



Supervisor Molina Celebrates Opening of State-of-the-Art Child Care Center

On June 1, Supervisor Gloria Molina celebrated the opening of the Para Los Niños/S. Mark Taper Foundation Child and Family Center in the Pico-Union area of Los Angeles. Also in attendance at the ceremony were U.S. Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, Para Los Niños Board President Roger Carrick, Ray Reisler of the S. Mark Taper Foundation, Para Los Niños President Miki Jordan, and a representative from the office of Los Angeles City Councilman Eric Garcetti.

Supervisor Molina presents a scroll commemorating the center's opening to Roger Carrick and Miki Jordan of Para Los Niños.



“For Latino families, this news is particularly concerning since Latinos tend to live in the most densely-populated areas of Los Angeles,” Supervisor Molina continued. “Sadly, almost 40 percent of Latino children attending public high schools in Los Angeles drop out before graduating. It is our duty to do something about this alarming statistic – and today I’m feeling very encouraged because Para Los Niños and the S. Mark Taper Foundation are doing something about.”

Para Los Niños (which is Spanish for “For the Children”) is a non-profit family service agency founded in 1980 designed to raise at-risk children out of poverty through educational opportunities. It serves more than 4,000 families and 2,000 children annually. The S. Mark Taper Foundation has been in existence since 1989. It is a private, family foundation that supports non-profit organizations and their work in the community.

The new facility will enable up to 144 children, between the ages of three and five, to attend a half-day of high-quality, academically enriched preschool in a holistic, family-friendly atmosphere.

“I know from my involvement with both First 5 LA and Los Angeles Universal Preschool that demand for high-quality preschools is higher than ever,” Supervisor Molina said. “The problem is that we are short on supply. The very areas of

Los Angeles County with a high population density are the same areas that lack extra land to situate new facilities. To make matters more difficult, it is in these areas that we lack enough providers to offer services. Yet, all the research has shown that children who participate in preschool are much more likely to succeed in school and go on to attain higher education.”



Children attending preschool at Para Los Niños entertain attendees at the dedication ceremony.

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EVENT CALENDAR

County of Los Angeles Wellness Fair
Wednesday, July 27
Sheriff Department
4700 Ramona Blvd. (Media Room)
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Ford Amphitheatre
2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood 90068
(323) GO-1 FORD (323)461-4673
www.fordamphitheatre.org

BWF = Big World Fun
LPS = Latino Play Reading Series

JULY

- 2 - BWF Jazz Tap Ensemble: Feet Speak (10 a.m.)
- 2 - LPS: *Miss Chihuahua* by Alfonso Ramirez (1 p.m.)
- 2 - Lady Jazz Orchestra: Jazz on a String (7 p.m.)
- 3 - Hot Fun in the Summer Time: July Jazz Jubilee
- 9 - BWF We Tell Stories: The Truth About Medusa (10 a.m.)
- 9 - LPS *Secret Things* by Elaine Romero (1 p.m.)
- 9 - Ballet Nacional de Guatemala: Spirit of Mayas (8:30 p.m.)
- 10 - LML Music – In Good Company: An Evening of Romantic Duets Under the Stars (8 p.m.)
- 12 - Latin American Cinemateca: “A Tribute to “Tin Tan” (8 p.m.)
- 13-16 - OUTFEST 2005 Under the Stars (films TBA) (8:30 p.m.)
- 16 - LPS: *Beyond Love* by Odalys Nanin (1 p.m.)
- 17 - OUTFEST Awards Night (film TBA) (7:30 p.m.)
- 22 - Elvis Schoenberg’s Orchestre Surreal: A Concerto for the Committed
- 23 - BWF Gulistan Dance Theatre: Princess Firuza and the Horse Prince (10 a.m.)
- 23 - LPS: *Three Tuesdays* by Jose Cruz Gonzales (1 p.m.)
- 23 - Bluegrass at the Ford featuring J.D. Crowe and his band (8 p.m.)
- 30 - BWF INCA, the Peruvian Ensemble: Stories of the Andes (10 a.m.)
- 30 - LPS: *Felicidad Inc.* by F.R. Campion (1 p.m.)
- 30 - REPRISÉ! Best of Broadway at the Ford (8:30 p.m.)

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden
301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia 91007
For a list of seminars, workshops and classes,
please visit www.arboretum.org or call (626) 821-4623

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90036
(323) 857-6000
www.lacma.org
Through June 26 - Images of Fashion from the Court of Louis XIV
June 26-Aug 28 – Inventive World of L.A. Artist Tim Hawkinson
June 26-September 18 - Jacob van Ruisdael: Master of Landscape
Through November 15 - Tutankhamun & Golden Age of Pharaohs
(King Tut Exhibit)
Through January 15 - The Pharaoh’s World (Boone Children’s
Gallery, LACMA West)

Music Center
135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012
(213) 972-7211
www.musiccenter.org

Mark Taper Forum
Through July 17 – “Stuff Happens”

Hollywood Bowl
2301 North Highland Ave., Hollywood 90078
(323) 850-2000
www.hollywoodbowl.com

JULY

- 2-4 - L.A. Philharmonic Presents: Fifty Years of Disneyland
- 6 - L.A. Philharmonic: Video Games Live
- 8 - L.A. Philharmonic: Stephen Sondheim’s 75th
- 9 - L.A. Philharmonic Presents: Sing-A-Long Sound of Music
- 10 - L.A. Philharmonic: *Twilight of the Gods*
- 12 - L.A. Philharmonic: Gershwin Celebration
- 13 - L.A. Philharmonic Presents: Gershwin - In Hollywood
- 14 - L.A. Philharmonic: Gershwin Celebration
- 15-16 - L.A. Philharmonic: Gershwin - Porgy and Bess
- 17 - L.A. Philharmonic Presents: Basement Jaxx & Royksopp
- 19 - L.A. Philharmonic: All Beethoven
- 20 - L.A. Philharmonic Presents: Movie Music of Woody Allen
- 21 - L.A. Philharmonic: Ravel
- 22-23 - L.A. Philharmonic: Tchaikovsky Spectacular
- 24 - L.A. Philharmonic Presents: Femi Kuti/Mos Def/ Daara J

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles
(213) 763-3466
www.nhm.org
Through January 2006 – Collapse?

County DIGEST 

Articles and other submissions to the *County DIGEST*
may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

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Supervisor Yaroslavsky Attends Spring Air Festival

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (*pictured*) and flight instructor Joe Greblo soar over the San Fernando Valley as part of the festivities during the Sylmar Hang Gliding Association’s Spring Air Festival & Community Appreciation Day event at Sylmar Flight Park. Aficionados consider Sylmar the world capital of hang gliding, where pilots have been flying since 1969.



Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (*pictured*) and flight instructor Joe Greblo head in for a landing following Supervisor Yaroslavsky’s maiden flight during the Sylmar Hang Gliding Association’s Spring Air Festival & Community Appreciation Day. Sylmar Flight Park (landing zone) is located north of Los Angeles off the 210 freeway in the City of Sylmar. The Park is open daily from 8 a.m. until dusk. To learn more about the Association and the sport of hang gliding, please visit www.shga.com.

Marina del Rey Fireworks Spectacular Set for 4th of July



The Department of Beaches and Harbors’ traditional fireworks spectacular in Marina del Rey will take place Monday, July 4, starting promptly at 9 p.m. and lasting approximately 20 minutes.

The famed Zambelli fireworks will be delivered from a barge in the main channel. The Zambelli Pyrotechnics

originated more than 100 years ago in Italy and follow the Italian tradition of huge finales. The fireworks show will be choreographed to patriotic music that will be broadcast in sync with the display over FM radio KXLU, 88.9 on the dial. Those watching can listen on their FM radios. The music will be relayed over loudspeakers in Burton Chace Park, for onlookers.

Spectators will be able to view the fireworks from anywhere in the Marina; however, premier viewing locations are Burton Chace Park, 13560 Mindanao Way, and Fisherman’s Village, 13755 Fiji Way. Parking is available in County lots throughout the Marina at reasonable rates. For those interested in a unique experience, the Marina CoastLink Water Shuttle service will operate on July 4 from noon to midnight, running to and from six Marina locations, at \$2 per person one way.

The July 4 fireworks are presented at no charge to the public by Supervisor Don Knabe and the Department of Beaches and Harbors. Additional information is available by calling (310) 305-9545 or by visiting the Beaches and Harbors Web site at www.beaches.co.la.ca.us.

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

Summer Beach Bus Services

Summer Beach bus services started in mid June and will run through Labor Day from the following areas to Santa Monica State Beach:

Altadena * Antelope Valley * Charter Oak * East Los Angeles * La Crescenta/La Cañada Flintridge * Santa Clarita Valley * Topanga Canyon

The Topanga Canyon route also serves the Topanga County Beach and the Will Rogers State Beach. For additional information on individual routes, schedules, and fares, please call toll free (888) 769-1122 or visit www.ladpw.org.

The Altadena, Antelope Valley, and Charter Oak services are financed by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich. The La Crescenta/La Cañada Flintridge service is financed by Supervisor Antonovich and the City of La Cañada Flintridge. The Santa Clarita Valley service is financed by Supervisor Antonovich and the City of Santa Clarita. The East Los Angeles service is financed by Supervisor Gloria Molina, and the Topanga Canyon service is financed by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.



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 the County of Los Angeles:

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL: Radford G. White Jr.

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Evelyn A. Bradley, Jean E. Brown, Russell Carr Jr., Patsy Gant, Vera M. Johnson, Gregory S. Senneff, Raymond V. Zumwalt

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Walter E. Bogaardt, Betty L. Montoya

FIRE: Thomas A. Baker, Jose M. Ochoa, Dale J. Rankin, Reynold W. Stokes, Gary L. Striano, Greg D. Tillotson

HEALTH SERVICES: Gloria L. Brown, Charles Canales, David Cooper, John G. Diaz, Jack I. Eisenman, Ronnie L. Fishman, Russell E. Furnas, Thelma Gates, Mary A. Johnson-Wade, Bonnie Jones, Carnath Leong, Gerald M. Rose, Ernie J. Shepard, Melba Shores, Edward Shubin, Wesley Watkins, Joe N. Williams, John M. Williams

HUMAN RESOURCES/OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY: Odell Y. McCormick

INTERNAL SERVICES: Paul Feinzimer, Will Yarbrough Jr.

MENTAL HEALTH: Estela Polio

PROBATION: Woodrow W. Cox

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Marilyn C. Turner

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Willard G. Cormier

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Barbara Lamar

PUBLIC WORKS: Robert C. Campbell, Kendall R. McGuire, Donald A. Jordan

SHERIFF: Joseph T. Garagliano Jr., Richard Gonzales, Rosa L. Murph, M G. Rock

SUPERIOR COURT: Lynn M. Roller, Brian S. Sugimoto

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

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL: Andrea Cantu

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Marie Washington

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Sheila Kennedy

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Yueh F. Liu

FIRE: Curtis F. Caddell, Wesley D. Crittenden

HEALTH SERVICES: Roberto M. Gamo, Ignacio A. Halcon, Monina D. Labis, Carmen D. Lew, Benito C. Manibog, Marsha R. Millirons, Maurice Smith

INTERNAL SERVICES: Vijay K. Jayaswal

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Virginia R. Fajardo

SHERIFF: Gerald D. Trueman

SUPERIOR COURT: Nathaniel Moore Jr.

Employee of the Month: Department of Mental Health's Teresa C. Carter

Teresa C. Carter began her County career more than 27 years ago and is currently working as a Secretary III with the Department of Mental Health, Long Beach Mental Health Center. She keeps track of all work that needs to be done, whether it is building maintenance, surveys, audits or supplies



that have not been received. Though she is assigned to only one of three programs in the building, she works tirelessly for all three programs to ensure that staff and client needs are met.

At the Long Beach Mental Health Center, there is a computer lab for consumers taught by a volunteer. The lab space was very small and the computers were outdated. Ms. Carter took on the challenge of locating adequate space for the lab and providing modern equipment for the clients' use. Over a six-month period, Carter identified space in the program's library, ordered new computers, worked diligently with ISD to install wiring for the hardware, bought computer tables with her own resources and arranged for installation of the computers. Needless to say, the clients and teacher were thrilled over the new acquisitions.

When the office was being audited in preparation for a State Medi-Cal audit, Ms. Carter obtained the listing of areas to be audited and ensured that each required document was in place. She went above and beyond the call of duty by voluntarily working on weekends to bring the files up-to-date. Carter made certain that all documents were clearly labeled and in the proper section for a staff of nearly 60 people. The audit team reported that staff folders were among the "best they had ever seen." There were zero deficiencies cited.

Following the relocation of another office, Carter arranged to have their useable furniture brought to the clinic and divided amongst the three programs in the building, rather than have the furnishings sent to salvage. Her resourcefulness was further demonstrated when a refrigerator and stove specifically for client use were no longer functioning. She immediately placed a special request and continued to follow-up. As a result of her persistence, there was a speedy delivery of the replacement appliances. "My goal is always to be helpful and provide assistance to the staff at the center," Carter said.

EOM

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EOM

continued from page 4

Thinking in terms of what is good for the office, staff and clients, Ms. Carter will go the extra mile to get the job done, and does so with grace and a positive attitude. She is credited with taking a client under her wing and mentoring him until he was able to be referred to the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. This client was placed in a work-training program and is now gainfully employed, has improved self-esteem and great pride in his accomplishments.

On a personal note, Ms. Carter enjoys volunteer work around the community, in group homes, nursing homes, and senior citizen apartments. She assists seniors with activities of daily living, grocery shopping and errands. She is also active in her church. "The church that I attend offers assistance for our senior citizen members. We call it 'Adopt-a-Senior.' This has been a wonderful experience for young and old," Carter said.

Crediting her mother with instilling in her such a strong work ethic, Carter says "My mother worked two jobs to support the family. There was no money for gifts at Christmas, but we were rich because Mom loved us. She is my inspiration to work a little harder and give 110%. She is my hero, cheerleader, and best friend."

We congratulate Teresa C. Carter for such dedication and exemplary service to the County, and wish her well in all future endeavors.

Marina del Rey Summer Concerts Debuts on July 7

The fifth season of the Marina del Rey Summer Concerts, presented free to the public, will debut waterside in Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Thursday, July 7, at 7 p.m. The series features Thursday evening classical concerts with the Marina del Rey Summer Symphony, conducted by Frank Fetta, presenting stellar soloists and an evening of Puccini with artists from the Los Angeles Opera. On alternate weeks, Saturday pop concerts will be featured starring celebrated musical entertainers, such as Pam Tillis and Cleo Laine.

Saturday, August 13 - One of the most popular vocal groups in contemporary jazz, the Grammy-winning New York Voices, appears in concert with its instrumental quartet.

Thursday, August 18 - The Marina del Rey Summer Symphony, conducted by Frank Fetta, appears in a special program of orchestral masterpieces by Shostakovich, Ravel and Respighi.

Saturday, August 27 - Singer Cleo Laine, a legend in the world of music, appears in concert with the great John Dankworth Group.

The 2005 season lineup is as follows:

Thursday, July 7 - The Marina del Rey Summer Symphony, Frank Fetta, Music Director; Spanish dancers Miguel Bernal and Batista; and Los Angeles Opera mezzo-soprano Suzanna Guzman in a performance of Manuel de Falla's masterpiece, "El Amor Brujo." Also on the program are works by Tchaikovsky and Turina.

Saturday, July 16 - Pam Tillis, Grammy winner and country music star, appears in concert with her seven-member band.

Thursday, July 21 - Marina del Rey Summer Symphony, Frank Fetta, Music Director; featuring brilliant duo-pianists Xin Xin and Sebastian Koch in the Concerto in D minor for Two Pianos by Francis Poulenc. Also on the program are works by Chabrier, Barber, and Borodin.

Saturday, July 30 - The Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra, comprised of 77 young instrumentalists, chosen through auditions held internationally, plays a concert of film and jazz masterpieces conducted by Grammy and Emmy-winner Patrick Williams, the Institute's Artistic Director. Special guest artist is Doc Severinsen.

Thursday, August 4 - An Evening with the Los Angeles Opera with the Marina del Rey Summer Symphony, Frank Fetta, conductor, and artists from the Los Angeles Opera performing excerpts from the operas of Giacomo Puccini.

County employees are invited to come early and bring their own picnic basket or enjoy delicious dining at Café Lorelei in the park. Parking, at a reasonable rate, is available in County Lot 4 near the venue. Warm clothing is advised and chairs can be rented in the park.

Concertgoers may travel to and from the concerts by CoastLink Water Shuttle. Vessels access the concert site from five other Marina locations. On Thursdays, boats operate from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to midnight. In addition to the concert site at Chace Park, stops are made at Fisherman's Village at 13755 Fiji Way; Fire Station #110 at 4433 Admiralty Way; Marina Beach at 4101 Admiralty Way; Dolphin Marina at 13900 Panay Way, dock gate #C-200; and Marina Harbor, 13928 Tahiti Way, dock gate #A-1000. Fares are \$2 one way per passenger.

The Marina del Rey Summer Concerts are presented free to the public by Arrowhead Mountain Spring Water, Supervisor Don Knabe, and the Department of Beaches and Harbors. Media sponsors are K-Mozart 105.1 FM and Oldies 540/1260 AM.

For further information, call the Department's Information Line at (310) 305-9545 or visit the Web site at www.beaches.co.la.ca.us.

ENRICHING LIVES...

Board Honors Foster Care Heroes During the May 2005 Foster Care Awareness Campaign



Pictured from left to right are Supervisor Yaroslavsky, Hector Madrigal, Tramisha Poindexter, La Toyia Conway, Olivia Adams, Jeanette Mann (accepting on behalf of Rev. J. Edwin Bacon), Kate Chilton, Jose Galindo, Miriam Krinsky (Executive Director, Children's Law Center), Dr. David Sanders (Director, Department of Children & Family Services), and Supervisor Antonovich.

At the Board meeting on May 10, Supervisors Michael D. Antonovich and Zev Yaroslavsky honored eight foster care heroes as they joined in promoting the month of May 2005 as the “Los Angeles County Foster Care Awareness Campaign.”

“There are currently more than 27,000 children in the Los Angeles County foster care system, with approximately 900 waiting to be adopted. These children are waiting for families to give them the love and support they need with the opportunity to grow up in stable and loving homes,” Supervisor Antonovich said. “This goal is what drives each one of these eight foster care heroes. It is for them, and all the many others helping to bring attention to the tremendous need for community support for our children in foster care that we join in this awareness campaign.”

Jose Galindo, a medical unit social worker, had recently taken over the case of a 15-year-old comatose boy who died and had no immediate family. Treating the boy as if he were his own child, Galindo was able to secure a generous donation from a local cemetery to pay for the boy’s funeral.

Another hero is Kate Chilton, vice president and senior litigation counsel at Warner Bros, who sought to address the problem of high unemployment among foster youth by extending extraordinary internship opportunities to former foster youth. Interns receive the nurturing and guidance they need to excel and also come away with added confidence that enhances their ability to succeed in their adult professional life.

One of the critical needs for youth leaving the foster care system is to have a connection with someone who truly cares about them and on whom they can rely during difficult times. Reverend J. Edwin Bacon from All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena has encouraged congregants to participate in activities aimed at supporting foster youth, including mentoring.

Another hero, Chief Justice Ronald George, pioneered the commitment to the funding of effective counsel for children and parents. Tramisha Poindexter, a former foster child, is the leader of the California Youth Connection, a grass roots organization that advocates



Foster Care Awareness Campaign

Make A Difference...One Child at a Time

for foster youth. She has also traveled widely to help develop skills of transitioning foster youth.

Olivia Adams has been providing a warm and loving home for foster youth for more than 12 years, sheltering over 35 children during that time. When called to take a child in at the last minute, she never says no – even, as occurred with a three year old boy in need of a home, on Christmas Eve.

After losing all seven of her children due to substance abuse, La Toyia Conway was ordered to attend drug and domestic violence treatment programs. Losing her children was her wake-up call, and now she is married, off welfare, owns her own home, and has a full time job as a domestic violence facilitator at the same treatment program that originally helped her.



Supervisor Antonovich presents a scroll to DCF Social Worker Jose Galindo.

Unfortunately, 30% of foster youth function below their educational grade level, and almost half fail to complete high school. To address such problems, Hector Madrigal, director of Pupil Services for the Los Angeles Unified School District, led a new directive which tackles essential issues while supporting foster youth in hopes of reversing these dismal trends.

The efforts of these eight individuals are paying off. There has been a 25% drop in foster care cases over the last five years in California. In Los Angeles County alone, the amount of children in foster care has decreased by almost 3,000 in the last 15 months with more families being safely reunified, children adopted or placed in other permanent situations, and at-risk families helped before they enter the system.



County of Los Angeles VISION

Our **purpose** is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our **philosophy** of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our **shared values**:

- **A can-do attitude** - we approach each challenge believing that, together, a solution can be achieved.
- **Accountability** - we accept responsibility for the decisions we make and the actions we take.
- **Compassion** - we treat those we serve and each other in a kind and caring manner.
- **Commitment** - we always go the extra mile to achieve our mission.
- **Integrity** - we act consistent with our values.
- **Professionalism** - we perform to a high standard of excellence.
- **Respect for diversity** - we value the uniqueness of every individual and their perspective.
- **Responsiveness** - we take the action needed in a timely manner.

Our **position** as the premier organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- a capability to undertake programs that have public value;
- an aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation; and a pledge to always work to earn the public trust.

Sheriff's Commander Chosen as Grand Marshal of Winternationals



Sheriff's Department Commander Roberta Abner (*pictured*) was recently bestowed the honor of serving as the Grand Marshal of the 45th annual Carquest Auto Parts NHRA Winternationals at the Pomona Raceway. Carquest is an international sponsor of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, raising millions of dollars to benefit Special Olympics athletes. Joining Commander Abner at the event as the honorary

starter was Special Olympics athlete Julio Mata. Abner has a special bond with Special Olympics athletes, serving as Southern California Law Enforcement Torch Run Director for Special Olympics. As director, she oversees Torch Run activities and fundraising efforts for all law enforcement agencies in the Southern California region. This position epitomizes Abner's deep-seated caring for the community and the residents she serves as a law enforcement official.

Abner, a 25-year veteran of the Sheriff's Department, has held many positions within the Department including Captain of the Department's Temple Station. Upon her promotion to her current rank of Commander, she was assigned to the position of executive assistant to Sheriff Lee Baca and also oversees all bureaus within the Executive Office.

Abner's passion for running, bridges the gap from her official duties to her personal life. An athlete all her life, Abner prides herself on maintaining a high level of physical fitness and competes on the Sheriff Department's women's running team in the annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay.

Her devotion to her career, community and fellow Department members makes Abner a role model for all law enforcement personnel, and her selection as Grand Marshal of the Winternationals event only serves to further illustrate it.

Clerical Certification Training Program for DPSS GAIN/GROW Participants

In partnership with the Department of Human Resources (DHR), the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) has developed a customized Clerical Certification Training Program (CCTP) for CalWORKs Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) and General Relief Opportunities for Work (GROW) participants. The first class of 21 GAIN/GROW clerical trainees graduated in June 2004. To date, 12 of those graduates have been hired by various County departments.

The purpose of CCTP is to upgrade the skills of GAIN/GROW participants by providing them with classroom instruction in clerical and customer service courses. In addition, the GAIN/GROW participants also receive on-the-job work experience at a County facility. Upon successful completion of the CCTP program, participants earn a Certificate of Proficiency that will be accepted in lieu of the qualifying written and/or typing test required when they apply for the Intermediate Clerk (IC) or the Intermediate Typist Clerk (ITC) examination.

The second group of 18 participants (*pictured*) recently earned their IC or ITC proficiency certificates and graduated on January 20. Of those, two clerical trainees have already been appointed as Intermediate Typist Clerks. DPSS is looking forward to a third session of the Clerical Certification Training Program targeted to begin in July 2005.



Top Row (Standing)

LAUSD East LA Skills Center Assistant Principal Norma Orr, Program Administrator Nancy Eiser, Carmen Moreno, Cynthia Fuentes, Danny Hernandez, Susan Soto, Suzanne Sigala, Leticia Chavarin, Sharon Gonzalez, Lesia Dickerson, Dasrine Henderson, Brigitte Jones, LaShawn Johnson, Vatonia Clayton, Regina Bell, Raquel Thompson, Chetera Caslen, and LAUSD East LA Skills Center Instructor Elsie Nungaray

Bottom Row (Kneeling)

LAUSD East LA Skills Center Instructor Yetta Shavers, Albert Jennings, Bernard Moore, Shawnqzilla Mitchell, Michelle Singleton, Kevin Rice, and Laurie Truong

Supervisor Antonovich Salutes Hispanic-American Soldiers in California National Guard & State Defense Force

Calling on volunteers to follow in the footsteps of our heroic reservists, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich recognized the outstanding contributions of Hispanic-American soldiers currently serving in the California National Guard (CNG) and California’s State Defense Force, the State Military Reserve (SMR), at the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 19.

Joined by Major General Thomas Eres, Adjutant General of the CNG; Brigadier General Thomas Swidler, Commander of the State Defense Force; Major General Jeff Gidley, Commander, 40th Infantry Division (mechanized); and Brigadier General Robert Cervantes, former commander of the California State Military Reserve, Antonovich lauded Hispanic-American soldiers for their contributions to our country and our homeland defense.

Noting that April 19 is the 230th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord the birth of our nation’s Minutemen Militia, Supervisor Antonovich, a Lieutenant Colonel in the SMR, called the honorees “patriots who have stepped up to serve our country with honor.” Supervisor Antonovich urged citizens throughout the County of Los Angeles to join in service to their country through the California state defense forces.

The Supervisor presented commendations to the following California National Guard soldiers and Airmen who recently returned from tours of duty in Iraq: Captain Rafael Obieta (Army Guard), Sergeant First Class Edward Gayton Jr. (Army Guard), Sergeant First Class Humerto Ortega (Army Guard), Staff Sergeant Andrew Romero (Air Guard), and Staff Sergeant Robert Mejia (Air Guard).

Additionally, Supervisor Antonovich praised the efforts of California State Military Reserve soldiers who have played a key role here in California’s Homeland Defense activities; Brigadier General Robert Cervantes, Sergeant First Class Frank Villanueva, Staff Sergeant Jesse Ariola, Staff Sergeant Hector Mascorro, and Sergeant Richard Delgado.



Supervisor Antonovich presents a scroll to Sergeant First Class Edward Gayton, Jr., Army Guard.

“The California National Guard has a long history of service to the people of California. Its members are citizen-soldiers committed to the preservation of freedom for our community,” Supervisor Antonovich said.

For more information on the California National Guard and the State Defense Force, please visit www.calguard.ca.gov.

LACERA Elections

General Members are encouraged to vote in the upcoming LACERA elections for the Second Members of the Board of Retirement and the Board of Investments. The election will be held on Tuesday, July 26.

Using the employee’s address on the Auditor-Controller’s master file, ballots will be mailed via US mail on Tuesday, June 28. If you do not receive an original ballot, you may request a duplicate ballot through your Departmental Election Coordinator no later than Thursday, July 14.

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk must receive voted ballots before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26. The Board of Supervisors will certify the election results at its meeting on Tuesday, August 16.

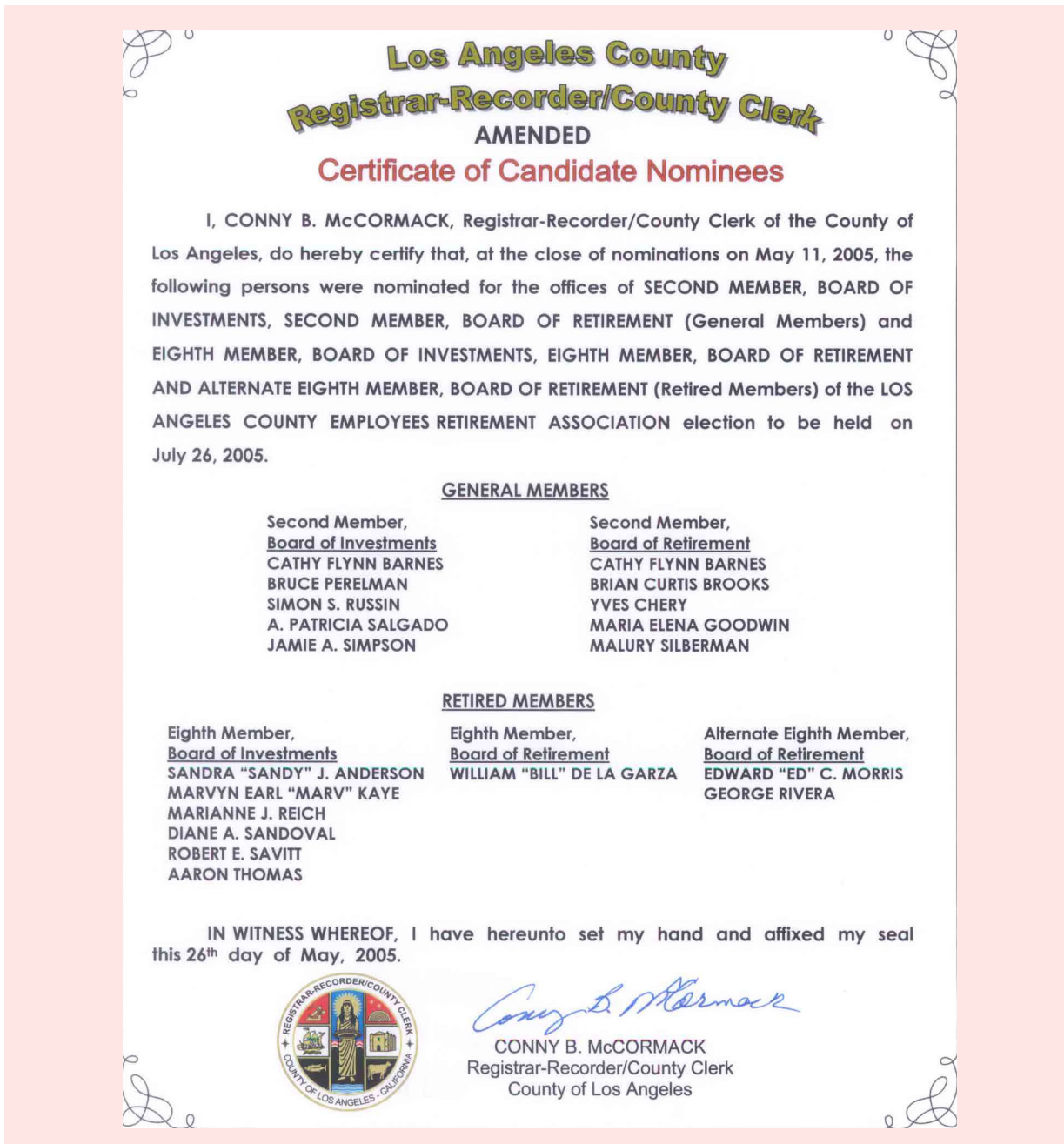
For more information, contact your Departmental Election Coordinator.

The Gift of Time: DPSS Volunteers Help Serve the Homeless

The Brotherhood Crusade and *Mothers in Action* held their annual 'Friends Serving Friends,' on Saturday, February 19, in the Skid Row area of downtown Los Angeles. This yearly event provides homeless families with a hot meal and free on-site health screenings.

The event is held rain-or-shine. In assisting with this event, 22 Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) volunteers definitely "shined" as they eagerly assisted with registration, event set-up and clean-up, meal preparation/serving and traffic control, as well as the distribution of hygiene kits.

In spite of the cold, inclement weather, the DPSS volunteers warmly served hundreds of homeless individuals and families. DPSS volunteers received "showers" of appreciative smiles and grateful comments from individuals and families who received hygiene kits and a hot meal.



Supervisor Burke Presents Scrolls to Outstanding County Nurses

In celebration of Nurse Recognition Week, Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke presented scrolls to 13 registered nurses who work in hospitals and clinics, and Men’s Central Jail. In front of a boardroom that was nearly full, the Supervisor first honored three Nurses of the Year, all of whom were men.



Supervisor Burke (center) took a photo with the 2005 Outstanding Nurses of the Year to whom she presented scrolls, and their supervisors. They were (from left to right): Sheriff’s Captain Rob Penner, head of Sheriff’s Medical Services; Wilson John Uy, Senior Staff Nurse; Norman Gray, District Public Health Nurse; Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Director of Public Health; Lathester Wilson, Operating Room Staff Nurse at King/Drew Medical Center; Dr. Thomas Garthwaite, Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health Services.

Lathester Wilson, an operating room nurse at Martin Luther King/Drew Medical Center (King/Drew), was Nurse of the Year at that medical center. Norman Gray, who has been District Public Health Nurse at Central Health Center since 2000, was Nurse of the Year for the Public Health Nursing Department. Wilson John Uy was outstanding nurse for the Sheriff’s Department. He is a Senior Staff Nurse at Men’s Central Jail.

“I believe it’s extremely important to honor these fine public servants in front of the Board of Supervisors,” Supervisor Burke said. “Nurses are the backbone of our hospital system, but they are not recognized often enough for their services. Without them there would be no County health system.”

She then presented awards to 12 nurses with more than 25 years of service with the County. Among these nurses was Lathester Wilson, who has 32 years of service. The nurses elected Wilson to speak for all of them. Wilson, who has been at King/Drew since it opened, told the Board, “I am very proud to work for King/Drew. Many of us who work

there, are excellent professionals and we are all proud to be there. Working for the County of Los Angeles at King/Drew has been, and is, a labor of love.” Supervisor Burke noted that Wilson was named Peri Operative Nurse of the Year in 2002, and was nominated for Nurse of the Year in 1999 and in 2001.

After the presentations, the Supervisor noted, “It’s important that people know that King/Drew is still providing really good service to the community. It’s true there are, and have been, problems, but to close King/Drew and throw out the baby with the bathwater, would be tragic.”

Other nurses honored at the meeting were:

- Delilah Bueno, 32 years of County service
- Reungrong Chamkrachang, 27 years of County service
- Henny Datoon, 32 years of County service
- Irma Davis, 33 years of County service
- Lynn Davis, 33 years of County service
- Ann Johnson, 27 years of County service
- Ophelia Pernia, an operating room nurse with 30 years of County service
- Norma Ross, a surgical nurse with 36 years of County service
- Martha Sotelo, an OB/GYN case management nurse with 26 years of County service
- Mookda Suttipreechanun, a pediatric ICU nurse with 27 years of County service
- Ida Steverson, an operating room nurse with 36 years of County service



Supervisor Burke (center right) took photos with outstanding nurses with 25 years of County service or more. Health Services Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Thomas Garthwaite (3rd from right) joined in.



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The Program With a Heart



Bringing smiles to children’s faces year ‘round, while teaching lessons in character and good citizenship, is a community effort. With the support of the Department of Public Social Services, the Toy Loan Program provides a free toy-lending service to the children of Los Angeles County. Through 40-plus centers, Toy Loan provides a safe place to play and helps to develop a sense of self-worth through a merit system that rewards the responsible borrowing of toys. Toy Loan targets lower-income communities, where children often lack access to basic skill-building toys, which are an essential part of a child’s development.

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