

County DIGEST



JANUARY 1997

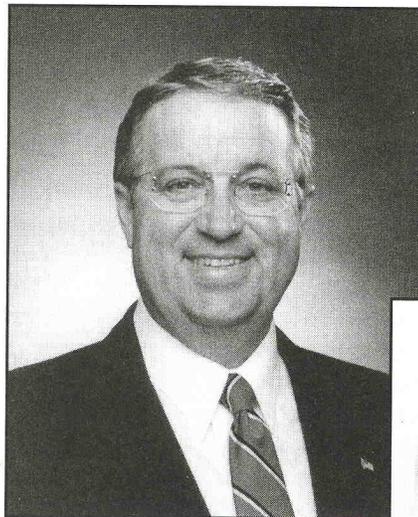
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DON KNABE: NEW FOURTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

New Los Angeles County Fourth District Supervisor Don Knabe began his political career in the Los Angeles suburb of Cerritos in the 1970's by getting involved in local community organizations. By 1980, he was elected to the Cerritos City Council and, two years later, joined the staff of Fourth District Supervisor Deane Dana. Soon, Knabe became Dana's chief of staff and began his 14-year journey into the world of Los Angeles County government. When Supervisor Dana retired last month, Knabe, who was elected to fill his slot, officially began the first day of his four-year term on December 2, 1996.

Sitting in the crowded Board room audience during his oath of office ceremony held that afternoon was Knabe's second grade teacher from his childhood home of Rock Island, Illinois. After a proud introduction, she stood and gave Knabe an approving smile and wave of support.

Now, sitting on the Board of Supervisors, Knabe has become one of the nation's most influential leaders, a life-altering change that Knabe seems to have taken in stride, arriving each day for work at the same address he's been going to for 14 years.



BEHIND THE SCENES (RIGHT): SWORN INTO OFFICE BY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE PHILIP HICKOK (CENTER), KNABE PRACTICES RECITING THE OATH OF OFFICE JUST MINUTES BEFORE THE CEREMONY AS HIS WIFE, JULIE, LOOKS ON.



"I still feel like the same person that I was before," says Knabe. "I see this job as an extension of my community service."

With a personal compassion for many of the social ailments facing County residents, Knabe is determined to use the

experience he gained working so closely with Supervisor Dana. When Dana announced his plans to retire in 1994, Knabe decided that it was time to put his campaign together, easily drawing strong support from the community in which he represented Dana and was also personally active in for almost two decades.

"Walking away from the issues in our community was not an option for me," he says, admitting that it would be an adjustment for him to come forward from "scurrying around" the Board room as Dana's former chief deputy. "But when the gavel came down and the meeting began, it was time for business. I thought to myself, 'It's a long way from Rock Island, Illinois, to this chair. I felt elated

and ready."

Knabe's top priorities include ensuring the public's safety, reforming welfare, tackling the juvenile gang problem, instituting government reforms, and making mental health programs accessible, issues that are all overwhelming challenges in a county the size of Los Angeles.

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JANUARY RETIREES

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired, after 30 or more years of service to the people of Los Angeles County:

ASSESSOR: Joseph Giannone

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Carolyn M. Parks

FIRE: Mario R. Lopez

HEALTH SERVICES: Victoria A. Anderson, Delphina Diaz, Venetha DuPree, Dorothy H. Jones, Renaldo C. McLaughlin, Ernest C. Neely, Anna F. Urata

INTERNAL SERVICES: Ronald J. Schuman, George T. Stobaugh, Jr.

MUNICIPAL COURT: Patsy E. Kreager

MUSEUM OF ART: Ronald B. Bratton

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Sharon L. Dannels, Nicholas C. Racanelli

PUBLIC WORKS: Raymond Gomez, Glenn B. Kenyon, Franklin E. Lees, John W. Leopold, James F. Mayfield

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Anita M. Starr

SHERIFF: Garth D. Balthazor, Charles W. Brantley, Jr., James M. Edwards, Nicolai R. Lopez, Paul J. Lyons, David O. Miller, Jr., Melvin L. Savage, Jr., Jane K. Urata

SUPERIOR COURT: Constance L. Fields

Congratulations to the following employees who retired after serving the County for 25-30 years:

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Betty M. Lewis, Evelyn Ross, Dorothy P. Sandifer

COMMUNITY AND SENIOR SERVICES: Delores Carrillo

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: James Fagan
FIRE: Michael A. Gilberg, Michael Klinger, Patrick G. Rathbun

HEALTH SERVICES: Victoria Fernandez, Bernice Hardy, Carol Harrison, Mary E. Hunter, Odessa Jackson, Vilaivan Moghaddam, Lena Reno, Freddy Yeh, Josefina T. Yuste

INTERNAL SERVICES: Peter P. Giordano

MENTAL HEALTH: Barbara J. Swartout

MUNICIPAL COURT: Leland H. Tipton

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Marietta J. Barnes, Raymond V. Dalton, Leonard E. Knight

SHERIFF: Michael S. Camarena, Elias G. Fierro, Gary J. Rovarino, Laverta S. Weekly

1997 NOONTIME PARENTING SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Did you miss out on important advice about balancing work and family? Whether you're the parent of a teen or a tot, don't miss another opportunity to learn about the ins and outs of being a working parent at one of the following **Noontime Parenting Seminars** sponsored by the Department of Human Resources. All seminars will be held from 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. Join us!

February 12, 1997

"Helping Your Child Succeed in School"

March 12, 1997

"Curing the 'Gimmies': Raising Kids to Value What They Have"

April 9, 1997

"Reclaim Your Television: Raising Media-Savvy Children"

May 14, 1997

"Feeling Safe in an Unsafe World"

June 11, 1997

"He Started It! Dealing With Sibling Rivalry"

If you would like to attend monthly or periodic noontime parenting seminars but can't make it downtown from your work location, the Child Care Project staff are willing to assist County departments in launching similar series. For more information, contact Kathy Malaske-Samu at (213) 974-2440.



KEEPING KIDS SAFE

It's hard to imagine that the simple act of walking down the street carrying a purse places a woman at higher risk for becoming a crime victim, but it's true. Purses, jewelry, cellular phones, briefcases and workout bags attract criminals not only to you, but to your children, too. Take some simple advice from Deputy John Sanford of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and become more aware of your surroundings to lower your risk for becoming a crime statistic:

Place all valuables in the trunk of your vehicle. Visible packages are an easy target for auto thieves.

Don't leave your vehicle engine running and step out of your vehicle, even for a few seconds, especially when your kids are strapped in their carseats. All it takes is that few seconds and your car is gone...along with your children.

Don't look preoccupied when you're walking down the street. Look directly at people as you're walking along. Send the message that you're aware of what's going on around you.

Turn around and look at anyone who might be standing behind you at an ATM (automated teller machine). Avoid nighttime banking.

Do not keep a gun in your home, since children usually find them. Unless you're well trained at using firearms, guns can be used against their owners. A new law holds parents liable for their child's use of their handgun.

Always place your child in a carseat if they are under four years old or weigh 40 pounds or less. The middle of the back seat is the best location, since side impact allows space between the contact point and your child. Thirty children have already died in the U.S. from broken necks suffered during airbag inflations.

Keep a spare key hidden somewhere on the underside of your vehicle. It only takes minutes for a child to suffocate in a locked car during the hot summer months.

Never leave your kids alone.

THALIA FAYE: PASSING ON THE KNOWLEDGE

Growing up in British-occupied Palestine in the early 1940's before the creation of the State of Israel, Thalia Faye still remembers the British motto of "duty before pleasure." Now living oceans away as an American citizen in the San Fernando Valley, Faye continues to live her life that way. In fact, she was very surprised that she was selected by the Board of Supervisors as the December 1996 County Employee of the Month. As she says, "I was just doing my job."

As Medical Technology Supervisor for the Department of Health Services at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, Faye's 19 years of committed service to the County as a microbiologist, educator and management supervisor were honored in a special Board room ceremony on December 17. In her position, Faye provides technical and administrative supervision to the microbiology section of the Pathology Department, overseeing a staff of 12, covering two shifts each day of the week. She is responsible for planning, organizing, directing and controlling all of the combined work of the unit, ensuring that all physician-ordered tests are conducted and reported accurately and within prescribed timeframes. Her cost-cutting strategies have saved

THALIA FAYE
RECEIVES A
CONGRATULATORY
SCROLL OF
COMMENDATION
FROM BOARD
CHAIRMAN
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY.



over \$40,000 per year in laboratory operating costs.

Faye emigrated to America in 1965 at the age of 27, and immediately selected Southern California for its similar climate and expanding employment opportunities. After a decade of working in the private sector, Faye came to work for the County in 1977 as a Medical Technologist I, when the reference laboratory where she had been working was shut down. Although she was told during the interview that she was overqualified for the County job, she told the supervisor, "Try me."

The following year, Faye's knowledge and skills led to her promotion to Medical Technologist II. When her supervisor retired in 1989, Faye applied for the position and was selected.

"It felt good to be able to implement ideas on how to cut costs, re-engineer the laboratory and make staff schedul-

ing improvements," says Faye. Now in a hospital setting, Faye enjoys meeting the human beings behind the laboratory vials.

"In a hospital, it really means something. You're also able to speak directly with the physician about the patient's results. You are part of it and feel satisfied," she explains.

A graduate of Tel Aviv University with both bachelor's and master's degrees in science, Faye spends much of her time as a continuing education instructor for many units within the hospital, including nursing and medical staff. She takes great pride in her ability to share information with the hundreds of staff who have been her students.

"The strongest part of me is the educator in me," she says. "You feel that part of you is going to continue on in your students as they grow in knowledge."



NEED INFORMATION? CALL FYI

FYI is an affordable, fee-based research service provided by the Los Angeles County Public Library. FYI supplies a full range of unique business and consumer information to help you during work hours. FYI also provides special services tailored to meet the needs of individuals and families. Service fees vary for each project. Find out how the following types of information can be at your fingertips by calling FYI at either (310) 868-4003 or at 1-800-582-1093, toll-free, 24 hours a day:

Company Information Services locates companies, obtains credit reports, and evaluates the financial health of a business. **Business Finder** is ideal for locating potential suppliers, key industry contacts, and competitors. Also, **Business Lists on Demand** helps you target key individuals in specific industries for prospecting and direct mailings.

Demographics on Demand provides demographic information and projections on population, ethnicity, income, consumer spending patterns, crime rates, and thousands of other variables for Los Angeles County as well as for almost any area in the United States.

Who Makes What is an easy way to locate up to five hard-to-find suppliers and services. Searches can be done by generic product name, such as "tennis shoes" or specific brand names.

FYI Resume Express is great for a new graduate in search of a job. FYI can prepare resumes, search for potential employers, and produce customized cover and follow-up letters.

People Locator Searches offers low-cost searches designed to help find old friends, family members and others.

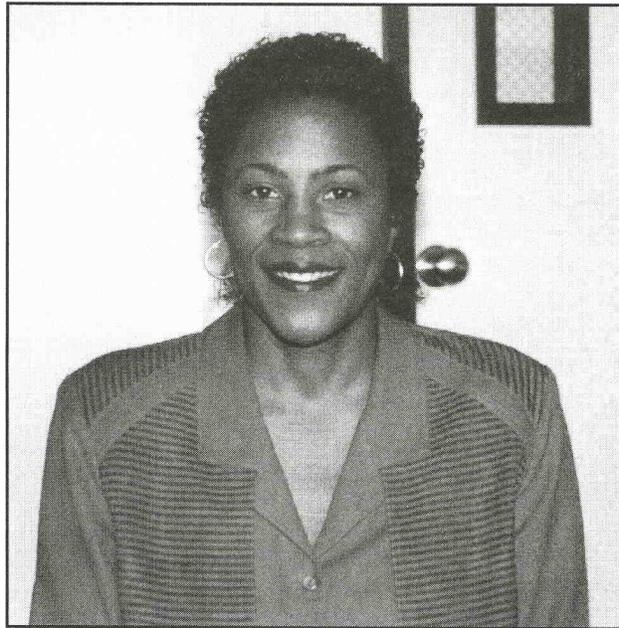
To order these and other services, contact FYI at 1-800-582-1093.

THE PERFECT MATCH

Eligibility Worker LaFrance Austin was one of 33 Department of Public Social Services employees who attended a presentation of the Judie Davis Marrow Recruitment Program last July at the Pasadena district office. After learning that only 135,000 African-Americans are represented on the national registry of over two million potential marrow donors, she decided that it was the "right thing to do" to at least be tested for the registry.

One day at her office, she noticed the marrow donor card sitting on her desk and had a hunch that she would be called to donate. Austin wasn't surprised the following week when she was called by the City of Hope Medical Center in Duarte. While spending time with her two young children at home on a two-week vacation, she was informed that her blood was a perfect match for a child battling leukemia. Two days later, she arrived at the hospital to make the donation. Although Austin did not meet the four-point criteria to donate marrow, she did meet the criteria on two points and was a strong platelet match.

After a brief explanation from hospital staff, Austin relaxed in a comfortable



GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE: LAFRANCE AUSTIN, ELIGIBILITY WORKER IN THE PASADENA OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES, HAS DONATED MARROW THREE TIMES TO SAVE CHILDREN BATTLING LEUKEMIA. SHE RECENTLY RECEIVED ANOTHER CALL TO DONATE AND WILL SOON RETURN TO THE CITY OF HOPE MEDICAL CENTER IN DUARTE TO ONCE AGAIN GIVE THE "GIFT OF LIFE."

reclining chair while nurses extracted blood from Austin's right arm. After the platelets (blood plasma) were extracted from her blood, it was then returned into her body through her left arm.

"It was a painless way to save a life, and I've done it now on three separate occasions for three children," says Austin. "I figured that I'd rather be on the giving end of this than the receiving end."

Each year, more than 16,000 children and adults in the U.S. are diagnosed with a fatal blood disease, such as leukemia or aplastic anemia. Life-saving marrow transplants are perhaps the only hope for many of these patients.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING PART OF THE NATIONAL MARROW DONOR REGISTRY, CONTACT YOUR DEPARTMENTAL BLOOD DONOR COORDINATOR.

KNABE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

"Managers need to allow their staff to do their jobs and promote more creative solutions. Those solutions can only be found through true team efforts," says Knabe. "Employees are beginning to realize that a government job does not necessarily mean a job for life like it once did. We need to be efficient and customer-oriented in providing services to the public."

Raised in Illinois, Knabe, 53, earned a degree in business administration from Graceland College in Iowa and served in the United States Navy before settling in California. He is married and has two grown sons. The Knabes are active members of the New Life Community Church in Artesia.



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