

P.S.

# POST SCRIPT

NEWS FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

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## Why It's Important for Active Members to Have a Special Durable Power of Attorney on File

If you think only retirees should have a LACERA Special Durable Power of Attorney on file, think again! Having this document on file could prevent a delay in your retirement and in the receipt of your retirement benefits, in the event you become incapacitated and unable to apply for retirement on your own.

### Things to Know About Our Special Durable Power of Attorney

The LACERA Special Durable Power of Attorney is a legal document, executed by a member, which **designates another person (called an Attorney-In-Fact) to act on the member's behalf with regard to retirement matters only.** This can include such matters as **applying for retirement on the member's behalf**, address changes, making tax withholding elections, requesting information regarding benefit payments, filing applications, and endorsing checks.

Having this document on file at

LACERA assures you that LACERA will be able to handle your retirement benefits without interruption and in accordance with your wishes, should you become unable to handle your own affairs.

It's important to understand that a Power of Attorney does not prevent a member from taking care of his or her own retirement affairs. However, in the event a member with a Special Durable Power of Attorney on file becomes too ill to handle his or her affairs, the member's designated Attorney-In-Fact will be able to handle the member's retirement matters.

A member has the right to revoke or terminate a LACERA Power of Attorney at any time, as long as he or she is competent. If the member doesn't revoke the document, it terminates upon the member's death.

### Why It's Important for Active Members

If you are eligible to retire and become

**mentally incapacitated while in active service and have a LACERA Special Durable Power of Attorney on file:**

- Your designated Attorney-In-Fact may apply for retirement on your behalf.
- As a retiree, you would promptly receive the retirement benefits provided by your LACERA retirement plan.

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**Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association**

**Members of the Board of Retirement:**

**LES ROBBINS**

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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

**J.P. HARRIS**

Alternate Member  
Elected by Safety Members

**EDWARD "ED" C. MORRIS**

Alternate Member  
Elected by Retired Members

**WILLIAM R. PRYOR**

Elected by Safety Members

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Vice Chair  
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County Treasurer & Tax Collector  
Ex-Officio Member

**WILLIAM R. PRYOR**

Elected by Safety Members

**SIMON S. RUSSIN**

Elected by General Members

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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**



# Our Cornerstones

When I think about what we do here at LACERA and how we go about doing it, two things always come to mind: investments and customer service.

These two elements summarize our operation. The County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 promises Los Angeles County employees certain benefits and authorizes LACERA to pay them. To accomplish this, the law directs us to grow and administer the retirement fund.

**Investments:** As we all know, the Fund finances the benefits we provide. To promote the long-term growth and stability of the Fund, our Board of Investments has established an Investment Policy Statement which guides the management of the Fund's assets. This prudently planned and executed investment strategy is designed to maximize the continuing strength of the Fund. The Policy calls for a diversified portfolio, carefully balanced to minimize risk and maximize the Fund's long-term health and stability. Although LACERA has not been immune to the impact of recent market volatility, we continue to employ solid investment and business strategies designed to serve the best interests of our current and future members and their beneficiaries. With that in mind, we can all remain confident about the ongoing soundness of the Fund.

**Customer Service:** Most of you are probably more familiar with our customer service programs than you are with our investment operations. As anyone who has been assisted by our Call Center or Public Counter, or through our workshops knows, attentive customer service is the other cornerstone of our business.

Our all-encompassing services begin the moment a new hire becomes a LACERA member and receives a New Member Guide and continue throughout the member's career to retirement... and beyond. After the member is gone, our service continues through benefits we provide to the member's eligible beneficiary. The services we offer take many forms, from printed materials to workshops, to services available by phone and on [lacera.com](http://lacera.com).

**"... service with a personal touch is never out of style at LACERA."**

Despite the current trend to transform call centers into automated response centers, where callers are forced to interact with machines in hopes of

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# Speakers Offer Insight and Share Expertise at Annual Offsite Meeting

LACERA believes our members are best served by thoughtful and knowledgeable boards and management. Each January, to help our boards and management stay educated on the latest matters affecting retirement systems and the world in general, we hold an offsite educational and fiscal planning conference. This year's event featured guest speakers who explored geopolitical issues, as well as the world of investments, California legislation, health care, and other vital topics.

Presentations of fiscal year goals, the impact of technology on day-to-day LACERA operations, and reports on ongoing projects were made by LACERA's executive officers and management staff.

Highlights of the event included:

- **Geopolitical Issues:** H. Woody Brock, Ph. D., President of Strategic Economic Decisions, shared his insight on the global

economy and its local impact.

- **Health Information Technology:** Dr. Charles Kennedy of the Government Accountability Office Health Information Policy Committee discussed current efforts to develop a nationwide health information technology infrastructure.
- **Fiscal Year Goals:** LACERA Assistant Executive Officers Robert Hill and Janice Golden outlined the association's goals for the next fiscal year.
- **Member Services:** John Popowich, Manager of Member Services, reviewed the services offered by LACERA's Call Center and described procedures to ensure all members — regardless of their method of interaction with LACERA — receive the same level of service.
- **Document Preservation:** A report on LACERA's project to convert archived microfiche

payroll records to digital files was presented by Robert Whitten, Manager of Administrative Services.

- **Technology:** Kathy Delino detailed how LACERA employs the latest computer technology to increase service options and enhance the member experience.
- **Legislative Update:** Lobbyist Joe Ackler discussed the political climate in California.
- **Emerging Markets:** Shaw Wagner of Capital International, Inc. shed light on the performance of emerging markets during an economic crisis and pointed out trends to watch in the future.
- **Challenging the Actuarial Status Quo:** Milliman's Karen Steffen and Kent Smetters of The Wharton School presented information about actuarial procedures and offered different perspectives to consider.

## Executive Desk cont'd from pg. 2

receiving assistance, our Call Center is live... and will remain that way. Callers to 1-800-786-6464 receive friendly, personalized assistance from knowledgeable Retirement Benefits Specialists, because that's the level of service our members deserve. Although technology plays an important role in the scope and format of service options we provide (we continually add online service enhancements), it is the men and women who comprise our highly trained staff who make the greatest impact on customer service.

If you have experienced one-on-one counseling at our public counter, attended one of our regularly scheduled educational workshops, or placed one of the 120,000+ calls individually answered each year by our Call Center, you know service with a personal touch is never out of style at LACERA.

The personal touch is also in full force "behind the scenes." From paying new retirees within one payroll cycle of their retirement date, to making sure benefits are seamlessly

processed and paid to eligible new survivors, to assisting active members with Plan transfers and purchases of prior government service, our staff is dedicated to providing efficient, personalized customer service.

It is through the guidance of our boards and our adherence to a strategic investment policy and extensive program of personalized member services, that we diligently uphold the promise made to County employees in 1937.





My LACERA continues to add content and interactive features. If you haven't visited My LACERA lately, check it out!

### My LACERA ARC Calculator:

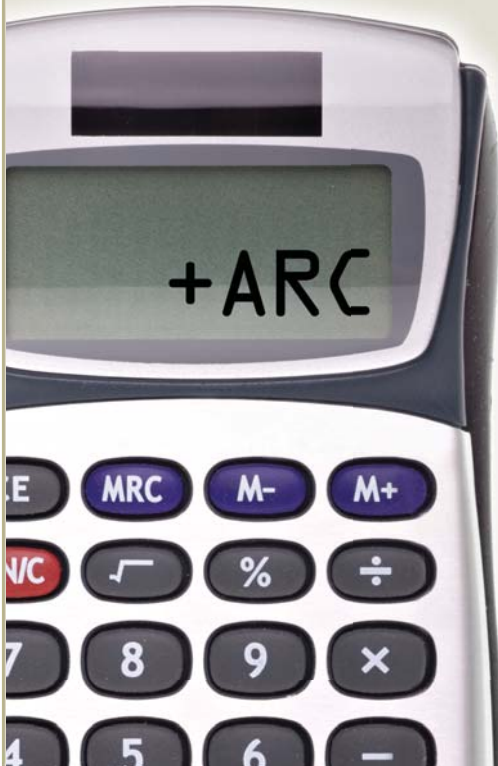
- Uses your personal member data on file to estimate your cost to purchase up to five years of ARC
- Calculator results include breakdown of cost and corresponding allowance increase per year of ARC

### Beneficiary page:

- For your convenience, we added the Beneficiary Designation Form to the Beneficiary page

Look for My LACERA on the [lacera.com](http://lacera.com) homepage.

**Connect with your personal retirement network on My LACERA — register now!**



## Considering an ARC Purchase? Use the My LACERA ARC Calculator

Are you considering purchasing Additional Retirement Credit (ARC) to increase the amount of the monthly allowance you'll receive upon retirement? Then be sure to visit My LACERA and use its ARC Calculator to generate an estimate based on your actual membership data on file. My LACERA provides a quick and easy way to get the best idea of your cost to purchase ARC.

ARC estimates generated by My LACERA display the cost to purchase five years of ARC. The data is personalized and figures are itemized per individual year of ARC you purchase:

- Lump-Sum Cost
- Semimonthly Payments
- Number of Payments
- Estimated Additional Percentage Increase to Your Monthly Allowance
- Approximate Additional Dollar Amount Increase to Your Monthly Allowance

If after reviewing the estimate you decide to proceed with the purchase, you can print the estimate, select contract terms, sign, and mail it to LACERA to request an official ARC Purchase Contract.



**ARC INFORMATION ONLINE**  
Visit [lacera.com](http://lacera.com), Benefits, Active Member



**NO COMPUTER? NO PROBLEM.**  
Call 1-800-786-6464 for ARC estimate

## Upcoming Holidays



LACERA will be closed on **Monday, May 31** in observance of Memorial Day.

# Impact of New County Payroll System on Service Credit

As you are most likely aware, the County is preparing to implement eHR, a new payroll system based on semimonthly payroll periods. Under eHR, there will be two payroll periods per month. Your earnings and most payroll deductions will be processed each payroll period.

Since **the new system** is based on semimonthly payroll periods rather than months, **it will affect the way retirement service credit is earned.**

## Earning Service Credit Under eHR

- Under eHR, service credit will be earned by payroll period, rather than full months.
- Members of LACERA

contributory Plans A, B, C, or D will earn service credit for each payroll period in which they make a retirement contribution.

- Plan E members will earn service credit for each payroll period during which they have earnings.

## Two eHR Payroll Periods Per Month

### First Payroll Period

- First day of each month through the 15th of the month

### Second Payroll Period

- 16th of the month through the last day of the month

## When Will eHR Become Effective?

The County has announced its intention to implement eHR in April 2010.

## Updates to Follow

Many details on specific policies and procedures have yet to be finalized. We will update you as more information becomes available.



## Congratulations!

# Robbins Appointed to Board of Retirement



We congratulate Les Robbins on his appointment to LACERA's Board of Retirement (BOR)

by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Robbins will serve a three-year term as the BOR's Fifth Member.

A retired Los Angeles County Sheriff with a distinguished record of service,

Mr. Robbins has been active in public affairs for many years. In addition to prior service on LACERA boards, he has served on the Long Beach City Council and numerous civic and professional committees.

Experienced in matters affecting Los Angeles County employees, Mr. Robbins first served on the BOR in 1998. Since that time he has represented the interests of County

employees in a variety of BOR and Board of Investment positions, including a previous term as BOR chair.

In its January meeting, the members of the BOR elected Mr. Robbins 2010 BOR Chair.

Additional biographical information on Mr. Robbins is available in the Boards section of [lacera.com](http://lacera.com).



## For The Record Book

- ▶ 118 people visited LACERA's Public Counter on Monday, February 1, 2010. This is a single-day record.
- ▶ In December 2009, 1,185 people visited our Public Counter, setting a new record. The previous record for visits in one month was 1,158, set in December 2005.
- ▶ On March 6, 2006, the Call Center received 1,472 calls; this set a record for calls received in a single day.



# WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

## MARCH 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	S	N	4	5	6
7	8	G	N	11	12	13
14	15	G	N	18	19	20
21	22	G	N	25	26	G*
28	29	G	N			

## APRIL 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	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	

## MAY 2010

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

G = General Members Pre-Retirement

S = Safety Members Pre-Retirement

N = New General Member H = Holiday

\*11:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. at Lancaster Regional Library, 601 W. Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster, CA 93534. 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.

## Power of Attorney cont'd from pg. 1

If you are eligible to retire and become mentally incapacitated in active service *without* a LACERA Special Durable Power of Attorney on file:

- No one would be legally authorized to apply for retirement on your behalf.
- Therefore, you would not be eligible to receive the retirement benefits provided by your LACERA retirement plan unless and until a court-appointed conservator was named and the conservator applied for retirement on your behalf. **This would require court proceedings which involve additional costs and would delay your retirement and the receipt of your retirement benefits.**

### What Durable Means

Durable means the Power of Attorney remains in effect even if the member becomes mentally incapacitated, whereas a general Power of Attorney terminates upon the member becoming mentally incapacitated. Both instruments terminate upon the member's death.

### Why Our Power of Attorney is "Special"

LACERA's Special Durable Power of Attorney is "special" because it applies only to LACERA retirement matters. It provides no authority over a member's other real or personal property, nor can it be used for health care matters.

### Who Can Be an Attorney-In-Fact

You may designate anyone over the age of 18 to act as your Attorney-In-Fact. However, the actions LACERA permits your Attorney-In-Fact to take on your behalf vary according to your designee's relationship to you. Some actions depend on whether your designee is your spouse or domestic partner, a blood relative, or a neutral party not related by blood, marriage, or domestic partnership.

For more information about Attorney-In-Fact relationships, read our Special Durable Power of Attorney Q&A brochure.

Consult an attorney before executing any Power of Attorney. LACERA does not provide legal advice.



### POWER OF ATTORNEY BROCHURE & FORM ONLINE

Visit [lacera.com](http://lacera.com), Brochures & Forms



### NO COMPUTER? NO PROBLEM.

Call 1-800-786-6464 for Power of Attorney Brochure & Form

## Power of Attorney

**1. Q: Does LACERA accept Power of Attorney designations that are not on the LACERA form?**

**A:** Yes. However, the main advantage in executing the LACERA Special Durable Power of Attorney is that it contains the durable clause and specifically shows your intent to have your Attorney-In-Fact conduct your retirement business with us.

**2. Q: Does LACERA charge a fee for the Power of Attorney service?**

**A:** No.

**3. Q: Can I terminate my LACERA Special Durable Power of Attorney?**

**A:** Yes, as long as you are still competent and you submit written notification to LACERA directing the document to be revoked or terminated.

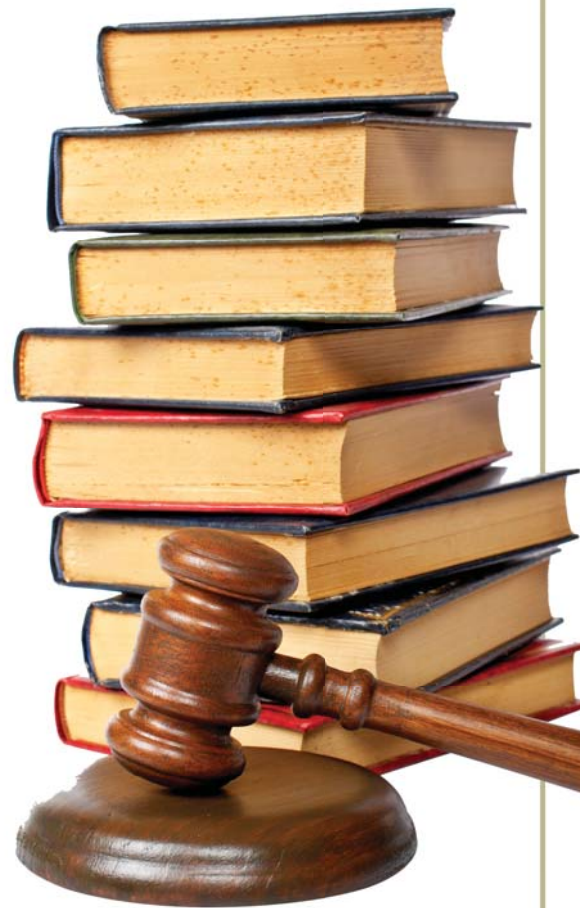
**4. Q: Can I execute the Special Durable Power of Attorney outside of California?**

**A:** Yes, as long as it is properly notarized or witnessed as required on the form.

**5. Q: How can I change my Power of Attorney?**

**A:** If you want to change your Power of Attorney:

- Complete a new Power of Attorney form reflecting the changes you wish to make and mail it to LACERA.
- Inform everyone who has a copy of your previous Power of Attorney that it is no longer valid. Ask them to return copies of the outdated form to you so you can destroy them.
- Give copies of your updated Power of Attorney to the people who may need them to carry out your wishes.



## Did You Know?

### Defined Benefit (DB) Plans

LACERA's COLA (cost-of-living) programs provide inflation protection.

- Whenever there is an increase in the Consumer Price Index over the prior year, retirees and survivors receive an annual COLA benefit.

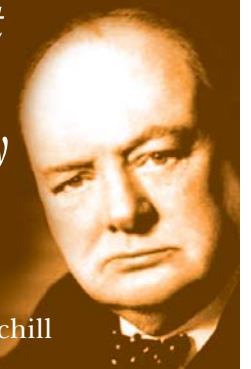
### Defined Contribution (DC) Plans

No cost-of-living program included.

- No protection against inflation.

*“A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”*

– Winston Churchill

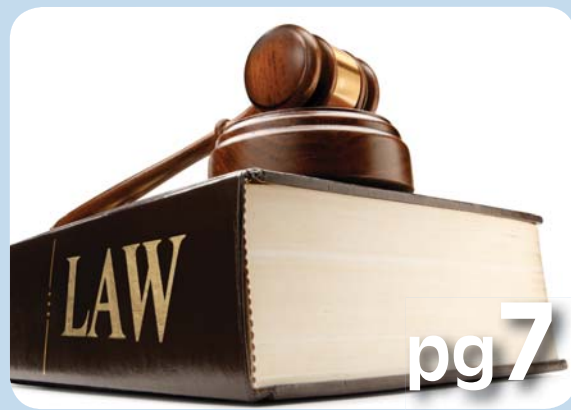


NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS



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**My LACERA ARC  
Calculator**



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**FAQs: Power of  
Attorney**

More Inside!  
**MARCH 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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