

County DIGEST



DECEMBER 2000

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Supervisor Gloria Molina's Outgoing Message as Chair

'Twas the day of transition and all through the Hall;
The Board family was scurrying, Mike Antonovich most of all.
To be Chair of this five-some is not all that scary;
But Mike—to be Mayor... is O'Quite Contrary.

Ringin in the Year 2000 brought fears of being infected;
but when the clock struck twelve... the pesky bug went undetected.
With preparation, drills, and exercises we avoided the big scare.
I could not have been more thankful to Knabe, the previous Chair.

Soon after that we celebrated our big Birthday Bash;
Los Angeles County's one-hundred and fiftieth was simply a smash.
A parade, a concert, and Buzz Aldrin, too
Created great moments and diverse sights to view.

Every person was counted, the Census we had;
With not even one dimpled or dangling Chad.
The wonderful Sturges returned from the past,
To coordinate this effort, that will bring funding to last.

This Summer's strikes and Convention were all so tremendous,
But resolving the Med. Center was nothing short of stupendous.
750, 600—no solution in sight,
We all worked together—and it came out just right.

The 2000 Convention brought excitement galore
Parties, and dancing, and music, and more!
The City and County came together with ease;
To take care of the delegates, I think they were pleased.

Pickers and protesters... Annelle's rolling thunder...
Offers, and wage increases were all thrown asunder.
But thankfully, joyfully, cool heads prevailed...
No strikes in our County... no persons were jailed.

I am pleased to report that this Board stands united...
When the going gets tough we can't be divided.
From nurses to caseworkers and all in-between
Our County's the best because of this team.



see Message on page 11

Calendar of Events

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
(323) 857-6000
www.lacma.org

Renaissance Splendor in Mantua
February 3, 2001
1:00 p.m.

*"Made in California:
Art, Image, and Identity, 1900-2000"*
Through February 2001

*Art Classes and Family Programs
for Children and Adults*
Call for exact dates and times

*Sheila and Wally Weisman
Family Sundays*
Sundays at 12:30 p.m.
Call for exact themes

Family Gallery Tours
Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.
Call for exact dates

Los Angeles Opera
(213) 972-8001
www.laopera.org

Le Nozze di Figaro
January 16, 2001 through February 3, 2001
Call for exact dates and times

Giulio Cesare
February 23, 2001 through March 10, 2001
Call for exact dates and times

John Anson Ford Amphitheatre
(323) 461-3673

Two-Headed
January 11, 2001 through
February 25, 2001
Call for exact dates and times

Natural History Museum
of Los Angeles County
(213) 763-DINO
www.nhm.org

*Winter Adventures in Nature:
One-Day Nature Classes*
December 26, 27, 28 and 29, 2000

A Night With Sue!
December 29, 2000 through
December 30, 2000
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.

*Americans:
Latino Life in the United States*
Through February 25, 2001

A T. Rex Named Sue
Through April 22, 2001



Autry Museum of Western Heritage
(323) 667-2000 extension 329
www.autry-museum.org

*On Gold Mountain:
A Chinese American Experience*
Through January 1, 2001



Skirball Cultural Center
(310) 440-4500
www.skirball.org

*Revealing & Concealing:
Portraits & Identity*
Through December 31, 2000

*Jose Gurvich -
Drawings and Watercolors: 1947-1974*
Through December 31, 2000



The Arboretum of Los Angeles County
(626) 821-3222
www.arboretum.org

Tai Chi in the Garden
Tuesdays and Fridays
7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Petersen Automotive Museum
(323) 930-CARS
www.petersen.org

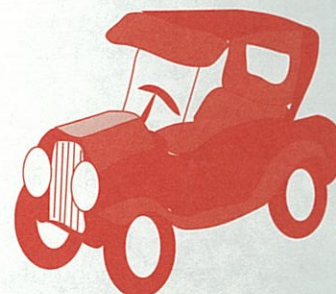
*No Straight Lines:
The Vehicles of the Grinch*
Through January 28, 2001

Discover Day: Mosaic Car Picture
January 6, 2001
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Coast Road, 1900-1950
Through January 7, 2001

*Hollywood Star Cars:
Great Cars of the Movies*
Through January 28, 2001

Discover Day: Art Plates
February 3, 2001
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



"Spark of Love"

Supervisors Don Knabe and Yvonne Brathwaite Burke helped County firefighters, the Department of Children and Family Services, and ABC Channel 7 bring a little extra holiday cheer to the County's foster children during the December 2000 "Spark of Love" Holiday Celebration. On December 15, 2000, Supervisor Knabe hosted hundreds of foster youth for a holiday screening of "102 Dalmatians" at the AMC Theatre in Norwalk.

"We never really know the full impact that a single act of kindness has on the life of a child," said Supervisor Knabe. "But, it is truly heart-warming to see a child's eyes light-up because of the year-long efforts of the Spark of Love Toy Drive."

On December 18, 2000, Supervisor Burke, in conjunction with ABC Channel 7, hosted a "Spark of Love" drive at the Magic Johnson Theatre complex in

the Baldwin Hills Shopping Mall. Over 1,000 children, ages five to 14 years old, were treated to a movie presentation and lunch provided by In-N-Out Burgers. Santa Claus was in attendance, while County firefighters passed out toys.

Before the event, Supervisor Burke asked County employees to deposit unwrapped gifts or toys appropriate for girls and boys five to 14 years old, in "Spark of Love" barrels in the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

"It was really successful," said Supervisor Burke. "This year, as always, the children were so delighted to receive their gifts, and after all, it's the act of giving that makes the holiday season so special."

The Spark of Love Toy Drive



Supervisors Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and Don Knabe are joined by a cadre of Santa Clauses who helped to distribute gifts during the 1999 Spark of Love Holiday Celebration at the AMC Theatre in Norwalk.

began in 1993 with a number of Southland fire departments joining efforts with ABC Channel 7 to collect and distribute toys and sports equipment to the less fortunate children of Southern California during the holiday season.

In Remembrance: Lorin W. Peterson, First County Digest Editor



Lorin Peterson, the founder and first editor of the County Digest

Lorin W. Peterson worked for the County from 1967 to 1979 and was the founder and first editor of the *Digest*. The first issue of the *Digest* was distributed in January 1968. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of

Washington, wrote for the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, and was a newswriter at KABC Radio News from 1954 to 1967. In 1955, Lorin won a Golden Mike for a report on Bunker Hill. His book, "The Day of the Mugwump," was published in 1983.

He was born on July 8, 1915 and passed away on November 25, 2000. Lorin, whose late wife Joyce passed away in 1989, is survived by daughter Janice, son Thair, nephews Lorin and Scott, nieces Marilyn and Lois, and three grandchildren—Thomas, Lilac, and Dahlia.

December 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: James Hurst,
Margaret W. O'Neill

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:
Kathleen T. Kubota

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Edward M. Boyer
FIRE: David L. Fullerton, Jerry G. Patten,
Ronald L. Swearingen

HEALTH SERVICES: Eusebio Hernandez,
Margaret M. Mc Carron,
Cynthia Richardson

HUMAN RESOURCES/OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY: Richard T. Cassidy
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY:
Patricia C. Reynolds

PARKS & RECREATION: Walta M. Smith
PROBATION: Stanley W. Anderson,
Edward W. Lally, Raymond H. Marin,
Henry L. Paul

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Joel S. Peck

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Human Services Academy

In the South Bay and Southeast sections of the County, County employees are sharing their skills to help young people gain real-life experiences in helping others. The employees are work-site supervisors and mentors for the Human Services Academy (HSA), the first high school "career academy" program to attract young people to the County's public and non-profit human service system. On four afternoons a week, these mentors guide students as they work in the following County departments: Community and Senior Services, Health Services, Human Resources, Mental Health, Parks and Recreation, Public Defender, Public Library, and Public Social Services.

The HSA is a program of the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County (MHA), a nonprofit organization, and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Currently, MHA and LAUSD operate HSAs at Narbonne High School in Harbor City (Fourth District) and Huntington Park High School in Huntington Park (First District).

The program began in 1998 to help address the growing need for bilingual and bicultural human service workers to serve the County's increasingly diverse population.

"Los Angeles County's public and nonprofit human service system fills an indispensable role as the "safety net" for low-income people who rely on its family service programs, youth agencies, mental health centers, child care, health clinics, senior programs, and other community services," said Richard Van Horn, MHA president and CEO. "As need for our system's services increases, we need a way to draw young people to our professions and give them the career information, targeted instruction, practical experience, and personal guidance they need to succeed in school and return to serve our community."

The HSA's five components provide this comprehensive approach:

- A specially-designed curriculum
- Work-based learning
- Mentoring
- Student/parent support
- Community service

The HSA is the first step in an educational path that, depending on students' goals, continues on to community colleges and universities.

The County is an integral partner in the work-based learning component, which "creates opportunities for students to understand the relevance of education to career goals and job preparation," according to LAUSD.

As part of a semester-long "Introduction to Human Services" class, eleventh graders have paying jobs at public or nonprofit human services agencies. They work four afternoons a week under the guidance of a work-site mentor, and receive weekly classroom instruction.

At the direction of Supervisor Don Knabe, the County joined in partnership with MHA and LAUSD in spring 1999. This partnership was expanded with Supervisor Gloria Molina's full support in fall 2000.

"The 'hands on' experience enhances the lessons of the curriculum, and the paychecks are crucial for low-income students who must work to help support their families. At the same time, we give agencies reliable student workers and expand youth involvement in the community," said Gustavo Loera, MHA Academy director. "The County sites offer our students an opportunity to work in an area of human services that interests them. We're grateful to have Supervisor Knabe and Supervisor Molina's support to make this possible."

This semester, 18 Academy students have placements at County facilities. At the County library in Huntington Park, two students work in the tutoring room, providing one-to-one assistance for elementary school-age children, and help staff the computer lab. Another Academy student is an assistant in the San Pedro Mental Health Clinic's art therapy classes and 12-step recovery program. Students assigned to Community



Amparo Hernandez tutors young students after school.

and Senior Services' Compton office help prepare and deliver meals to seniors.

"The County of Los Angeles is pleased to have joined in partnership with the Mental Health Association and the Los Angeles Unified School District in promoting the success of the Human Services Academy," said Michael J. Henry, Director of Personnel. "The Academy students who are hired on a temporary basis are exposed to the myriad of services that the County workforce provides on a daily basis, as well as to future employment possibilities."

MHA sees the HSA as a true "win-win" situation. It strives to increase achievement for students and increase the number of bilingual and bicultural students entering human services. This blend will help young people toward promising professions and reduce the growing shortage of workers available to provide care to adults, youth, and children with specific language and cultural needs. The Academy is off to a strong start.

"I hadn't thought about it before, but I think I'd rather work with people now," said one Academy student. "Helping people has really helped me."



Supervisor Molina Launches Library Services

Local families and children joined Supervisor Gloria Molina in launching the new community library, as the first registered library card holders at the Nogales High After-School Learning Center.

The new Center is a school-community partnership to bring expanded library services and a 60-station Internet computer lab to the East Valinda community. Families will find computers with Internet access, tutoring, and a variety of library resources. There will be children's programming, and a new children's book collection selected by the County of Los Angeles Public Library. Library programs focus on Family Literacy, computer access, research, and study.

"This After-School Learning Center is a positive partnership effort to

enhance community services," said Molina. "We are providing a positive learning place for kids and families. I am pleased the East Valinda community will now have access to library services and computer technology."

The Center is sponsored by Supervisor Molina in partnership with Rowland School District and the County Library.

"We are pleased to partner with Supervisor Molina in extending our school facility to members of the community," said Dr. Ron Leon, Rowland Unified School District Superintendent. "This is truly a unique and creative partnership."

The Center is located at Nogales High School, 401 Nogales Street, East Valinda, and open from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. For more information, call (626) 965-3437.



Supervisor Gloria Molina is joined by Nogales High School library technician Rochelle Schlatter and a young student.

Holiday Pet Care Cautions

The holiday season, a joy-filled time for many people, poses some risks for pets. Here are a few tips from the Department of Animal Care and Control to keep your pets safe during the holidays:

- Never feed or let dogs and cats eat chocolate or other holiday season candies. Chocolate is poisonous to dogs and can cause vomiting, diarrhea, or death. If you see or suspect your pet is eating chocolate, get it to a veterinarian right away.

- Shiny ornaments on Christmas trees can be particularly attractive to pets who mistake them for toys. Dogs and cats can suffer serious or fatal injuries by chewing and swallowing pieces of Christmas tree ornaments. Make sure your pets cannot reach the ornaments that decorate your tree.

- Many people add liquid preservatives to the water at the bottom of the Christmas tree stand. Some of these products are harmful to pets that might drink water from the stands. Be sure to ask

if a Christmas tree preservative is "pet safe" before you buy it.

- Keep holiday season plants and flowers away from your pets. Many plants, such as poinsettias, Christmas Candles, and English holly are poisonous to dogs and cats.

- Gift wrappings also pose risks to dogs and cats. Your pets may be tempted to chew on wrapping paper or ribbons. These are very harmful if swallowed and ingested. Don't let your pets play with balled-up gift wrapping.

Retirees

continued from page 3

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Kathleen Grant, Robert W. Stanners

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Bertha Carvajal, Janice L. Mangum, Elsie B. Rall

PUBLIC WORKS: Severino B. Gaba, Ray Hashima, Akitaka Yonemitsu

SHERIFF: Gary A. Doore, Earl W. Elton Jr., Duncan W. Jefferys, Genaro R. Salazar, Raymond A. Terhorst

SUPERIOR COURT: Judith M. Crawley
TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Helen F. Whitaker

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of Los Angeles County:

FIRE: John G. Conley Jr., Robert G. Rose
HEALTH SERVICES: Kirbie J. Baldwin, Delory Branson, Frances Hernandez, Samuel Hodges, Ruby Jerido,

Amalia Margolis, Victor Morhaim, Nydia Pena, Tito F. Quitzon, Margaret Sanders, Olivia Statum

INTERNAL SERVICES: Stephen G. Morey

LACERA: Nancy L. Fuang

PROBATION: Ruben J. Jauregui, Allen J. Millender

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:

Patricia J. Kenieutubbe

PUBLIC WORKS: Charles J. Templin

SHERIFF: Jack S. Bones, Edward R. Coolidge, Stuart D. Heller, Ardella Robinson

SUPERIOR COURT: Asem M. El Sahrty

Take County Landfills Off Your Holiday Gift List

The holiday season brings good cheer, family togetherness, and tons of extra waste that ends up in our local landfills. The Department of Public Works asks residents to take the landfills off their gift list by reducing the amount of waste

they generate during the holiday season. Every year, between Thanksgiving and New Years approximately six million tons of extra waste are generated nationwide. Holiday cards alone add an additional 4.4 million tons of trash.

In the County, we generate 25 percent more waste during the holidays than any other time of the year. For more information on the County's environmental programs, including locating a recycling center near you, check www.888CleanLA.com or call 888-CLEAN-LA.

Here are some tips to help you reduce holiday waste.

- Be creative. Wrap gifts using newspapers, comics, sports pages, old maps, gift bags, or even brown bags tied with reusable raffia, ribbons, or bows.

- Choose holiday cards made from recycled-content paper and envelopes. Even better, send your holiday cards via e-mail.

- Recycle wrapping paper and cards with your other paper items. Papers with metallic surfaces cannot be recycled.

- Purchase a live Christmas tree and plant it after the holidays or buy a green Christmas tree and recycle it. Flocked trees cannot be recycled.

- Buy strands of lights that are wired in parallel, meaning each bulb has separate circuitry. If one bulb burns out, the rest of the strand will continue to shine brightly.

- Wrap gifts in useful items, such as kitchen utensils in an oven mitt or a kitchen towel. Put gifts in hat boxes tied with ribbon or hang jewelry like bracelets, necklaces or earrings right on the tree.

- Recycle foam packaging and "peanuts" at a local drop-off or buy-back recycling center.

- Set tables with linens and china instead of disposable paper plates, plastic cups and utensils.

If you use plastic cups and utensils, wash and reuse them again.

- Reuse ribbons and bows, as most cannot be recycled. If everyone reused only two feet of holiday ribbon, we'd save enough ribbon to tie a bow around the entire planet!

- Don't throw away old toys or clothing. Now is the time to donate them to a charitable organization to ensure they are reused.

Public Employees Day at the Opera

Los Angeles City and County Employees are invited to join Los Angeles Opera's Public Employees Club and attend the free dress rehearsal of *Le Nozze di Figaro* (The Marriage of Figaro), by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 14, 2001, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center. Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, starring Los Angeles favorite baritone Richard Bernstein as Figaro, turns convention on its head with the wily servant Figaro outwitting his lustful master, Count Almaviva (Dietrich Henschel).

County employees who apply for membership will also receive a discount to Los Angeles Opera's productions of *Giulio Cesare* (Julius Caesar) and *Don*

Pasquale. In addition, all members will become eligible for discounts at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles-area Rizzoli Bookstores, Checkers Restaurant at Wyndham Checkers Hotel, and Otto's Grill and Beer Bar at the Music Center.

To join, call (213) 972-7498 and ask for the Los Angeles Opera Public Employees Club or mail in the Public Employees Club application by the January 4, 2001 deadline to attend the January 14, 2001 dress rehearsal of *Le Nozze di Figaro* and to receive the 20% discount coupons for *Giulio Cesare* (Julius Caesar) and *Don Pasquale*. Tickets are limited. Please return your order early!

Yes, I would like to purchase ___ individual memberships at \$15 each for a total of \$ _____.
Please make checks payable to: Los Angeles Opera and send by U.S. Mail to:
Los Angeles Opera Public Employees Club, 135 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Credit card purchase: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard Card number: _____
Exp.: _____

Name on card: _____ Signature of cardholder: _____

If ordering by credit card, you may order by phone: (213) 972-7498 or by fax: (213) 972-3007.

Name _____		Employer _____
Department Name _____		
Home Address _____		City _____
State _____	Zip Code _____	
Telephone (Day) _____		(Evening) _____

Tickets for *Le Nozze di Figaro* are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.



Recognizing Service Excellence



At the 14th annual Productivity and Quality Awards luncheon on October 25, 2000, County departments were recognized for their service excellence in implementing cost-effective quality initiatives which provide outstanding services to our communities. The ceremony, lead by then Chair Gloria Molina with Supervisors Michael D. Antonovich, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, and Don Knabe, was memorable and appropriate given the outstanding programs honored at the event.

Grand Prize:

Health Authority
Law Enforcement Task
Force – Dept. of Health
Services, Sheriff's, District
Attorney, and County Coun-
sel

Top Ten Awards:

•From Shoaling to
Beaches –Dept. of Beaches
and Harbors



The awards were the result of a process undertaken by the Quality and Productivity Commission, with support from the Managers' Network, in which more than 130

impressive projects were reviewed. The high number of projects from virtually every department, many collaborative, highlight the County's broad-based commitment to quality customer service. The award-winning projects indicate County leadership that is regional, statewide, and in so many areas, national.

•Library Kids Lead the Way –
Public Library

•Health Authority Law
Enforcement Task Force

•Long-Term Family Self-Sufficiency
Plan – New
Directions Task
Force

•Free
Pap Test Fridays
Pilot Project –
Dept. of Health
Services

•Psychological
Testing
Authorization

Unit -- Dept. of Mental Health

•LA River Master Plan Digital
Mapping – Dept. of Public Works

•Gunfire Location Project –
Sheriff's Dept.

•Auction 2000 –
Treasurer and Tax
Collector

•Small Claims
Lobby E-Filing –
Superior Court and
Internal Services
Department



Special Awards:

•Animal Control Web Page –
Dept. of Animal Care and Control, Internal
Services Dept., and Chief Information
Office

•Drug
Court
Maintenance
Information
System –
Countywide
Criminal Justice
Coordination
Committee,
Dept. of Health
Services,
Internal
Services Dept., and Information Systems
Advisory Board

•Using Live-Scan Technology to
Fingerprint – Department of Coroner

•Town Sheriff – Sheriff's Dept.

•Inter-Departmental Telephone
System – Auditor-Controller, Assessor,
Assessment Appeals Board, and Treasurer
and Tax Collector

•Hazardous Waste Education
Partnership – Dept. of Public Works and
KTLA

•LA County Home Infusion
Services – Dept. of Health Services

•Real Property Imaging System
and Electronic

D a t a
Transmission
– Registrar-
Recorder/
County Clerk

•Technology
Academy E-
Training
Programs –
Internal
Services Dept.



The Nation's Largest After-School Child Care System



(L to R) Gerardo Pinedo, deputy to Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke; Lynn W. Bayer, director of DPSS; Supervisor Burke; and Dr. Donald W. Ingwerson, Los Angeles County Office of Education Superintendent at Martin Luther King Elementary

The County has taken the lead in launching an innovative child care program in public schools, creating the nation's largest after-school child care system. The After-School Enrichment Program, designed to address the growing need for quality child care Countywide, was unveiled at a news conference at Martin Luther King Elementary School in Los Angeles.

This new approach to quality after-school child care will serve an estimated 16,000 children through integrated educational, health, social, recreational, and cultural services in a supervised environment. It is open to all children and targeted for implementation at 225 elementary schools in the County that contain the highest concentration of low

income CalWORKs (California's version of federal welfare reform) families.

The Program was developed in conjunction with the implementation of Welfare Reform in an effort to remove barriers that may prevent welfare participants from obtaining and retaining employment. By providing high quality after-school care, welfare participants will be better able to accomplish their goal of moving off the welfare rolls and into jobs.

"The After-School Enrichment Program should really make life easier for so many people," said Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. "The reality is that many of these children don't receive child care and go home to empty houses. This will change that."

The Program is the culmination of a joint effort between the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the "Every Mother is a Working Mother" Network, and will be administered through the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Los Angeles Unified School District through a contract with DPSS. It will focus on education rather than solely on recreation, helping with homework and preparation for standardized testing, and in some cases, providing computers for children who rarely have access to them at



DPSS director Lynn W. Bayer and a student in the After School Enrichment Program

home. Studies have shown that such classes can significantly boost educational achievement.

"What makes this program so exciting is that it includes an educational component which is strategically combined and integrated with the other activities," said Lynn Bayer, director of DPSS. "Our focus is on providing children with a learning environment which will teach skills, improve school performance, and be fun."

Funding will come from a combination of federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Family funds and State CalWORKs funds. The Program has been allocated \$74.4 million over a four-year period.

Holiday Safety Tips

The Sheriff's Department would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season, but also warn people that this can be a dangerous time of the year.

"It is important that extra precautions be used during the holiday season," said Sheriff Baca. This should start with your home's security, since criminals know that most people have extra money and gifts in their homes during the season.

Tips offered by Sheriff Baca:

- When you go out for the evening, leave a light, radio, or television on to make it appear as if someone is home. Use a timer if possible. Ask a trusted neighbor to watch your home.

- If possible, shop with a family member or friend. When shopping with your children, keep them close to you. Make sure they know their home address and telephone number.

- Dress modestly. Don't carry much cash with you and avoid wearing flashy or expensive jewelry. Carry your purse close to you or place your wallet in a front pocket.

- Park in well-lit areas and avoid parking next to vans or trucks. Store packages and gifts out of view.

see Tips on back page

Steve Masterson

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Steve Masterson has worked for the County for over five years and is currently a Human Resources Analyst IV for the Organizational and Employee Development (OED) division of the Department of Human Resources (DHR). He supervises a staff of four analysts and has been instrumental in implementing the Los Angeles County Training Academy. Masterson has a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), and continued his education by taking courses with UCLA Extension and the American Compensation Association.

"I am very pleased and deeply appreciative of this recognition. However, it feels a bit odd being recognized individually because my work, both within and outside the County, is collaborative in nature," said Masterson.

Since joining the County in 1995, Masterson has made significant contributions in three divisions of DHR: Public Safety Team and Compensation, Classification and Salary, and Organization and Employee Development. He oversees various projects relating to the new Training Academy.

"Over the past two years, I have been extremely fortunate to be part of the team that has developed and implemented our new County Training Academy. I supervise a wonderful staff of four analysts who coordinate training needs assessment processes and oversee the selection of participants for the various programs. This has provided me the opportunity to develop professionally more than any other professional experience in my life," noted Masterson.

The Academy takes an innovative and dynamic approach to providing training to all levels of County employees. It is basically a partnership between DHR's OED division, the California State University system, local school districts and community colleges, and managers and employees from all County departments. Masterson is involved with Academy program planning and scheduling, organization and budget studies, and developing management reports of personnel data from CWTAPPS utilizing FOCUS programming skills.



Mayor Michael D. Antonovich and Steve Masterson

"It was a real thrill for me when my boss, Bruce McDonald, and our division chief, Lu Takeuchi, came into my office to tell me the news. I was smiling from ear to ear and I couldn't stop! In some ways it was hard to believe," remarked Masterson.

His experience in Classification and Compensation, in the public and private sectors, and his understanding of CWTAPPS and programming of FOCUS reports have assisted the Department's ability to successfully implement and manage its numerous programs. In Masterson's previous DHR assignment, he was responsible for preparing the classification division Board letters and the accompanying ordinances for Board approval. He streamlined the written presentation of recommendations and coordinated the review and approval of these highly detailed and labor intensive letters with County Counsel and the Chief Administrative Office, participated in meetings with Board deputies to provide information and answer questions, and helped develop budget training for line departments. He was instrumental in having the Braille Institute translate the County's clerical employment tests into Braille for applicants.

"One of my favorite aspects of the human resources profession has always

been the study of jobs throughout an organization. Over my 15 years in human resources, I have gone out and talked to hundreds of employees about their jobs. It has been fascinating and I have met many wonderful people and learned a lot about many things," explained Masterson.

Masterson has represented DHR and the County on the Business Advisory Council (BAC) for the Marriott Foundation's *Bridges . . . from school to work* program, which assists high school students with disabilities in finding employment during their last year of school. He received the Foundation's Leadership Award in 1999. He has been a team leader for the annual AIDS WALK and delivers meals to homebound patients with AIDS, cancer, and other life-threatening illnesses. On the BAC, Masterson advises the organization from an employer's perspective and helps identify job opportunities throughout the County for graduating high school students. Many of these students have become permanent County employees and have turned out to be wonderful assets to the County.

As a teenager and young adult, Masterson was a professional actor who performed in numerous plays and musicals, television shows, commercials, and some films. He performs a solo cabaret act to raise money for non-profit organizations. For instance, his performance in New York City at the Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall raised over \$10,000 for the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR). He has also raised money for other organizations, including the City of Hope and Marriott Foundation for people with disabilities. Several years ago, he sang the National Anthem on the Rosie O'Donnell show.

"I joined the County nearly six years ago because I wanted to be of service. I wanted the 40 or 50 hours a week that I work to have some impact on our community," commented Masterson. "It has been vastly interesting and challenging and enormously rewarding. I feel blessed to be one of the 90,000 plus employees that make up our County family."

Well done, Steve!

Supervisor Knabe Unveils New Job Information Booth



Supervisor Don Knabe and Maria Elena Mata of Community and Senior Services at the new job information booth's unveiling

Supervisor Don Knabe was joined by a host of Rowland Heights area residents and County officials recently to celebrate the official ribbon-cutting of a County employment information kiosk at the Rowland Heights Library.

The new interactive touch-screen system provides real-time job information, in both English and Spanish, on job opportunities, career counseling, job search assistance, childcare, transportation, community resources, and a variety of other services and programs funded by the County.

"Our Rowland Heights kiosk is one of 13 placed strategically throughout the County," Supervisor Knabe explained. "It is an extremely effective tool in getting job information out to our residents. But most

importantly, the service is working—kiosks are getting job seekers and potential employers connected."

The entire network of employment information kiosks was developed through a partnership between Community and Senior Services and the Workforce Investment Board. Although the kiosks function as stand-alone units, they contain the ability to electronically link with the other entities via the Internet, with user-friendly text, stereo sound, high-resolution graphics, and printout capabilities.

Child Care and Home Visitation Program Receives \$34 Million

The Los Angeles County Children and Families First Proposition 10 Commission announced the allocation and distribution of \$34 million to vital child care and home visitation programs. Nearly 50 programs will reach an estimated 60,000 children by improving the quality of child care in the County and providing new parents with vital resources and skills following the birth of a child.

"Los Angeles County ranks 54th among California's 58 counties in the availability of licensed child care spaces, with more than 100,000 children on waiting lists for subsidized child care. These grants are an important step toward increasing the availability of quality child care for our children," said Supervisor Gloria Molina, chair, Los Angeles County Children and Families First Proposition 10 Commission. "We are excited by what we are going to be able to do over the next few years to help bring resources and services together to form a web of support for our County's parents as they raise healthy and happy children."

Initial grants from these funds, totaling \$4 million, are being used by 18 organizations to provide assistance and training to child care centers and other

providers to enhance children's physical and mental health, address family violence and increase family literacy and language skills. Organizations receiving funding will also help child care centers and providers offer parent education, accreditation information and health screenings for children. Twenty million dollars will be awarded to qualified applicants in the next few months. The quality of child care is shown to have a pivotal effect on a child's early development, including his or her social and emotional well-being and readiness to succeed in school.

"The funding that the Los Angeles County Proposition 10 Commission has made available to benefit the County's children from prenatal to age five is an important step toward reaching our goal of giving California's children a better start in life," said Rob Reiner, chair, California Children and Families Commission. "By making sure that our youngest children receive nurturing interaction with their parents and care givers, good health care and nutrition, and stimulating learning opportunities, we will be doing our best to prepare them to succeed in school and as adults."



"We know that the need for licensed, quality child care in Los Angeles County is reaching desperate proportions. We are here today to celebrate the work the Commission has accomplished this year to help meet some of that need," said Evelyn V. Martinez, executive director, Los Angeles County Children and Families First Proposition 10 Commission. "We took the time to work with the community to identify priorities and to ensure that Proposition 10 dollars are being directed to meet the County's critical needs. It is gratifying to now begin the process of getting the funds to the programs and into our communities. We look forward to meeting the challenges we face over the next few years to help improve the lives of Los Angeles County's families."

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Message

continued from front page

And let us not forget, that old mighty waiver.
We all worked together in search of savior.
Our position and arguments were all framed with care,
In hopes that Gray Davis his surplus... he'd share.

The Board members were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of "ERAF" danced in their heads.
When out from the Capital arose such a clatter...
To the Governor health care really does matter!

And Rob Reiner reminds us the true meaning of giving,
With the Prop. 10 Commission, his dream is now living.
A foundation is built and we're well on our way
To strengthening families, each and every day.

Oh LEADER! Oh LEADER! You said that you could
Work fully and exactly like you promised you would!
No more IBAX we said in this great County of L.A.!
For you better deliver fully next year... or else you will pay.

Roses are red and Violet is new
Congratulations are in order for the good job you do!
How does she do it? Meeting after meeting?
With so many issues and speakers a-fleeting?

Board expansion we tried, and boy did it fail,
A relief to Ol' Janssen—four less members to hail.
For now there is only Mike, Zev, Don and Yvonne
And you know with "yours truly"—it's never a yawn!!

Let me now thank you each, for lending your ear;
Happy holidays, warm wishes, and a wonderful New Year!

P.S. Apologies to Clement C. Moore.



Program

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Approximately \$10 million was granted to 29 home visitation grant recipients who are using the funds to provide a combination of in-home services for parents with newborns. Services include parent training, family literacy, perinatal education, child abuse prevention, and more. Home visitation programs have been shown to help increase families' access to beneficial health and social services by making parents more aware of available services in the community and supporting families to access services.

Proposition 10 is the result of a 1998 initiative that placed a 50 cent-per-pack tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products to fund early childhood development and anti-tobacco programs statewide.

The Los Angeles County Commission will receive approximately \$165 million a year to accomplish its mission to optimize the development and well-being of all children, from the prenatal stage until their fifth birthday, by increasing resources, ensuring access to services and improving the abilities of families, communities, and providers of services. For more information, visit www.prop10.org.



Mailing Address Change

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



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich presents KNBC Channel 4 weather forecaster Fritz Coleman with a scroll.

About 2,000 attendees, with representatives from all branches of our armed forces, enjoyed a variety of services and entertainment at Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich's Third Annual "Remembering Our Veterans and Their Families" event on November 11, 2000 at Arcadia County Park.

Remembering Our Veterans

Veterans and their families received an array of personal services including immunizations, haircuts, manicures, grooming kits, and vouchers for eyeglasses. Over 100 vendors from the public and private sectors provided information on employment, job training, education, transportation, and health care.

Highlights included skydivers descending on the Park from 10,000 feet, World War II-era planes "buzzing" the area, the Presentation of Colors, a 21-gun salute, and the playing of "Taps."

Supervisor Antonovich and Fritz Coleman, KNBC Channel 4, paid a special tribute to those who lost their lives in the attack on the USS Cole. A Congressional Medal of Honor recipient and former Prisoners of War also received special recognition.



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich (sixth from left) stands with a group of veterans.

Supervisor Antonovich stated, "The sacrifices made by the servicemen and women of our armed forces at times seem to have been taken for granted. This event is a small way to express our appreciation to them for preserving the freedom we all enjoy."



Members of the Board

Michael D. Antonovich
Mayor
Fifth District

Gloria Molina
First District

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael J. Henry
Director of Personnel

Sandra A. Hoodye
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

Staff
Mason Fong
John S. Mina
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<http://hr.co.la.ca.us>



Tips

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•Beware of strangers who come to the door selling items or soliciting for charity. Ask for identification. If you are still not satisfied, refuse to make a donation. Instead, donate only to an organization that you know and trust.

•Close window treatments so gifts under the tree are not visible from the outside.

"Keeping these tips in mind will make each person less likely to be victimized," said Sheriff Baca. "People should be aware of their surroundings, constantly thinking about safety and security while enjoying a happy holiday season."