

P.S.

POST

SCRIPT

NEWS FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

JUNE 2011 • VOL. 22, NO. 2

Election for LACERA Boards Set for August

An election for the **Second Members of the Board of Investments and the Board of Retirement** will be held Tuesday, August 2, 2011. The open positions are **General Member seats**, which carry three-year terms commencing January 1, 2012.

The County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk will begin mailing ballots to

eligible general members by Monday, June 20. General members of LACERA as of March 1, 2011 are eligible to vote in the election. If you are an eligible voter and do not receive a ballot by July 5, you may request a duplicate ballot through your Departmental Election Coordinator on or before July 12. To be eligible for counting, completed

ballots must be received by the County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on August 2, 2011.

For further information on this year's election, visit the Board of Supervisors' Election Information web site: bos.co.la.ca.us/lacera_election.htm.

FYI: If You Receive Social Security or Other Federal Benefits, the U.S. Treasury's Go Direct® Campaign May Affect You

Go Direct® is a public education campaign that provides tools and resources to assist the transition to electronic payment options for Social Security, V.A., and/or other federal benefits.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury recently announced all federal benefit and non-tax payments will be paid electronically by March 1, 2013. This change will impact people who are about to apply for federal benefits (such as Social Security), as well as individuals who are already receiving benefits by paper check:

- Effective May 1, 2011, anyone applying for federal benefits must elect an electronic payment option at the time of enrollment.

- Those already receiving federal benefits by check must switch to electronic payments by March 1, 2013.

If you currently receive federal benefit payments electronically, you will continue to receive your payment as usual; no action on your part is necessary.

For additional information, visit godirect.org. LACERA does not administer this program.

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Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association

Members of the Board of Retirement:

LES ROBBINS

Chair
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

MARVIN ADAMS

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

SADONYA ANTEBI

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

ALAN J. BERNSTEIN

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

WILLIAM DE LA GARZA

Elected by Retired Members

SHAWN R. KEHOE

Alternate Member
Elected by Safety Members

EDWARD "ED" C. MORRIS

Alternate Member
Elected by Retired Members

WILLIAM R. PRYOR

Elected by Safety Members

Members of the Board of Investments:

JOHN M. BARGER

Chair
Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

SIMON S. RUSSIN

Vice Chair
Elected by General Members

HERMAN SANTOS

Secretary
Elected by General Members

MARK J. SALADINO

County Treasurer & Tax Collector
Ex-Officio Member

WILLIAM R. PRYOR

Elected by Safety Members

DIANE A. SANDOVAL

Elected by Retired Members

MICHAEL S. SCHNEIDER

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

LEONARD UNGER

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

ESTEVEAN 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



We Take Our Job Personally

With more than 156,000 members, LACERA is the nation's largest county retirement association. Despite our size, we never lose sight of the fact we serve individual people.

When we view our diverse membership, we see more than a range of careers, age groups, and ethnicities; we see individuals, each with a unique story. With a staff of dedicated professionals eager to offer attentive service customized to each member's circumstances, we recognize the importance of personal relationships. Each year, our staff responds to thousands of members' personal inquiries, educates members on the provisions of their respective retirement plans, and assists them with transactions specific to their individual needs. From processing plan enrollments and transfers, to researching the most advantageous retirement strategies available based on a member's plan and personal data, to paying new retirees and survivors within one payroll cycle, we take our job personally.

**"Personalized service
will never be obsolete
at LACERA."**

That's why, despite the popular trend to automate customer service, we continue to operate our Call Center and Public Counter with highly trained Retirement Benefits Specialists. We are committed to preserving our attentive, personalized approach to administering retirement plan benefits to the employees of Los Angeles County and outside Districts and their beneficiaries. I believe it's important our members know that personalized service will be available to them when they need it.

LACERA Also Embraces Technology

Having said that, I also want to assure you LACERA embraces technology. We recognize its value in optimizing our services and continuously apply it to expand the service options we provide. Whereas it wasn't that long ago when a member who wanted to find out the amount of the allowance he or she would receive at retirement had to either come into our Public Counter or phone our Call Center to order a personalized Retirement Benefits Estimate (RBE). Today, members can generate their own RBEs, as well as their own cost estimates to purchase Additional Retirement Credit (ARC) directly from their My LACERA accounts — and they can generate as many personalized estimates as they want, as often as they desire. A few years ago, we only offered printed copies of our plan books, brochures, and forms. Today we offer them in a choice of formats

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LACERA Kids “Invent the Future” on Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

An enthusiastic group of LACERA offspring ages 8-12 celebrated Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day at LACERA on April 21.

The kids were treated to a full day of stimulating and educational activities that focused on this year's theme of “Invent the Future.” The day, which began with a special welcome greeting from our CEO Gregg Rademacher, featured visits to an assortment of LACERA divisions, along with presentations from several invited guests.

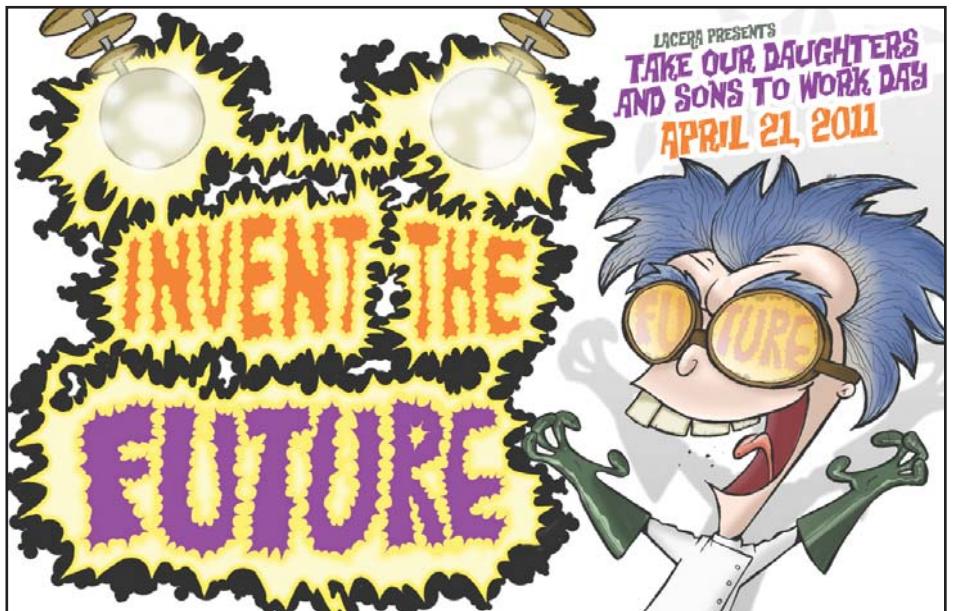
Highlights of the Day

The next generation of LACERA learned saving and money management tips from our Investments Division, authored and illustrated a two-volume take-home book in our Communications Division, tackled a giant crossword puzzle with our Disability Litigation

staff, and toured our Systems, Retiree Healthcare, and Procurement Divisions. The tours included Q&A sessions and topic-specific games — with prizes, of course. In addition, the kids met with a Pasadena firefighter, who invited them onto his fire truck and explained the rules of fire safety

and the duties of firefighters.

In addition to the firefighter and his really cool fire truck, the biggest hits with the kids were the pizza lunch, hip-hop and bunny hop dance instructions, and the scrumptious ice-cream snack.



Executive Desk cont'd from pg. 2

and offer a variety of ways to access them.

You can read about many of our service enhancements in the article titled “Inside My LACERA” on page 4 and the article titled “Enjoy ‘One-Stop Shopping’ for LACERA Documents on Our Brochures & Forms Page” on page 5.

Personalized Service Is Here to Stay

As the role of technology escalates, we will continue to incorporate advanced technology at every opportunity to enhance the quality and scope of the

services we provide. There's no doubt technology will continue to assist us with the services we provide; however, it will never completely replace the human touch... especially here.

Based on the high marks our workshops and counseling sessions receive on our member surveys, the personalized service we provide is valued by our members, as well. We continue to be proud of the educational workshops and one-on-one counseling sessions our Retirement Benefits Specialists present to equip our members with the knowledge they need to

make strategic choices during their careers. We know by making the right choice for their individual situations, members can gain the maximum advantage in retirement for themselves and their loved ones. LACERA remains committed to providing them with the knowledge they need to achieve that goal.

Personalized service will never be obsolete at LACERA.



Do you have 24-hour access to your personal retirement information?

If you're registered on My LACERA, you do! Registered users can access their LACERA accounts at any time to create their own Retirement Benefit Estimates and itemized estimates of their cost to purchase Additional Retirement Credit (ARC), view their annual benefit statements — and more.



We continue to expand the capabilities of My LACERA. The following additional features are coming soon:

- Change your name
- Change your phone numbers
 - Store up to three different numbers

For assistance in registering for access to this secure section of lacera.com, call 1-800-786-6464; a LACERA Retirement Benefits Specialist will help you through the process.



General Member Contribution Rates Likely to Increase in July

As we previously reported, based on new mortality tables adopted by the Board of Investments in March 2011, general member contribution rates are likely to increase, pending approval of the County Board of Supervisors (BOS). Since the last issue, the Coalition of County Unions and SEIU Local 721 have agreed to a July 1, 2011 effective date for new employee rates. LACERA presented its rate recommendation to the BOS in late April; the BOS put the matter on

the agenda for its June 21 meeting.

The proposed new general member rates reflect a slight increase. Under the proposed rates, Safety Plan B members will experience a small decrease in their contributions. No rate changes are proposed for Safety Plan A members.

Once approved, the new rates for all LACERA contributory plans will be available in the Benefits section of lacera.com.

3 THINGS

LACERA's three membership categories total 156,519 members as of June 30, 2010:

► **Active Members: 94,410**

► **Deferred Members: 7,938**

► **Retired Members: 54,171**



Enjoy "One-Stop Shopping" for LACERA Documents on Our Brochures & Forms Page

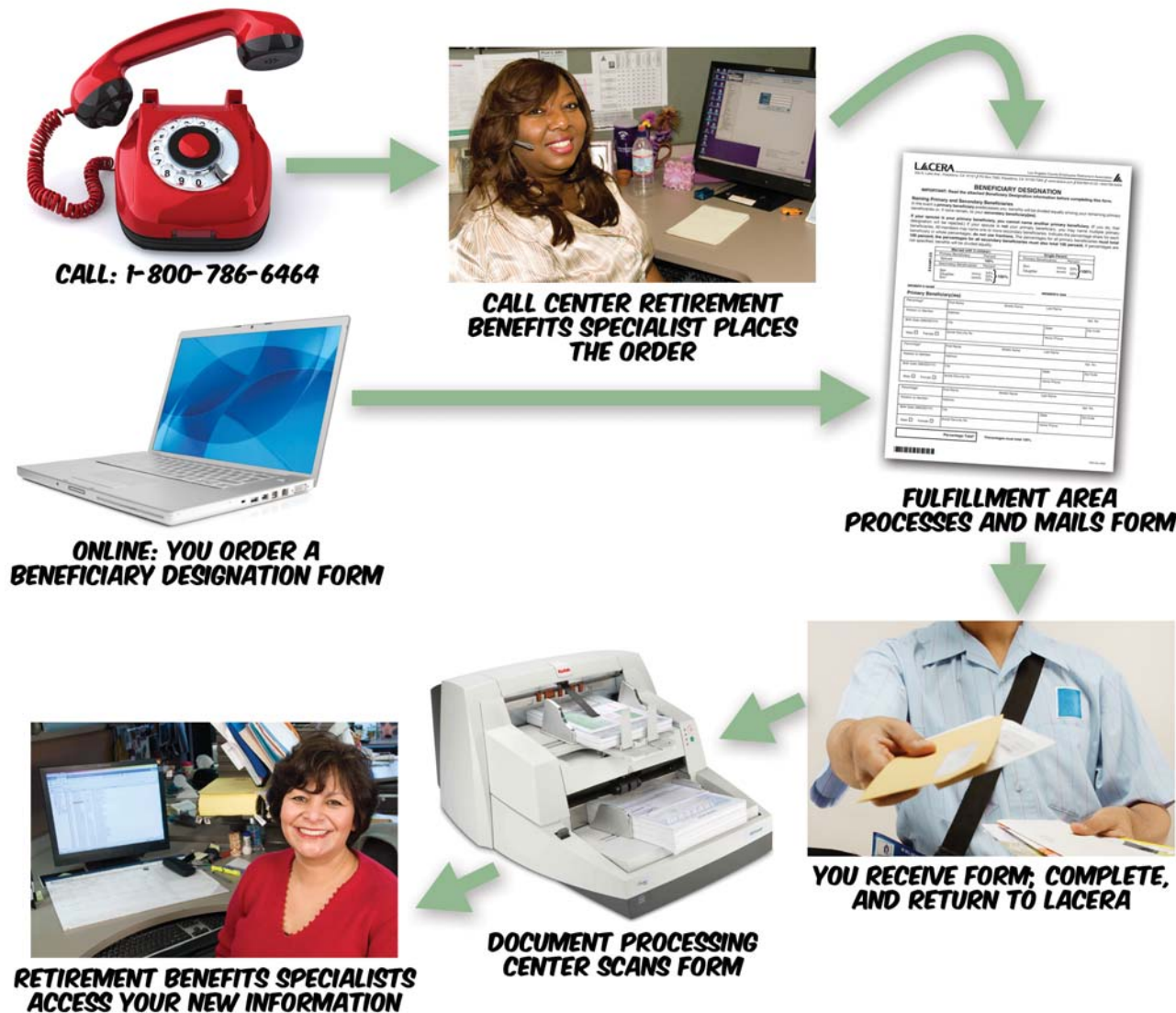
If you need a copy of a LACERA form or brochure, take advantage of the Brochures & Forms page on lacera.com. It's a quick resource for most of our forms, as well as our Plan Books, brochures, and other printed materials.

The page allows you to utilize the documents in a variety of ways:

- Read the document online
- Print the PDF
- Download a copy of the PDF to your home computer
- Order the document
 - Orders will be processed by the end of the next business day and mailed to you free of charge

If you don't have access to a computer or you just enjoy the sound of a friendly voice, you may call 1-800-786-6464 to place your order with a Retirement Benefits Specialist in our Call Center.

LACERA.COM'S BROCHURES & FORMS PAGE PROCESS



ADDITIONAL SERVICE OPTIONS COMING SOON...
ADJUST AND SUBMIT CHANGES ONLINE ON MY LACERA. REGISTER TODAY!

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

JUNE 2011

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

JULY 2011

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

AUGUST 2011

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	27
28	29	G	N			

G = General Members Pre-Retirement
S = Safety Members Pre-Retirement
N = New General Member H = Holiday

*Saturday, July 23, 2011: 9:00 a.m. – Noon;
Health Services Building: 313 N. Figueroa
St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, 1st Floor
Auditorium (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.

Board Members and LACERA Staff Participate in Spring SACRS Conference

LACERA management, staff, and
board members shared information
and exchanged ideas with their
counterparts from other California
retirement systems at this year's State
Association of County Retirement
Systems (SACRS) Spring Conference.
The May conference was held in
Santa Barbara.

Individuals associated with LACERA
participated in a number of
capacities:

- Yves Chery (Secretary, Board
of Retirement) moderated the
Ethics Training Session
- LACERA's James Castranova
(Senior Attorney, Legal Office)

was a panelist at a Disability
Workshop which discussed
Permanent Incapacity with a
Focus on Permanence, Service
Connection, and Presumption.
The workshop was moderated
by Ricki Parker (Manager,
Disability Retirement Services).

- LACERA CEO Gregg
Rademacher serves as the 2010-
2011 chair of the SACRS Bylaws
Committee.

SACRS is a government-sponsored
association of 20 California county
retirement systems enacted under the
County Employees Retirement Law
of 1937.



LACERA

300 N. Lake Ave. • Pasadena, CA • 91101

Mailing Address:

LACERA • P.O. Box 7060 • Pasadena, CA • 91109-7060

Retirement Questions? Give Us a Call 1-800-786-6464

Frequently Asked Questions **FAQs**

Q: Where is LACERA located?

A: We are located at 300 N. Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101. The Contact Us page on lacera.com provides directions to LACERA and also provides information on the Metro Rail Gold Line. A Contact Us link appears on our home page.

Q: How can I speak in person with a LACERA Retirements Benefits Specialist?

A: One-on-one consultations with a Retirement Benefits Specialist are available at our Public Counter on a walk-in basis Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Appointments may also be scheduled by calling 1-800-786-6464.

Q: What are the Call Center hours?

A: The Retirement Benefit Specialists in our Call Center are available to assist you and answer your questions from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at 1-800-786-6464.

Q: Which member services can be

done over the phone?

A: Our Retirement Benefits Specialists will assist you in completing the following procedures over the phone. Give them a call at 1-800-786-6464.

- Change of Beneficiary(ies)
- Name Change



Upcoming Holidays

LACERA will be closed on **Monday, July 4** in observance of Independence Day and **Monday, September 5** in observance of Labor Day.

Did You Know

Defined Benefit (DB) Plans

Your retirement benefit amount is determined by your final compensation, amount of service credit, and age at retirement.

Defined Contribution (DC) Plans

The benefit amount is determined by investment performance and amount of contributions.

“The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket.” – Will Rogers

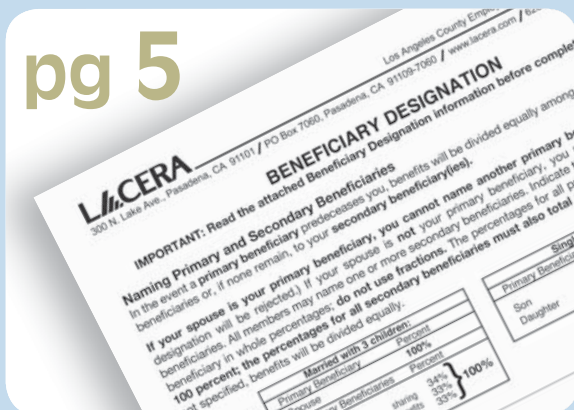


NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS



**Vote in the August BOR
and BOI Election**

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**One-Stop Shopping:
lacera.com's Brochures
& Forms Page**

More Inside!
JUNE 2011

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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