

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



Warren B. Braun, 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:

April 9: RLACEI general membership meeting at the Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles. Lunch at noon.

June 2: RLACEI golf tournament at the Alhambra Municipal Golf Course.

Aug. 13: RLACEI picnic at Grace E. Simons Lodge in Elysian Park.

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

RLACEI:

Ballot Measures Could Affect Retiree Benefits

President Ed Harding reports:



Ed Harding

"As I begin my 15th year as your president, I want to thank the officers and committees who have all worked together to make our organization a strong, effective voice for City retirees. Our newest Board Members, Mary Beetz and Michael Karsch, have pitched right in and have assumed important duties.

I wish to congratulate Warren B. Braun, newly elected president of the Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association. Warren retired as a Senior Inspector in the Legal Division of the Fire Prevention Bureau of the LAFD.

There are two measures on the upcoming election March 3 that directly affect retirees and their pensions. The first, ballot measure D, is the Post Retirement Marriage Surviving Spouse Benefit (Remarriage Proposal). This allows a retiree who was single at retirement, or who has lost their spouse through death or divorce, to remarry and provide

the new spouse with a surviving spouse pension. The cost will be borne by a reduction in the retiree's pension. If this passes, it will become a precedent for the rest of the City's retirees to seek an amendment to the Administrative Code.

The second Charter Amendment, ballot measure C, will allow dependent (disabled) children covered under the Fire and Police Pension Plan, who become married or adopted, to continue to collect pension benefits. Another change allows payment of pension benefits to a Special Need Trust for a dependent (disabled) child benefit provided to a child of a deceased system member and has become disabled prior to age 21.

So, make sure you vote March 3.

I'll see all of you at our general membership meeting Thurs., April 9, at the Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr. We will again be serving a great lunch."



By Phil Skarin,
RLACEI Publicity Chair

Legislative Update:



Ken Spiker

Michael Karsch, filling in for Ken Spiker, our legislative representative, reports: "Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has just proposed to fund state retiree health care, an unfunded liability that now is estimated to be \$48 billion for all state retirees. This would be funded partially by saving to

be created by moving all state employees and retirees to lower-cost health plans. The governor proposes setting aside \$236 million beginning in 2010-11, but the Legislative Analyst reports the need to be set aside is \$1.2 billion per year."

RLACEI Website

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

Contact LACERS

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

The Best Years

ADVENTURES
with HAL!

Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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 2009

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

Committee Chairpersons for 2009

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



Old Hallways and First Girlfriends

■ Hal and Evelyn continue their road trip across the country for Hal's high school reunion.

Evelyn and I were on a three-week road trip on our way to my 50th high school reunion in Lansing, Mich. We took a more Southern route on the way there and the northern route on the way home.

So far we had traveled from Los Angeles through Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Michigan. During the trip, Evelyn and I kept a daily log that we e-mailed to friends, and I have decided to share this log with you to tell the tale of our trip. We left off last month in Lansing.

Day 10: Sept. 27

Evelyn: I think most of you have realized that most of these updates come from the travel writer in the family, Hal. I manage to read them and occasionally add some small anecdote or defend myself. As a result of talking to my daughter, Michelle, I will add my comments from now on so you can see who says what.

Last night, we had dinner with my friend, Don. His wife was under the weather and did not join us. We ate at Bravo Cuchina, part of a large chain in the Michigan area. The food was good. We were going to see Don and his wife for brunch at their home on Sunday morning.

This morning, we walked over to the Michigan State University (MSU) student union; I bought a T-shirt, and Evelyn got a magnet. Because of the school, there are many restaurants and casual dining places within walking distance of the campus. We picked one out – they had square bagels, which they used to make an omelet sandwich.

Evelyn: Square bagels? Who ever heard of such a thing? There should be a law against it.

Today we had the tour of my old high school, Lansing Eastern. The current principal led the tour. Not that there was much to see, but I did remember the boy's and girl's gyms, and we finally found my homeroom (they had renumbered the school). I found a few people I knew when they told me their name, but I recognized only my first (grade school) girlfriend, Marilyn.

I hoped to see more people I knew that night at the dinner.

After the tour, Evelyn and I drove back downtown, and I took some pictures of my father's old store. The front had been changed, but I think I got the right one. The store next door is a peanut store (it was a Mr. Peanut store) that has been in business more than 71 years, and I think



Hal at the door of his high school homeroom.



Evelyn (right) and Hal's first girlfriend, Marilyn (left).

we were just next door.

The reunion dinner was held at the University Club (part of MSU), with a reception starting at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7:30. We got there on time, and most everyone was already there. They had set up a memory board and had pictures of my grade school classes and a lot of other stuff about our class. They had prepared a book with pictures from the 1958 yearbook with our address (if known) and also those who were deceased. Both classes (summer and winter) had a combined graduating class of approximately 470, and almost 70 had passed on.

Evelyn: I think there were between 300 and 350 people there, including spouses and guests. A number of women approached Hal, and all had different stories about him.

My best friends from high school were not there, but I did connect with a number of classmates, and it was fun being together again. I took a picture with the girl who was



Transportation on Mackinac Island.

ADVENTURES with HAL!

my first-ever date (a dance) and also my first girlfriend from grade school (she was one of the primary organizers of the reunion). I'm really glad that Evelyn and I came.

Day 11: Sept. 28

Sunday morning, we went to my friend Don's house for brunch, and he showed me a video of his bar mitzvah. The video had pictures of my father and mother and even showed me dancing with my mother; I wasn't 13 yet. After brunch, we drove to Charlevoix (220 miles and nearly four hours away). We stayed overnight at the Weathervane Terrace Inn – a nice one-bedroom suite for \$85. That night we were having dinner with friends that Evelyn knows from high school.

We met Evelyn's high school friend and his wife at the Weathervane Restaurant, just a short walk from our hotel. The food was very good – American cuisine. After dinner we walked the three blocks of the Charlevoix downtown area. There was even a Rexall drugstore.

Evelyn: For those of you old enough, Rexall was a big franchised drugstore before there were chain drugstores. My father had been a pharmacist and owned one when I was a kid.

Day 12: Sept. 29

It was only a short drive (60 miles) to St. Ignace, where we caught the ferry to Mackinaw Island. I wanted to catch the 11:30 boat (the ride takes only 20 minutes), and we needed time to buy tickets and have the car stored for the night. The boat ride was a little choppy -- the wind was blowing pretty well and it was overcast, but no rain. When we arrived, we were met by a representative of the Iroquois Hotel. He took our luggage (we had brought only three very



Evelyn at Fort Mackinac, with their hotel in the background.

small bags), and we walked to the hotel, about two short blocks from the dock.

I had wanted to stay at the Grand Hotel, but this was the one day in September that they were completely booked. I am now happy that it turned out that way. The Iroquois is directly on the water, and our room was the corner suite with a wall of windows that looked on the marina and the breakwater. It was really nice, but I'll let Evelyn describe it. The Grand Hotel is not within walking distance of the town, and we had a much better location.

Evelyn: Some of you may remember the movie Somewhere in Time with Jane Seymour and Christopher Reeve. It was filmed there; the buildings are amazing -- a huge white Victorian building perched on a hill with a 600-foot wrap-around covered porch. You can still probably get the movie from Netflix, but have plenty of tissue on hand. Anyway, the Iroquois, where we stayed, was just like the Grand, but on a smaller scale and with a much better location.

After we saw our room and made a dinner reservation at the Cottage Room (a restaurant that's part of the hotel), we took the carriage ride tour of the island. The cost was about \$30 per person, but it was the best way to see the island. There are three ways to get around on the island – walk, ride a bike, or use a horse; no motor vehicles are allowed. They did have golf carts, but the carts are not allowed on the roads. The tour took about two hours, and we got off at Fort Mackinac (it is spelled both ways, but is always pronounced MAC-in-aw – never MAC-in-nack). It was \$10 to get in the fort, built by the British before the Revolutionary War. We stopped for a bite to eat and toured the buildings. I enjoyed the presentations, and every hour they shot a cannon and then muskets.

Evelyn: Considering when it was built, it looked like a pretty good place to be stationed. The barracks, commissary and other

buildings seemed to be pretty good accommodations for that time period.

We walked back downtown (the fort is at the other end from our hotel) and stopped to buy fudge and other sundry souvenirs.

Evelyn: Fudge seems to be the big deal on the Island, with more than 17 shops on the half-dozen blocks of downtown. And yes, we bought some.

Our dinner reservation was for 7 p.m., and we were seated at a table by the window and had a great view of the water as dusk arrived. It was blowing pretty hard and had started to rain. The food was the best we have had so far, and I even had room for dessert (a fresh peach sundae).

Day 13 – Sept. 30

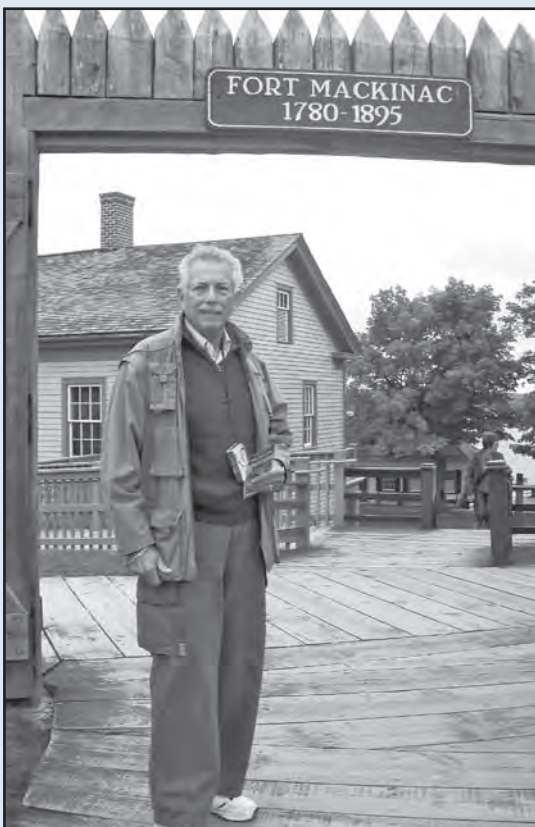
We wanted to catch the 9 a.m. boat and reach the mainland about 9:30, where our car was waiting. The drive to Green Bay, Wisc., was about 250 miles along Lake Michigan. The drive was great – the roads are mostly two lanes – with a passing lane every so often. Speed limit is 55 mph, and I stayed under 60 mph all of the time. We stopped in Escanaba, Mich., for “pasties,” which is a meat or veggie pie invented by the Cornish. I don't think it will go over big in California.

The ride was very colorful as the trees were turning. We arrived in Green Bay before 2 p.m. (we gained back an hour) and checked into our hotel. We then drove over to Lambeau Field, the home of the Green Bay Packers, and took some pictures and found a Packer store. Evelyn was able to get a magnet.

Next month I'll pick up with the next stage of our trip.



Hal and Don with Don's 1954 Corvette.



Hal at Fort Mackinac.

RACEI MEMBER NEWS:

Dave Lessley, Retired City Planner, was installed Jan. 27 as moderator for 2009 of the Presbytery of San Fernando. His “planning” is now more of a “lofty” character.

John and Frances Cota Schulz celebrated their second anniversary Jan. 6. Frances is a regular winner in our annual retirees poetry contest.

Robert J. Williams, retired General Manager, Building and Safety, was laid to rest Jan. 12 in San Luis Obispo.

Marty Rashoff tutors at an elementary school in Monterey Park one day a week. He has traveled to China, Tibet and Hong Kong.

Ben and Bettye Pratt celebrated their 66th anniversary in June with a trip to Maui. In October, they took a Mexican Rivera cruise.

Angelo Incardona enjoys woodworking. He works at the Santa Anita Race Track on weekends. He's good at horsing around.

An information sheet entitled **“What to do upon the death of a Retired City Employee”** is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Phil Skarin at 5301 Norwich Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91411-3910.

The Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System is at 360 East Second St., second floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012-4207. The phone number is (213) 473-7200 or (800) 779-8328. Contact them to arrange direct deposit of your retirement check, change your tax withholding or beneficiary, or if you have 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 wwwrlacei@verizon.net

Poets, it's time to begin writing your prize-winning poems for the 2009 Retirees Poetry contest. Stay tuned.

If you have news about yourself or other retirees that you'd like to share, send it to Phil Skarin at 5301 Norwich Ave. CA 91411-3910, or call him at (818) 784-0130.





THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

Friendship Maintenance

*Everybody needs friends
Friendships are truly blessings in our lives
But, after you have made a friend,
How do you maintain that friendship?*

*Is there a preservative to keep it from spoiling?
Can you store it in a deep freeze, or
Lock it in a safe deposit box?*

*Successfully maintaining a friendship requires
Regular attention and concern
Involvement of your time
Sharing of each other's feelings, and
avoiding things that hurt the other.*

*So, if you have friendships that you want to keep,
Remember these suggestions for
Friendship maintenance.*

– Phil Skarin



RLACEI's Toll-Free Number

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

The number is: (800) 678-4145

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

Edward Harding x703	Jack Matthews x712	Americo Garza x710
Harold Danowitz x707	Michael Karsch x704	Neil Ricci x714
Phil Skarin x709	Jerry Bardwell x706	Helen Salgado x713
	Tom Stemnock x708	



Los Angeles Convention Center



Work Opportunities For Retirees



**Electrical Craft Helpers,
Electricians/Communication Electricians,
Plumbers**

**\$24.44/hr – Electrical Craft Helper
\$34.84/hr – Electrician/Communication Electrician
\$36.33/hr – Plumber**
(Plus Overtime if applicable)

Dear Retiree,

Are you looking for a part time job with great pay, great atmosphere, flexible work schedule, and exciting projects? Then working part-time at the Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC) may be just the opportunity you have been looking for. We employ retirees throughout the year to supplement our Electrical, Audio/Video, and Plumbing operations to help meet the service demands of large events, including:

- Greater L.A. Auto Show
- The Grammy's
- Boat Show
- Westec
- E For All
- And Many More

If you have retired from the City of Los Angeles or the LADWP, and previously worked in one of the above classes, their equivalents, or in a qualified higher class, you are encouraged to apply for this great opportunity.

The Electrical, A/V and Plumbing operations at the award-winning Los Angeles Convention Center have established a stellar reputation throughout the trade show and convention industry as one of the best in the world.



Are you interested
in joining our great team?

**Contact LACC Human Resources at (213) 741-1151 ext 5420,
email humanresources@lacclink.com, or go to our website at
www.lacclink.com for an application and/or more information.**