

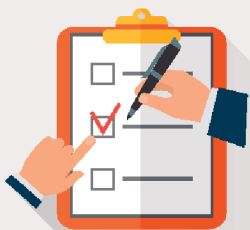
P.S.

## POSTSCRIPT

NEWS FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

MARCH 2020 • VOL. 31, NO. 1

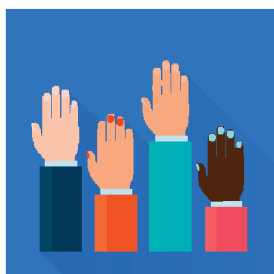
★ NOTICE OF UPCOMING **LACERA ELECTIONS** FOR ACTIVE GENERAL MEMBERS ★



In August, the County is holding elections for the Second Trustee seats on both the Board of Retirement and the Board of Investments. The current Board trustees' terms expire on December 31, 2020, with the newly elected trustees taking office on January 1, 2021.

Active LACERA general members will have two options for casting their votes: online and over the phone. More details about the election and voting options will be sent in May.

You are strongly encouraged to update or provide your current email address to LACERA to receive voting information and reminders via email. Please contact LACERA at 800-786-6464 or log in to your My LACERA account to edit your profile.



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**Los Angeles County Employees  
Retirement Association**

**Board of Retirement**

**HERMAN B. SANTOS**

**Chair**

Elected by General Members

**VIVIAN H. GRAY**

**Vice Chair**

Elected by General Members

**GINA ZAPANTA**

**Secretary**

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

**JAMES P. HARRIS**

Alternate Member

Elected by Retired Members

**SHAWN R. KEHOE**

Elected by Safety Members

**KEITH KNOX**

County Treasurer and Tax Collector

Ex-Officio Member

**WAYNE MOORE**

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

**RONALD A. OKUM**

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

**WILLIAM R. PRYOR**

Alternate Member

Elected by Safety Members

**LES ROBBINS**

Elected by Retired Members

**THOMAS WALSH**

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

**Board of Investments**

**DAVID GREEN**

**Chair**

Elected by General Members

**HERMAN B. SANTOS**

**Vice Chair**

Elected by General Members

**WAYNE MOORE**

**Secretary**

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

**ALAN J. BERNSTEIN**

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

**ELIZABETH GREENWOOD**

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

**SHAWN R. KEHOE**

Elected by Safety Members

**KEITH KNOX**

County Treasurer and Tax Collector

Ex-Officio Member

**DAVID L. MUIR**

Elected by Retired Members

**GINA V. SANCHEZ**

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

Chief Executive Officer

**SANTOS H. KREIMANN**

Assistant Executive Officer

**JJ POPOWICH**

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DESK

SANTOS H. KREIMANN CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



# SPRING IS HERE

Hello, LACERA members! I hope you all had a healthy and productive start to 2020. At LACERA, the retirement season we refer to as March Madness is in full swing, with all hands on deck to make sure that our active members are able to seamlessly transition to being retired members. Although I have been a LACERA member myself for many years, I've never seen this process firsthand. I am impressed at the hard work and coordination



**"I've been seeking input from across LACERA as I begin to make adjustments to achieve our goals and improve services."**



across departments to make sure our members are well taken care of.

If you will be retiring this season, we are still offering extra pre-retirement workshops on Saturdays this month. Be sure to talk with one of our Retirement Benefits Specialists to complete the steps you need to retire with confidence. See the schedule on page 7.

## Setting the Stage

Since I started my CEO duties in November, I have been fully immersed in learning about all aspects of the organization and getting to know our Board trustees,

in-house managers, employees, members, and service partners. I've been holding weekly meetings with divisional managers, getting the latest project updates and finding out how our 15 divisions intersect with all of our stakeholders. I've also been meeting with staff members across the organization to seek their input on various matters in their respective divisions. Having this context is vital to my operational decisions, as I begin to adjust internal processes to achieve our strategic goals and improve efficiency and services.

As this issue goes to print, we are preparing for our annual budget and strategic goal-setting meeting, and I will be completing my first 100 days on the job. I'll provide updates in our next issue of *PostScript*.

## Congratulations Are in Order

In December, the Board of Supervisors appointed Wayne Moore to the Board of Retirement and Elizabeth Greenwood to the Board of Investments. Mr. Moore is concurrently serving on the Board of Investments, to which he was first appointed in 2017, while Ms. Greenwood is serving on the Board for the first time. Welcome, Trustee Greenwood, and congratulations to you both on your appointments.

Our Chief Investment Officer, Jonathan Grabel, recently added another honor to his professional

accomplishments. In January, he was recognized for innovation in investor education by AIF Global. This follows an industry innovation award he received in December 2018 from *Chief Investment Officer*. Read more in LACERA Accomplishments on the next page.

Finally, on this anniversary of the 19th Amendment, a salute to those who comprise 60 percent of the L.A. County workforce—women. Thank you for your daily efforts to make our community a better place. To read about some inspiring female firsts, see page 5.

### Coming Up

This year we will be completing and rolling out some of our biggest ongoing projects. One of the most visible of those will be the lacera.com redesign, which will be unveiled in our next issue. I'll keep you posted on other strategic goals as they near completion. Until then, take care.

*Santos H. Kreimann*

## SAFELY ACCESS MY LACERA

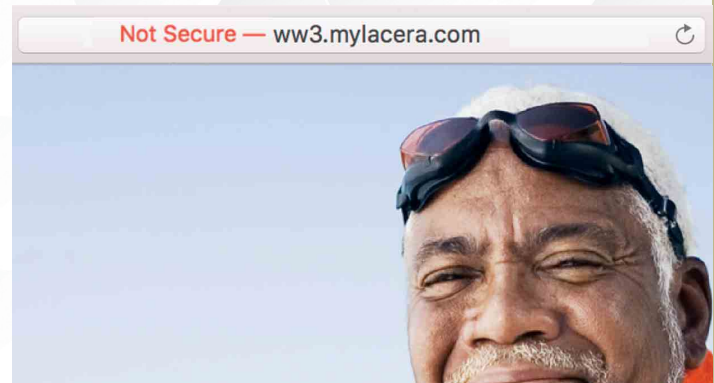


### GREEN IS GOOD

At LACERA, we are always committed to providing the highest possible level of security for our members and their assets.

With this in mind, we want to remind our members to only access their My LACERA account through lacera.com. This can prevent you from accidentally providing your information to a fake My LACERA website. These fake sites are potentially dangerous and could misuse your personal information.

When you log in to your My LACERA account, glance at your browser's web address bar (also called the URL). The bar should be shaded green and you should



### RED MEANS STOP

see a lock symbol. This is what is called an Extended Validation Security Certificate and it signifies that you are at the authentic website. If you hover your mouse above the lock in the green section, it will inform you about how the site is secure.

If you are about to log in to your My LACERA account and your browser's web address bar is shaded red, you are on a fake My LACERA site. Close your browser immediately to keep your information safe and secure.

*Correction: In the December 2019 issue of PostScript, the article titled "Steps to Retirement" referred to the Retirement Application and Summary Form (RASf). The RASf is currently in development and will replace the Retirement Benefit Estimate (RBE) on My LACERA in the near future. In the meantime, you can still use the RBE to estimate your retirement benefit and, in order to retire, you will continue to complete and sign the Retirement Benefit Estimate and Election Form. You can request the Retirement Benefit Estimate and Election Form by contacting LACERA's Call Center at 800-786-6464, visiting LACERA's Member Service Center, or emailing us at welcome@lacera.com.*

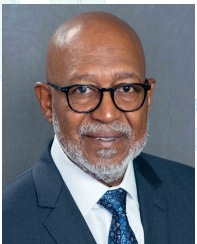




# LACERA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## LACERA Congratulates Newly Appointed Board Trustees

On December 17, 2019, the Board of Supervisors appointed Wayne Moore as the Sixth Member of the Board of Retirement and Elizabeth Greenwood as the



Wayne Moore

Fifth Member of the Board of Investments. Their terms started January 1, 2020 and will run through December 31, 2022.

In addition to his new appointment to the Board of Retirement, Mr. Moore serves on the Board of Investments, to which he was first appointed in 2017. He most recently served as Secretary.



Elizabeth Greenwood

Mr. Moore sits on the following committees: Insurance, Benefits, and Legislative; Operations Oversight; Equity: Public/Private; Credit and Risk Mitigation; and Real Assets.

Ms. Greenwood is serving her first term as a Trustee. A Los Angeles City Attorney practicing civil rights law, she brings experience as a Trustee on the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System to LACERA. Her committee assignments include serving as Vice Chair on the Equity: Public/Private Committee, and she is also assigned to the Credit and Risk Mitigation Committee.

## LACERA Represents at Women's Leadership Conference

The 10th L.A. County Women's Leadership Conference was held on November 21, 2019 at the Pasadena Convention Center, and several LACERA staff members played key organizing roles. The annual event serves as a resource for networking and professional development for women and men employed throughout the county and outside agencies, as well as the public. This year's theme was Making HERstory, celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage.

Ana Ronquillo and Connie Chan from LACERA's Human Resources division served on the coordinating

committee for the event.

"It was exciting to be a part of an initiative for women," Ronquillo said. She and Chan relished the opportunity to work closely with a cross-section of County employees on the committee, which is dedicated to serving the attendees. Chan acknowledged the importance of the event, saying, "It was very inspiring to work with such a motivated and enthusiastic group."



Connie Chan and Ana Ronquillo

The leadership conference has been growing in prestige and popularity every year since its creation in 2010. Ronquillo and Chan both said they were thankful to LACERA's Boards and management for showing their support for women in the workplace by allowing staff to be a part of such an impactful event.

## CIO Jon Grabel Recognized for Innovation and Education



Jonathan Grabel

Chief Investment Officer Jonathan Grabel received a surprise kickoff to the year on Monday, January 13 in New York City. AIF Global, an economic think tank, presented him with an award for innovation and forward thinking at its investor meeting. The award was given to one CIO in recognition of outstanding contributions toward fostering exceptional results in investor education.

Grabel works with AIF Global biennially at the Graziadio Business School at Pepperdine, where AIF partners with the National Institute of Public Finance to provide an educational program for state treasurers.

"I was not expecting an award," Grabel said. "It is meaningful, though, to be recognized for an educational initiative."



SALUTING

# FEMALE FIRSTS

2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote in the United States. (Ahead of the curve, California was the sixth state to give women the right to vote in 1911.) To celebrate the 19th Amendment's centennial and Women's History Month (March), here are some notable trailblazing women—including some County employees!

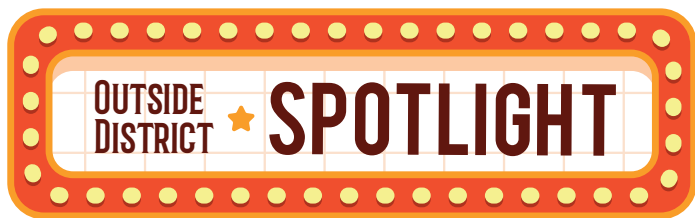
- 1 Margaret Adams became America's first female deputy sheriff when she joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in 1912.
- 1 Maria Guadalupe Evangelina de Lopez, an educator from San Gabriel, was the first person in California to give speeches in support of women's suffrage in Spanish (on October 3, 1911, at the Votes for Women Club rally at the Plaza de Los Angeles).
- 1 Estelle Lawton was the first woman elected to the city council of a major U.S. city, Los Angeles. During her term, she became the first woman mayor of a major U.S. city—for 36 hours, while the official mayor was out of town.
- 1 Sally Ride, a Los Angeles native and Stanford graduate, became the first American woman in space in 1983, as part of the *Challenger* space shuttle mission.
- 1 Clara Shortridge Foltz had three notable firsts: California's first licensed female attorney (1878), nation's first female deputy district attorney (Los Angeles County, 1910), and first woman candidate for California governor (1930).
- 1 Dr. Vada Watson Sommerville was the second black woman to graduate from USC's dental program (1918) and the first licensed to practice dentistry in California.

- 1 Katherine Cheung, who emigrated to Los Angeles at age 17, was the first licensed female Asian-American aviator (1932) and also the first Chinese woman licensed to fly internationally.
- 1 Dorothy Arzner was the first woman to become a member of the Directors Guild of America. She is also believed to have developed the boom mic.
- 1 Julia Morgan, California's first licensed female architect, is most famous for Hearst Castle, but she also designed several Los Angeles area landmarks, including the Herald-Examiner Building, Annenberg Community Beach House (Marion Davies house), and several YWCA buildings.
- 1 In 1974, Olympic hopeful Wendy Paskin-Jordan became the first female lifeguard hired by Los Angeles County. After protecting those on the beach, she attended Stanford and became an investment banker and CEO.
- 1 Vaino Hassan Spencer was the first African-American woman appointed to a judgeship in California, in 1961. She retired at age 87 after 46 years on the bench, one of the state's longest-serving judges.

Sources: [www.la Almanac.com](http://www.la Almanac.com); [www.space.com](http://www.space.com); [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov); [www.chicagotribune.com](http://www.chicagotribune.com); [www.blackpast.org](http://www.blackpast.org); [www.cinema.ucla.edu](http://www.cinema.ucla.edu); [www.curbed.com](http://www.curbed.com); [www.dga.org](http://www.dga.org); [www.museumofwomenpilots.org](http://www.museumofwomenpilots.org); [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu); [www.sindecuseum.org](http://www.sindecuseum.org); [www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com); *Suffrage: Women's Long Battle for the Vote*, Ellen Carol Dubois; *Women's Rights in Los Angeles, 1850-1980*, part of the Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources' SurveyLA Citywide Historic Context Statement







## Little Lake Cemetery District

Did you know that besides Los Angeles County, other districts are a part of LACERA? This segment is designed to help highlight these districts that compose LACERA's membership.

Little Lake Cemetery District is a small, public cemetery in Santa Fe Springs that serves the residents of Norwalk, La Mirada, Bellflower, and Downey.

Stanley Schnelle has served as the manager for the Little Lake Cemetery for 16 years. Mr. Schnelle is responsible for meeting with families, making arrangements, preparing sites, and maintaining the grounds. Little Lake Cemetery District has three retired members and one active member with LACERA—and that is Mr. Schnelle. He cited being a LACERA member as a main reason for pursuing his position with Little Lake Cemetery.

## Beware of Social Security Scams XXX-XX-XXXX

Social Security phone scams are the No. 1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission and Social Security Administration (SSA). Over the past year, these scams—misleading victims into making cash or gift card payments to avoid arrest for Social Security number problems—have skyrocketed.

SSA encourages you to use their new reporting form on [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) to disrupt the scammers, help reduce this type of fraud, and prevent people from becoming victims.

Social Security employees will occasionally contact you by telephone or mail for business purposes if you have ongoing business with the agency. However, Social Security employees will not:

- Tell you that your Social Security number has been suspended
- Contact you to demand an immediate payment
- Ask you for credit or debit card numbers over the phone
- Require a specific means of debt repayment, like a prepaid debit card, a retail gift card, or cash
- Demand you pay a Social Security debt without the ability to appeal the amount you owe
- Promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information or money

Remember that Social Security employees will never threaten you. If there's a problem with your Social Security record, SSA will mail you a letter. If SSA needs you to submit payments, the agency will provide instructions in the letter, including options to make those payments.

Source: [blog.ssa.gov](http://blog.ssa.gov)

## FRAUD ALERT FROM THE D.A.'S OFFICE

### Scammers Try to Pass Off Puppies as Purebreds

People in the market for a recognized dog breed should be careful they don't get a mutt in purebred clothing.

In the Purebred Puppy Scam, victims may find themselves spending hundreds or thousands of dollars on supposedly purebred pooches that aren't what the sellers claim.

Last year, a new state law went into effect requiring pet shops to sell only dogs, cats, and rabbits from animal shelters or rescue organizations, making it more difficult for scammers to pull a fast one.

#### Tips:

- To determine if a dog is a recognized purebred, request the registration documents from a dog registry organization such as the American Kennel Club, Canine Kennel Club, or the Continental Kennel Club.
- For a non-recognized breed, such as a designer breed, get a second opinion from an expert.
- Meet the seller and dog in person wherever the animal is being housed and ask for medical records before signing a contract or paying.

Visit [lacera.com/about\\_lacera/fraud\\_alerts.html](http://lacera.com/about_lacera/fraud_alerts.html) for a video link with more details.

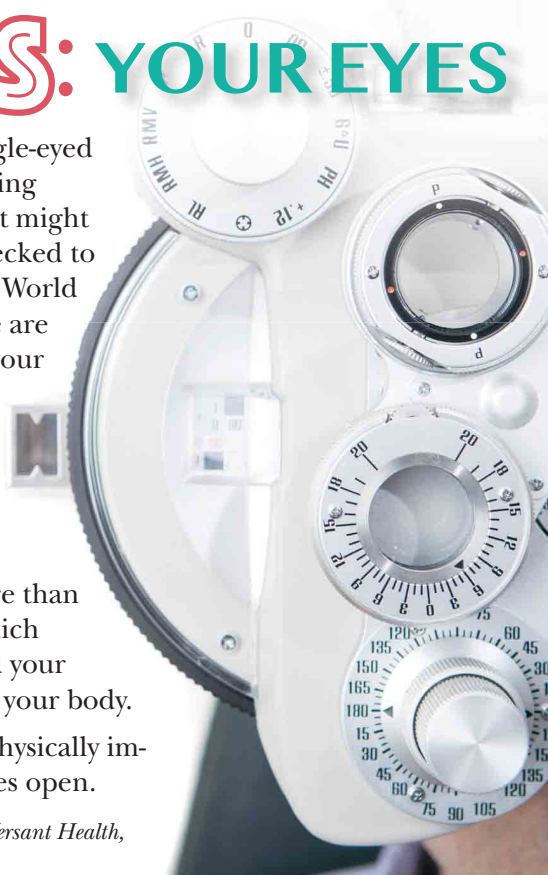


# 3 THINGS: YOUR EYES

Happy 20/20! Whether you are eagle-eyed or need glasses, your eyes are working harder than you probably realize. It might be a good time to get your eyes checked to ensure their health and to observe World Optometry Day on March 23. Here are some facts to help you appreciate your eyes.

- With so many components making up each eye, it is the second-most complex organ in the body after the brain.
- The average person blinks more than 4.2 million times every year, which means that the muscles around your eyes are the most active part of your body.
- Despite your best efforts, it is physically impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Sources: Healthline, Southwestern Eye Center, Versant Health, SRM Institute of Science and Technology

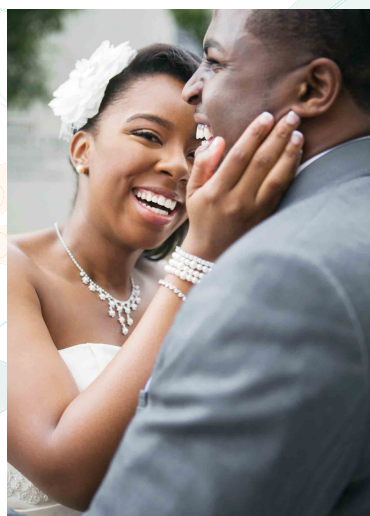


*"Spring work is going on with joyful enthusiasm."*  
— John Muir



## Public Service Announcement

## Become a Marriage Ceremony Volunteer



The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's office is currently seeking volunteers to perform civil wedding ceremonies. Volunteers become part of a special and memorable event in the lives of loving couples by performing ceremonies in branch offices and the department's headquarters in Norwalk.

To learn more about this opportunity, send a letter of interest to:

Portia Sanders  
P.O. Box 389  
Norwalk, CA 90651-0389

## Pre-Retirement Workshop Schedule

### MARCH 2020

| S  | M  | T | W  | T  | F  | S    |
|----|----|---|----|----|----|------|
| 1  | 2  | S | 4  | 5  | 6  | G/S* |
| 8  | 9  | G | 11 | 12 | 13 | G/S* |
| 15 | 16 | G | 18 | 19 | 20 | G/S* |
| 22 | 23 | G | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28   |
| 29 | H  | G |    |    |    |      |

### APRIL 2020

| S  | M  | T | W  | T  | F  | S    |
|----|----|---|----|----|----|------|
|    |    |   | 1  | 2  | 3  | G/S* |
| 5  | 6  | S | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11   |
| 12 | 13 | G | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18   |
| 19 | 20 | G | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25   |
| 26 | 27 | G | 29 | 30 |    |      |

### MAY 2020

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

**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](http://lacera.com) or call 800-786-6464 to reserve a seat.**

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

**Public Service Announcement**

## Volunteer Opportunities Available

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services Volunteer Services Section seeks to build a strong, healthy, and engaged volunteer program for short or long-term assignments. Volunteers gain experience that is highly marketable in the workforce today. The number of hours served is often 20 to 40 hours per week. DPSS serves an ethnically and culturally diverse community through programs designed to alleviate hardship and promote health, personal responsibility, and economic independence.

All volunteers:

- Complete a personal background/fingerprinting and reference check
- Complete a DPSS confidentiality agreement
- Must be at least 16 years old

DPSS is committed to creating volunteer opportunities of true value for students, displaced workers, and senior citizens from Los Angeles County. We customize volunteer placement based on individual skills and/or desired location.

For more information, please contact Eryn Aquino, DPSS Volunteer Coordinator, at (213) 744-4348 or [dpssvolunteers@dpss.lacounty.gov](mailto:dpssvolunteers@dpss.lacounty.gov).

If you are unable to volunteer but would like to donate to our homeless neighbors, visit Amazon Smile at <https://amzn.to/3afAJv9>.



**Upcoming Holidays**

**LACERA WILL BE CLOSED:**

- **March 30**  
Cesar Chavez Day
- **May 25**  
Memorial 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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