



DIGEST

NOVEMBER 30, 1988

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Shiro Masuda Goes The Extra Mile

Shiro Masuda, a Social Worker employed by the Department of Public Social Services, has been named the October 1988 County of Los Angeles Employee of the Month. Board of Supervisors Chairman Deane Dana, presented a scroll of commendation to Mr. Masuda in special Board Room ceremonies.

Employee Of The Month

Shiro is assigned to the Civic Center Homeless Demonstration Project. As a Social Worker, he provides a variety of services to the homeless or potentially homeless of the skid row area and counsels clients who are mentally ill and/or substance abusers.



Shiro Masuda

Serving on a pilot project to assist General Relief clients who apply for and obtain Supplemental Security Income, Shiro has demonstrated the patience and understanding required for the painstaking task of documenting the client's mental illness and guiding them through the approval process.

In the last year, Mr. Masuda has been successful in obtaining Supplemental Security Income approval for three of his clients, thus removing them from the County General Relief rolls. These efforts represent not only a substantial savings for the county, but the opportunity for a better life for the clients.

What makes Mr. Masuda so special is that
(Continued on page 2)



(L. to R.) Jack C. Green, Chairman of the Productivity Commission; Frank S. Zolin, County Clerk/Executive Officer; Supervisor Chairman Deane Dana; Judge Richard G. Harris, Project Manager; Leonard S. Wolf, Supervising Judge, West District Superior Court; Edward C. Bunning, Superior Court Productivity Manager; and Lynn Seabury, West District Chief.

Fast Track Program Presented Grand Award

The second annual Board of Supervisors' Productivity and Quality Awards recognition luncheon was held November 15, 1988 at the Music Center. From the 338 productivity projects entered for recognition, ten outstanding projects were selected for the Board of Supervisors Awards. Prior to the luncheon, in a Board Room ceremony, Supervisor Deane

Dana and Jack C. Green, Chairman of the Productivity Commission presented awards to the ten winning projects.

The Program, sponsored by the Board of Supervisors and the County Productivity Commission, honors the productivity efforts of individual departments. The project entries
(Continued on page 3)

L.A. COUNTY Choices

BENEFITS THAT WORK FOR YOU

Over the last year, the County and the Coalition of County Unions, AFL-CIO, have been working as a team to develop a Flexible Benefits Plan (also known as a "cafeteria plan") for represented employees. Together, this team has created L.A. County Choices, a program that will go into effect July 1, 1989. Let's take a look at the choices you will have and how the program will work.

If you are an employee represented by one of the unions listed below, you will have the opportunity to make choices about your benefit coverage. With L.A. County Choices, you will be able to put together a benefits package that works best for your individual needs and lifestyle. For example, if you are married with children, the benefit plans you need can be quite different than those of a single person with no children.

The L.A. County Choices program will provide each employee with a personal *Benefits Bank*. The County will put dollars into your Benefits Bank that you can then spend on your benefits. If the benefits you choose cost *less* than what the County would contribute to your

Benefits Bank, then you can receive *taxable cash* instead of benefits coverage. You will receive the cash as part of your paychecks. If the benefits you choose cost *more* than what the County contributes, then you can pay for them by putting some of your own dollars into your Benefits Bank. This will be done through automatic payroll deductions.

Best of all, your own contributions to your Benefits Bank are made with *tax-free* dollars. This means your state and federal taxes are based on a smaller amount, which results in less taxes withheld from your paychecks during the year.

What benefits can you choose? L.A. County Choices offers all the current benefits . . .

- Health Care
- Dental Care
- Life Insurance
- Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance

. . . plus some new options

- Health Care Reimbursement Account
- Dependent Care Reimbursement Account

If you feel your current benefits are just what you need, you can choose these same benefits, at the same levels of coverage. The County contributions to your Benefits Bank will not be less than they are now.

(Continued on page 2)

Probation Department Hosts Open House

Approximately 100 guests from the South Central community, representing courts, schools, law enforcement, service agencies, including local citizens, attended an Open House sponsored by the Probation Department Office, in the Compton Courthouse.

Guests, including Supervisor Deane Dana, were visibly impressed by various displays demonstrating probation services. Drug testing materials, electronic surveillance equipment, and gang member apparel were part of an educational presentation. A film depicting the effects of drugs on babies was shown. In addition, Deputy Probation Officers discussed their individual assignments as guests toured

office units.

Featured in a brief program were the Compton High School R.O.T.C. Honor Guard with welcoming remarks by Supervisor Deane Dana, Chief Probation Officer Barry Nidorf, and Deputy Director Lula Hurte.

Office Director Norman Johnson welcomed guests with a challenge to share "South Central Spirit," by uniting together as a "family" to combat community problems.

Obviously pleased with the overwhelming success of the event, Director Norm Johnson related, "This was in every respect a total office activity, everyone participated. The spirit in this office is truly exceptional."



(L. to R.) Lula Hurte, Deputy Director, Field Services Bureau; Supervisor Chairman Deane Dana; Barry J. Nidorf, Chief Probation Officer; and Norman Johnson, South Central Area Office Director.

Masuda Employee Of The Month

(Continued from page 1)

he gives every client his full attention with integrity and sincerity. Because of these qualities, he has earned the respect and cooperation of a client population which is considered the most difficult to reach. All of the documentation received to support Shiro's nomination for Employee of the Month referenced his outstanding sense of duty, compassion and "willingness to go the extra mile." His dedication is not limited to an 8-hour workday. He volunteers for outreach activities which involve working after hours and on weekends.

Shiro also represents his Department on the Japanese United Information Community Exchange (JUICE) and has worked closely with the Little Tokyo Service Center in order to better service the population of that community.

With all the evidence of the effectiveness of Mr. Masuda's quiet energy, Shiro in turn praised "the County system for allowing him to be helpful to the needy."

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS
THE GREAT AMERICAN INVESTMENT

**INTEREST RATES
ARE SOARING . . .**

As of 11-1-88,

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

earn 7.35% interest

L.A. COUNTY Choices

BENEFITS THAT WORK FOR YOU

(Continued from page 1)

You might be wondering how "reimbursement accounts" can be used. These special accounts allow you to set aside tax-free dollars for eligible expenses. With a Health Care Reimbursement Account, you can pay for health or dental care expenses not covered by your benefit plans, such as annual deductibles and coinsurance you currently pay for with after-tax dollars. A Dependent Care Reimbursement Account can help you pay for day care expenses for your eligible dependents while you and your spouse work.

Your retirement benefits will not be affected at all by this new Flexible Benefits Plan. Other employee benefits provided by the County, or any union, are also not affected.

Before you have to make your benefit

choices, you will receive more information about the new plan. In April, you will be attending an *employee meeting* so you can ask questions and get help with your personal enrollment decisions. There will also be a 24-hour hotline during the enrollment period so you can get the answers you need to create a benefits package that really works for you! Watch for more information to come. . . .

American Federation of State,
County & Municipal Employees
Council 36

Association for
Los Angeles Deputy
Sheriffs

California Association
of Professional
Employees

International Union of
Operating Engineers
Local 501

Los Angeles County
Building &
Construction
Trades Council

Los Angeles County
Fire Fighters
Local 1014

Los Angeles County
Lifeguard
Association

Probation Officers
AFSCME, Local 685

Professional Peace
Officers Association
I.U.P.A. Local 612

Service Employees
International Union
Local 434

Service Employees
International Union
Local 535

The Choices Plan will only apply to bargaining units that have elected to be covered by the Fringe Benefit Agreement negotiated by the Coalition of County Unions, AFL-CIO.

USC Medical Center Staff Volunteer To Help Youngsters

On Tuesday, October 25, 1988, Public Health East Area collaborated with Sister Kathy Woods, R.N., Director of the St. Francis Center to hold an evening Toddler Immunization Outreach Clinic.

This immunization clinic was a follow-up to a back-to-school clinic held in September, and is just one of the outreach efforts coordinated by Central Health District and East Area Health Education staff.



Janet Bryant, R.N.

Judith Brown, R.N., a graduate intern in Health Education, has been instrumental in this project and specifically recruited volunteers Bruce Weimer, and two colleagues Diana Duda, R.N., and Janet Bryant, R.N., from LAC/USC Medical Center Emergency Room, who volunteered that evening. Approximately 55 children were registered and 35 T.B. mantoux tests were administered.

The St. Francis Center is located in the heart of the garment district downtown Los Angeles, and is dedicated to helping the people who live and work in the area by providing child care, some emergency funds, a food pantry, and medical and social services referrals.



Diana Duda, R.N.



(L. to R.) Sheriff Sgt. Ralph Martin; Kevin O'Connell, KCBS-TV broadcaster; Donna Beddow, Secretary of the Year; and her boss, Chief "Bud" Hansen, Field Operations, Region III.

Donna Beddow Named Secretary Of The Year

Donna Beddow of the Sheriff's Department has been named Secretary of the Year by the Los Angeles County Secretarial Council, reported LACSC president Nancy Apeles.

The fourth annual award was presented to Mrs. Beddow by last year's recipient, Linda Sirk, at LACSC's Boss-Secretary Luncheon, held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel October 21, 1988. Over 700 secretaries and bosses representing all County departments attended. Guest speaker Kevin O'Connell, of KCBS-TV, presented four training awards followed by special presentations by Supervisor Pete Schabarum and Nancy Apeles.

Expressing pride and pleasure at the honor

of the selection by her peers, Mrs. Beddow said she always strives to do her best and believes that "everyone has something to say that is important to them — take time to listen."

Donna Beddow has served as past Vice-President of LACSC, was Acting President for eight months, and has served as chairman of various council committees.

She has worked for the County for over 21 years — the first five with the Department of Public Social Services before joining the Sheriff's Department, where she is currently secretary to "Bud" Hansen, Chief Field Operations, Region III.

Grand Award For Fast Track Program

(Continued from page 1)

demonstrate the efforts of County employees to increase productivity and quality of service to the public. This program provides honor and recognition for all county employees in their efforts to improve the efficiency of County government.

The grand award winning project was "WEST DISTRICT FAST TRACK PROGRAM" presented by the County Clerk/Superior Court. This Program was developed to speed up the settlement of civil cases and reduce Judge/Court time. A panel of over 250 volunteer attorneys and retired judges recruited by Judge Richard Harris made this program service possible. 550 cases, out of 1,233, were elected to participate in the Fast Track Program. As a result, elimination of judge time in 10% of the cases and reduction in 9% of the cases resulted in significant savings to the court and litigants with great reductions in time awaiting trial.

Other Board awardees honored for their productivity efforts included:

- Automation Project of the Forgery/Fraud Detail (Sheriff)
- Collection Agency Pilot Project (Public Library)
- Cooperative Obstetrics Program (Health Services)
- Emergency Medical Technician — Defibrillation Program (Forester & Fire Warden)
- Juvenile Paid Work Crew (Probation)
- KTWV Radio Station — Donation (Beaches and Harbors)
- Pet Visitation Program (Animal Control)
- Retroactive Medicare "Incident To" Billing Projects (Mental Health)
- Traffic Signal Synchronization (Public Works)

In addition to the Board of Supervisors Awards, Productivity Commission Awards were presented at the luncheon to all participating departments. Every County department submitted at least one entry.

Supervisor Michael Antonovich, keynote speaker at the gala luncheon held in the Grand Hall at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center, spoke highly of the County's productivity efforts. He praised the Productivity Commission, department heads, productivity managers and line staff for their efforts to create a more productive work environment.

Mary Ann Greene, Firestone Area Office Director and staff serve goodies to youngsters at attending Halloween party.

Far right: Winners of contests with their bicycle prizes.



Cadet Program Builds Self-esteem

“Trying to live normal lives in abnormal circumstances” is how Probation Director Mary Ann Greene describes the children of the Firestone Area.

In an effort to reinforce the relationship between the Probation Department and the community, staff at the Firestone Area office hosted a second annual Halloween Party for

almost 100 neighborhood children on the afternoon of October 31, 1988.

Although the costumes of the staff were impressive, they were no match for those of the kids, ranging in age from the middle-teens down to toddlers. The youngsters displayed a collection of innovative and carefully detailed disguises, including an amazing Tin Man in an

almost indescribable outfit in which the wearer's upper body was covered by a three-foot-high top-hat with a face painted on his abdomen.

The top three costume contest winners, among both the younger and older participants, were awarded bicycles. An additional three bicycles were given away as door prizes.

This event enhanced the Probation Cadet Program for 6 to 12 year-olds developed by Director Mary Ann Greene. The program is designed to build character and promote self-esteem and is seeking community volunteers to help keep this program afloat.

MORE to See & Do

Museum of Art (213) 857-6111
5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles
November through January 15, 1989

The Human Figure in Early Greek Art includes 67 ancient marble sculpture, bronzes, painted pottery, and terracotta figures depicting the artistic development of the human figure through five centuries. The exhibit features some works that have never been on view outside of Greece.

November through January 1, 1989

Ellsworth Kelly: A Print Retrospective A comprehensive exhibit of 95 works by the distinguished 20th century American artist who has produced a compelling body of work of almost 250 prints in a variety of techniques, including lithography, screenprinting, etching, and papermaking.

December 1, 1988 through January 29, 1989

Billy Al Bengston: Paintings of Three Decades Present works by the prolific West Coast painter and features paintings on canvas, metal and masonite along with works on paper, screens, banners, ceramics and furniture. Bengston has been a major influence on West Coast artists over the past three decades. His colorful, often witty images combine representational and abstract elements and explore the artist's abiding interest in the natural world and the quality of light.



Exhibition: The Human Figure in Early Greek Art
(November 13, 1988 through January 15, 1989)

TITLE: Fragment of Poros Relief, Around 630 B.C.

Continuing through January 8, 1989

Helen Lundeberg Paintings

In celebration of the artist's eightieth birthday, this exhibition features works documenting her over fifty year career. Lundeberg achieved a national reputation through the exhibition of her Post-Surrealist canvases. From her earliest days to the present, her paintings have been infused with a quiet, poetic sense of mystery. The exhibited paintings reveal that within a more intensified abstract idiom, Lundeberg continued to create beautifully enigmatic images.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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