



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December Monthly Meeting Notice

Date: Thursday, December 14, 2017
Event: Los Angeles Consular Corps Monthly Luncheon
Location: RAND Corporation – Data attached
Time: 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.
Cost: \$40.00 per attendee.

Dear LACC Members and Friends,

The Dean of the Los Angeles Consular Corps and the Executive Committee cordially invite all members of the Corps, Trade /Tourism Commissioners, and Protocol and Liaison officers to attend our Thursday, December 14, 2017 meeting. The meeting will begin promptly at Noon and conclude at 2:00 p.m.

Please RSVP by e -mail to bunkis@ocps.com or call 949-888-9700 **by December 5, 2017**. Please be advised that all meals have to be paid for by that date and any cancellations made after that date, or no shows, will still owe this amount to LACC

TRUTH DECAY

Los Angeles Consular Corps Holiday Luncheon at RAND Santa Monica

Date: Thursday, December 14, 2017

Executive Committee: 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

LACC Members Luncheon: 12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

Address: RAND Corporation, 1776 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90407

**Please join Michael Rich, President of the RAND Corporation,
for a discussion on “Truth Decay.”**

There's an old saying that “A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its boots on.” Social media has made this problem infinitely worse. The stakes are great, as Truth Decay has meaningful consequences for our democracies.

As part of an ongoing research effort, we've been using the term “Truth Decay” to describe four trends that we have observed eroding U.S. political discourse: an erosion of consensus about previously agreed upon facts and analytical interpretations; a blurring of the line between fact and opinion; an explosion in the volume and resulting influence of opinion and personal experience over fact; and a steep decline in trust in institutions that were previously looked to as sources of authority and information. At this luncheon, we will explore the causes of these trends, including human cognitive bias, changes in the information system (e.g., social media), competing demands on the educational system, and polarization. We will also discuss consequences, such as a decline in civil discourse, political paralysis, alienation, and uncertainty.

To fight Truth Decay—whether in the form of misleading reports by media outlets and political figures, Russian information operations, or skyrocketing levels of distrust in key institutions—a strategy, based on facts and analysis, is critical.

Luncheon RSVP:

**Please contact Juris Bunkis
at bunkis@ocps.com or call (949) 888-9700
to attend.**

**For those interested, following the luncheon
there are two optional events:**

- **RAND will provide a tour of the building**
- **Mexican Consul General Carlos Garcia de Alba will challenge all to a table tennis tournament in RAND's patio, with fun prizes for the winners.**

**Please let Carolyn Higgins know
at Carolyn_Higgins@rand.org
or (310) 393-0411 x7276 if you would
like to participate in either of these
two activities.**

