



Retirees NEWS

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:

• Edward Harding (805) 584-9417	• Jack Mathews (310) 762-1942
• Phil Skarin (818) 784-0130	• Helen Salgado (323) 728-4930 (membership)
• Robert Wilkinson (818) 886-1000	• Americo Garza (562) 928-2051
• Jerry Bardwell (818) 782-5568	• Neil Ricci (310) 394-1971
• Harold Danowitz (310) 472-0224	

DWP Retirement Plan Office: (213) 367-1722

For Retirees By Phil Skarin, RLACEI Publicity Chair

Membership NEWS

■ **Bob and Evelyn Bobo** will celebrate 40 years of marriage Jan. 18

■ **David Lessley** serves as a pastoral associate on the staff of First Presbyterian Church of Burbank

■ **John Shadle**, who just turned 80, renewed both his driver and pilot licenses

■ Another relative of **Gary Whittington** (see Nov. *Alive!*) is Robert E. Blyth, a second cousin. He is a painter for the Harbor Dept

■ **Dick Hovius** lives at the Sun Lakes Country Club in Banning. He just won the three-day "A" flight championship of his club

■ **Marcelle Butler** writes that it was very kind to award her poem "Harsh Words" a prize in our poetry contest

■ **Phil Skarin** won a gold medal in the American Masters Weightlifting Championships in Nov. in Cleveland, his fourth of the year, a grand slam.

If you have any news about retirees that you would like to share, send it to Phil Skarin at 5301 Norwich Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91411-3910, or fax (818) 906-3722, or phone (818) 784-0130.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:
The New Year would be a good time to start with a clean slate. But what about those leftovers from last year – those unfulfilled promises, the wrongs you haven't made right, and the grudges you're still carrying? It's time to first clean up any leftovers, then begin to fill in the slate with sublime thoughts and worthy deeds, and have a Happy New Year.



President's Council Formed by 3 Retiree Groups for Better Strategy



Ed Harding,
RLACEI President

Edward Harding, RLACEI President reports that he was happy to see nearly 200 members and guests at our annual Christmas party Dec. 11 at the Grace E. Simons Lodge. Americo Garza, party chairman, did a great job in arranging a fine lunch and musical entertainment. Robert Aguillo, General Manager of LACERS, installed the newly elected officers for 2004.

Two candidates for director offices on the L.A. Federal Credit Union Board were present and promised to ensure that all members will receive friendly, equitable and convenient service. I recommend that you give favorable consideration to Jack Mathews and Roslyn Carter Phillips when you receive your ballots Jan. 19.

President's Council: Early this year we formed the President's Council. It is comprised of the presidents of the City's three retired employee associations – Ed Harding

(RLACEI), Dolores Foley (DWP) and Will Gartland (Fire and Police Assn.). They met in November and discussed some of the unique characteristics of our health and dental benefits, especially regarding spouses and surviving spouses, the rising costs of medical care and prescription drugs and the effect that the latest Medicare legislation may have on our group plans.

We believe that these President's Council meetings can be mutually beneficial as we all share the same concerns. Sharing of information and the strength in numbers are the primary goals of the council.

Legislative Update: Ken Spiker, our elected representative to the LACERS Board of Directors and Chairman of LACERS Benefits and Administration Committee, reports that the retirement fund value exceeds \$7.4 billion due primarily to rising stock prices and the overall resurgence of the national economy.

While the fund continues to grow, the annual actuarial valuation for 2004/2005 recently submitted to the LACERS actuary, indicates that the City contribution rate for the health subsidy increases from 1.85 percent to 4.81 percent of payroll and for retirement benefits

increase from 8.53 percent to 11.95 percent for a combined total of 16.79 percent. Although the rate increase for the retirement benefit was anticipated due to investment performance, the significant rate increase for the health benefit was not anticipated.

The board expressed reservations about the accuracy of the results and directed staff to meet with the actuary to review their findings. In addition, LACERS has retained the services of a third party actuarial firm for a second look at the accuracy of the findings.

The impact on the City budget will be a major hit, especially since the repeal of the Vehicle License Fee increase will cut the state allocation to the City by an estimated \$19 million per month.

Coming events in 2004:

- April 15 – General Membership Meeting
- June 15 – Annual Retirees Golf Classic
- August 12 – Annual Picnic
- October 14 – Annual Corporation Meeting and Elections
- December 9 – Christmas Party 🍷



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