

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:

Aug. 7: Annual Picnic at Grace E. Simons Lodge, 11:30 a.m.

Oct. 16: Annual Corporation Meeting and Elections at the Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center. Lunch at noon, meeting at 1 p.m.

Dec. 4: Christmas Party at Grace E. Simons Lodge, noon.

For reservations to above meetings and lunches, RSVP to (800) 678-4145, extension 701.

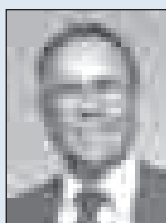
RLACEI:

Payments Reset to Ease Budget Crunch



By Phil Skarin,
RLACEI Publicity Chair

President Ed Harding reports:



Ed Harding

"On June 5, LACERS will conduct a seminar for members or dependents that are turning 65. They will be discussing Medicare requirement upon turning 65. The location will be at the Friendship Auditorium at 3201 Riverside Dr. Neil Ricci, Hal Danowitz and I will have a table for new members.

"May is a busy month for my family and I, and so I have family news. But first I would like to report on Councilman Bob Wilkinson. Bob is home now and feeling better, and is up to seeing friends. Call him at (818) 349-1472.

"My grandson, David, was married

April 26 to Jackie, a Simi Valley girl. David helps us by updating our e-mail. He's the son of my son, Dennis, who was a General Superintendent for Public Works/Street Maintenance.

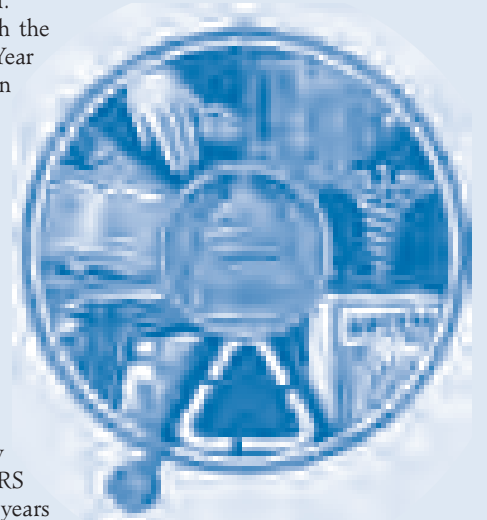
"My granddaughter, Jennifer, was married May 24 to a Carson City Deputy Sheriff, Body Golia. I spent several weeks in Minden, Nevada, in my new second home where the wedding took place. She's the daughter of my middle son, Bill, who worked for Public Works/Street Maintenance as a Superintendent II.

"Bill Harding was presented with the Volunteer Citizen Patrol of the Year award by Sheriff Ron Pierini, in charge of the Douglas County Sheriff's Dept., at an Elks Law Enforcement Appreciation night May 2. Bill now works as

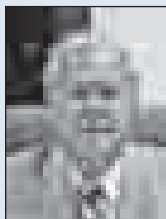
Security for that Department.

"Claudia Lowe, my oldest daughter, will be installed as president of the International Footprinters Association for 2008 and 2009. It's a law enforcement support organization. At the time I will be installed as a member.

"See you at the Golf Tournament in Alhambra June 4."



Legislative Update:



Ken Spiker

Ken Spiker, our Legislative Representative, reports: "Sally Choi, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Performance Management, has been selected as LACERS General Manager. Sally will not join the staff until she finishes processing the mayor's

2008-09 budget through the City Council. She served as LACERS Assistant General Manager several years ago.

"The mayor's proposed budget recommends a quarterly payment plan to the LACERS retirement fund instead of the usual one full amount payment. Instead of receiving the estimated \$300-plus million in July, LACERS will receive only one-fourth payment in October. LACERS also will only receive three

payments during the budget year. Thus, the fund will be approximately \$80 million short.

"If LACERS is to help with the City's funding problem, why weren't the Fire and Police and Water and Power retirement Systems also impacted?"

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!



Myrna, Don and Evelyn at the Roosevelt Presidential Library.



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 2008

Edward Harding, President
Kenneth Spiker, First Vice President
Tom Stemnock, Second Vice President
Hal Danowitz, Secretary
Jerry Bardwell, Treasurer

Committee Chairpersons for 2008

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

Michael P. Karsch
Americo Garza
Helen Salgado
Phil Skarin
Dave Wilkins
Jack Mathews
Neil Ricci



In the City, and Up the River

■ Hal and Company leave New York City to visit the FDR Library and the Culinary Institute.

Evelyn and I visited New York City for a week with our cousins, Don and Myrna. We stayed at the Hilton New York (53rd and Avenue of the Americas). We arrived on a Tuesday, which I recounted in last month's article. This month, I will pick up our trip starting Thursday morning.

Our plan was to go to Hyde Park, about 90 miles north of the city, and visit President Franklin D. Roosevelt's home and library at Springwood, and the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) for a tour and then have dinner.

At first I thought we would take the train to Hyde Park, but the more I researched the idea it became clear that renting a car and driving would be the best way to get there. I reserved a car from Hertz, which was just across the street from the hotel, and I called the CIA to make a reservation for a tour and a reservation in their Escoffier Restaurant.

We picked up the car around 8:30 a.m. and started up the laptop GPS and headed toward Hyde Park. The GPS worked well, and we got out of town with no problems. The drive north is on the west side of the Hudson River and was very picturesque. After about 90 minutes, I decided to plug in the power strip so I could charge my laptop, and wouldn't you know it the power ports in the car weren't working. Luckily I had printed out driving instructions from Yahoo just in case.

We arrived at the Springwood visitor center in time for the 11:30 a.m. tour of FDR's

House. The entrance fee is \$14, which includes the home tour and the presidential library and museum. We were able to use our "Golden Age" card and did not have to pay the fee.

President Roosevelt donated his home and 33 acres on the Hudson River to the American people in 1943 on the condition that his family be allowed to use it after his death. The family relinquished their lifetime rights in 1945 and transferred the property to the Department of the Interior.

The house was purchased by FDR's father, James Roosevelt, in 1867, and FDR was born there in 1882. It continued to be his home for the rest of his life. In 1900, after his father died, he lived there with his mother, Sara. In 1905 he married Eleanor, and they lived there together with his mother until Sara died in 1941. The President was stricken with polio in 1921, and the house has a number of innovations that provided accessibility for the President's wheelchair. The house remains pretty much as he left it on his last stay in March 1945. FDR died in Warm Springs, Georgia, on April 12, 1945. The guided tour takes about one hour and includes the house, coach house and stables, greenhouse and the rose garden where FDR and Eleanor are buried.

After the tour, we drove into town and had a quick lunch before returning to the Presidential Library and Museum. It is the first presidential library and the only one used by a sitting president. It was designed by FDR himself, in the Dutch colonial style, and opened in 1941. By donating his papers to the library, he established the precedent for public ownership of presidential papers, which became a federal law in 1978. His library contains more than 17 million pages of documents and a number of exhibits about the lives of the Roosevelts, the Great Depression, the New Deal and World War II. The tour is self-guided, and we spent almost two hours going

from room to room. It is the first presidential library that I have seen, and I found it very interesting. We did not have time to visit Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill Cottage, which she built as a retreat and lived in after FDR's death.

Our next stop was just down the road, at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). The CIA is a recognized leader in culinary education for undergraduate students, food service and hospitality professionals. The college awards Bachelor's and Associate's degrees, as well as certificates and continuing-education units.

The CIA was founded in 1946 with 50 students, in New Haven, Conn., to provide culinary training for World War II veterans. In 1972, it moved to its Hyde Park campus, a former Jesuit seminary, St. Andrews on-Hudson. In 1995, the college added the CIA at Greystone in St. Helena, Calif., in the Napa Valley. The current enrollment is more than 2,400 students.

The public tour takes about an hour and is held on Mondays at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and Wednesdays and Thursdays at 4 p.m., when the college is in session. Cost is \$5 person. The tour provides an overview of the instruction provided and we got to see a number of operational kitchens that were in process. All of the food prepared by the students is eaten at mealtimes by the students themselves. When we stopped by the baking kitchen, the students brought out fresh cookies for us to snack on.

The college operates five student-staffed restaurants, which are open to the public for both lunch and dinner. The American Bounty, Escoffier and Caterina de' Medici require advance reservation and have a dress code of business or country club casual. The St. Andrew's Café and Apple Pie Bakery Café are casual dress and don't require reservations.

We had some time before our 6 p.m. reservation, so we stopped in Apple Pie Bakery Café for a drink. Our dinner reservation was for the Escoffier Restaurant, whose cuisine is French, from rustic Provençal to sophisticated Parisian. The food and service was outstanding, and I can safely say that this was



Dinner at the Culinary Institute of America.



one of our better dining experiences. After our two-and-a-half-hour dinner, we returned to the city.

The Hertz location closed at 10 p.m. and they were closed when we got to the city. I would have to park the car overnight and return it in the morning. The cost of parking a car in New York City is not cheap, about \$40 overnight, but there wasn't much I could do about it. I decided to park in the parking structure where the Hertz location was, and as I was looking for a parking space, I saw an empty space in the Hertz parking lot where I parked the car. In the morning when I returned the car they were not happy that I had parked in one of their spaces, but I pleaded dumbness and they just told me not to do it again. If I had taken the car out of the space and then returned it they would never had known. I was happy to save the \$40 on parking.

Friday, the weather was sunny and warm; it reached the mid-50s. President George W. Bush was in town and coming to our hotel to deliver a speech on the economy. All of the



A bust of President Franklin D. Roosevelt at his library.

streets were blocked off, which made the traffic a mess. We decided to go for a walk and just take in the sights of the city. We headed downtown toward Chinatown and got to about 20th Street and Broadway when someone told us that it was another three miles to Chinatown. Evelyn had wanted to go to Chelsea Market, at 15th Street and Ninth Avenue, so we headed in that direction. Chelsea Market is a large wholesale/retail food complex that takes up an entire city block. In 1898 it was the original Nabisco Bakery, where the Oreo Cookie was created. It now houses 12 of New York City's finest specialty food shops. The Market is also the home to the TV Food Network. Don and I let the girls wander through the complex, and we explored the area looking for a place to get a beer. It wasn't long till I got a call from Evelyn, saying they were done. We started the long walk back to the hotel, stopping for a beer in a small Irish pub on Eighth Avenue. We made it back to the hotel in time for a short nap before dinner.

The one dinner reservation I made before we came to NYC was at BLT Steak (106 E. 57 St, 212-752-7470), which had been recommended by one of our New York friends. It was a great meal. Being a steakhouse, we shared a porterhouse for two, with side dishes and even had dessert. The food and the service were outstanding. Their signature dish is a cheesy popover treat served instead of bread. It was wonderful, and Evelyn came home with the recipe. They have a restaurant here in Los Angeles, and we will be trying that soon.

New month I'll finish up our trip.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

The Freedom to Fail

*In this country of many freedoms,
One of the greatest freedoms
Was given to us by our creator,
It is the freedom to fail.
But, a true failure is someone
Who quits trying after a few failures.
Each of us was created with the
Potential to succeed in many areas.*

*Some of us were destined to be
Laborers, poets, actors or doctors,
Singers, clowns or teachers,
Nurses, engineers or politicians.*

*The only way to achieve our true destiny
Is to keep trying to develop our skills
In many different areas. The more things
We try to do, the more failures we will have.
But, also, the more successes we will have.
So, cherish this God-given freedom,
The freedom to fail.*

— Phil Skarin

On the Move

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



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

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	Michael Karsch x704	Neil Ricci x714
Phil Skarin x709	Jerry Bardwell x706	Helen Salgado x713

RLACEI MEMBER NEWS:

Irving Leemon frequently writes Letters to the Editor to the Los Angeles Daily News. His comments reflect his experience in government.

Tony Mafrika is the only surviving past president of RLACEI. Tony's wife, Constance, passed away April 20. Our sympathies go to Tony and their son, Anthony.

Leo Rosen's wife, Norma, is receiving treatments for leukemia.

Miguel Lopez has traveled to Yugoslavia, Portugal, Ireland, Panama, Italy and the Holy Land. He visits inmates in the California Department of Corrections in Hesperia.

Victor Osugi is an active fellow, working out at the gym, taking bobble classes, consulting engineering, golfing, and playing poker with other active employees.

Michael Stafford is on the Board of Directors for the Del Rey Neighborhood Council and the UCLA Triangle Fraternal Corp.

Charles and June McCoy celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary June 3. Give them a call at (323) 728-1196.

The Coalition of L.A. Unions has proposed a plan to give eligible employees credit for and additional five years of work time toward their retirement to encourage early retirement and thereby reduce the number of layoffs. The mayor is considering it.

In 2007, **Los Angeles Federal Credit Union** celebrated its 71st year of serving its members and now has \$607 million in assets. Many of its officers and directors are members of RLACEI.

An information sheet titled "**Upon the Death of a Retired City Employee**" is available by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Phil Skarin, 5301 Norwich Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91411-3910.

Hal Danowitz asks you to visit our Website www.rlacei.com to find the latest news. You can also e-mail us at rlacei@verizon.net

If you change your address, notify Helen Salgado, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 x713, or write to her at 8372 Arnett Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Also notify LACERS.

Are You Planning to Retire Soon?

If you are, you're invited to join the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI). RLACEI is the only organization exclusively serving the interests of all Los Angeles City retirees. Over the years we have worked diligently to improve and protect retiree benefits. All our members are active members of the City's Retirement System. Our mission is to assure a financially sound retirement system adequately funded, so that all present and future retirees will receive the financial benefits for which they worked and are entitled. RLACEI needs the support of all retirees and we urge you to join us in protecting your benefits and making our voice heard. The dues are only \$1 a month. If you would like additional information, e-mail us at RLACEI@VERIZON.NET or call one of our Board members at (800) 678-4145.



The LACERS T.E.A.M. team.

Outstanding Employees Honored

■ LACERS honors outstanding employees at its quarterly staff recognition luncheon.

LACERS — The Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) honored 15 outstanding employees at its Quarterly Exemplary Staff Recognition Luncheon March 27.

David Nuno, Systems Analyst I and a LACERS employee for seven years, was selected as 2007 Employee of the Year. His positive attitude and willingness to help were key when he was nominated for this honor. The Employee of the Year is nominated and selected by coworkers.

"David is a great employee and a positive influence on his co-workers. He is more than willing to assist others and does so with a smile," said Tom Moutes, Interim General Manager at LACERS.

As Employee of the Year, Nuno received a plaque and a \$500 savings bond. This is the second time he has received this award having been Employee of the Year in 2003.

Delia Hernandez, Management Analyst II and a five-year LACERS veteran, was selected as the Employee of the Quarter for Fall 2007. Employees of the Quarter are nominated by their peers based on their notable contributions over and above the scope of normal duties. LACERS senior staff makes the selection from the nominees. Hernandez received a plaque and a \$200 savings bond.

"Delia exemplifies LACERS mission state-

ment by providing superior service and protecting retirement benefits for our members. She is the embodiment of all our core values," Moutes said.

Also announced were the winners of the 2007 T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More) Award for their contribution to the successful Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The team included members of Administrative Services Division, Portfolio Management Division and Member Communications Section. The CAFR team included Li Hsi, Chief Benefits Analyst; Dan Gallagher, Chief Investment Officer; Linda Aparicio, Public Information Director I; Mikyong Jang, Principal Accountant II; Inge Setiabudi, Senior Accountant II; May Tran, Senior Account II; Sara Griggs, Investment Officer II; Wayne Ige, Investment Officer II; Josie Enriquez, Investment Officer I; Jason Leung, Senior Systems Analyst I; Alan Lee, Account II; James Aceron, Management Analyst II; and Christal Chacon, Management Assistant.

The T.E.A.M. Award was designed to promote a sense of unity within work units and encourage staff members to recognize the importance of working together as a team supporting one another.

"This is well-deserved recognition for the hard work all these employees put into the

production of the CAFR," said Moutes, adding that the annual financial report was one of LACERS' most important documents.

The Club congratulates all the honored employees at LACERS.



David Nuno.

Moutes: Interim GM



Thomas Moutes.

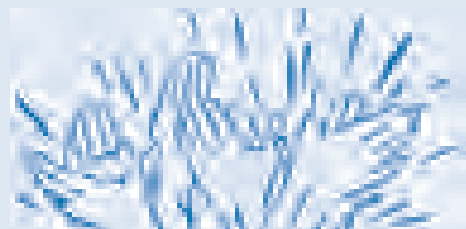
■ Thomas Moutes is named LACERS Interim General Manager.

LACERS — The Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System (LACERS) announced the appointment of Thomas Moutes as Interim General Manager May 14.

Moutes has served as Assistant General Manager at LACERS since January 2007 and was head of LACERS Administrative Services Division since July 2005.

Moutes is a 25-year veteran with the City, working at the Office of the City Clerk prior to joining LACERS in 2001. He holds a Master of science degree in public administration from California State University, Northridge. He also holds a Certified Employee Benefit Specialist designation from the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

LACERS is responsible for the administration of the City's pension plan to more than 30,000 active employees and 15,000 retirees. LACERS has \$10.9 billion in assets.



March for Babies

■ LACERS March for Babies Team raises more than \$7,000.

LACERS — A record 18 staff members from the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) participated in the March of Dimes annual March for Babies walk-a-thon held April 26 at Griffith Park. The LACERS team collected more than \$7,000 for the charity, a \$1,000 increase over last year's total.

In addition to getting pledges and sponsors, team members held fundraisers at LACERS headquarters prior to the walk. Fundraisers included breakfasts, lunches and product sales of t-shirts and stuffed animals.

The six-mile walk began at 8 a.m. with most walkers finishing by noon. Several thousand people attended this event, one of many March for Babies walks held throughout the

country, with funds going toward research to learn the cause, prevention and treatment of birth defects. March of Dimes accomplishes this mission through research, community services, education and advocacy.



The LACERS March for Babies Team, front row, from left: Jason Leung, Soledad Cristobal, Gilda Solorzano, Denise Malosh and Margaret Drenk; Back: Wai Jung, Michelle Cooley, Art Avila and Christal Chacon.

Retiree Question of the Month

Alive! asked retirees...

The Best Years



"Papadakis in San Pedro."
- Gus Papadakis



"Damon's and Jax in Glendale."
- Lillyan Candelaria



"Haf's in Torrance."
- Henry Starks



"Denny's."
- Mike Vraibel



"L.A. Buffet in Northridge."
- Wilma Rebbe



"Denny's."
- Cleone Vraibel



"I like it all."
- Helmar Anderson



"A Taste of Thai."
- Ben Reyes



"Taix in Los Angeles."
- Harry Warshawski

What is your favorite restaurant?



"Carrow's (for breakfast)."
- Joe Govea



"Bob's Big Boy."
- Rene O'Malley



"Weiler's Deli."
- Arnold Port



"Stonefire in the West Valley."
- Shirley Govea



"Rosie' Barbecue in the Valley."
- Sam Hochberg



"Sushi King on Wilshire."
- Jeff Chonis, Club Partner



"Spago."
- Bebe Jacobson



"Stonefire in the West Valley."
- Dennis Harding



"Claim Jumper."
- Sylvester Warsaw Sr.



"El Cholo in Santa Monica."
- Stephen Friedlander



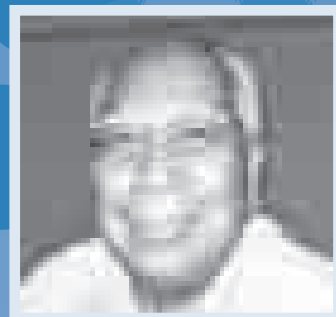
"Fromin's Deli in Encino."
- David Port



"Tam O'Shanter on Los Feliz."
- Bob Knox



"Wood Ranch in Northridge."
- Ken Kochakji



"Fogo de Chao on La Cienega."
- Mariano Ondoy



"Fuji."
- Harris Yoneoka