

For Retired Club Members



The Best Years

City Retiree Associations:

DWP Retirees Association



Dolores Foley, President
Phone: (626) 445-7376
E-mail: vinmar@altrionet.com

Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association



Robin J. Welborn, President
Phone: (323) 283-4441
Fax: (626) 285-1461
E-mail: larfpa@pacbell.net or
9521 Las Tunas Dr. #4,
Temple City, CA 91780

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ed Harding, RLACEI President
www.rlacei.com
Contact him: (800) 678-4145 Ext. 703
or via E-mail:
postmaster@rlacei.com

Change of Address?

If you change your address, notify Helen Salgado, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 Ext. 713, or write to her at 8372 Arnett Dr. Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Also notify LACERS.

Have News About Yourself?

Contact Phil Skarin, 5301 Norwich Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91411-3910, or call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 709.

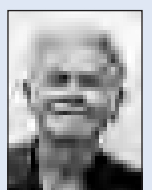
Upcoming Events:

Dec. 6: Christmas Party at the Grace E. Simons Lodge in Elysian Park, 11:30 a.m.

Please call one of the RLACEI officers for reservations for each event.

RLACEI:

LACERS Fund Ends Year Strong



By Phil Skarin,
RLACEI Publicity Chair

President Ed Harding reports:



Ed Harding

"Hal Danowitz, Neil Ricci and I were at the LACERS Health Fair Nov. 1 at the Marriot Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. We all thought that everyone should attend

one of the four health fairs.

"We handed out flyers and membership applications. Other health providers also handed out all kinds of goodies. LACERS furnished a Continental breakfast. It was nice to see old friends and coworkers, including two former secretaries of mine.

"I want to wish two of my dear friends get well wishes. One is Walter Lee from the Bureau of Engineering, who was very ill in the hospital and has now moved in with his son in Arcadia. The other is Dave

Wilkins, one of our Directors, who fell and broke his hip in seven places. He spent Oct. 5 through the 10 in the hospital, getting the pieces put back. He is in a nursing home in Sylmar and plans to move into a Residence Care in Granada Hills. Greg Wilkins, Dave's son, who works for the City, has been handling all of Dave's issues. Call him on his cell phone: (626) 222-6697. Dave will be happy to hear from all his friends.

"Be sure to attend our Christmas Party on Thursday, Dec. 6, at 11:30 a.m. at the Grace E. Simons Lodge in Elysian Park. Chris & Pitts will furnish a great lunch, so be sure to call one of the officers for a reservation so that we will have enough for everyone. We will have a few speakers, entertainment, many great door prizes and the Installation of the Directors that you voted in.

"See you there."



Legislative Update:



Ken Spiker

"In the last fiscal year ending June 3, 2007, the fund earned 19.5 percent compared to the previous fiscal year, when the fund earned 12.4 percent. The fund is plus-18.2 percent for the last 12 months, thanks to the Board's investment policies and a great staff, headed up by Dan

Gallagher. We are not having any problem earning the required plus-8 percent.

"The LACERS fund is still very healthy at \$11.6 billion when this article was prepared. Oil prices, bankruptcies, foreclosures, etc. have not caused any serious damage to our investments.

"The Mayor's request to the Board to divest any funds with companies doing business with Iran has not as yet been scheduled for discussion. Identifying those companies has been a major prob-

lem for the federal government and the state. We should receive an objective and impartial evaluation of positive or negative results of sales before being asked to vote."

Election Results: At the Executive Board meeting Nov. 12, all of the incumbent officers were reelected for another year.



RLACEI Website

Hal Danowitz asks you to visit the RLACEI Website at www.rlacei.com to find the latest retirement news. If you find it helpful, or have suggestions for improvement, call Hal at (800) 678-4145 Ext. 707.

Contact LACERS

The Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System is at 360 E. Second Street, second floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Phone (213) 473-7200 or (800) 779-8328. Contact them to arrange direct deposit of your retirement checks, change your tax withholding or beneficiary, or for questions about your health plans.

The Best Years

ADVENTURES
with HAL!

Arriving at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York.

By Hal Danowitz,
Secretary, RLACEI

Retiree Hotlines

Who to call? Following is a list of contacts for RLACEI and for the DWP:

City Employees Retirement System: (213) 473-7200

RLACEI Retirement Counselors and Retiree Helplines: (800) 678-4145

• Edward Harding	Ext. 703
• Phil Skarin	Ext. 709
• Robert Wilkinson	Ext. 704
• Jerry Bardwell	Ext. 706
• Harold Danowitz	Ext. 707
• Jack Mathews	Ext. 712
• Helen Salgado (membership)	Ext. 713
• Americo Garza	Ext. 710
• Neil Ricci	Ext. 714

DWP Retirement Plan Office: (213) 367-1722

RLACEI:

Officers for 2007

Edward Harding, President
Robert Wilkinson, First Vice President
Kenneth Spiker, Second Vice President
Hal Danowitz, Secretary
Jerry Bardwell, Treasurer

Committee Chairpersons for 2007

Bob Wilkinson, Audit
Jerry Bardwell, Budget
Hal Danowitz, Bylaws
Ken Spiker, Legal and Legislative
Helen Salgado, Membership
Phil Skarin, Publicity
Tom Stemnock and Phil Skarin, Golf
Americo Garza, Picnic
Americo Garza, Holiday Party and Installation
Jack Mathews, Senior Citizens
Neil Ricci, Health
Neil Ricci, Nominating
Phil Skarin, Parliamentarian

Directors

Thomas Stemnock
Americo Garza
Helen Salgado
Phil Skarin
Dave Wilkins
Jack Mathews
Neil Ricci



To Be Young in New York

■ Hal's granddaughter, Isabelle, describes the family adventure to New York City.

Story by Isabelle LoMonaco

This month we have a guest writer, my nine-year old granddaughter, Isabelle. This trip was part of her birthday present and she traveled with my wife, Evelyn, and Isabelle's mother, Michelle.

— Hal

My name is Isabelle LoMonaco, and I went to New York City with my grandmother and mother as part of my birthday present. The plane ride to New York City was six hours there and six hours back. On the ride there we flew at night. I slept on the plane.

From the airport we took a cab to the hotel. We stayed at the W Hotel (541 Lexington Ave., 212-755-1200) on Lexington and 49th Street. We dropped our luggage at the hotel.

The first day we walked to Rockefeller Center and I wanted to ice skate, so we did. Grandma didn't want to, but my mom and I did. After the Zamboni cleaned the ice, we were the only ones on the ice for five seconds. We skated for about 45 minutes.

After skating, we took a double-decker bus through the city. We went through Time Square and saw the theater district and Carnegie Hall; it started raining in the middle of the ride and they gave us yellow ponchos to wear.

We got off the bus at the Empire State Building stop and had pizza for lunch. We were going to go to the Empire State building, but because of the rain we couldn't see



Isabelle, taking on New York City.



Isabelle with Grandma and Mom at Rockefeller Center.

anything, so we didn't go up.

After that we went back to the hotel for a rest, but I didn't sleep; I watched TV. We took a pedal cab to dinner at Mars 2112. It was the weirdest restaurant I have ever been to. It was fun because you had to take a ride into the restaurant. The food was very good.

The Mars 2112 restaurant is a space-themed restaurant for the whole family located in the heart of Times Square at 51st Street and Broadway.

After that, we went to see *Grease* (at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre) in the theater district. We really liked this TV show called *You're the One That I Want* that picked out the stars for *Grease*. So that is the whole reason we came to New York. After the show, we brought a poster and we went by the stage door and got it signed by the actors who played Sandy, Danny and Kenickie.

The next day we went to the Central Park Zoo. We saw bats, birds, red pandas, monkeys, puffins, penguins, polar bears, sea lions and piranha. It was really fun.

After we went to the zoo we took a horse and carriage around Central Park. We saw an



Isabelle and Michelle ice skating in Rockefeller Center.

ice-skating rink and a bunch of other horse carriages. Our carriage driver was from Rome and sang us a song.

Right after that, we went to the Tavern on the Green (Central Park at West 67th Street, 212-873-3200). It is a famous tea place. Except I didn't have tea; I had chicken nuggets.

ADVENTURES with HAL!

After that, we waited in the half-price theatre ticket line (TKTS Times Square) for 45 minutes to buy tickets to *Mary Poppins* (New Amsterdam Theatre).

Then we met our good friends, the Martinos, who live in Westchester County. After we got together with them, we decided to go to Serendipity 3 for dinner because of its famous frozen hot chocolate. While we were waiting for our table, we went to Dylan's Candy Bar (1011 Third Ave, 646-735-0078), which is the biggest candy store I have ever seen. Dylan's Candy Bar was a good reason to kill time, and we bought two bags of candy.

Serendipity 3 at 225 E. 60th St. (212-838-3531) is known for its foot-long hot dogs and frozen drinks. It is named for the three legendary princes of the island once known as Serendipity, now Sri Lanka, from which the 18th century writer Sir Horace Walpole coined serendipity.

Once our table was ready, everybody ordered food except me; I ordered a fruit cup.

For dessert I had a cup full of ice cream with a bunch of caramel. I didn't try the frozen hot chocolate, but everybody else did and they liked it.

After that, we went to see *Mary Poppins*. It had a lot of special effects; everything moved. I would recommend it for kids of all ages.

At the hotel I had to sleep on the floor because there were two twin beds and no



A carriage ride in Central Park.

room for a rollaway. I almost sleep-walked out of the room, but luckily mom woke me up in time and said, "Isabelle get back to bed," and I did.

Sunday, our last day, we took a boat to the Statue of Liberty, and we climbed as far as we could go. Grandma was tired after we had to climb 156 steps up and 156 steps down. After we visited the Statue of Liberty we went to Ellis Island, where people who came from other countries went before they could come ashore. They had to take a test before they could get into the county. To get to the Statue of Liberty, we had to go through security, where they blew air at you. It was fun.

Then we went to the airport. It

was sad to leave New York City, but I was happy to see the rest of my family.



Having tea at the Tavern on the Green, on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

RLACEI MEMBER NEWS:

Earl and Eileen Rogers now live at 700 North Shore Dr., No. 4, Bellingham, WA 98226. Call them at (360) 671-5958.

Mort and Georgia Feingold now live at 700 Ardmore Ave. #214, Ardmore, PA 19003-1135. They are near their son and family.

Mike and Cleone Vrabel flew to Hawaii for the June wedding of their granddaughter, Jaime. It was a real family reunion.

Jerry Lapporte, former Director of Street Lighting, advises that he is now fully retired after participating in 120 litigation cases as an Expert Witness on lighting and visibility. The cases usually involved a traffic or industrial accident, a police shooting or a criminal act.

Jim and Barbara Neuman spend about four months each year in their RV. They have visited all 50 states. He enjoys woodworking, and she is an accomplished painter.

Robert Paul and his wife live in the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee. They have traveled throughout the United States. She is a volunteer at the hospital and he drives a county "Dial a ride" van.

Carlos Quiroz and his wife live in Yucca Valley, where he does volunteer work. They are now headed for his wife's hometown of Guadalajara, Mexico, for a few weeks. There are some retired City people there, so he feels comfortable.

Vince and Mary Ann Borello celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with friends at the Venetian Resort in Las Vegas in October. Their secret is to always listen attentively to whatever the other is saying.

Victor and Pat Aprea celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary Aug. 10.

John Peterson is restoring a 1936 Chevy Standard Town Sedan. He needs four hubcaps for it. If you have some lying around, give John a call at (909) 593-5835.

Ivan Forbes has a windmill in Sylmar that generates 99.5 percent of all his electric needs. He was featured in a previous *Alive!*

To find out the latest retirement news, visit www.rlacei.com. If you have news about yourself or other retirees, send it to Phil Skarin at 5301 Norwich Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91411

You're Invited!

RLACEI Holiday Party in December

The RLACEI's annual Christmas Party and Installation of Officers is scheduled for noon Thursday, Dec. 6, at the Grace E. Simons Lodge. The Lodge is at 1025 Elysian Park Dr., near Dodger Stadium. There will be a light lunch (sandwiches, salad and drinks), entertainment and valuable door prizes. You must make reservations at least a week ahead. Guests welcome. Call one of the officers on the Retirees Helplines (see page 30). Free taxi service can take you from the parking lot to the lodge.



RLACEI Holiday Party

Thursday,
Dec. 6, 12 noon

Grace E. Simons Lodge
1025 Elysian Park Drive
(near Dodger Stadium)

A Memorial for James E. Shields 1938-2007



Jim, a Retired Programmer Analyst, ITA, passed away Sept. 23 in Mesa, Ariz.

His family invites you to spend an afternoon sharing memories of his life and work with his friends and family.

Please join them for this special occasion from 2 to 5 p.m. Jan. 12 at 9338 Odessa Ave. in North Hills, California, 91343.

For more information, please call Lynda Simmons at (818) 894-3338.

On the Move



Alive! catches up with Retirees who are active, involved ... Alive!

Ken Keeps Going

Retiree runner Ken Kochakji ran another distance competition. This time it was the fourth annual Calabasas Classic 5K Nov. 11. He ran with his sister, Christine Douglass. Good going, Ken and Christine!



Ken and Christine show off their medals.



A large crowd of people participated in this great cause - fighting cancer.

Are you On the Move? Write to us and tell us what you're up to! It's even better if you send us a photo. We'll print what we can! talkback@cityemployeesclub.com



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

Do Something More

You may think it's enough to do your work well, support your family, be a good parent and be a good churchgoer.

But you must do something more. You must give some of your time in helping your fellow man. Do something for those who need a little help, something for which you don't get paid, but doing it is a privilege.

Remember that you don't live in a world all of your own. Your brothers and sisters are also in this world with you.

— Phil Skarin

RLACEI's Toll-Free Number

RLACEI — The Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc. group has established a new toll-free helpline number that can be accessed free of charge throughout the United States.

The number is: (800) 678-4145

Call the Helpline to reach the officers of RLACEI. For information on problems, activities, meetings or membership, call the helpline. Each officer's extension is listed.

Edward Harding x703	Jack Matthews x712	Americo Garza x710
Harold Danowitz x707	Robert Wilkinson x704	Neil Ricci x714
Phil Skarin x709	Jerry Bardwell x706	Helen Salgado x713

For Retired Club Members

Put the City under your tree. Give Club gifts.

SEE PAGES 58-59



Marie Lemelle, third from left, was congratulated by long-time WPAAA members (from left) Jacqueline Boddie, Carol Fort and Fern Holmes.



During a recent visit to Washington, D.C., Marie Lemelle met with living legend and civil rights icon Dr. Dorothy I. Height, who at 95 continues to conduct business at the national headquarters daily.



Marie Lemelle, honored with the 2007 Community Advocate Award from the National Council of Negro Women.

Lemelle: Top Advocate

■ **DWP's Marie Lemelle, Club Member, receives the 2007 National Community Advocate Award from the National Council of Negro Women.**

DWP — Marie Lemelle, DWP, has received the 2007 Community Advocate Award from the National Council of Negro Women Oct. 27 at the 33rd Bethune Recognition Luncheon at the Holiday Inn Gateway Hotel in Torrance.

The Bethune Recognition Luncheon is a national event held in local chapters to allow committed women from each chapter to continue the legacy of founder Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and the commitment of Chair and President Emeriti Dr. Dorothy I. Height to the preservation of its national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Marie Lemelle got her start in community advocacy early in life, following the footsteps of her supportive parents, Clayton, a retiree from the DWP, and Theresa, who promoted involvement in community affairs work and volun-

teerism. Since then, Marie has helped others through communications, public relations and community advocacy.

Her work in promoting positive messages and themes in the African American community has not been lost on those she has influenced and made a difference with. Lemelle, president of the Water and Power African American Association in Los Angeles (www.wpaaa.org), will see that all of her work has not been in vain. She also serves on the advisory board of the African American Firefighter Museum and the board of the Los Angeles Humanity Foundation.

"The NCNW is proud to announce this year's outstanding women and youths in the community who have made a commitment to NCNW and encourage everyone to help us celebrate their accomplishments," said Joan Jackson, president of the NCNW, Southern California Area Chapter.

Founded in 1935, NCNW reaches nearly four million women through 39 national affiliate organizations and more than 240 sections through various activities. NCNW addresses issues of human welfare and rights through public education, community service and advocacy.

Lemelle has also received certificates of recognition and appreciation for her dedication to the community from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, U.S. Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, Congresswoman Diane E. Watson, Assembly woman Karen Bass, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Councilman Herb Wesson, and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa.

"I'm honored that the NCNW selected me for this award," she said. "It means a great deal to me because it's a culmination of a lot of things I have been doing in the community. It really feels good to know that people notice what you do and they support it."

She has spearheaded the distribution of water and clothes to the homeless and hosting free workshops about financial empowerment and homeownership for the community. "There are so many unsung heroes that don't get noticed...we have a lot of folks that do what they do, not so much for the recognition, but because it's a passion. It is a passion for me."

Congratulations, Marie, from the Club. It's a much-deserved honor.