

For Retired Club Members



# The Best Years

RLACEI:

## Short Payment for Budget Restored



By Phil Skarin,  
RLACEI Publicity Chair

### 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.

#### President Ed Harding reports:



Ed Harding

"June has been another busy month, starting with our 30th annual Golf Tournament June 4 at the Alhambra Golf Course. We had 84 golfers, a record number. Phil Skarin and Tom Stemmcock, co-chairmen, did a bang-up job. Everything was great, including fabulous prizes and a great awards luncheon that everyone enjoyed. Thanks again, Phil and Tom.

"Thanks also to Americo Garza and his registration crew, who were there at 6:30 a.m.; Joe Nagano, who assigned the closest-to-the pin markers to the right golfers; and Bob Okuda, who supervised the handicapping for the 30th year.

"A big thanks to these prize sponsors: LAFUCU, ACEBSA, the City Employees Club, Ed Harding, Tom Stemmcock, Bob Okuda, Phil Skarin and Dell Grubb.

"On June 5, LACERS sponsored a Medicare Seminar, and on June 26 a Health Benefits Seminar. On June 17, Garza's Party Committee and I went to Grace Lodge to arrange for our picnic in August and Christmas Party in December. On June 19, we went to Whittier to arrange for the food for these affairs."

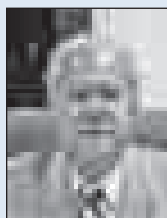
Health Committee Chair Neil Ricci reports: "On June 5, LACERS sponsored a Medicare Seminar, and on June 26 a Seminar titled 'The Road to Good Health.' Both were held at the Friendship Auditorium on Riverside Drive, near Los Feliz Boulevard.

"The various providers of medical services for retired City Employees included: LACERS, RLACEI, the City's Dept. of Aging, Secure Horizons, SCAN, Kaiser and Blue Cross. Representing RLACEI were President Ed Harding, Secretary Hal Danowitz and myself.

"Each of the Medical Services organizations was given the opportunity to address the audience and present a summary of the service they provide, and then held a question and answer period and had many handouts. They were very successful seminars.

For those who missed them, another one will be held Aug. 21 at the Friendship Auditorium, with breakfast and lunch included."

#### Legislative Update:



Ken Spiker

Ken Spiker, our Legislative Representative, reports that the Mayor's proposed budget for the next fiscal year contained an \$81 million short payment to the required City contri-

bution to the Retirement Fund.

Thanks to the office of the Chief Legislative Analyst, the Council's Budget and Finance Committee and the City Council, the \$81 million was restored.

The budget has been passed, approved by the Mayor, and thus the Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System should receive the full required allocation.



## 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 a week ahead to (800) 678-4145, extension 701.

#### RLACEI Website

Hal Danowitz asks you to visit the RLACEI Website at [www.rlacei.com](http://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



The Lower East Side Tenement Museum.

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



## Tenements, West Point and a Parade

### ■ Hal and crew conclude their week in New York.

Evelyn and I were in New York City for a week with our cousins, Don and Myrna. We stayed at the New York Hilton (57th Street and Avenue of the Americas). We arrived Tuesday, and I'll pick-up our story on Saturday morning.

This was a free day. After being a foursome since start of the trip, it was good to have a day off to do different things. Evelyn was going to visit with one of our friends, and I planned to revisit the Lower East Side Tenement Museum.

After a quick breakfast, Evelyn and I walked to Central Park. The weather was cool, but with bright sunshine, a lot of people were in the park. We walked along the west side of the park and then cut through the park at about 72nd Street. We stopped by the ice-skating rink and then by the carousel. We walked back on the east side and stopped at the newly redone Plaza Hotel, which is now a combination hotel/condominium. We were lucky enough to stay there before it closed for the redo. While it was very nice inside, it did seem to have the same atmosphere as the old Plaza.

About noon, I left Evelyn to find her friend and caught the subway to go downtown to the museum.

Now, a word about the subways. They are the best way to get around the city. If you're not used to them it may seem scary, but if you watch what you are doing they are easy to use and very safe. The basic fare is \$2 a trip, but you can get a one-day pass for \$7.50 or a seven-day pass for \$25. If you are older than 65, you can get a half-price card, but you

need proof, and you need to apply for the card in advance. Most guidebooks will tell you the subway line and stop, and there are a number of Internet sites that will program your trip for you.

There is always a lot of maintenance going on during the weekend, so sometimes the station you need will be closed, and that is what happened to me. There was a sign at the closed station directing me to another station, and I was able to catch the train to the Lower East Side.

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum ([www.tenement.org](http://www.tenement.org)), open every day except Monday, is at 97 Orchard St. The building was built in 1863 and was a residential apartment building until 1935. In 1935, because of a change in building codes, the residential part of the building was closed and remained empty until the 1980s, when it was decided to save the building from redevelopment and turn it into a historical site to tell the story of how the immigrants lived in New York.

The museum offers three different tours (adults \$17; seniors/students \$13 each tour). The tours last about an hour, and you visit an apartment and hear the story of one of the families that lived there. I have started to research the history of my father's parents and, while they lived in Brooklyn in 1909, I'm sure the apartment was of the same type as in the museum.

There is an interesting story about the Baldizzi family, which lived in the building in the 1930s. As they were renovating the building for the museum, one of the Baldizzi daughters who lived in the building as a child happened to walk by, and when they found out who she was, they recorded 12 hours of oral history on the building and her family. Using that information, they were able to furnish the Baldizzi apartment as it was when they lived there.

I took the subway back to the hotel and caught up with Evelyn and was able to say hello to her friend before getting ready for dinner and a show that evening.

We had dinner at an Irish pub called the



The New York Fire Department Flag Unit in the St. Patrick's Day parade.



Waiting for the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Pig 'n' Whistle (165 W. 47th St.), where we have eaten before. The food is good and it's close to the theater district.

We had tickets for a revival of *Gypsy* (St. James Theatre, 246 W. 44th St.) starring Patti LuPone. I enjoyed seeing it again as I had seen the original with Ethel Merman 48 years ago on a trip to New York.

One place I always wanted to visit was the United States Military Academy at West Point. So on Sunday, we rented a car and drove the 50 miles from New York City to the West Point Visitors Center in Highland Falls, just outside the Thayer Gate, the main entrance to the Academy. Since 9/11 you have to take a tour or be with someone approved to visit the grounds.

The Academy overlooks the Hudson River and occupies more than 16,000 acres, and is one of the largest school campuses in the world. The post itself was first occupied in 1778 and is the oldest continuously occupied military post in the United States. The



Evelyn in Central Park.



Academy was established in 1802 and is the oldest of the military academies. Enrollment is about 4,000 cadets, and more than 900 graduates are commissioned as U.S. Army lieutenants every year.

The winter tour takes about one hour and costs \$10. The tour stops at the Main Cadet Chapel, Trophy Point, Battle Monument and the Plain. You are off the bus walking for about 30 minutes. There is much history associated with the Academy, and I felt very proud to be on the same ground as Grant, Lee, MacArthur and Eisenhower.

After the tour, we visited the West Point Museum, just behind the Visitors Center. It contains the oldest and largest public collection of militaria in the Western Hemisphere. Based on captured British materials brought to West Point after the British defeat at Saratoga in 1777, the museum actually predates the founding of the Academy.

Our last full day in New York was Monday, March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. When I made the plans for the trip I didn't know that we would be there for the St. Patrick's Day parade, but when I found out we made plans to see it.

The annual parade has been held for the past 247 years in honor of the patron saint of both Ireland and the Archdiocese of New York. The parade starts at 44th Street at 11 a.m. and marches up Fifth Avenue to 86th Street, where the parade finishes around 5 p.m. The parade has only marchers and does not allow floats, automobiles or other commercial aspects. Every year there are estimated 150,000 – 250,000 marchers, lots of bands and of course the ever-present politicians in front of more than two million spectators.

This was the coldest day of our trip, with the temperature in the low 40s and a little bit of wind. We walked up to Fifth Avenue and found a place to stand at 63rd Street. We wanted to be in the sun, but we were on the wrong side of the street. We stayed for about two hours of the parade, waiting to see the New York Fire Department flag unit, which carries a flag for each responder who died on 9/11.

After that we headed to an Irish pub for lunch and some beer. As they say, "on St. Patrick's Day, everyone is Irish."

We had a great time in New York and look forward to our next visit.



The West Point Museum.



Hal and Evelyn at West Point.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

## Gifts From Your Heart

*We usually think of gifts as things we give to people at birthdays, weddings, graduations and at Christmas.*

*Gifts like money, jewelry, clothes, etc.*

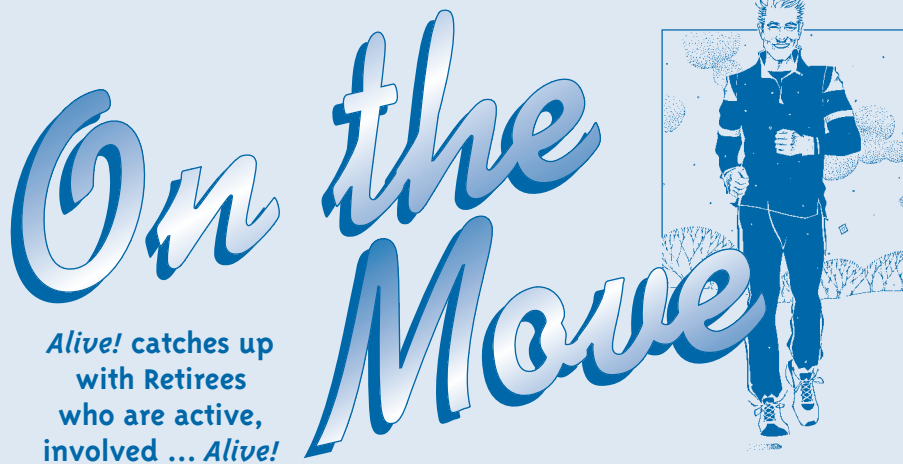
*But there are other kinds of gifts we can give, such as*

- words of encouragement
- time to listen attentively
- a friendly smile
- a helping hand.

*St. Peter said, "Serve one another with whatever gifts you have been given."*

*So, remember that the best kinds of gifts you can give aren't things, but gifts from your heart.*

– Phil Skarin



**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](mailto: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:

**Patty and Rose Matarrese** planned to celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary July 4. Their secret is to always listen attentively to whatever the other one is saying.

**Miguel Alvarez** writes, "I do some consulting engineering. I visit my wife daily at a residence for people with Alzheimer's."

**Richard Palmisano** golfs, gardens and babysits his grandkids. He is active with the National Alliance on Mental Health.

**Sam Tanaka**, after two weeks of retirement, came back to work as a program manager for the Bureau of Engineering. Both of his daughters were married last year.

**Richard Wainer** sold his house and downsized to a condo. "It's easier to pack up and go on trips. Last year it was to China. This year it's to Costa Rica."

**Louie Yamanishi** has been cruising, traveling and visiting grandchildren. Louie grew up in a house on the south end of Lucy Brown Lane in San Juan Batista.

An information sheet entitled "**Upon the Death of a Retired City Employee**" is available by sending an S.A.S.E. to Phil Skarin at 5301 Norwich Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91411.

Hal Danowitz asks you to visit the RLACEI website at [www.rlacei.com](http://www.rlacei.com) to find the latest news. You can also e-mail the RLACEI at [rlacei@verizon.net](mailto: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 Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Also notify LACERS.

**If you have news about yourself or other retirees that you'd like to share**, send it to Phil Skarin at 5301 Norwich Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91411, or phone (818) 784-0130.

### 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](mailto:RLACEI@VERIZON.NET) or call one of our Board members at (800) 678-4145.



From left: Richard Telles, retired from Rec and Parks after 35 years; Greg Telles; and Bill Hormann.



From left: Walt Naydo, retired from Public Works/Engineering after 38 years; Shogi Fukuma, retired from Public Works/Engineering after 34 years; and George Egami, retired from Public Works/Engineering after 34 years.



From left: Gail Draper, retired from ITA after 40 years; Jim Hamilton, retired from LAPD after 32 years; Dennis Frady, retired from ITA after 31 years; and Guy Bourgeois, retired from LAPD after 36 years.



From left: Kevin Rodriguez, Convention Center, 20 years; Art Rios, Convention Center, 21 years; William Jones, LAPD, 8 years; and Leroy Plummer, Convention Center, 8 years.



From left: Hector Ramirez, retired from LAX after 19 years; Hans Markus; Steve Uranga, LACERS Commissioner; and John Leon.



From left: Norm Gottlieb, retired from the CAO's office after 30 years; Wally Essler; John Bobo; and Leon Gottlieb.



From left: Robert Gomez, retired from Transportation after 23 years; Steve Gomez, retired from Transportation; Mike Stawicki, retired from Transportation; and Jess Molina.



Steve Uranga, with coffee in hand, gets ready to play!

# Golf!

## ■ Retirees Assn. hosts annual golf tournament.

*Story and photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations*

RLACEI — On June 4, the Retired Los Angeles City Retirees, Inc. (RLACEI) hosted its annual golf tournament.

The event was held at the Alhambra Municipal Golf Course in Alhambra.

Congratulations to the many prize winners! And thanks to Ed Harding and the leadership at RLACEI for inviting us.



Ed Harding (far left), RLACEI President and CEO, with his crew of volunteers.



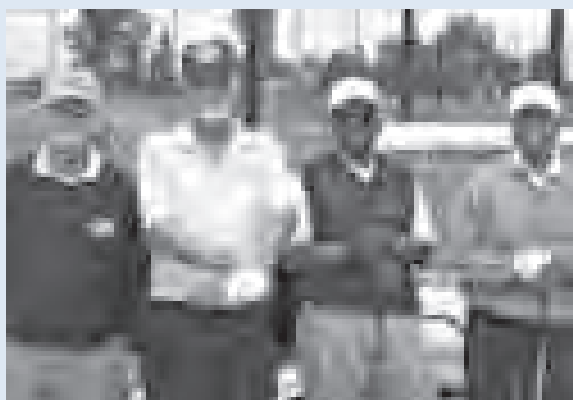
From left: Bob Rogers, retired from Planning after 31 years; Greg Spiker from Ken Spiker and Associates; Gary Mattingly, retired General Manager of Fire and Police Pensions after 38 years; and Fred Ige, retired from Planning after 27 years.



From left: Neil Ricci, RLACEI Board Member; Hal Danowitz, RLACEI Board Member (and *Alive!* columnist); Harry Yamatsuka, retired from the Harbor after 41 years; and Jack Mathews, RLACEI Board Member.



From left: Ed Itagaki, retired from Public Works/Engineering after 32 years; Mase Beastro, retired from Public Works/Engineering after 32 years; Jerry Jesse; and Roy Yoshika.



From left: Phil Skarin, RLACEI Director; Dick Hovious, retired from Building and Safety after 27 years; Earl Gales Sr., retired from LAX and Rec and Parks after 34 years; and Charles Clement, retired from Rec and Parks after 38 years.



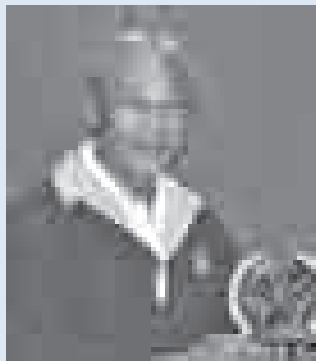
From left: Darrel Hans, retired from Public Works/Engineering after 36 years; Richard Brown, retired from Public Works/Engineering after 34 years; Gerald Takaki, retired from Building and Safety after 33 years; and Ed Lubrin, retired from the DWP after 38 years.



From left: Gil Alberio, retired from Harbor after 37 years; Gil Hamblet; Richard Molony, retired from LAPD after 27 years; and Paul Bellia.



Longest Drive, 2nd Hole (three golf balls each): Men, Bill Hormann; and Ladies, Dianna Moore.



RLACEI Member, Men, Low Gross (70): Shogi Fukuma.



Closest to the Pin (three golf balls each), from left: 7th hole, Hans Markus; 8th hole, Leroy Plummer; 11th hole, Fred Ige; 13th hole, Guy Leacher; 15th hole, Paul Bellia.

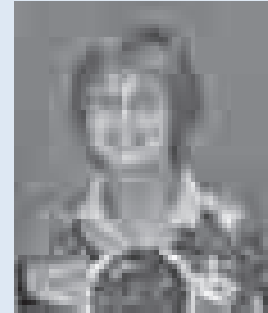


One of the great-looking trophies.

# Trophies All Around!



High Gross Men (three golf balls): Robert Dearborn; and High Gross Ladies (three golf balls): Betsy Melancon.



RLACEI Member, Ladies, Low Net (66): Diana Moore.



RLACEI Member, Men 2nd, Low Net (59): Fred Ige.



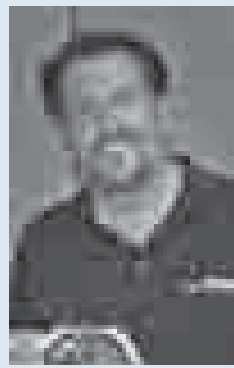
All Ladies, Low Gross (102): Cathy Bushey.



From left: All Golfers, Low Gross, Back 9 (35): Greg Telles; and All Golfers, Low Gross, Front 9 (35): Harry Yamatsuka.



RLACEI Member, Men, Low Net (58): Bill Kiaanao.



RLACEI Member, Men, Low Net (58): Larry Miller.



Guest, Men, Low Net (56): Leroy Plummer.



Guest, Men, Low Gross (69): Bill Hormann.

## Retiree Question of the Month

*Alive!* asked retirees...

# What was the lowest price you remember paying for a gallon of gas?



"25 cents in 1965."  
- Richard Sanchez, Club Member, Building and Safety.



"25 cents."  
- Jim Hamilton, Club Member, Retired from LAPD in 2001.



- The real Jim!



"24.9 cents."  
- Larry Miller, Club Member, Retired from Public Works/Sanitation in 2002.



"\$1.75."  
- Greg Spiker, Ken Spiker and Associates (Greg is the son of *Alive!* columnist Ken Spiker).



"35 cents."  
- Oliver Cunningham, Club Member, Retired from Public Works/Sanitation in 1995.



"15 cents for diesel."  
- Cathy Bushey, Club Member, Retired from LAPD Communications in 2007.



"17 cents in 1961 or '62."  
- Dick Hovious, Club Member, retired from Building and Safety in 1996.



"\$1.25."  
- Kevin Rodriguez, Club Member, Convention Center.



"\$4.35."  
- Gary Mattingly, Club Member, Retired from Fire and Police Pensions.

# The Best Years



Bob Klein, DWP, Associate Electrical Engineer, 37 years of service.



From left: Jo and Keith Kraft, DWP, Station Maintenance, 20 years of service.



From left: Al Magee, DWP, Chief Operator, 30 years of service; and Theodore Magee, DWP, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 31 years of service.



From left: Vince Foley, Chairman, Retiree's Health Care and Benefits Committee; with Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations.



From left: Dolores Foley, President, DWP Retirees Assn.; and Vince Foley, Chairman, Retirees' Health Care and Benefits Committee.

## DWP Picnic

### ■ Retirees Assn. hosts annual picnic.

*Photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations*

**DWP RETIREES ASSN.** — The DWP Retirees Association hosted its 55th annual summer picnic June 7 at the Whittier Narrows at the Meadows in Whittier.

The DWP Employees Association and the DWP were present at the picnic.

Thanks to Vince and Dolores Foley and the DWP Retirees Association for inviting the Club.



From left: John Chacon, DWP, Water Operating Meter Specialist, 34 years of service; Becky Chacon, DWP, Principal Clerk 33 years of service; and Pat Waldburg, DWP, Principal Clerk Utility, 34 years of service.



James Segawa, DWP, Electrical Engineer Designer, 38 years of service



From left: Carla Day, DWP Customer Service Representative, 16 years of service; and Jean Canzano, DWP, Electrical Construction Supervisor, 17 years of service.



From left: Barny Jimenez, DWP, Upholsterer, 30 years of service; Toke Yoshihashi, DWP, Equipment Mechanic, 27 years of service; and Ronnie Schwarze, DWP, Sr. Automotive Dispatcher, 39 years of service.



From left: Virgil Coleman, DWP, Transmission District Supervisor, 37 years of service; Glen Romine, DWP, Civil Engineering Associate, 37 years of service; Debi (daughter Glen and Carol), Rachel (granddaughter Glen and Carol), and Carol Romine (wife of Glen); and John Hawkins, President and CEO of the Club.



From left: Pete Timbrello, DWP, Clerk Typist, 34 years of service, and his wife, Sandy.



Back row, from left: Ely Tapabamo, DWP Health Plan Representative, 18 years of service; and Fredajeon Trujillo, DWP Health Plan Representative, 23 years of service. Front: Donna Pierce, DWP Health Plan Representative, 29 years of service; and Norma Gonzalez, DWP Health Plan Representative, 26 years of service.



From left: John House, Principal Clerk, 20 years of service, with Frank Fowler, DWP, Clerk, 33 years of service, and his wife, Liz.



Royal Watters, DWP, Cable Slicer, 18 years.



Dario Miralles, DWP, Mechanical Helper, 33 years of service.



Vincent Garces, DWP, Electrical Tester, 15 years of service.



Austine Magee, DWP, Generating Station Supervisor, 28 years of service.



From left: Barbara Lacasella, wife of Pat Lacasella, and Dorothy Sears, mother.



From left: Robert Pulskamp with his dad, John Pulskamp, Retired DWP, Senior Information System Supervisor, 35 years of service.



From left: Dolores Foley, President, DWP Retirees Assn. President; with Vince Foley, Retirees' Health Care and Benefits Committee; and Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations.



From left: Cruz and Epifanio Feliz, 30 years of service; with Al Mack, DWP, Electrical Station Maintenance, 30 years of service.



From left: Tere and Bob Reitmeyer, DWP, Energy Utilization Consultant, 30 years of service