



# Retirees NEWS

Write to us at  
[retirees@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto: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:**

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Phil Skarin (818) 784-0130      | • Jack Mathews (310) 762-1942  |
| • Robert Wilkinson (818) 886-1000 | • Helen Salgado (323) 728-4930 |
| • Jerry Bardwell (818) 782-5568   | • Americo Garza (562) 928-2051 |
| • Edward Harding (805) 584-9417   | • Neil Ricci (310) 394-1971    |
| • Harold Danowitz (310) 453-0506  |                                |

**DWP Retirement Plan Office:** (213) 367-1722

## City Retirees Continue Their Holiday Party Tradition in Style

The Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) continued its decades-old tradition of celebrating the holidays with a party Thursday, Dec. 12. The party, including the swearing in of new officers, the singing of Christmas carols and a visit from Santa Claus himself, held court in the John Ferraro City Council Chambers.

Fourth District Councilman Tom LaBonge had the honor of swearing in the new officers. They were: Neil Ricci, health director; Jerry Bardwell, treasurer; Jack Mathews, senior adviser; Dave Wilkins, charter director; Helen Salgado, membership chairperson; and Ken Spiker, second vice president.



Fourth District Councilman Tom LaBonge welcomes the revelers.



Jack Mathews recognizes exemplary volunteers.



Santa (sometimes known as Ken Spiker) makes an appearance.



Pianist Vince Morton entertained the crowd.



Terri Alatorre, of the Mayor's office, welcomes the partiers.



Singer Karen Senia led the carol-singing.



Fourth District Councilman Tom LaBonge and RLACEI President Ed Harding swear in new officers (not in order in photograph) Neil Ricci, Jerry Bardwell, Jack Mathews, Dave Wilkins and Helen Salgado. New officer Ken Spiker was busy playing Santa.

## For Retirees

By Phil Skarin  
RLACEI Publicity Chair

## New Years Brings Fears Of Changes To Benefits

Ed Harding, the president of Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI), joins with members of the RLACEI Executive Board in wishing a happy new year to all retirees and their families. Our organization again will be working hard to protect the benefits you currently enjoy and to secure new ones. Your officers who were reelected at the annual meeting appreciate the confidence you have showed in them.

Ken Spiker, our legislative chairman, reports that two recent *Los Angeles Times* articles have raised major concerns to some of our retirees and have created a flood of mail and telephone calls expressing their fear of losing some of our health benefits.

"... And with fewer employers subsidizing health coverage for their retirees." "For current retirees, that is likely to mean reduced benefits and higher insurance premiums, deductibles and co-payments." "Employer-subsidized health care coverage for retirees is not collapsing, but is eroding." (All from the *Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 6, 2002.)

"State budget cuts in the state-funded Med-Cal program would cause cuts in current benefits and have a direct adverse financial impact upon our retirees receiving \$1,000 or \$1,500 per month and thus qualifying for Med-Cal." (*Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 7, 2002.)

Spiker reports that he knows of no efforts on the part of our City officials to reduce or eliminate any of our current health benefits or subsidies. However, he is sure that premiums will continue to increase and any additional benefits will be hard to obtain. He will continue to submit our annual list of much-needed changes for new benefits and hope his arguments for approval are successful.



Ed Harding, RLACEI President

## News Of Retirees

- Ed Harding was re-elected as president of the Royal High School Baseball Boosters Club.
- Sidney and Gwen Cheshire celebrated their 64<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary ... wow!
- Ken Nichols will be driving a float in the New Year's Rose Parade for the 32nd year, assisted by Sam Calderwood (his 17<sup>th</sup> time). Ken's hobby is taking pictures of lighthouses throughout the United States.

- Dr. Renaud and Ellen Hatter Sr. celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary July 13. Then, in August, he turned 92. Their secret: "Never go to bed angry with each other."
- One of the hardest workers in the anti-secession campaign was Lou Robins. He even put a "No on Secession" sign in my front yard.

- The former Los Angeles City Employees Association (LACEA) has changed its name to the City Employees Club of Los Angeles (The Club). It will continue to provide group insurance services, but it will now distribute a new newspaper, *Alive!* All active or retired City and DWP employees are eligible to become members. To join, call (800) 464-0452. Dues are \$4 per month for active employees, or \$2 per month for retirees. For more info, go to [www.cityemployeesclub.com](http://www.cityemployeesclub.com)

### COMING EVENTS:

April 18 – Membership meeting  
June 3 – Golf Classic

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

If you change your address, please notify Helen Salgado, membership chair, at 5423 Dewar St., Los Angeles, CA 90022. Phone: (323) 728-4930.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

*Blessed are those who have dreams, and are willing to pay the price to make their dreams come true.*