

County DIGEST



DECEMBER 1999

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

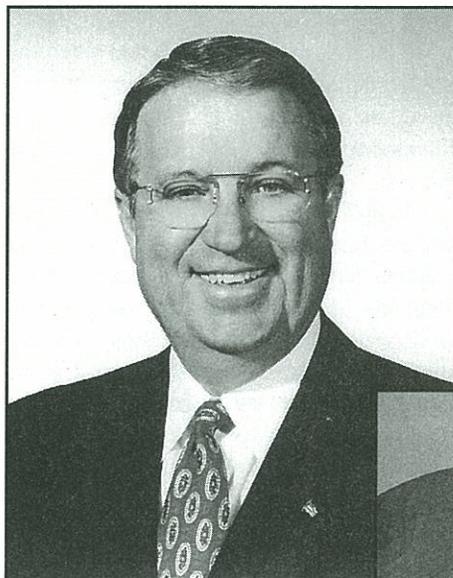
A Chairman's Outgoing Message to County Employees

As I reflect on the events of the past year and upon my term as Chairman, I do so with a great sense of pride in what we were able to accomplish, not just as a Board, but as a County family working together to serve our 10 million residents.

Because of a healthy economy and our successes in welfare reform, unemployment is at a 30 year low and Los Angeles County is poised to enter the new millennium with a renewed state of fiscal well-being and optimism. Yet, as I said when I took the office of Chairman last year, "It is easy to make the tough decisions in the hard-times — when your back is against the wall and you have no choice — and difficult to make the tough decisions in the good times."

Bearing that in mind, I am particularly proud of the strides made by the Board to make those tough decisions this year and increase the County's accountability to its residents. We continued performance and financial audits of all departments, created an inspector general position for countywide risk management and enhanced both the efficiency of our operations and our credibility with the people we serve.

I am also pleased with our efforts over the past year to address the alarming incidence of illiteracy within the County. Currently, 75 percent of unemployed adults have reading and writing difficulties and a full 80 percent of juveniles within County detention centers do not read above a fourth grade level. Subsequently, we



increased classroom instruction requirements in our probation camps and juvenile halls to 300 minutes a day and initiated *Operation Read*, a tutorial literacy program.

I am convinced that increasing literacy within our juvenile population will significantly reduce the rate of recidivism that currently has as many as two-out-of-four County juveniles going on to state prison.

By the same token, thanks to successful multi-agency partnerships between law enforcement, County departments, local government agencies and the

community, we find ourselves enjoying the lowest overall crime rate in decades. I believe there are few single County department solutions for many of the troubling issues that face us as a County. And to that end, the success of our partnerships against crime speaks highly of the all-encompassing impact of working together toward common goals.

Finally, as the ultimate safety-net for the County's 10 million residents, we have seen landmark strides in the strengthening of our infrastructure and the increase of our services in the area of healthcare — much of this due to a successful year for us in Sacramento and Washington.



Chairman Knabe shares a moment with one of the talented artists from the County's Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center during its annual art exhibition.

see Chairman on back page

A Year-Round Gift Idea

Do you know what to give your employees for the holidays, as well as the rest of the year? We would suggest that you host the traveling Parent Resource Center and make this treasure chest of books, videos and hand outs on parenting issues available to your employees.

The Parent Resource Center is permanently housed in the Department of Human Resources (DHR) at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. Two traveling versions are available for use in outlying County departments.

Interested? Call April Muranaka with DHR's Child Care Program at (213) 893-0355.

The Millennium Bug

Y2K, or the "millennium bug," refers to the potential problem of some equipment and computer devices with date sensitive chips or software failing after December 31, 1999. Embedded chips (microprocessors) exist in many devices that have become an integral part of modern society, e.g., cellular telephones, pagers, satellites, automobiles and VCRs. Preparation efforts for Y2K could be invaluable in many other situations, e.g., earthquakes, fires and floods.

Some preparedness tips for emergencies:

- At least a one week supply of non-perishable food and water (water: 1 gallon per person per day)
- Extra cash in small bills
- Flashlight and extra batteries (DO NOT use candles as they can cause fires)
- Battery-operated radio and extra batteries

For additional emergency preparedness information, call (323)980-2264. For information technology questions, call (213)974-2008. Information web sites are www.y2k.gov and <http://www.co.la.ca.us>.

Daniel Madden

A Lesson in Perseverance and Dedication



Some words of wisdom from the late Dr. Armand Hammer's biography have served as a guide for Daniel Madden, the November 1999 County Employee of the Month.

"I have always felt that the highest human expansion comes in our creative endeavors, those which draw upon all of our powers of imagination, intelligence and understanding. I have always cared most for the present and the future... I have no time to spare for yesterday: Let it rest in peace."

Madden, a Program Specialist I with the Public Affairs Division of the Chief Administrative Office (CAO), has been a County employee for 29 years, and is currently a special assistant to the Director of Public Affairs. He has been instrumental in developing the County's web page. This big fan of fishing, nature and practical jokes is "proud and honored" of this recognition.

His initial County assignment was as an ambulance attendant with the Department of Health Services. His next position was as a public information assistant, working as a media spokesman and photographer, at the then Air Pollution Control District (APCD). He became acting head photographer with the APCD's successor, the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Later, at the Department of Public Social Services, he was involved with broadcast video and developed slide shows that enhanced public

awareness of child abuse and neglect. Afterward, he became a photographer for the CAO's Photo Unit.

A traffic jam on one occasion and heavy fog on another are the only instances in which Madden failed to arrive on time for an assignment in his 15 years as a photographer for the Board of Supervisors. He has routinely given an extra effort in performing his duties, whether it was saddling up to accompany a Supervisor on a trail ride or hoisted into a Coast Guard helicopter to improve his shot. This commitment has extended into night, weekend and holiday shoots, and has resulted in photographs of heads of state, the 1984 Olympics, riots and natural disasters. Madden feels his best photo is "the next one I take."

His initiation of a computer program that allows Board Offices to order photographs, plaques and scrolls electronically has increased efficiency and improved accuracy. He has also assisted the County's Baywatch Lifeguards in their work with the Koru Care group, which brings terminally ill children from Australia and New Zealand for visits to Los Angeles.

Madden was made an honorary member of the Long Beach Police Officers Association and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Press Photographers Association of Greater Los Angeles. He received a scroll from the Board for rescuing an elderly man from the path of an oncoming train.

"Cari is not only my daughter but also my friend... this is success. My son, Lance, during his graduation speech from high school, told the students and family attending that the one present I had given him was 'heart'."

In spite of being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, Madden continues to work and live with great hope.

"I suppose I am probably a little bitter about the increasing difficulties I experience day to day but then I could be dead...The disease is an annoyance. I would like it to go away, but it's not going to, so I will just have to work around it. I would like to talk with Michael J. Fox (who also has Parkinson's) about Heather Locklear."

40th Annual Holiday Celebration



December Retirees



Martin Dancers



Southern California Youth Chorus

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors marks the holiday season with its gift to the community at large with six hours of entertainment for the entire family. The presentation, a production of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and KCET, runs from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, December 24, in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center of Los Angeles County. Admission and parking are free. No reservations are necessary. Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

Thirty-four groups representing 21 communities in Los Angeles County stretching from Long Beach to Santa Clarita, Arcadia to Culver City are participating. Sixteen of these groups are appearing in the show for the first time.

Among the show's highlights are the California Philharmonic, the Nativity Story in Mexican folkloric style, a Year of the Dragon celebration, the Los Angeles Gospel Messengers, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles and Vox Femina Los Angeles.

"This has been an ongoing tradition from Supervisor Kenneth Hahn," Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich said. "Once again, all faiths and creeds from throughout Los Angeles County will

participate in this annual Holiday Celebration."

The Holiday Celebration will be broadcast live on KCET on Friday, December 24.

For additional information, contact the Holiday Celebration Hotline at (213) 972-3099 or check out the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's web site at www.lacountyarts.org



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: Albert J. Amado

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: Patricia L. Sabados

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Sharon K. Reynolds

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Melvin Wesson, Nancy M. Naftel

FIRE: Jerry B. Cooksey, Roger W. Reding, James C. Bringhurst, Kenneth J. Dorn, William R. Garland, Virgil M. Lockhart, Keith J. Miller, Robert P. Ramstead II

HEALTH SERVICES: Alicia Escobedo, Maria M. Espana, Anthony R. Farinella, Beatrice Guerrero, Jean E. Olander, Evelyn Radford, Rebecca Rodriguez, Geraldine A. Stover, Linda L. Townsend

INTERNAL SERVICES: Herman L. Ridley

MENTAL HEALTH: Hilda Defendini

MUNICIPAL COURTS: Burr Prentice

PROBATION: Mary A. Heard, Michelle W. Lewis, Armando Formica, Gregory T. Johnson

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Eleanor Enriquez, Patricia J. Gallagher, David L. Spelbring, Algarine Stewart

PUBLIC WORKS: William A. Jensen

SHERIFF: Gary E. Jones, Roger B. Kelley, Dennis W. Lowry, Stephen G. Manthorne, Dennis B. Reynolds, Nick G. Talaganis, Bruce E. Thompson, Eva J. Grimes, Fred M. Ramirez

SUPERIOR COURTS: Hector Don Lucas

Congratulations to the following employees who are retiring after serving the people of the County of Los Angeles for more than 25 years:

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Jay Krueger, Samuel E. Stokes

FIRE: Genaro M. Meras

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Chairman

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Indeed, the past year has been an exciting one. And as the County moves into the next millennium, we can be assured of a productive year under the leadership of Chair Gloria Molina.

We, as a County family, have recognized that success is not a destination, but a journey. Our journey is a better quality of life for all of our County residents. Thank you for all you do on behalf of Los Angeles County.

From my family to all of our County family, we wish you a most joyous and safe holiday season.



Holiday Shopping Tips

'Tis the season to be generous! We all love to shop and join in the fun of exchanging gifts during the holidays. While enjoying this festive time, it is especially important not to disregard common sense in the marketplace. If you remember these tips while you are shopping, then you can avoid problems after the Holiday Season as we usher in the New Millennium.

•Ask each store about its refund policy before buying gifts. Some stores refund the full amount, some offer partial refunds, some give no refunds at all. Save your receipts; proof of purchase may be required.

•When buying children's gifts, examine toys for parts that might come off and be swallowed. Look for sharp edges. Note what age group the item is recommended for. Be especially careful when purchasing toys that are motorized, need batteries or require electricity to operate. When buying clothes, look for flame retardant fabrics.

•Be "e-wise" when buying via the Internet. Guard your personal information, including Social Security Number or Internet passwords. Paying by credit card gives you certain legal protections if the merchandise is not received. Consider taxes and shipping costs, return or cancellation policies.

•Prepare a holiday budget before you start shopping and stick to it! Don't spend more than you can afford.

•If you buy on credit, be sure you understand all the terms of your credit agreement, especially how much you must pay and the interest rate.

•If you buy on layaway, be sure you understand all terms of the arrangement. Make your payments on time and keep track of them. The merchant must keep the merchandise you have selected off the selling floor, but you must uphold your responsibilities, too. Remember, if you change your mind, you cannot always get all your money back.

•When buying decorations, think safety! Don't buy more lights than your circuits can handle. Avoid decorations that require the use of extension cords.

•If you are making mail order purchases, deal with well-established firms, order early and do not send cash.

•Find out before you buy an item if you have to assemble it yourself. If so, ask to see the instructions.

•Compare warranties when choosing products.

•For further information or to seek assistance, call the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs at (213) 974-1452 or visit their web site at <http://consumer-affairs.co.la.ca.us>.



Mailing Address Change

If you have changed your mailing address, please notify your Personnel Office immediately.

Retirees

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HEALTH SERVICES: Rosetta Bates, Desmond O. Creavalle, Margaret Gardea, Sherman D. Roberts, Della M. Stern, Charles Walker, Oliver Ware, Susan Huscroft

INTERNAL SERVICES: Frank Barajas, Jr., G N Flecky, Frances H. Pitts

MUNICIPAL COURTS: Anne Alvarez

PARKS & RECREATION: Jose Ojinaga

PROBATION: Frederick L. Banks

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Raelene Allen, Siham Elmezian

PUBLIC WORKS: Doyle Billberry, Victor San Lucas

SHERIFF: Jill S. Terry, David L. Watkins, Patsy T. Kobayashi, Michelinn J. Racicot, Jacqueline Franco

SUPERIOR COURTS: Beverly Holcomb

Members of the Board

Gloria Molina
Chair
First District

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Michael J. Henry
Director of Personnel

Sandra A. Hoodye
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

John S. Mina
Staff