

LACERS NEWS

RETIRED MEMBERS
FALL 2020



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A MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT, CYNTHIA M. RUIZ



While we are in the midst of a global health crisis unlike any that most of us have ever witnessed, LACERS is taking all precautions to protect the safety of our Members and our staff. In spite of the human toll of the COVID-19 pandemic, we remain cautiously optimistic as the Board of Administration continues to serve in our role as fiduciary to you, our Members, and the portfolio. Now, more than ever, it is important for us to maintain and grow the fund with prudent investment decisions and strategic analysis and application. Our asset allocation has provided us with a diverse portfolio that has performed well despite this unpredictable and unforeseen economy, and I want to commend the LACERS staff, especially our Investment team, for helping us stay the course.

We want to assure you that LACERS is here to provide guidance as well as support you with updates and resources on how these events might impact our portfolio, while still providing you with whatever you need to plan and experience a successful retirement. Although we are unable to meet in person at this time, we are available to you by phone, email, and social media.

We will continue to stand by you and do our part to give you, our Members and employees the support that is needed during this time. Thank you for your trust and understanding. We wish you and your family all the best now and during the upcoming holiday season.

Stay Safe & Healthy.

New Logo, Same Commitment!

LACERS is proud to announce the launch of our new logo and brand identity as part of the ongoing evolution of our organization. We have grown and evolved over this past year, and we are refreshing our brand to better reflect who we are. After careful consideration, we have chosen a new logo that is modern with key elements that convey our mission and orientation for growth, while remaining true to our commitment to our Members!

Our mission is to grow the Plan Assets and deliver

premiere retirement services to our Members—the employees of the City of LA—and to help them realize their goals and aspirations in retirement.

Along with announcing our new brand identity, we have revamped several of our communications—from our website to our publications. The new website and brand identity together reflect the bold, energetic and forward-looking culture of our organization. We hope that you like this new look and feel for LACERS!



A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER, NEIL GUGLIELMO



As we approach the Holiday Season of 2020, I am grateful for the support and understanding of our Retired and Active Members, the dedication and caring of our LACERS employees, and the leadership of our Board of Administration. We could not have implemented all of the systems and operational

solutions for remote working and the improvements to Member services without everyone's best efforts. Thank you for your patience as we introduced our new, interactive website, webinars, YouTube channel, and our new approach to member engagement.

I hope you find our website useful and easy to navigate. Further, I want to make sure you are aware of how to listen to our Board of Administration meetings live via ZOOM. Instructions are included on the Board agenda located on our website. If you need assistance logging into our Board meetings, I encourage you to call us at (800) 779-8328 or RTT (888) 349-3996 and our customer service agents will assist you. Our Board meetings are held at 10 a.m., every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

In other department news, LACERS is in the midst of retiring nearly 1,400 Active Members as part of the City's Separation Incentive Program, or

CSIP. LACERS' staff have already assisted more than 300 Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) employees through the LAWA SIP this summer. Beginning November 1, 2020 and lasting through January 31, 2021, only CSIP participants will be permitted to retire due to an abeyance period implemented by the City. Beginning February 1, 2021, all retirement applications will again be accepted from LACERS Members.

Other changes brought on by the CSIP include an extended Health Open Enrollment period for Retired Members. While our typical Open Enrollment period opens mid-October and ends mid-November, this year's extended period will run from October 15, 2020 to March 31, 2021. This extended period will provide more time for Members to consider their health plan options, while also providing more time for LACERS staff to work with our health plan partners to process health plan enrollments and changes.

I understand this is a lot of information to take in, especially with our minds on the health and well-being of our families. With that said, I ask that you visit our website for detailed information about all facets of retirement and retirement planning. Remember, LACERS is here to help you! In addition to retirement news, we have information about COVID-19 safety and precautions, financial resources, and other helpful links for our Members on our website.

Again, thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this time. I wish you and your family a safe and Happy Holiday Season.



This Year's Open Enrollment Extended to March 31, 2021

Start the New Year off right by finding a plan that will help you achieve your health goals! You can change your health plan selection during LACERS' Open Enrollment period, which began on October 15 and will run until March 31, 2021. Please keep in mind that you cannot make another change for at least one year from your change's effective date unless you have a qualifying event. Also, if you retired during the Open Enrollment period, you cannot change your health plan selection during this Open Enrollment period.

LACERS staff will do our best to process your request as soon as possible. You will receive notification of the effective date of your enrollment or enrollment change by mail or email approximately two weeks before the effective date. LACERS staff will contact you if any necessary additional information is required in order to complete your requested change. We thank you for your patience during this time, as staff works hard to meet everyone's needs. For more details and the latest information about Open Enrollment, please visit lacers.org/enrollment.

Staying Connected During the Holidays

There's no doubt that this year's holiday season will look and feel much different due to the continued need to socially distance. And while it is easy to feel isolated during this time, there are many ways to stay connected with your loved ones and holiday traditions with the following virtual alternatives:

Love baking or cooking holiday treats? Keep this holiday tradition alive by making familiar favorites while video chatting with loved ones. Better yet, challenge them to a bake-off or cook-off and virtually award winners with online gift cards or mailed goodies. You can also share photos of your creations on social media.

Is giving back part of your holiday to-do-list? While you may

be unable to volunteer at your local soup-kitchen, there are plenty of opportunities for you to become a virtual volunteer this holiday season. Right now there are over 600,000 virtual volunteering opportunities available on [VolunterMatch.org](https://www.voluntermatch.org) alone. Explore resources and organizations dedicated to the causes you support and learn about new ways to get involved from home.

Are religious gatherings something you look forward to during the holidays? Many churches, synagogues, and temples are recording masses and activities of worship that can be accessed on demand in the comfort of your own home. Some even offer services using Zoom and other video platforms that allow for

two-way interactions so you'll be able to engage with others.

Missing that holiday getaway you had planned? Start dreaming and planning a new trip. Studies show that planning a vacation brings as much joy as actually being on one. Now's the time to plan for the costs and experiences you want to enjoy on that dream European vacation. Not only will you be better prepared financially for your next vacation, but having something to look forward to can really brighten your stay-at-home holiday season.

Whatever way you choose to spend your holidays, just remember that navigating a new normal doesn't mean it's a lesser one.



Spread Holiday Cheer with LACERS' Member Phone Bank

If you are looking for a way to spread the holiday cheer this season, LACERS has a great opportunity for you. We have established a phone bank and are calling LACERS Members to check in with them, inform them about available resources if needed, and most importantly, offer a friendly voice to bring them comfort and reassurance. Participants have found this effort very rewarding. To learn more about participating in the LACERS Member Phone Bank, send an email to lacerswell@lacers.org.



SPOTLIGHT:

LACERS YouTube Channel

To supplement our informational offerings to Members, we've added a LACERS YouTube Channel to promote enhanced learning opportunities. You can find a link to our channel in the bottom right hand side of our footer on LACERS.org. Please check out our channel, like, and subscribe as new videos are added often!

"As you gather with your families this coming holiday season, rest assured that LACERS staff will continue to diligently monitor the LACERS investment portfolio..."

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER, ROD JUNE



It goes without saying that all of us have experienced much uncertainty this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, the LACERS investment portfolio produced a positive return of 1.1% (net-of-fees) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, after briefly dipping into negative return territory during the early months of the pandemic. Thanks to diversification across different types of investments, such as stocks, bonds, and real estate, the LACERS portfolio is able to withstand crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the pandemic caught most of us by surprise, the government has responded quickly with support to stabilize the economy and market—the market and the LACERS investment portfolio are now hovering near highs reached just prior to the onset of the pandemic. However, much uncertainty about the future remains. As you gather with your families this coming holiday season, rest assured that LACERS staff will continue to diligently monitor the LACERS investment portfolio, especially in light of new political and economic developments, and take actions that comply with the Board-approved Investment Policy Statement, which is designed to secure your retirement benefits.

Happy holidays and please continue to stay safe and healthy!



Protect Your Loved Ones: Keep Your Beneficiaries Up to Date

Do you know who is on file as your designated beneficiary with LACERS? There is no time like the present to check. You can view your current beneficiaries by logging onto your MyLACERS account. To make all changes or updates, please visit lacers.org/forms and complete the Designation of Beneficiary form or call our main line and request that one be sent to you.

Avoiding Scams

While scams are not something new, we have seen an upsurge of them lately. It is crucial that we educate ourselves about what red flags to look for in order to protect valuable personal assets and information. The Federal Trade Commission has gathered a variety of resources that can potentially help you avoid a scam, whether it is the sale of unauthorized test kits, or a fraudulent organization asking for donations. To learn more, visit www.ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams-consumer-advice.

Become A LACERS Well Champion!

Build new connections this holiday season by becoming a LACERS *Well* Champion! LACERS staff is currently looking for Champions to hold virtual Champion events. This is a great opportunity to meet others and share a hobby or activity you enjoy. Champions will plan, facilitate, and report upon these fun activities that support the physical and emotional well-being of our retirees, and become eligible for incentives and rewards. To apply or learn more about becoming a LACERS *Well* Champion, visit the LACERS website at lacers.org/champions and complete the online form.



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Enroll in Direct Deposit Today

Sign up for Direct Deposit and enjoy never having to visit the bank to deposit your pension check again. To have your monthly retirement allowance deposited directly into your bank account, complete the Direct Deposit Authorization form available at lacers.org/forms.



We need your Email Address!

Having a current email address on file with LACERS ensures that you receive timely communications about your LACERS benefits. If you need to update or add an email, complete the Change of Email Address Request form on our website at lacers.org/forms. Please make sure that the email you provide is an email that you use regularly so that you don't miss important information.



THE LATEST:

LACERS Strategic Plan Update Report, Fiscal Year 2019–20

Please visit lacers.org/article/building-future-lacers-today to view the latest LACERS Strategic Plan Update Report.

New Headquarters Update

Planning and design for the new LACERS Headquarters at 977 Broadway is currently underway. LACERS' Administrative Services Office Division continues to work tirelessly to ensure that the new building is both comfortable and safe for LACERS Staff and our Members; they're also making sure that LACERS supports our City family during these tough times by contracting with other City departments such as Sanitation, Transportation, and General Services Department, to provide essential services to the new building. Stay tuned for more updates and pictures of the progress being made in the coming months!





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As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. For additional information or to make a request for documents in an alternative format, please contact (800) 779-8328 or RTT (888) 349-3996.

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO REACH US!

Website:
LACERS.org

Email:
lacers.services@lacers.org
lacers.health@lacers.org

Mailing Address:
**PO Box 512218, Los Angeles, CA
90051-0218**

Visit:
**202 W. First Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90012**
(Currently suspended due to COVID-19)

Call:
(800) 779-8328
RTT (888) 349-3996

Fax:
(213) 473-7297
(Delayed processing due to COVID-19)

Facebook:
facebook.com/lacerswell

YouTube:
youtube.com/lacersyoutube