



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:

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| • 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*

MEMBER NEWS

Member News: After two terms on the Morro Bay City Council, **John Lemons** is working more on his golf game. My handicap has gone up to 15, he complained. Mine has just come down to 30! ...

Ivan Forbes just won a \$100 gift certificate in a Pet-Owner Look-Alike Photo Contest held by the City Employees Club of L.A. See Page 15 of the November *Alive!* paper ...

Charles Andrews and his wife, **Joanne**, volunteer at the Nutrition Center of the Josslyn Senior Center in Burbank ...

Six of the winning poems in this year's Poetry Contest are on Page 25 of the November *Alive!* paper ...

Marcella Butler took a class in Creative Writing – Poetry at the Southwestern Oklahoma State University. The University published a book of the students' poems, a copy of which she sent to me ...

John and Marguerite Shadle celebrated their 58th anniversary by going on an ocean cruise from San Pedro to Hilo, Hawaii. It took three weeks, and then they touched port at each of the other islands in Hawaii...

Dan and Vyrel Mircheff will celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary Jan. 5 ...

Phil and Miriam Skarin celebrated their 54th Nov. 18, the same date he enlisted in the Marine Corps (in 1942), but this "hitch" lasted longer...

Dale Rogers, Temple City, is active in real estate. His son, Carl, is a superintendent at the Hyperion Plant; Paul is a supervisor at the Convention Center; and John works for the Postal Service ...

Condolences: **Bob Dye's** wife, **Jeanette**, passed away Nov. 8 in San Diego. **Bob Esterbrook's** wife, **Vi**, passed away Nov. 19 in Arizona. Ernest Newsom passed away Nov. 12...

Jack Chestor Matthews was given a special commendation in October in Las Vegas at the Fordyce Club's 27th annual tribute. His 16 years of service in the Fordyce Club included offices in local chapters and at the national level, including national president ...

Al Goldfarb just completed 25 years as a writer for the Southern California Golf News. Did he get a service pin? No, he got a pink slip because the publication folded. He recalls interviewing Tiger Woods when Tiger was only 15 ...

Bill Turner has been very active in his retirement. He has competed in marathons in Honolulu, Portland and Dallas. He was a member of the 2002 – 03 County Grand Jury. He volunteers in the City Attorney's office in the Dispute Resolution Program.

LACERS Fund at All-Time High, Reaches \$8.2 Billion



Ed Harding,
RLACEI President

Retiree's Corner by Phil Skarin, RLACEI Publicity Chair

Ed Harding, RLACEI President, reports: "We had more than 200 retirees and guests at our Christmas Party Dec. 9 at the Grace Simons Lodge in Elysian Park. Americo Garza did a fine job in making the arrangements, including a fine luncheon catered by Chris & Pitts. Sue Skarin, Phil Skarin's daughter-in-law, provided some excellent musical entertainment on her \$15,000 harp.

Special guests included Robert Aguallo Jr., General Manager of LACERS; John Hawkins, President of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles; and members of their staff.

Hynda Rudd, former City Chief Archivist, installed the officers who will begin new two-year terms beginning this month. Checker Cab provided courtesy rides from the parking areas to the Lodge.

Legislative Update: Ken Spiker, our elected member of LACERS Board of Directors, is very pleased to report that the LACERS fund has reached an all-time high of \$8.2 billion. It is notable that the fund has recovered from the losses that occurred in 2001 and 2002. Ken gives the LACERS staff, especially Dan Gallagher, the

credit for the recovery and excellent investment advice.

The LACERS Board of Directors has unanimously approved a proposal offering the City a 15 year payback plan for the \$43 million the City owes the retirement fund. If approved by the City Council and Mayor, the plan will become effective on July 1, 2005, and carry an 8 percent annual interest rate.

Ken also reports that the Board of Directors has approved an increase in the monthly Medicare Part B reimbursement from \$66.60 to \$78.20. The increase became effective Jan. 1 and will match the announced 17 percent rate increase of the Federal Medicare Program.

Coming events:

**Tuesday, June 14, 2005:
Retirees Golf Classic**

More info to come

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

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

After the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas we usually have a diet of warmed up leftovers until they are finally fed to the dogs.

As we begin the New Year, we are faced with a different kind of leftovers, such as promises we didn't keep wrongs we didn't make right affections we have withheld responsibilities we have neglected.

So, let us take care of these leftovers and then have a Happy New Year!

Phil Skarin

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 assess 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)SM, an optional benefit available with most variable annuities issued by American Skandia Life Assurance Corporation ("American Skandia") 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 GROSM you have:

- **Protection** – GRO guarantees initial Account Value (less any withdrawals) after seven years
- **Opportunity** – Ability to increase your guaranteed amount by locking 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 Skandia's broad investment platform.

*The fixed investment options may be subject to a Market Value Adjustment upon early withdrawal that may increase or decrease values and benefits so that when surrendered or transferred prior to the end of the guarantee period, it may be worth more or less than the original investment.

Variable Annuities are sold by prospectus. For a prospectus containing more complete information on any American Skandia variable annuity, including information on charges, expenses, risk factors and tax consequences, call 1-800-SKANDIA. The prospectus is the controlling document with regard to this product. It should be read carefully before you invest or send money.

Certain of the most volatile portfolios are not available in the GRO program. GRO is not available in all states or in products where fixed allocations are not approved. An investor may terminate the GROSM program at any time. American Skandia does not provide any guarantees upon termination prior to the end of the seven-year program. Significant or prolonged declines in the value of the variable investment options you choose may result in all or a substantial portion of your Account Value being allocated to Fixed Allocations. While this will protect the principal amount during such market declines, it may substantially reduce your ability to allocate Account Value to variable investment options, particularly during periods of market increase. Guarantees associated with the program and the fixed rate accounts are subject to the claims paying ability of American Skandia Life Assurance Corporation.

Variable annuities are long-term investment products designed for retirement purposes. Partial or complete surrenders of taxable amounts may be subject to ordinary income tax and if prior to age 59½ may result in an additional 10% IRS penalty. Early withdrawals have the effect of reducing the death benefit and cash surrender value. Annuity contracts contain exclusions, limitations, reductions of benefits and terms for keeping them in force. Your licensed investment Professional can provide you with costs and complete details.

Variable annuities are issued by American Skandia Life Assurance Corporation and distributed by American Skandia Marketing, Incorporated. Both companies are located at One Corporate Drive, Shelton, Connecticut 06484.

American Skandia Life Assurance Corporation and American Skandia Marketing, Incorporated are both Prudential Financial companies. American Skandia Life Assurance Corporation is solely responsible for its financial condition and contractual obligations.

VARIABLE ANNUITIES, MUTUAL FUNDS AND OTHER INVESTMENTS:

7606-3 (11/03) ARE NOT FDIC INSURED ARE NOT BANK OR CREDIT UNION GUARANTEED MAY LOSE VALUE

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