



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

Some Helpful Advice On Medicare Part D



Ed Harding,
RLACEI President

By Phil Skarin, Publicity Chair, RLACEI

Ed Harding, RLACEI President, reports: "The term 'movers and shakers' has taken on a new meaning, as I am shaking from all the packing involved in moving to a new house in Simi

Valley. I'm downsizing from a three-story, 5,000-square-foot house, to a smaller house of 3,100 square feet. My wife, Martha, has a bad knee, so this move will be better for her. My new address is 2890 Waterfall Lane, Simi Valley, CA 93065. If you are out visiting Reagan's Library, drop in for a drink and listen to my collection of 78-rpm records.

"By the time you read this, our annual picnic Aug. 11 may be history, but circle the date of Thursday, Oct. 6, for our annual Corporation Meeting and Elections. We will elect six directors. Subsequently, the elected directors will elect the officers. If you want to be considered for a director nomination, send a statement of your qualifications to Nominating Chair Dave Wilkins at 1000 Fairview Ave., Apt. 5, Arcadia, CA 91007. The

meeting is at 1 p.m., but if you come at noon you will be treated to a free lunch, only if you have called one of the officers on the retirees help lines for a reservation a week ahead. The meeting is at the Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center, 5056 Van Nuys Blvd."

Legislative Update: Ken Spiker,

our elected Commissioner to the LACERS Board of Directors, reports that the 2006 health benefits programs and premium rates are going to the Board later than usual. Premium negotiations are being held due to the uncertainty of the new Medicare Part D prescription program. The federal program will be effective Jan. 1, 2006, and as of now Federal compliance regulations have not been finalized.

Ken urges retirees not to sign up for the Part D until they have received and reviewed LAC-

ERS analysis and recommendation. Quite likely, LACERS will sign up as the employer contractor and provide the program to the retirees.

Medicare's prescription drug benefit – Medicare Part D – will be implemented through your LACERS health plan effective Jan. 1, 2006. LACERS will receive certain credits or reimbursements for providing drug coverage to you. These savings will be passed on to you in the form of lower premiums. Because Medicare does not allow you to be covered in more than one Part D plan at the same time, your LACERS medical plan will be canceled if you enroll in Part D as an individual or through another group plan.

Through your LACERS health plan, you can fill your prescriptions for very modest co-pays. This will not change. If you enroll in Part D as an individual, there will be significant costs to you in the form of deductibles and other payments.

Although it is a personal decision, I urge you not to enroll in Medicare Part D.

Ken wants to thank all the retirees who recently supported his election as Commissioner of the LACERS Board of Directors. Ken received 78.5 percent of the vote and is honored to serve as your commissioner for another five years.

**Don't miss the upcoming
Retirees Picnic,
Aug. 11 at
Grace E. Simons Lodge!
Sign up today!"**



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

Keep the Door Open

People sometimes say or do things that offend or hurt you, and you are tempted to figuratively "close the doors" on the relationship.

But their actions may not be consistent with their long-term feelings for you. Their actions may reflect some problems in their personal life that influenced them, and thereby conveyed a mixed message to you.

Try to be aware of what a person's true character is, and what their long-term feelings for you are, and overlook occasional aberrations, and always keep the door open.

- Phil Skarin



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.

Upcoming events:

- **Oct. 6** - Annual Corp. Meeting & Elections at Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center, 5056 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks; 1 p.m. (lunch at noon)
- **Dec. 8** - Christmas Party and Installation of Officers at Grace E. Simons Lodge; 3 p.m.
- **June 6, 2006** - the 28th annual Retirees Golf Tournament

Retiree Notes:

If you change your address, notify Helen Salgado at (323) 728-4930 or write her at 5423 Dewar St., Los Angeles, CA 90022. If you need a new green membership card, send her a s.a.s.e. Also notify LACERS and Alive!

Visit our Website at www.rlacei.com to find out the latest news.

Neil Ricci represented us at the June 27 swearing-in ceremony of Eric Garcetti, Councilmember, 13th District, at Barnsdale Park. The many testimonials made it clear that he was well-liked during his first term. Mayor-elect Antonio Villaraigosa and half of the Councilmembers were present as Eric's father, Gil Garcetti, swore him in for his second term of office.

**A message from the
City of LA Department of Aging**

**Do you have a family member
who is enrolled in Medicare but
does not have prescription coverage?**

They may be eligible to receive a free prescription credit for \$300 to purchase their medication.

**Time is running out
Call NOW! Please Call
1-800-510-2020
to find out how.**