



Kenton Koszdin
LAW OFFICE

Se habla español **888.393.0954**



May 2016

KENTON KOSZDIN
LAW OFFICE
16600 Sherman Way,
#190 Van Nuys,
California 91406-3875
Phone: (818) 901-9999
Toll Free: (800) 438-7734

CONNECT ONLINE



[VIEW KENTON KOSZDIN PROFILE ►](#)



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WORKERS' COMPENSATION BLOG

[VISIT OUR BLOG](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

5 Awesome Things To Do for Memorial Day

PAGE 3

Recipe of the Month
Corn Salsa Recipe

PAGE 4

What's Happening....

Social Security: Age 80 and Going Strong

Social Security retirement benefits have been around for 80 years! On August 14, 1935, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the program into law. Eligible workers could collect a benefit at age 65, but probably wouldn't collect for long - or maybe not at all - because back then the average life expectancy was 61!

Today's expanded Social Security programs now cover individuals with disabilities as well as survivors. Medicare health insurance and Supplemental Security Income also come under the broad umbrella of the Social Security system. Here are some highlights and milestones of its first 80 years:



- The first retirement check was paid to Ida May Fuller of Ludlow, Vermont in 1940. Her monthly benefit? \$22.54.
- In 1956, disability benefits were added for older workers, and 4 years later these payments were extended to disabled workers of any age and qualified family members.
- Social Security no longer mails paper checks each month to its 54 million beneficiaries - only electronic payments are available via a prepaid debit card or direct deposit.
- Because of our increasing life expectancies, the normal retirement age for Social Security benefits is now based on birth year and ranges up to age 67.
- The original tax cap, or amount of earnings that are subject to Social Security taxes, was \$3,000 in 1935 - in 2016 it stands at \$118,500. The payroll tax, which began at 1%, has been 6.2% since 1990 for both employees and employers.

....continued on page 2

....continued from page 1 **Social Security: Age 80 and Going....**

- When the program began, cost of living adjustments for beneficiaries had to be blessed by Congress. Not surprisingly, many of these were approved during election years! Today these adjustments are automatic based on annual consumer price increases.
- Today's combined value of the disability and retirement funds is \$2.7 trillion! So why are the programs in trouble? It's because the amount of taxes going into the funds from younger workers is not enough to fund both current and future beneficiaries. When the disability fund was predicted to run out of money in 2016, Congress put a bandage on the problem last year by funneling more taxes from retirement into the disability fund. However, even if they continue this practice, the total fund may be depleted by 2034 unless significant funding or benefit changes occur.

From My Blog

Social Security Disability Insurance Award Letter Frequently Asked Questions

When a decision is made regarding your application for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will inform you of their decision as to whether or not they have agreed to grant you SSDI benefits by mail. If the SSA has denied your SSDI claim, you will receive a "denial letter." If the SSA has approved your SSDI claim you will receive an "award letter." Read the rest » <http://www.kentonslawoffice.com/blog/social-security-disability/social-security-disability-insurance-award-letter-frequently-asked-questions/#more-1001>



5 Awesome Things To Do for Memorial Day

The unofficial start of summer is here! If you are looking for something more adventurous than a backyard barbecue, check out these fun suggestions:

Head for the beach. Try something new like secluded Leo Carrillo State Park with its tide pools and campground. Venice Beach is perfect for people watching or bring Fido along for an unleashed romp at Rosie's Dog Beach.

Take in Fiesta Hermosa. This fiesta takes over the streets, beach and pier of Hermosa Beach. Enjoy the Charity Beer and Wine Garden with the ethnic food court, live musical entertainment, vendor offerings and plenty of fun for the kids.

Roast marshmallows over a bonfire. Yes you can have open bonfires in Los Angeles County! Point Magu and Leo Carrillo State Parks are just 2 venues with fire pits - here are a few more. <http://www.timeout.com/los-angeles/blog/5-great-places-to-have-a-bonfire-in-los-angeles-051815>

....continued on page 3



....continued from page 2 **5 Awesome Things To Do for Memorial....**

Enjoy an outdoor movie. What better place to enjoy a movie than at an outdoor theater on a warm summer's evening? *Singin' in the Rain* at Hollywood Forever Cemetery and *Hook* at the Will Rogers State Historic Park are among the many offerings from Cinespia, Street Food Cinema and Rooftop Film Club.

Play life-size Monopoly. Santa Monica becomes an interactive Monopoly game. You can earn "MAINopoly" dollars to exchange for gourmet street food or end up in the "Go Directly to Jail" VIP lounge and beer garden. Dress appropriately and help raise funds for worthy charities.

Whatever your plans, don't forget to remember and honor the many men and women of our military services who made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our country.

Attend a parade, display your own American flag and, best of all, thank a veteran for his or her service.

If you or a loved one has been denied Worker's Compensation or Social Security Disability (SSDI) benefits, it's important to get an attorney experienced in these types of cases involved immediately. Call **800-438-7734** for your initial free consultation, either in our office or in the comfort of your own home. The Kenton Koszdin Law Office, Social Security attorney in Van Nuys, can help you navigate the application process for the best possible outcome for you and your family.

Recipe of the Month **Corn Salsa Recipe**

Ingredients

- 1/2 small poblano chile pepper, seeded
- 3 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt
- 1 cup fresh corn kernels (from 2 ears), or 1 cup frozen corn, thawed
- 1 small jalapeno pepper, seeded and chopped
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 tablespoons chopped red onion
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar



Directions

- Preheat a grill to medium high. Brush the poblano with 1 teaspoon olive oil and grill, skin-side down, until charred but still firm, about 5 minutes. Cool slightly; peel and finely chop.
- If using fresh corn, bring a small pot of salted water to a boil. Add the corn and cook until tender, 2 to 3 minutes; drain.
- Mix the corn (if using frozen, add it here), poblano, jalapeno, cilantro and red onion in a bowl. Stir in the remaining 2 teaspoons olive oil, the lime juice, sugar and 1/2 teaspoon salt.

Recipe courtesy of FoodNetwork Magazine

Social Security: Age 80 and Going Strong



See Page One

This newsletter is intended to educate the general public about probate, trusts, wills, and other issues. It is for information purpose only and should not be constructed as legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained in this publication, you should consult with experienced, competent counsel regarding your specific situation.



What's Happening in Southern California

June 3 - July 4

San Diego County Fair
San Diego

June 5

COAST - Open Streets Event
Santa Monica

June 10 - 12

LA Pride Music Festival & Parade
West Hollywood

June 11 - 12

San Diego Festival of the Arts
Waterfront Park
San Diego

June 17

Contemporary Crafts Market
Pasadena Convention Center

June 25

Mariachi USA Festival
Hollywood Bowl

June 25

LA Winefest
Raleigh Studios
Hollywood

June 30 - Aug. 28

Sawdust Art Festival
Laguna Beach