



Retirees Corner

Write to us at
retirees@cityemployeesclub.com

Retiree Hotlines

Who to call? Following is a list of contacts for the City and for the DWP:

City Employees Retirement System: (213) 473-7200

City Retirement Counselors:

• Walter Couchman (626) 355-7942	• Edward Harding (805) 584-9417
• Phil Skarin (818) 784-0130	• Larry Jones (213) 255-9082
• Irvin Walder (626) 289-2511	• Charmaine Hidalgo (213) 258-0547
• Robert Wilkinson (818) 886-1000	• Helen Salgado (213) 728-4930
• Jerry Bardwell (818) 782-5568	• Americo Garza (562) 928-2051

DWP Retirement Plan Office: (213) 367-1722

DWP Community Credit Union Has a Special Package for Retirees

The Sunrise Circuit is a special Water and Power Community Credit Union (WPCCU) program dedicated to helping members enjoy retirement to the fullest. There are no dues, and once you join, you are a member for life.

Some of the benefits include:

- An additional one-quarter percent bonus (unless specifically stipulated on promotional material) over credit union certificate rates (certificates are like CDs from a bank)
- Absolutely free checking (no per check or point-of-sale charge, free check copies, and unlimited free ATM transactions at WPCCU or credit union affiliated ATMs)
- Fee-free special Sunrise Circuit checks

Participants also do not pay a service charge for travelers checks or gift checks, and a free notary service is available for your convenience at any WPCCU branch. Plus, you will

receive a special quarterly Sunrise Circuit newsletter entitled "Golden Strategies," a practical guide to your retirement.

How do you qualify for membership? It's simple. You must be a member of WPCCU, retired, and maintain a combined minimum balance of \$5,000 in deposits with the credit union, or have direct deposit of your retirement checks. To sign up, simply contact WPCCU's call center toll-free at (800) 300-9728 and press 2.

Not a WPCCU member? WPCCU membership is available to people who live, work or worship in many communities of Los Angeles. To check membership eligibility, please access www.wpcu.org, or call the phone number listed above.

To become a member, you can also visit one of our six branches in the downtown area, in the John Ferraro Building at 111 N. Hope St., or at 1053 Sunset Blvd. To find the branch closest to you, please access www.wpcu.org. ■

Length of Doctor Visits Increasing, Journal Notes

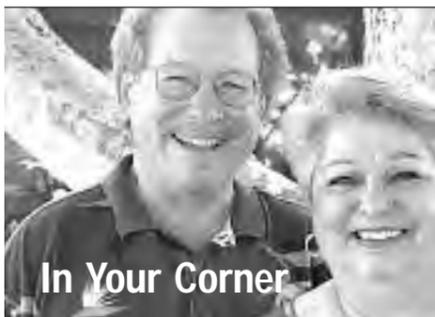
A study released recently in the *New England Journal of Medicine* notes that the average length of a doctor's visit actually increased between 1989 and 1998, as more people became covered under managed care. The new study disputes the widely held notion that managed care has put a squeeze on the amount of time doctors are spending with their patients. The study also indicates that we patients generally are satisfied with the care we are receiving; it's the doctors who

are complaining about managed care.

A Harris poll released in January 2001, confirms this assessment. The poll states: "The contrast between sharply increasing public hostility to managed care, and health insurance generally, and the unchanging (or slightly improving) levels of satisfaction with people's own health insurance, leads to a fairly obvious conclusion: deteriorating public perceptions of managed care are media-driven, or physician-driven, not experience-driven." ■

The Lighter Side

- Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in his shoes. That way, if he gets angry because you took his shoes, he'll be a mile away ... and barefoot.
- If you look like your passport photo, you probably need the trip.
- Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
- The older we get, the better we realize we were.
- Men are from Earth, women are from Earth. Deal with it!



In Your Corner

by Dolores and Vince Foley

Hi to everyone out there in Retireeland ... which beats even Disneyland!

We are the Foleys, Dolores and Vince, and we'll be providing this "Retirees Corner" page in *Alive!* for the new City Employees Club of Los Angeles. We're retired, and when they first asked us to help out, we thought they wanted us to do some general cleanup and gardening around the Club office every once in a while! We

Putting the Rake Down, and Picking Up a Pen for Retirees

figured that wouldn't be too tough since we already volunteer at the L.A. Arboretum, cleaning and gardening. Hey, this could be right up our alley. We gathered our brooms, rakes and clippers and were ready to roll.

Then they told us "No, no, we want you to tell retirees what to do and where to go, things like that." Hey, still no big deal. Dolores retired from DWP after 30 years, 20 of which were spent managing the Health Plans Office, and she told retirees where to go on a regular basis! Vince also retired from DWP, spending 21 of his 37 years there as an elected member on the board of the Water &

Power Retirement Plan. His last 13 years on the board were as president, providing ample experience in giving retirees what for.

"Wrong again, amigos," they said. "We are starting a newspaper, and we want the Foleys to be responsible for a page which we will call Retirees Corner." Oh!

Be kinda like editors, you mean? "Now you've got it," they said. Well, we already publish a quarterly newsletter for DWP retirees, Dolores as editor and Vince as "gofer." We could do this for the new City Employees Club, too. Dolores is also president of the DWP Retired

Employees Association, and we have partnered with LACEA by endorsing its long-term care program for our retirees. Here's a chance to expand that relationship.

So, here we are at the first issue. We will try to make each one informative and entertaining for all City retirees. We may also include information specific to each of the City's three retirement plans on occasion.

So drop us a line to say hello, or to let us know what you think. Write to us at alive@cityemployeesclub.com

This page is yours, the retirees of all departments of the City. Welcome to Retirees Corner. ■