

For Retired Club Members



The Best Years

City Retiree Associations:

DWP Retirees Association



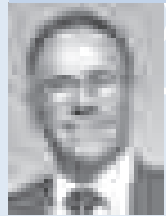
Dolores Foley, President
Phone: (626) 445-7376
E-mail: vinmar@altrinet.com

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

April 9: General Membership Meeting at Friendship Auditorium.

RLACEI:

LACERS GM Reports: RLACEI Fund Sound

**President
Ed Harding reports:**



Ed Harding

"I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. Our October Annual Corporation Meeting and Election of Officers was held at the Friendship Auditorium for the first time. About 100 members attended, which meant that a lot of great turkey lunches were left over. Those who missed this meeting, missed a great deal.

"John Hawkins and Robert Larios of the City Employees Club raffled off 12 \$25 gift certificates and several wristwatches. Thanks to both of them. We also raffled off 20 cash door prizes.

"Sally Choi, our new LACERS General Manager, was there with several of her staff to answer questions. She gave a great talk on our health plans and the soundness of our retirement fund. Thanks, Sally, we love you.

"Our General Membership Meeting in April will also be at the Friendship Auditorium. I hope to have more than 150 people attend.

"I wish to thank all those who re-elected me and the other

incumbent directors for another term. Elected for two-year terms were: Ken Spiker, Jerry Bardwell, Helen Salgado, Jack Matthews and Mary Beetz (who replaces Dave Wilkins). Michael Karsch was elected to a one-year term, replacing Bob Wilkinson.

"I wish to tell you about our two newest board members:

"Michael Karsch was born and raised in Missouri. He graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 1966, and earned a Master's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso in 1972. He served more than four years in the Air Force Officer Corps as a special agent in the Office of Special Investigations. He was the first Legislative Analyst for Security Pacific Bank.

"Michael spent 31 years as a Legislative Analyst with the L.A. City Council, coordinating the City's lobbying efforts in Sacramento. He lives in South Pasadena with his wife Virginia, who is from Costa Rica. They have seven grown children and

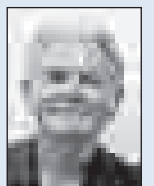
ten grandchildren.

"Michael is now working for Ken Spiker and Associates as a consultant for local government issues, representing clients who support the Independent Cities Association. He is a registered lobbyist for the City of Los Angeles.

"Mary Beetz retired from Personnel, Medical Services Division, as a Medical Secretary and Supervisor of Medical Records in 2006 after 38 years of service, to pursue a new career and run for the Alhambra City Council.

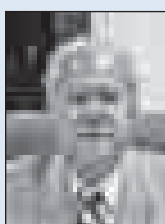
"Mary is a free-lance writer and has had articles published in various newspapers and magazines. She is an active member of the Ahmanson and Mark Taper Theatres. She enjoys refinishing antique furniture and, although she has no conception of time, is a collector of antique clocks.

"She enjoys foreign languages and is enrolled in college taking Italian to prepare for a trip to Italy. We are very lucky to have Mary on our Executive Board."



By Phil Skarin,
RLACEI Publicity Chair

Legislative Update:



Ken Spiker

Ken Spiker, our Legislative Analyst, reports: "Here are our Retirement Fund statistics, as of June 30:

- Active Members: 30,236
- Deferred Vested Members: 4,273
- Retirees and Beneficiaries:
Service Retirees: 10,582
Disability Retirees: 908
Beneficiaries: 3,485

- Total Retirees and Beneficiaries: 14,975
- Total (Active, Deferred Retirees, Beneficiaries): 49,484
- Average Age of Active Members: 45.8
- Service Retirees - Average Age at Retirement: 60.0
- Average Age of Service Retirees: 71.8
- Average Age of Beneficiaries: 75.7

- Service Retirees - Average Years of Service Before Retirement: 26.5
- Average Monthly Retirement Benefit:
Service Retirees: \$3,319
Survivor Continuation Recipients: \$1,578
Disability Retirees: \$1,368
Weighted Average: \$2,796

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



The red rocks at Sedona.



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
• Michael Karsch	Ext. 704
• Jerry Bardwell	Ext. 706
• Harold Danowitz	Ext. 707
• Jack Mathews	Ext. 712
• Helen Salgado (membership)	Ext. 713
• Americo Garza	Ext. 710
• Tom Stemnock	Ext. 708
• Mary Beetz	Ext. 711

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
Tom Stemnock, Audit
Americo Garza, Picnic
Americo Garza, Holiday Party and Installation
Jack Mathews, Senior Citizens
Neil Ricci, Health
Neil Ricci, Nominating
Phil Skarin, Parliamentarian

Directors

Michael Karsch
Americo Garza
Helen Salgado
Phil Skarin
Jack Mathews
Neil Ricci



The Great Road Trip

■ In part one, Hal and Evelyn drive to Michigan for his 50th high school reunion.

The postcard arrived almost a year ago. It announced that my 50th high school reunion was scheduled for the last weekend in September. I graduated from Eastern High School in Lansing, Mich. in June 1958. After I left for college, I never lived in Lansing again and, while I did visit a few times, I have not seen anyone from my high school class since graduation.

After I talked to Evelyn, we decided to go to the reunion and make a road trip out of it. At first I thought about flying to Lansing and then renting a car and driving back to California. After I found out that the drop-off charge would be close to \$1,000, we decided to take our own car and drive both ways.

I had always wanted to visit Mount Rushmore and the Little Big Horn Memorial, so we knew that we would drive back to Los Angeles by a northern route. Getting to Lansing was more of a drive than a sightseeing opportunity, but we

wanted to see places we had not visited and also see some friends and relatives along the way.

My first choice was to drive through Las Vegas and then stop in Colorado Springs to stay at the Broadmoor Hotel and then go through Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago before reaching Lansing. After laying out the schedule, I tried to make a reservation at the Broadmoor but found that it was fully booked. Because of this, I decided to change our drive to a more southern route.

We planned on being gone for three weeks and we would cover just more than 6,000 miles.

I knew we had to be in Lansing by Sept. 26 so I used Google maps to determine the best routing and the distance between points. I planned to do between 400 and 500 miles per day on the way to Lansing. We also wanted to spend two days in Kansas City and two days in Chicago.

Leaving Los Angeles on Sept. 17 gave us nine days to travel the almost-3,000 miles to Lansing.

Our drive to Lansing would take us through Sedona, Ariz.; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Oklahoma City; Kansas City, Kan., for two nights; Champaign, Ill.; Chicago for two nights; and then to Lansing. We had friends to visit in Kansas City and cousins to visit in Champaign and Chicago. We would spend three nights in Lansing, to go to the reunion and to see friends who didn't go to my high school.

We would leave Lansing Sept. 28th for the return trip. The route back would be through Charlevoix, Mich.; Mackinaw Island, Mich.; Green Bay, Wisc.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; Rapid City, S.D.; Hardin, Mont.; Red Lodge, Mont.; Yellowstone National Park; Jackson Hole, Wyo.; Las Vegas; and then home.

We belong to the Automobile Club of Southern California, so I used its Website



The drive into Sedona.



to prepare an overall map of the trip and individual trip tickets for each day. Once I had the detailed route, I used the Internet to find a hotel for each night. Except for Chicago, I didn't want to stay in the downtown area and looked for places close to the Interstate. Evelyn had been to Red Lodge before and she wanted to stay at the Pollard Hotel. We ended up at Comfort Inn and Suites, Super 8s, Hilton Garden Inns, Fairfield Inns, and a few local places in Sedona, Jackson Hole and Chicago. In Lansing, we stayed at the Marriott in East Lansing. I made advance reservation at all the motels and hotels.

After everything was completed, I prepared a binder that had the trip tickets and the confirmations from the motels and hotels. I also had the travel books for each state from the Auto Club. I didn't start out with a set of old fashioned folding state maps, which we found to be very useful after we picked up them up in Green Bay.

Our vehicle of choice was GMC Envoy XL. We thought about driving Evelyn's Corvette, but she would have had to leave most of her shoes at home. With the Envoy we had lots of room, though we managed to fill it up.

I was a little worried about the price of gas. The Envoy gets about 20 m.p.g. on the highway, but by the time we left, gas prices had begun to fall. I had the car serviced before we left, and I also purchased an electric refrigerator that plugged into the Envoy's 12-volt system. I bought a case of water from Costco, Evelyn packed a bunch of snacks, and we were ready to roll.

We had our laptop with us and of course our cell phones, too. The Envoy has the OnStar system, and I purchased 100 minutes of phone time just in case our phones didn't have service. I used the laptop to keep a daily log of our trip, and Evelyn also kept a journal. I've decided to use the log to tell the story of our trip. So here goes:



At dinner in Sedona.

Day 1 – Sept. 17

We are on our way to my 50th high school (Eastern High) in Lansing, Mich. We will be gone more than three weeks and will pass through 13 states.

We left home at about 7:30 a.m. heading for our first stop, which is Sedona, Ariz. We are traveling on the I-10 and will drive almost 500 miles today.

Evelyn and I decided that we would share the driving and I was on first. At our



Hal in the Petrified Forest National Park.

first stop at Blyth to fill up with gas, Evelyn took over the driving all the way to Sedona. Once we reached Phoenix, we headed north on I-17 toward Sedona, about 100 miles from Phoenix.

We got to Sedona around 3 p.m. The drive up from Phoenix is very picturesque. Driving into town was difficult because they are working on widening the highway. It has been going on for two years and has one more year to go.

The area around Sedona reminds me of Red Rock in Las Vegas, but on a much larger scale.

We found our hotel (Sedona Real Inn and Suites) without a problem; I am using the GPS in the Envoy and also have trip-tickets from the Auto Club. Because they sometimes don't agree, I am using the one with the shortest route. This is where having a paper road map would have helped.

After we checked in, we drove around and stopped at a number of artist galleries and shops. Evelyn brought a few things for the grandkids.

That evening, we had dinner at the Barking Frog, a Mexican cantina. Food was good and the margaritas even better.

I think we will come back to Sedona. It is really an easy drive from LA. There are a lot of things to do for the family.

Day 2 – Sept. 18

After the "deluxe Continental breakfast" – a good example of exaggerating a marketing phrase – we hit the road about 8:30 a.m. for Santa Fe, N.M. The ride out of Sedona to I-40 is on a 28-mile very winding road, but really a great drive. It has great camera overlooks so you can pull off the two-lane road and really enjoy the views. There are also a number of camping sites and lodges along the way. It brings you out on I-40 at about Flagstaff. It is worth the extra time.

I gassed up in Sedona, so we were good to go. Evelyn had never been to the Petrified Forest National Park, about 110 miles east of Flagstaff, so we drove the 28-mile loop from the west entrance to the east entrance. I had been there a couple of years ago, but I saw a lot of things I missed the first time. I was able to use my National Park Golden Age pass, so we didn't have to pay the entrance fee.

It was getting late, so we stopped for lunch in Gallup N.M. While both Arizona and New Mexico are on Mountain Time, Arizona doesn't go on daylight saving time and is the same time as LA, so we lost an hour in New Mexico.

At Albuquerque, we headed north to Santa Fe, the capital of New Mexico, and the oldest continuous capital city in the United States. We got to the Comfort Suites, which is much nicer than the Sedona Real, and checked in.

We drove to the old town area of Santa Fe and walked around a bit, but much of the shops close at 6 p.m. We weren't too hungry, but we found the Blue Corn Café and had a bite to eat and drink. I'm sorry we didn't have more time here, and I guess we will have to come back.

Today we traveled just under 500 miles. Tomorrow we head to Oklahoma City.



Evelyn in the Petrified Forest National Park.

RLACEI MEMBER NEWS:

John Lemons, Morro Bay, finally found a golf course where he could shoot his age, 86. Way to go, John!

Carlos Quiroz, Yucca Valley, sent me a bunch of postage stamps in appreciation for information about a former co-worker. That was a real stamp of approval.

Arlene Orens, Santa Cruz, writes: "I loved your poem *After the Olympics*. You touched my heart. I fulfilled my dream of viewing Impressionist paintings and Roman ruins last August in museums, ateliers and various sites, in Amsterdam, Paris, France, England and Wales. I am an active member of Lifelong Learners at U.C. Santa Cruz. I encourage all retirees to join their local LLL clubs. It will greatly enrich your lives and expand your mind."

Herbert Lafoon received a certificate from the State of Kentucky, giving him the title of "Kentucky Colonel."

Homer Morimoto writes: "I recently traveled to Egypt and China. They were awesome trips. So much history to see."

Here's part two of **Neil Ricci's** story of the recent trip he and Rosemarie Walker took in Europe: "We left Moscow and sailed to St. Petersburg, stopping at many cities along the way to visit historical sites and do some shopping. We even used the Internet to call home. It's a small world. While in the boat, we had lectures and language classes. Russia has 33 characters in its alphabet. In St. Petersburg we visited the Hermitage Museum (1,000 rooms and three million items on display), Peter the Great Palace and numerous churches. We attended a ballet and a traditional Cossack dancing event. It was a very enjoyable trip. The Russians were very nice to us. There were lots of people shopping in many beautiful stores. Although English is not as common in Western Europe, we always found someone to help us when we needed anything."

Helen Salgado, Membership Chair, received so many applications for new members (more than 500) that she had to hire people to help process them. Way to go, Helen! **If you change your address**, notify Helen at 8372 Arnett Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Also notify LACERS and the City Employees Club.

The Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System (**LACERS**) is at 360 E. Second St., 2nd floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012-4207. Phone (213) 473-7200 or (800) 779-8328. Contact them to arrange direct deposit of your retirement check, change your tax withholding or beneficiary, or for questions about your health plans.

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

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.



Marguerite and John Shadle.



Quintel Webb, who retired from Public Works/Street Cleaning after 30 years.



As always, the LACERS team was there to answer questions and give the retirees support. From left: Sarah Hill; Sally Choi (General Manager, LACERS); Wai Chung; Linda Aparicio; Christal Chacon; and Debra Fleming.



Eva and George V. Lopez. George retired from Planning after 31 years.

Retirees Annual Meeting

■ At their annual elections/incorporation meeting, the City Retirees association has fun, too.



Wilma Reebe, who retired from the LAPD.

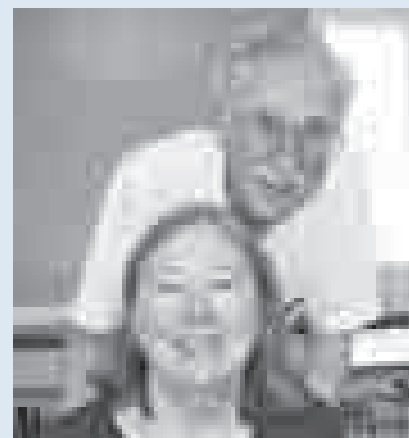


Tony Alvarez, who retired from General Services after 28 years.

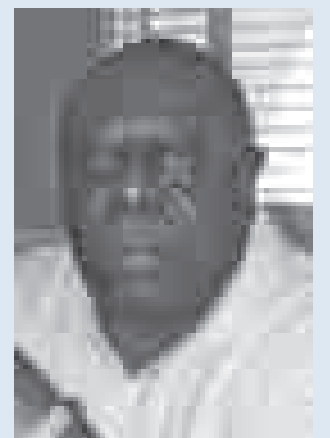
RLACEI— About 100 members and guests of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) held their annual elections/incorporation meeting Oct. 23 at the Friendship Auditorium, for the first time at that location.

Positions were filled for 2009-2010. Elected for two-year terms were: Ken Spiker, Jerry Bardwell, Helen Salgado, Jack Matthews and Mary Beetz (who replaces Dave Wilkins). Michael Karsch was elected to a one-year term, replacing Bob Wilkinson.

Thanks to Ed Harding, Phil Skarin, Hal Danowitz and all the others who welcomed us and helped produce this article.



Gene and Marilyn McPherson. Gene retired from Public Works/Engineering in 1996, and Marilyn retired from Rec and Parks in 1998.



Charlie B. Lavender, who retired from Public Works/Street Maintenance after 30 years.



Evelyn Akerman and John Hawkins, Club CEO.



Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations, and Mary Beetz, who retired from Personnel in 2006. Congratulations to Mary as she's the newest addition to the RLACEI Board!



Leo Rosen and his wife, Norma.



From left: Mary Beetz, RLACEI Board Member and retired from Personnel after 37 years, with guest Rachel Hernandez.



Rene O'Malley, the daughter of Wilma Reebe.



From left: Jim Iwaki, who retired from CDD, and Jesus Aceves, who retired from Public Works/ Contract Administration.



Bob Knox, who retired from Personnel in 2001.



From left: Ben Reyes, who retired from the Controller's Office in 2002, with his guest, Helmar Anderson.



Laura Ramirez, who retired from the LAFD after 44 years, with her husband, William



John Bogdanoff, who retired from Rec and Parks after 35 years.



Michael and Cleone Vrabel.

Retiree Question of the Month

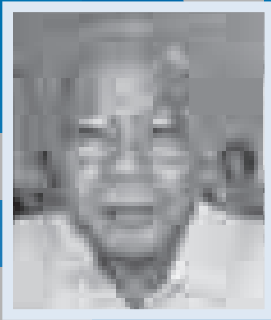
Alive! asked retirees...

What do you want for Christmas?

The Best Years



"My health!"
— Eva Lopez, wife of George V. Lopez, Retired from Planning after 31 years



"A new administration!"
— Ben Reyes, Retired from the Controller's Office in 2002.



"To see my grandkids."
— Helmar Anderson, guest of Ben Reyes



"To see my grandkids graduate from college."
— George V. Lopez



"Good health!" — Leo Rosen.
"A good healthy cruise to anywhere!" — Norma Rosen, Leo's wife



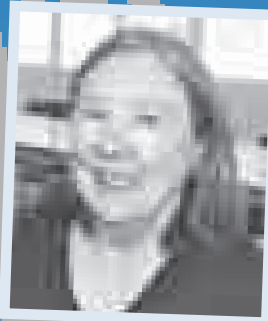
"Good health for me, my family and my friends."
— Jesus Aceves, Retired from Public Works, Contract Administration



"A Porsche Carrera GT3."
— Jim Iwaki, Retired from CDD



"To be able to see next Christmas."
— Gene McPherson, Retired from Public Works/Engineering in 1996



"A new car!"
— Marilyn McPherson, Retired from Rec and Parks in 1998

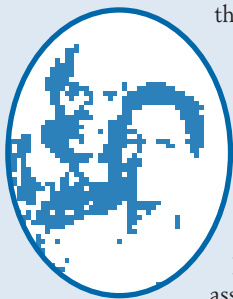


"To be healthy, and for my wife, five daughters and 16 grandchildren to be happy, too."
— John Bogdanoff, Retired from Rec and Parks after 35 years



"To bring all the Armed Forces home."
— Tony Alvarez, Retired from General Services after 28 years

Retiring? Join RLACEI!



If you are retiring, you're invited to join the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI).

RLACEI is the only organization exclusively serving the interest 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 is 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.

You're Invited!

RLACEI Holiday Party

Wednesday,
Dec. 4, 12 noon
Grace E. Simons Lodge
1025 Elysian Park Drive
(near Dodger Stadium)

The RLACEI's annual Christmas Party and Installation of Officers is scheduled for noon Wednesday, Dec. 4 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. Reserve your seat now: (800) 678-4145, x701. Guests welcome. Call

one of the officers on the Retirees Helplines. Free taxi service can take you from the parking lot to the lodge.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

My Christmas List

At this time of the year
We go to parties
And put up Christmas trees
With lots of decorations.

We give each other presents.
The more expensive they are,
The greater our friendship.

But one of the most valued gifts
We can give to others,
Is our time:
Time to listen quietly,
Time to make them feel Special,
Time to share their joys and Sorrows,
Time for them to feel Loved.

When I make up my Christmas list,
My number one request will be for
A little of your time.

— 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 | Michael Karsch x704 | Neil Ricci x714 |
| Phil Skarin x709 | Jerry Bardwell x706 | Helen Salgado x713 |
| Tom Stemnock x708 | Mary Beetz x711 | |