

ROCCPO

RETIRED ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS

Summer 2009

GARY GARRETT, EDITOR



RIO

Retirement Is Outstanding is the name host Rich Helmick gave this group several years ago. Retirees meet for lunch on the third Friday of each month at Hoff's Hut on Chapman, near the Crystal Cathedral. The name of the restaurant will change (perhaps it has changed by the time of this issue), but the event has not. It is a great chance to tune-in with fellow retirees.

UPDATE ON MONEY MATTERS

The latest report from OCERS is our retirement benefit is extremely secure and is not threatened by the economic mess. The retirement system has assets of over \$6 billion. These are not assets of the County of Orange. OCERS is a separate, independent agency that exists solely to administer retirement benefits.

In short, our retirement benefit is about the most secure retirement anyone could hope for. We have the legal guarantees, secure funding, and prudent money management that social security and other pension plans can only hope for. (This report was presented via Jay Hynds and originated from inquiry of Ed Clarke.

RETIREES LOSE LAWSUIT

In June 2006, the Board of Supervisors and the Employees Association negotiated a deal to split the pool in an effort to rein in the then \$1.4 billion in unfunded liabilities for retiree health plan benefits. Retirees are more likely to experience health costs. The result was higher health care premiums for retirees. The 10,000 retirees filed a federal lawsuit.

The judge ruled we failed to provide evidence of explicit legislative authority requiring the county to continue providing retirees the pooling benefit in setting rates. The pooling benefit was not a vested benefit.

It is clear in OC, the County has not recognized the Retired Employees Association as a bargaining agent. The Employees Association does not represent us. In this regard, we are hung out to dry.

Linda Robinson, Co-President of REAOC states the court took six months to issue a ruling which indicates that REAOC's claims presented difficult legal questions that required extensive deliberation. The retiree's association remain confident in the merits of our claims and look forward to continuing this important fight in the court of appeals.

ARE YOU IN THE LOOP?

I have had several occasions of late to use my one click e-mail system to reach more than 100 retirees. Mostly, such a mailing is at the request of the Chief. When the Department wants to distribute information to all of you, my e-mail does the trick, except for a few of you. Several e-mails have been rejected due to invalid addresses. Here are a few:

Bumpass,	Mays,	Rosemary Cain
Styler,	extrafast,	Mike O'Hara
abceac1,	Silva,	Gumbysdad
Jerry Black,	Skip Spilman,	Prays-4-you
Ed Olson		

I need your correct address to keep you in the loop.

BIG EVENTS AT PROBATION NORTH

Retired Chief PO, Stephanie Lewis visited Jay & Hazel Hynds in Bellingham, WA in July. Jay had not been with Steph. In 23 years. I have lost



Count of the number of Southern California visitors Jay & Hazel have had. When one visits Bellingham, four probation couples are there to greet you.

The other major event in the North was Jay celebrating his 80th birthday. Congratulations, I have been there, done that. Many of you have contributed funds toward the cost of producing ROCPO, perhaps we should contribute funds toward the cost of Probation North hosting dinner guests.

CENTENNIAL BADGES

All retirees on my e-mail address list were notified of the opportunity to order Flat Wallet Centennial Badges with case. The number of e-mails I received, suggests a good response. The cut-off date for placing your order is July 31. Mary Flynn is the contact person and she can be reached at (714) 569-2141. The badges are very nicely done at a cost of \$70.69

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WITH THE ANGELS

You can join Probation friends in celebrating 100 years of service at Angel Stadium August 28, 7:05 PM. 300 tickets have been purchased for the Angels VS Oakland game @ \$15. Checks payable to Catherine Stiver and mailed to

Orange County Probation Dept., PO Box 10260
Santa Ana, CA 92711. Att: Mary Flynn
(714-569-2141)

COURT TOUR VOLUNTEERS

Kathy Didier suggested Gwen Vieau contact us regarding the Superior Court Tour Program. Court Tour volunteer docents are needed. The program requires a commitment of one to two tours per-month 8:30-12:00 noon. The Court provides free parking.

Contact Gwen Vieau, Community and Media Relations, Orange County Superior Court, 714-834-2717.. gvieau@occourts.org

Fran Moran & Stephanie Lewis are the latest additions to our mailing List.

The Economy Is So Bad That:
If the bank returns your check marked "Insufficient Funds", you ask if they meant them or you.

Parents in Beverly Hills fired their Nannies and learned their children's names.

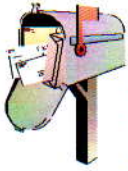
A truckload of Americans was caught sneaking into Mexico.
The most highly paid job now is jury duty.

IDENTITY THEFT

Sue Carter is a victim of identity theft. Following one of my ROCPO group e-mails, Sue requested I send e-mails using the "blind send" method. Having been burned, she is concerned about her name and address floating in space. Now that Sue is an expert in identity theft, she invites anyone to contact her for answers to the problem.

A recent report revealed identity theft has topped the Federal Trade Commission's list of consumer's complaints for the past 8 years. A record 9.9 million Americans were victims last year.

If I can master the method, future e-mails to you will be sent "blind". E-mail Sue for information.



A note from **Bob Neighbors, Jr.:** As my own general contractor, I recently completed the major remodel and landscape of our home here in Mission Viejo. What a huge and rewarding challenge but, just once in a lifetime, thank you. I continue to enjoy antique and furniture restorations. My wife and I are often climbing the Southern CA. peaks and trails. We have completed 80 of the Sierra Club's 180 Peaks list and have another 100 to go. I am starting to backpack the Pacific Crest Trail (2,600 miles from the Mexican border to the Canadian), doing it in sections at a time. I feel blessed to be enjoying great health and an active retirement. Many of you remember my father **who** died four years ago. I miss him dearly but I often think of him in my outdoor adventures as I know how he loved to travel and see the world.

Gay Trueblood writes: "We retired in Florence, Oregon in May of 1996. We lived in a small duplex with everything we owned while we built a home on the 8th fairway of the Ocean Dunes Golf Course." While on a buying trip for their antique business, they visited Florence and loved it. After experiencing the weather, great winds, torrents of rain, thunder, hail and snow, they agreed they could handle it, and they did. Gay's sister is a neighbor. With church, community involvement and doing eligibility interviews for a federal program, the Truebloods have settled-into a cooking avoidance lifestyle which includes a familiarity with all the restaurants.

HEALTH UPDATES

With Len Blutreich coordinating the Rod Speer Prayer Warriors, he is an outstanding source on health updates. He reports John Fadule is back in Florida with his sick mother. Randy Niznik (inoperable brain tumor) is doing OK. Harry Mash's grandsons, John age 19 (cancer) and Joey (Reflex muscular dystrophy) are making progress. Dennis Forsyth has returned to Laguna from Florida after not needing a liver transplant. Len's new chemo continues with minimal side effects.

**Rue Smith memorial Tue. July 28, 12:30 PM
Acapulco, 1535 W Katella, Orange (near Main St)**

IDLE THOUGHTS OF A RETIREE'S MIND

Provided by Jay Hynds

Protons have mass? Damn, I didn't even know they were Catholic.

What is a "free" gift? Aren't gifts free by definition?

They told me I was gullible.. and I believed them.

Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and when he grows up he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.

Experience is the thing you have left when all else is gone.

One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.

Show me a man with both feet on the ground, and I'll show you a man who can't get his pants off.

Is it my imagination, or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?

Jan Moorehead: Things You Should Know

In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb, Hence we have "the rule of thumb"

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden" .. thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.

Coca-Cola was originally green.

The average number of people airborne over the U.S. in any given hour: 61,000

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