



DIGEST

Around and About

THE LONG-abuilding Martin Luther King, Jr., General hospital will open its doors for its first patient at 8 a.m. Monday, March 27. It will operate 120 beds now, eventually 394 beds . . . James Mize will continue to wear two hats, as executive officer of the Board of Supervisors and as public administrator-guardian. The Board named him to the PAG post (Feb. 22) after he finished first in a civil service examination . . . Dave Smith, a chief analyst in the CAO's office, began his new job March 1 as assistant CAO of Santa Barbara County . . . The Board of Supervisors has voted \$174,000 for a private firm (Arthur Andersen & Co.) to study ways the County might perk up its data processing operations . . . A free exhibition of oils, etchings, sculpture, wood carving, and other projects of Otis Art Institute students is open at the Music Center from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. until March 26 (except on matinee days). Go to the top of the staircases in the main lobby.

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Volume 5 Number 4

Schabarum Takes Bonelli's Seat

PETE SCHABARUM took office this week as Supervisor of the County's first district, a chair that Frank Bonelli had occupied for nearly 14 years until his death Feb. 14.

Schabarum, appointed to the vacancy by Governor Reagan, took the oath last Monday (March 6) before a capacity audience of friends and County staffers at a special Board meeting. The oath was administered by superior judge Howard McClain of Pomona, an old friend who had helped launch Schabarum on his public career by nominating him to the 1965 County grand jury. Schabarum, then only 36, was elected foreman of the jury.

The following year, 1966, Schabarum was elected state assemblyman from the 49th district and served until Reagan appointed him Supervisor (March 2).

The invocation at Monday's meeting was delivered by the Rev. Norbert Moke of Covina's First

Presbyterian church, to which Schabarum belongs.

After the formal swearing-in, Board chairman Warren Dorn reminisced about Schabarum's years (1949-51) as star halfback and Rose Bowl player with UC Berkeley's Golden Bears and three subsequent years with the San Francisco 49ers professional football team. Schabarum introduced members of his family including wife Gerry and children Laura, 13; Frank, 11; and Tom, 10.

In a news conference afterward, Schabarum said he plans "no changes in the staff as I see them," made clear he would rather be called "Pete" than "Peter," and said he pronounces his name "shuh-BAR-um."

He is president of Schabarum Companies, real estate owners and developers, in Covina.

He faces an election contest June 6 for the remainder of Mr. Bonelli's term, which runs to 1974.

Blue Shield Deductions Drop Today

THE 7,500 County employees who subscribe to California Blue Shield health insurance will find a slightly smaller premium deducted from their paychecks today (March 10), the result of adjusting their rates in accord with recently issued federal guidelines for Phase II of the wage-price freeze.

The decrease means that for coverage from now until next Aug. 30, when the County's contracts with Blue Shield and three other County-sponsored health plans expire, Blue Shield subscribers will have monthly deductions of \$2.50

for employee-only policies, \$17.70 for employee and one dependent, and \$22 for employees plus two or more dependents. These rates represent decreases of 89 cents to \$1.80 a month from those that went into effect last Sept. 1.

Blue Shield subscribers' refund checks for the Aug. 10 through Feb. 10 paydays will total \$7.19 for an employee-only policy, \$12.91 for employee plus one dependent, and \$14.55 for family coverage.

Some 13,000 Blue Cross subscribers also are scheduled to receive

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Politicking OK--within Limits

COUNTY EMPLOYEES who feel an urge toward politicking in this election year of 1972 got some guidelines this week from County Counsel John Maharg.

Maharg told *The Digest* that while court decisions in recent years have given public employees more political freedom than they once had, some restrictions still remain through state law and County ordinances.

As examples, Maharg cited:

- A county officer or employee may not wear his uniform while engaging in political activity.
- Neither an employee nor anyone else may do political soliciting on County property.
- An employee may not use his County position to influence the political actions of other employees or of citizens in general.
- At no time may a County employee solicit political funds or signatures on petitions from other

Retiring with 30-plus

THE BOARD of retirement announced that 26 employees with more than 30 years in County service are retiring this month. They are:

(40 years or more)—John Hahn, assistant County Clerk; Doug Lathrop, municipal court; Irene Shaw, DPSS.

(35 to 40 years)—Pauline Higdon, Lee Lemond, medical center; Fredric Hokin, road; Ralph Kennedy, engineer; Edward Zielbauer, flood.

(30 to 35 years)—Norman Kelly, director, military and veterans affairs; Fred White, personnel; Felix DeMond, Lauren Mitchell, Helene RoBards, sheriff; Rex Schull, Robert Van de Wetering, Gertrude Boesmiller, fire; Geraldine Brownson, Roy Heitzman, treasurer-tax collector; Juanita Fleischer, health; Helenie Gaydon, communications; Hilda Goldberg, resources and collections; Henry Haenke, Robert Lynch, Ruth Stanley, engineer; Grover Kingdon, district attorney; Elizabeth Young, road.

County employees. This rule, however, does not apply if the employee is promoting the passage (or defeat) of a ballot measure that would affect his pay, hours of work, retirement, civil service, or other working conditions. In such instances the employee's department head has the right to limit his participation to off-duty hours.

- As a private citizen, a County employee during off-duty hours may solicit funds or participate in other political efforts, provided that he does not represent himself as a County employee or otherwise utilize his County position to aid in soliciting funds or assisting any political candidate.

Maharg said County department heads have wide discretion in deciding whether a given employee's behavior injures his department—for example, wearing a campaign button while meeting the public on County business.

Maharg said the department head usually will have the discretion as to whether an employee may be granted leave from his job to work in a political campaign.

Maharg pointed out that many County departments, including DPSS, have employees whose political activities are limited by the Federal Hatch Act—this because they are employed in programs financed by federal funds administered by various agencies including Housing and Urban Development; the Department of Labor; Department of Health, Education and Welfare; and the California Council on Criminal Justice. He stated that restrictions on political activities of such employees include the influencing of elections, the coercive solicitation of political contributions, and the taking of an active part in political management or in political campaigns. However, Maharg added, the Hatch Act does permit a County employee to express political opinions, use bumper stickers, have a sign on his lawn,

HEALTH REFUNDS

(Continued from page 1)

premium refunds of \$2.10 to \$8.25 for higher premiums paid during Phase I (Aug. 10 to Oct. 10 pay-days). However, the federal guidelines indicate Blue Cross is entitled to the higher rates (those presently being paid) from the end of Phase I until the contract expires next August.

Auditor-controller Mark Bloodgood said each subscriber will receive an individually computed refund check after the data processing department finishes setting up programs for computing the refunds. Bloodgood said he expects to announce in the next *Digest* an approximate date when the refund checks will be ready.

The 27,000 enrollees in the other two County-sponsored plans, Kaiser and Ross-Loos, will not receive refund checks, since their rates were not changed by the wage-price freeze (see Oct. 22 *Digest* for details).

and otherwise indicate his preference as to candidates and issues.

Because of the rather severe penalties that may be imposed for Hatch Act violations, Maharg recommended that any employee wishing to engage in political campaigning who believes that he may be subject to the Hatch Act should first contact his supervisor or departmental personnel officer for guidance.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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