

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.

RLACEI:

LACERS Urges State Court To Reverse Control Ruling



By Phil Skarin,
RLACEI Publicity Chair

President Ed Harding reports:



Ed Harding

"Last month, I wished well wishes to two of my dear friends. Walter Lee, former Director, passed away Nov. 28 after a battle with cancer. Dave Wilkins, a current Director, is recovering well from a serious hip injury and surgery and is now at home. I hope he will return soon to his duties with our organization.

"Our Christmas party Dec. 6 was a great success. We fed more than 150

retirees. Our thanks to Lita Payne, Sarah Hill and other LACERS employees for taking time out from their own party to talk to our members. LACERS also contributed 10 \$20 bills to our raffle. Sal Murguia of the LAFUCU gave out lots of goodies. Thanks to Benito Miranda and Richard Rodriguez of Secure Horizons for talking to our group and for giving five Ralph's gift certificates for our raffle.

"John Hawkins and Robert Larios of the City Employees Club took pictures for *Alive!* They donated two watches and six \$25 and \$50 gift certificates for the raffle. RLACEI donated 20 \$20 bills and 10 boxes of See's candy to the raffle. A

total of 42 prizes were raffled off.

"Beth Bedsole, the new editor of *El Pueblo*, was there with her assistant, Chris, taking pictures for their paper. Beth replaced Lori Koslowski.

"Gary Mattingly, retired Director of the Fire and Police Pension Department, installed the following members for new two-year terms as Directors of our Executive Board: Phil Skarin, Tom Stemnock, Americo Garza, Neil Ricci, Hal Danowitz and Robert Wilkinson.

"I hope everyone had a great Christmas and Holiday and that your New Year will be the best ever."

Legislative Update:



Ken Spiker

Six former members of the Board of Administration of the San Diego City Employees Retirement System are facing criminal charges in relation to actions taken to increase pension benefits and allegedly making those increases contingent upon a reduction in the City of San Diego's required contribution to the retirement fund.

The criminal prosecution filed by the County District Attorney included appointed members and elected members (city employees and retirees).

On Sept. 7, the California Court of Appeal issued its decision regarding the prosecution under Government Code Section 1090, according to a published legal analysis.

If the decision is not reversed by the California Supreme Court, and if the

State legislature does not enact legislation correcting the decision, the following adverse consequences will result:

n No public employee will be permitted to participate in negotiations of contracts through collective bargaining.

n No public agencies will be permitted to enter into any contracts with private companies, such as Kaiser Permanente and other medical insurance providers if contracts provide a financial benefit to public employees and retirees.

n No member of the retirement board will be permitted to act upon contracts that will result in benefits to its members.

Ken is pleased to report that the 2008 health care Board of Directors actions were completed prior to this court decision.

He's asked the City Attorney's representative what the procedure will be for the COLA (Cost of Living) vote next spring. He was informed that under a "legal necessity," the decision permits the Board of Directors to act. Under such a

case, the Mayor's four appointees, none of whom are City employees, can act as the two elected City Employees. If a quorum is short, one of the disqualified members may be selected.

The interpretation of what can and cannot be considered a "legal necessity" will be up to City Attorney's decision.

The LACERS Board of Directors has joined dozens of other California public pension boards in submitting an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) legal brief, urging the Supreme Court to hear an appeal.

Will the California Supreme Court hear the case, and if yes, when? How soon will the California legislator approve clarification?

Until one of the other is accomplished, Ken is prohibited from voting on any item that would benefit retirees. However, in his opinion, he will and legally can talk in favor of such items and lobby other commissioners to do the right thing and help retirees.

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.

Happy
NEW YEAR

The Best Years

ADVENTURES with HAL!

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



In Africa.



By Hal Danowitz,
Secretary, RLACEI

Where the Wild Things Are

■ Hal and entourage begin the New Year on a safari.



Cape of Good Hope.

For a number of years, Evelyn and I have discussed going on safari in Africa. We asked Evelyn's cousins, Myrna and Don, if they wanted to go with us. They specifically wanted to see the Cape of Good Hope and Victoria Falls, in addition to spending time viewing the animals. When you think of going on safari in Africa, you automatically think of East Africa. If you look at a map of Africa, you will see that there is a great distance between the Cape and Kenya and Tanzania, which are in East Africa. This would involve a great deal of lost time in traveling between the areas.

We started researching the various options by contacting a number of tour companies that specialized in Africa. I even attended a presentation at the Auto Club on Africa. As luck would have it we found that the counties of Botswana and Zimbabwe have great viewing of animals and were still not overrun with tourists. With the Cape being in South Africa and both Botswana and Zimbabwe on the borders the distances were not great. Victoria Falls is on the Zambezi River in Zimbabwe.

We selected Ultimate Africa Safaris (15611 SE Fairwood Blvd., Renton, Wash., 98058, [800] 461-0682, www.ultimateafrica.com) to set up our trip. I contacted Ian Proctor, the managing director, and told him that we wanted to see the Cape and Victoria Falls and also the animals and asked him to put together an itinerary. By this time our daughter's in-laws,



From left: Don and Myrna; Evelyn and Hal; and Effie and Pierre.

Effie and Pierre, had signed on, so there would be six of us traveling.

We left Los Angeles May 11 on United Airlines to London's Heathrow Airport, arriving at Terminal 3 at about 1:30 p.m. the next day. We passed through immigration and then claimed our luggage. Our connection to Cape Town, South Africa, on British Airways was in Terminal 4. The quickest way to Terminal 4 turned out to be by "Underground" (subway), which is free between terminals. Because we were limited to the amount of luggage we could take on safari, we decided to leave a bag in London for the four days we would spend in London on our return. After a little research I decided to leave our bag at "Left Luggage Storage" at Terminal 4, which cost about \$6 a day. It is secured, and they x-ray all bags.

After checking in with British Airways we had about five hours before our flight. One of the benefits of traveling business class is that you can use the private airline waiting rooms. They are very comfortable and provide free snacks and beverages while you wait for your flight. You could even check your e-mail free. We boarded the plane at 7:30 pm on Saturday.

After an uneventful flight, we arrived in Cape Town early Sunday morning, May 13, Mother's Day. Cape Town is nine hours ahead of Los Angeles and one hour ahead of London. After clearing customs we were met by a representative of Wilderness Safaris (www.wilderness-safaris.co.za), our guides for most of our trip. We were driven to the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront to the Cape Grace Hotel (West Quay, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town 8002, South Africa), voted the world's best hotel by the readers of *Condé Nast Traveler*.

After a short nap we met the rest of our party and decided to explore the V&F Waterfront. For your information, Alfred was Queen Victoria's second son and he laid the first load of stones to start construction of the breakwater for the Cape Town harbor in 1860. The waterfront has a number of shopping malls, cinemas, restaurants, pubs and taverns, and entertainment and activities for the whole family. It reminded us of the Santa Monica Promenade. We stopped at one of the pubs for a quick snack and something to drink and then visited the Two Oceans Aquarium, South Africa's largest. I had changed some traveler's checks for South Africa's rand, but we mostly used credit cards



Cape Grace Hotel in Cape Town.



The Cape Point Lighthouse.

to pay for purchases and meals, as the rate of exchange is generally better with a credit card. South Africa is very inexpensive: a nice dinner for two, with wine and drinks before, was around \$35.

The next morning, we had a great buffet breakfast, included in the price of the room, in the hotel dining room. Our guide, Steve, was waiting for us in the lobby, and we started our tour of the Cape Peninsula. Cape Town is the capital of the Western Cape Province and the Parliamentary capital of South Africa. It is near the southern tip of Africa, about 25 miles from the Cape of Good Hope. The administrative capital of South Africa is Pretoria.

Our first stop was Hout Bay, about halfway down the west side of the peninsula. We boarded a boat to go out to Duiker Island, a Cape Fur seal and bird sanctuary. The ride out to the island was a little rough, but we got a good look at the seals and on the way back to the harbor saw a number of porpoises.

Because we were in the southern hemisphere (the start of their winter), we had had some concerns about the weather. So far we had bright blue skies and temperatures that were very close to what we had left in Los

ADVENTURES with HAL!

Angeles—mid-70s during the day and mid-50s in the evening. In fact the weather for the whole trip was excellent; we had only one day that wasn't perfect, and that meant only a little light rain.

Back on tour, we drove across the peninsula to the east side, driving through Simon's Town, a naval base. Just south of Simon's Town, we stopped at Boulders, famous for its thriving colony of African penguins, a warm-weather penguin that nests in the sand near the shoreline. Although set in the middle of a residential area, it is one of the few sites where this endangered bird can be seen at close range.

As we continued south, we entered the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, where we saw our first baboons. This caused great excitement among all of us. Little did we know that these baboons were very different from the ones we would see later.

Our first stop was at the Cape Point Lighthouse. As I got out of the van, I spotted a large male baboon grab a woman's purse, which she was not about to let go of. As she and the baboon continued the struggle, her husband was hitting the baboon with a plastic



African penguins at Boulders.

bag until the baboon let go and the woman fell to the ground. Luckily she was not hurt. Our guide told us that people feed the baboons, and they associate us with food. If they see you with some food, they will try to take it (kind of like the bears in Yosemite). The government employs uniformed baboon chasers to help keep the area safe. It was a little unsettling with the baboons walking around loose. This was one of the few times we saw any aggression by an animal toward humans during our trip.

We had lunch at the Two Oceans Restaurant, which gets its name because some say that this is where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans merge. There is some question as to that happening in this area, because the Cape of Good Hope is not the southernmost point on the African continent, which is Cape Agulhas. The Cape of Good Hope is the most southwesterly point on the continent.

After lunch, we rode the funicular up to the lighthouse to see the spectacular view of the Cape. We decided to walk down and stopped briefly to take pictures of the baboons and ostriches. After a stop at the overlook of Cape of Good Hope to have our picture taken in front of the sign, we started our drive up the west side of the peninsula.

Our last stop today was at the Kristenbosch National Botanical Garden, known for its beauty and diversity of cape flora. It was a very nice way to end our first full day in Africa.

Of course any trip has to have shopping, but because we were limited to luggage (26 pounds each), we asked the hotel if they could ship our purchase back home. I knew this would not be cheap, but I wasn't prepared for the figure they quoted. But we had already made our purchases so we just decided to send it home no matter the cost. If I had thought about it in advance, I could have had the tour company ship the package to our last stop, and it would have been much cheaper. Prices were very reasonable in South Africa, with the dollar being very strong. We got some very good bargains, so the additional cost of shipping wasn't too bad.

Our tour the next day was to the town of Stellenbosch in a region known for its vineyards and wineries, about a 30-minute drive from Cape Town. It is the second oldest town



At a cheetah preserve.



Stellenbosch.

in South Africa after Cape Town, settled in 1679. On our way, we drove around the downtown area of Cape Town and then drove up Signal Hill for a wonderful view of the cape area. We would have liked to go to the top of Table Mountain, but the cable car was not running. On our way to Stellenbosch, we stopped at a cheetah preservation station and were able to go into the caged area and pet a male cheetah.

In Stellenbosch, we stopped for lunch at the de Goue Druif Hotel, built in 1811, and then visited the Village Museum, a collection of historic houses from 1709 to 1850, each restored and furnished in the style of its particular period. On the way back to Cape Town, we visited a local winery, and I must say that the South African wines were very comparable to California wines.

After some more shopping, we had dinner in the hotel and made an early night of it because we were leaving the hotel at 5 a.m. to catch our flight, which would start us on our way to Botswana.

We saw only a very small part of South Africa, but we liked what we saw.

RLACEI MEMBER NEWS:

Walter Lee's memorial service Dec. 8 at the Rose Hills Cemetery was attended by many of his co-workers from the Bureau of Engineering, including Larry Lewis, Larry Burks, Bruce Rollo, Gene Chin, Betty Cooper, Marty Rashoff, Louie Yamanishi, John Cockayne and Phil Skarin.

Sam and Gerry Hochberg celebrated 50 years of marriage Nov. 24. Sam had been the Superintendent of Shows at the Convention Center. Now he volunteers at the Jewish Home in Reseda.

Neil Ricci and Rosemarie Walker took a 10-day vacation trip to Australia in October. Some of the many highlights of their trip were: In Sydney, they visited a museum, saw some old sailing vessels and a decommissioned submarine, took a luncheon cruise, took a zoo tour and even got to pet a koala and a wallaby from Cairns. They snorkeled at the Great Barrier Reef; and finally, they went to the Cultural Center and took a gondola ride to the top of the mountain. Then they went home after a 14-hour flight.

Fred Hoepfner has composed a number of ragtime piano compositions. In November he attended the West Coast Ragtime Festival in Sacramento, where about 1,000 devotees gather annually. For the first time, several of Fred's compositions were performed in festival concerts, a real thrill!

Dave Wilkins is at home recovering from hip surgery. Send a get well card to him at 1000 Fairview Avenue, #5 Arcadia, CA 91007.

To find out the latest retirement news, visit www.rlacei.com.

If you change your address, notify Membership Chair Helen Salgado at 8372 Arnett Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Also notify *Alive!* and LACERS.

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

The 2007 Poetry Contest Winners were:

- *Members, first to fifth place:* Ken Smuland, Jim McCloskey, Phil Garofalo, Rose Valido and Sisto Sandoval.
- *Honorable Mention:* Lee De Board and Carleton Ralston.
- *Spouses and Family Members, first to fifth place:* Alice De Prez, Elaine Chambers, Jane Hanson, Marina Harrington and Lillian Adams.

Every poem was outstanding, and all will receive and award in the mail.

City Contribution Falls

The Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) announced the annual City Contribution Rate payable on July 15, 2008 is 20.10 percent, signifying a 2.69 percent decrease from the previous year due to outstanding performance of the LACERS investment portfolio and lower than expected healthcare costs.

The Segal Company presented the finding as part of the annual Actuarial Valuation and Review for Retirement and Health Benefits. The report was presented to the LACERS Board of Administration at its Nov. 13 meeting.

"The actuarial study is further evidence of the strength of LACERS investments," said Robert Aguillo Jr., General Manager, LACERS. "We have had double-digit returns on

our portfolio since 2004. We have contained costs while still providing excellent customer service to our Active and Retired Members."

LACERS funded ratio for retirement allowances, rose from 77.8 percent to 81.7 percent. This increase is attributed to LACERS exceptional investment returns during the past fiscal year (+19.4 percent for June 30).

"Our funded status is amazing when you consider we also pre-fund retiree health benefits," said Eric L. Holoman, president of the LACERS Board of Administration. The funded ratio for retiree health benefits is 68.5 percent.

"LACERS has been pre-funding health benefits since 1988 and is considered a leader in this field."

LACERS Is Ahead

The Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) General Manager Robert Aguillo Jr. announced Dec. 4 that he is pleased with the results of the Management Audit brought by the Mayor, City Council and City Controller.

The Management Audit is required to be performed every five years, pursuant to the City Charter. This is LACERS' first Management Audit under this Charter mandate.

"LACERS is a leader among public employee pension systems in investments, retirement and health benefits, and customer service," Aguillo said. "We were confident the audit would highlight these strengths and identify a

few areas where we may have room to grow."

In the Management Audit, LACERS is commended in several areas:

- LACERS structures and work processes are designed to facilitate manager oversight and quality assurance;
- LACERS and the City for having the foresight to plan ahead to fund Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB);
- LACERS' overall administrative expense is near the mean of a group of comparable-sized funds and there is a measure of efficiency, especially considering that LACERS, unlike most other public funds, also administers retiree health care benefits; and

The total amount of the City's Contribution for fiscal year 2008-09 is estimated at \$382.5 million, based on the actuarial valuation. Employees contribute up to 6 percent of their income towards their retirement. LACERS funding for fiscal year 2006-07 came from three sources:

- 5 percent City contribution;
- 17 percent employee contribution; and
- 78 percent LACERS investments.

LACERS is responsible for the administration of the City's pension plan, to more than 30,000 active employees and 15,000 retirees and beneficiaries. The LACERS portfolio has \$11.6 billion in assets.

■ LACERS' making its customer satisfaction surveys an integral tool to help it deliver high quality products and services to its Members.

"The audit also recognized we administer a top-tier asset allocation strategy, best management practices, and reliable benefits delivery program," Aguillo said. "Our strategic plan guides our efforts and has been a key factor in our success."

"I am proud of the results of the management audit," said Eric L. Holoman, President, LACERS Board of Administration. "Our staff and the Board work together to provide a governance structure and an investment program that helps ensure a secure retirement for our Members."

"We had an unprecedented 19.4 percent return on our investments for fiscal year 06-07. Our investments include exciting new ventures including the real estate market with urban infill and workforce housing developments, private equity, clean tech, and environmental opportunities," Holoman said.

"We look forward to building on these strengths in light of the recommendations of the audit."

In the coming month, the Board of Administration will consider the recommendations of the audit.

LACERS administers the City's pension plan to more than 30,000 active employees and 15,000 retirees and beneficiaries. LACERS has \$11.2 billion in assets.



Retirees line up for the awesome lunch provided by Chris & Pitts. (And Chris's brother was there to make sure everything was perfect!)



Entertainment was provided by guitarist, Lina Hayek, and pianist, Gayane Simonyan. (For more information on this duo, email Lina at comedimuse@yahoo.com)



Gary Mattingly, Retired General Manager, Fire and Police Pensions, installs the officers for 2008: Neil Ricci, Hal Danowitz, Phil Skarin and Americo Garza.



The Chris & Pitts crew.



From left: Gene McPherson, Retired, Public Works Engineering as a Principal Engineer after 36.5 years; and Marilyn McPherson, Retired from Rec and Parks as an Environmental Associate II after 23 years.



Jimmie D. Wright, Retired, Public Works Street Maintenance.



Helen Salgado, Retired, Housing.



From left: Jack Mathews, Retired from General Services after 40 years; and Howard Steinberg, retired from the Controllers Office after 35 years.



Altrechia Hopson.



Joe Etheredge, Retired, Airports, 1993.



Lou Archer, Retired, Public Works Contract Administration.

RLACEI Parties, Installs Officers

■ Retirement Association has annual holiday party and installs officers.

Story and photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Marketing and Communications

RLACEI — The Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc., hosted its annual holiday party and installation of officers Dec. 6 at the Grace E. Simons Lodge near Dodger Stadium.

RLACEI President Ed Harding once again put on a fabulous party for the group. Entertainment for the more than 200 guests was provided by the lovely guitarist, Lina Hayek, and pianist, Gayane Simonyan.

Food was delicious and abundant as prepared by the famous Chris & Pitts Barbecue restaurant. As always, tons of prizes were raffled, making the cheery mood even cheerier!

Gary Mattingly, Retired General Manager, Fire and Police Pensions, installed the new officers. They are:

- Neil Ricci
- Jerry Bardwell
- Americo Garza
- Ed Harding, and
- Hal Danowitz.

Friends, fun and food: that's what it's all about. Don't miss the next RLACEI event!

Thanks to Ed Harding and Phil Skarin for inviting the Club, as always.



From left: Alma Valdez and Dolores Chaulsetz, both Retired, LAPD.



From left: Lydia Alaoria, Beatriz Zari and Eliseo Zari.



Marian M. Jacobs, LACRTA.



Herbert Hyman, Retired from Public Works Street Maintenance.



Alice Wilder, Retired, Election Division.



Curtis Hopson, Retired from Street Services.



From left: Gary Mattingly, Retired as the General Manager of Fire and Police Pensions after 38 years; and Jerry Bardwell, Retired after 30 years with the City.



From left: Lou Archer, Retired from Public Works Contract Administration as a Sr. Construction Inspector after 45 years; Ben Juarez, Retired from Public Works Contract Administration as a Principal Construction Inspector after 32 years; and Jesus Peeves, Retired from Public Works Contract Administration as a Sr. Construction Inspector after 45 years.



Willie Riley, Retired, General Services.



Americo and Ella Garza.



Tony Alvarez, Retired, General Services.



Al Jones and Ola Morris-Jones, Retired, Public Works.



Bebe Jacobson, Retired, LAPD.



From left: Lee Burrell, Retired from General Services after 33 years as a AC Mechanic Supervisor; and Leroy Richards, Retired from Bureau of Sanitation as a truck driver at Hyperion after 37 years.



From left: Martha Clegg, Retired from Library as a Clerk Typist after 31 years; and Irene Galvan, Retired from Library as a Sr. Librarian after 32 years.



Leo Rosen, Retired, Public Works Engineering.



Norma Rosen, Retired, Public Works Engineering.



Robert Jacobs, Retired from Street Maintenance.



From left: Paul Salles, Retired from Building and Safety as a Building Inspector after 31 years; Agnes Salles; Marguerite Shadle; and John Shadle, Retired from Building and Safety after 18 years as a photographer.



Bre Jacobs.



Martha Harl, Retired Nurse from the City, and Louis Robles, Retired, Rec and Parks. Louis is 90 years old!



Edison Goodrich, Public Works Street Maintenance.



Martha Harding, wife of Ed Harding, RLACEI President.



Robert Large Sr., Retired from General Services.



From left: Dennis Harding, Retired from Public Works Street Maintenance as a General Superintendent II after 37 years; Rica Harding; Shirley Govea; and Joe Govea, Retired from Building and Safety as a Principal Inspector after 25.5 years.



Calvin Haney, Retired from Rec and Parks.



John and Carmen Gomez. John retired from Rec and Parks.



Gene McPherson, Public Works.



Marilyn McPherson, Rec and Parks.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

A Framework for 2008

Each New Year's Day is a framework for the following year's recording of

- your deeds, beliefs, and services to others
- your patience, love and kindness
- Your generosity, gentleness and self-control.

So, try to incorporate as many of these traits in your life, while you are filling in the New Year's Framework.

- 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.

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|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 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 |

Retiree Question of the Month

Alive! asked retirees...

What is your New Year's resolution?



"Lose weight."
— Michael Vrabel, husband of Cleone Vrabell



"Have a great time when I make a trip to Israel in 2008."
— David L. Port, Retired, General Services



"Keep living in Los Angeles and travel everywhere."
— Angel Gonzalez, Retired, Building Operations



"Practice more piano, lose weight, maybe 10 or 15 pounds."
— Ola Morris-Jones, Public Works, with Al Jones.



"Stay healthy so I can enjoy my great granddaughter, Kaelyn, 16 months, for a long time."
— Cleone Vrabel, retired from the LAPD



"To win a progressive jackpot in Laughlin or Barona."
— Arnold Port, Retired, General Services



"To keep happy, no matter what."
— Jerry D. Waggoner, Office of Finance



"To help my family and friends more often, visiting and taking time to enjoy each other."
— Alma Valdez, LAPD (left).

"To declutter and simplify. Walk more, eat less. Travel more, spend less."
— Dolores Chaulsett, LAPD (right)

The Best Years