



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

■ Murray Lewis "Tommy" Thompson, 95, passed away Jan. 19 from injuries from an auto accident. He had been the manager of the fire and police pension system. He was a longtime member of the Civic Center Optimist Club, many of whom attended his memorial services at Forest Lawn, including Bob Russell, 90, and Larry Jones, 88

■ Sampson Wilson writes, "I read your column every time it comes out. It is very good"

■ Angela Hughes writes, "I enjoy reading your column, and I love the 'Thought for the Day' at the end of your well-written column"

■ Jane Schanck Denham, retired supervisor, Library Dept., tells of other family members City work history:

- Her father, Harold Schanck, was a plumbing inspector for Building and Safety and then a plumbing supervisor for Rec. and Parks
- Her husband, Richard Denham, worked as a life-guard for Rec. and Parks, then worked for LAPD, then as a supervisor for Rec. and Parks
- Her two sons, Richard and Robert, worked as locker attendants for Rec. and Parks. Richard is now a federal agent. Robert is in Iraq with the Air Force.
- Her uncle, Herbert Schanck, worked for Rec. and Parks as a gardener.

If you have any news about a retiree that you'd like to share, send it to Phil Skarin at 5301 Norwich Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91411, or call (818) 784-0130.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

*Retirement is just a bend
in the river of life,
Exposing us to new horizons,
and challenges
It is a time for growing,
a time to reach up beyond the
clouds and view the heavens
more clearly
A time to become more in
tune with the majesties of
the Creator.*



Tune Up Your Surfing Skills: RLACEI Website Is Approved

by Phil Skarin, RLACEI Publicity Chair

Ed Harding, RLACEI president, reports: "Our executive board has approved the establishing of a web page on the Internet. This will provide an additional means of communicating our activities to our 9,000 members. Thanks to Hal Danowitz for spearheading this project.

"At our Christmas Party at the Grace E. Simons Lodge, the Checker Cab Company had donated two cabs to shuttle people from the parking areas to the Lodge. Unfortunately, some people thought they would have to pay, but the cabs were free! At our future Picnic and Christmas Party, both at the Lodge, we hope that the Checker Cab will provide this public service again."

Legislative Update: Ken Spiker, our elected representative to the LACERS Board of Directors and Chairman of LACERS benefits and Administration Committee, reports retired civilian City employees receive a dental subsidy in accordance with the Administrative Code. Surviving spouses and domestic partners are not eligible for the subsidy after the retiree's death, although they may continue to purchase dental benefits through LACERS. Last year the LACERS Board obtained the cost from its actuary of providing a subsidy to survivors.

A motion has been introduced by

Councilman Bernard Parks that directed the CAO to study the feasibility of funding such benefits to their surviving spouse.

On Jan. 21, the CAO issued its reports to the Personnel Committee. The CAO reviewed



Ed Harding,
RLACEI President

the findings of the actuary, which indicates that the City's annual contribution to LACERS would increase by .13 percent of payroll to fund the benefit, assuming both current and future surviving spouses receive the benefit. For 2004, this would result in an increased contribution of \$1.9 million, in addition to the contribution requirements to maintain current benefits. According to the CAO, without this additional benefit to the City's contribu-

tion will increase by approximately \$95 million for 2004-05 and is expected to increase for at least another two years. In view of the City's projected budget deficit for the current year and next fiscal year, the CAO cannot recommend that this benefit be approved.

Member News: Hal Danowitz recently visited the Mormon Church's History Library in Salt Lake City. He was interested in researching information on his grandmother, who came to this country in 1907. He reported that he was successful in finding her on the list at Ellis Island and the manifest of the ship she arrived on. You don't need to go to Salt Lake to do the research – the following Websites are

very helpful: www.familysearch.org, www.jewishgen.org, and www.ellislandrecords.org ...

Golf Tournament: The 26th Annual Retirees Invitational Golf Tournament will again be at the popular Alhambra Golf Course Tuesday, June 15. The L.A. Federal Credit Union is again offering a sleeve of monogrammed golf balls to every golfer. Other prize sponsors are needed to help keep the entry fee lower. If you would like to be a sponsor, call co-chairman Phil Skarin at (818) 784-0130 or Tom Stemnock at (818) 487-6789. Helpers are also badly needed to do the scoring and handicapping.

Change of Address: If you change your address, notify Membership Chair Helen Salgado at 5423 Dewar St., L.A., CA 90022. Also notify LACERS. ☐

Coming events:

April 15 – General Membership Meeting at the Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center Free lunch at noon if you make a reservation by calling one of the officers on the Retirees Helpline by April 7

June 15 – Retirees Golf Classic

Aug. 12 – Retirees' Picnic at the Grace E. Simons Lodge;

Oct. 14 – Annual Corporation Meeting and Election of Officers; at the Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center

Dec. 9 – Christmas Party at the Grace E. Simons Lodge. ☐

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