and able to help.

"Aspiring to perfection through teamwork" is our slogan. We recognize that individuals are imperfect. However, with teamwork, technology, creativity, and a commitment to excellence, we effectively aim for perfection in our ongoing

mission to produce, protect, and provide the promised benefits.



**Email**  
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Pasadena, CA 91101

**Website**  
lacera.com

*"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."*

*-James Matthew Barrie*



**Public Service Announcement**

# The Department of Animal Care and Control Needs You!

Each year, with the help of dedicated volunteers, the Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) places thousands of animals into new homes. Volunteers are vital to animal socialization, pet adoption events, kitten and puppy fostering, customer service, animal transports, and other care center needs. DACC, the largest and most progressive animal control agency in the United States, seeks community involvement and support for all seven of its animal care centers (Agoura, Baldwin Park, Carson, Castaic, Downey, Lancaster, and Palmdale). If you have a love for animals and approximately two hours a week, consider becoming an animal care center volunteer. To learn more about DACC and joining the volunteer team, please visit [www.animalcare.lacounty.gov](http://www.animalcare.lacounty.gov).



## Upcoming Holidays

LACERA will be closed:

- **Tuesday, July 4,** in observance of Independence Day
- **Monday, September 4,** in observance of Labor Day

**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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