



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

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

## For Retirees *By Phil Skarin, RLACEI Publicity Chair*

### Membership NEWS

**Leo Guzik** is an officer in the Riverside County Clock and Watch Club. He has collected old timepieces for more than 40 years and has a collection of more than 50 watches and clocks. Call him at (909) 677-3760 if you have too much time on your hands.

**Josephine Ball** works at a school in Lynwood as a receptionist.

**William Hart**, retired Building Inspector, after several years of a vagabond lifestyle traveling the United States in his motor home, bought a home in Spokane and began a new career as an on-call building inspector.

**Sampson Wilson** turned 95 August 8, and recently celebrated his 73rd wedding anniversary.

**Mike Koire**, while vacationing in Miami Beach, met, fell in love and was married to Sylvia July 6, and then they returned to his home in North Hollywood. He's certainly not washed up!

**Hal Danowitz** says to please visit our Website at [www.rlacei.com](http://www.rlacei.com) to find the latest retirement news.

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.**

**Poetry Contest:** Our tenth annual Poetry Contest deadline is Oct. 1. Send typed copies to Phil Skarin. Valuable prizes! Everyone wins! Any style, any length.



#### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

### The Freedom to Fail

*In this country of many freedoms,*

*One of the greatest freedoms*

*Is the freedom to fail.*

*But, a true failure is someone*

*Who quits trying after a few failures.*

*Each of us was created with*

*The potential to succeed in many areas.*

*The only way to achieve our true destiny*

*Is to keep trying to develop our skills*

*In many different areas.*

*The more things we try to do,*

*The more failures we will have,*

*But, also, the more successes we will have.*

*So, cherish this God-given freedom,*

*The Freedom to Fail.*

—Phil Skarin



# Health Care Providers List Approved by Committee



**Ed Harding,**  
*RLACEI President*

**Ed Harding,** RLACEI President, invites all retirees and their spouses to attend our Annual Corporation Meeting & Election of Officers at 1pm, Thursday, Oct. 14, at the Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center, 5056 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks.

Oaks Senior Center, 5056 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks.

If you come at noon, you will receive a free chicken lunch, courtesy of RLACEI. Lunch reservations are required! Call one of the officers by Oct. 7.

David Wilkins, Nominating Committee Chair, will present the following slate of officers (all incumbents) for election to two-year terms beginning Jan. 1. Nominations can also be made from the floor.

- PRESIDENT – Edward Harding
- SECOND VICE PRESIDENT – Ken Spiker
- DIRECTORS – Jerry Bardwell, Jack Mathews, Helen Salgado, and David Wilkins.

The director officer held by the junior past president is vacant, since the passing of Larry Jones.

**Picnic Recap:** The August 12 Retirees Picnic, held at the Grace E. Simons Lodge, with food catered by Chris & Pitts, was enjoyed by a large group of members and spouses and friends. Americo Garza, Picnic Chairman, is to be commended. And thanks to Checker Cab for providing free shuttle service.

**Legislative Update:** Ken Spiker, our elected Commissioner, reports that negotiating with the health care providers for 2005 has been completed. The Benefits Committee, which Ken chairs, made its recommendations to the Board of Administration on July 27 and was unanimously approved.

The 2005 plan will retain all current providers except Pacific Care HMO, for early retirees, with Blue Cross. Less than 500 of 10,246 retirees covered by LACERS health plan will be affected, and they can transfer to Blue Cross at no additional cost.

A new plan called SCAN has been added which should attract the attention

of some retirees. SCAN offers additional social services benefits including transportation to doctor appointments, house cleaning, dental service, etc., to eligible participants.

Ken also reported that he was misinformed that LACERS is fully funded. It's not. However, current retirees should not be concerned as their current benefits are funded.

Total cost of premiums for 2005 will be reduced by \$3.45 million.



### Coming events:

#### Thursday, Oct. 14

Annual Corporation Meeting and Election of Officers at the Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center, 5056 Van Nuys Blvd.

Lunch at noon and meeting at 1 p.m.

#### Thursday, Dec. 9

Christmas Party and Installation of Officers at the Grace E. Simons Lodge from 1 to 3 pm.

## In a World of Uncertainty, We Can Offer You a Guarantee...

... The Guarantee for People who like to win, but hate to lose.

Variable annuities are an important tool to consider for retirement planning. The benefits of investing in variable annuities include tax-deferral on any growth until you begin receiving income, guaranteed income for life and a guaranteed death benefit if you should pass away before you annuitize. While investing in a variable annuity may provide an opportunity for growth of your investment, variable annuities also carry certain charges such as mortality and expense risk and administration charges, annual maintenance fees and asset management fees and are subject to risks including the potential loss of value. As a result, variable annuities, like other investments, cause some people to worry about the possibility of losing their original investment. Now there is The Guaranteed Return Option (GRO)<sup>SM</sup>, an optional benefit available with most variable annuities issued by American Standard Life Assurance Corporation ("American Standard") for an annual charge of 0.25% of the account value allocated to the Variable Sub-Accounts. GRO guarantees you won't lose your original investment if you remain invested for a seven-year period, and every seventh contract anniversary thereafter, provided GRO is still in force. With GRO, the initial investment is directed into variable sub-accounts and a portion of the account is shifted into fixed buckets only to the extent necessary to maintain the principal guarantee. Assets automatically shift back to variable accounts when conditions allow.

#### With GRO<sup>SM</sup> you have:

- Protection – GRO guarantees initial Account Value (less any withdrawals) after seven years
- Opportunity – Ability to increase your guaranteed amount by looking in your contract anniversary value if your annuity increases in value. This will start a new seven-year Guarantee Period.
- Flexibility – Use GRO to participate in the equity market, tax-deferred. Select an appropriate, individually-tailored portfolio using American Standard's broad investment platform.

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Options to sell the investment are available only to investors who are U.S. residents. GRO is not available to all states. For a complete list of states where GRO is available, please contact your broker. The value of an investment will fluctuate and may rise or fall above or below the original investment value.

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