



# 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*

### MEMBER NEWS

**Ken Kochakji** has run in 14 marathon races, including the recent L.A. Marathon ...

**Beatrice Silverberg** and her husband, **Henry**, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary June 17. Call them at (818) 995-0899 to wish them well.

**Fred Hoeptner** and his wife, **Judy**, traveled to Seattle to attend a Jazz Festival. While there they got together with **Hilton "Pat" Brodie** and his wife, **Aileen**, for a dinner party, then the next day on a ferry ride to the Bouchart Gardens in Victoria, Canada. Fred and Pat are fellow musicians.

**Bob Packard** does consulting for the Plate Boundary Observatory Project, locating sites where GPS instruments will gather data on the motions of the Pacific and North American Plates.

**Sam Furuta** and his wife, **Karen**, spent their 25th Anniversary in February on the Mexican Riviera.

**If you have news about retirement activities that you'd like to share, call Phil Skarin at (818) 784-0130, or write to 5301 Norwich Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91411 or fax (818) 906-3722.**



#### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

*Walls are often thought of as part of a structure that provide support for a roof or a floor above, or separate one room from another.*

*But, there are other kinds of walls we can build, such as walls that lend support to people who are burdened with heavy loads and walls that provide them with safety and protection.*

*There are also walls that we erect to separate us from people who have different religious or political views, are of a different ancestry or are ill or handicapped.*

*So, when you are building walls, try to build walls that provide support, not separation.*

- Phil Skarin



# Spouse Policy Hasn't Changed, But Death Benefit Might Rise



**Ed Harding,**  
RLACEI President

*By Phil Skarin, Publicity Chair, RLACEI*

**E**d Harding, RLACEI President, reports: "As you know, you must have been married at least one year prior to retiring so that your wife can receive retirement benefits. I must have received 30 or 40 letters asking that their present wife be covered, although they were married after the retiree refund.

"Some of the retirees' first wives either died or they were divorced, and some of them took a reduced pension to give their wives greater coverage. The C.A.O. stated that when the retiree retires, he makes a contract that covered him and his qualifying wife, and we cannot go back and change it. Those that took a reduced pension must continue with the amount although the wife they covered is no longer living.

"At the last general meeting we had in April, at

the Van Nuys Senior Citizens Center, 95 members attended, even though only 30 called to make reservations for lunch. It is very difficult to order lunch when only 30 percent of those who attend call to make a reservation. Please call a week ahead to reserve a lunch at our August Picnic and October Meeting. Please."

**Legislative Update:** Ken Spiker, our elected Commissioner to the LACERS Board of Directors, reports that the Cost of Living adjustment was approved at the last Board of Directors meeting. The adjustment will be effective July 1 (CPI = 3.3 percent). Those who retired prior to July 1, 2004, will receive the +3.0 percent and can bank .3 percent for each full month of retirement completed by July 1, 2005.

Ken also reports that the LACERS Board of Directors unanimously approved the funeral expense allowance increase from \$2,500 to \$5,000. The consultant had reported the increase will cost the fund \$1 million. The Board's action will go to the Mayor and City Council for consideration. Ken hopes for approval this time, since

State and Los Angeles County employees already have the \$5,000 allowance.

Retirees writing and/or phoning City Officials to show their support would be appreciated.

**News and Notes:** The deadline has passed to enter our Annual Retirees Golf Classic June 14 at the Alhambra Golf Course. However, if you have been asleep or away on vacation, call Phil Skarin at (818) 784-0130 to see if he can squeeze you in. Thanks to these prize sponsors: LAFCU, the City Employees Club, ACEBSA, Bob Okuda, Tom Stemnock, Phil Skarin, and Brad Smith. (He will custom-make a driver as a prize) ... Congratulations to the L.A. Federal Credit Union for earning a five-star "Superior" rating again from a credit rating firm. Chuck Rubin has been appointed to the Board of Directors, replacing Robert Malagon, who resigned after serving the credit union for 32 years ... Hal Danowitz asks you to visit our Website at www.rlacei.com to find out the latest retirement news.

### Upcoming events:

- **Aug. 11** – Picnic at the Grace E. Simons Lodge;
- **Oct. 6** – Annual Corporation Meeting and Elections at the Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center
- **Dec. 8** – Christmas Party at the Grace E. Simons Lodge.

### Retiree Notes:

**Poetry Contest:** The Eleventh Annual Retirees Poetry Contest will be held this year. Poems can be any style or length or subject that will be of interest to retirees. There will be separate categories for members and spouses. Send your typed entries to Phil Skarin at 5301 Norwich Ave., by Oct. 1. Everyone will win.

Have you been thinking about...

## LONG TERM Care INSURANCE?



### Call the people you can trust:

The City Employee Club of Los Angeles. We have been offering the highest quality group rated insurance plans exclusively to active and retired City employees for over 75 years.

- Group Rated
- Pension/Payroll Deducted
- Rates Are Locked

**Call today for your free information kit on how the City Employees Club of Los Angeles can help you choose the right Long Term Care plan for you.**



**1-800-464-0452**

**Don't wait another day. Start preserving your assets today!**

**City Employees Club of Los Angeles**  
World Trade Center • 350 South Figueroa Street, Suite 700 • Los Angeles, CA 90071