

For Retired Club Members

The Best Years

#136625



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



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:

Aug. 13: RLACEI Retirees Picnic, 11:30 a.m. at the Grace E. Simons Dodge in Elysian Park. Call (800) 678-4145, ext. 701 for lunch reservations a week ahead.

Oct. 8: Annual Corporation Meeting and Elections, Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive; Lunch at 12pm, Meeting at 1pm. Please R.S.V.P

Dec. 3: RLACEI Christmas Party, noon at the Grace E. Simons Lodge. Courtesy taxi rides from parking area thanks to Independent Taxi Owners Association.

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

RLACEI:

Some Changes Reflected In July Retirees Checks

President Ed Harding reports:



Ed Harding

"Our annual Retirees' Golf Tournament June 2 in Alhambra was a big success, thanks to the following people: Phil Skarin and Tom Stemnock, Chairmen; Americo Garza and his registration crew; Bob Okuda and his crew, who calculated the handicaps and trophy winners; and to all those who contributed towards the fabulous raffle prizes, especially the City Employees Club.

"At our awards luncheon, Alex Rabrenovich, Sarah Hill and Krystal Baldwin of LACERS spoke on the economy and the health plans of our retirement system, John Hawkins, CEO of the City Employees Club, gave out some gift certificates and watches; and Robert Larios, the Club's Director of Operations, took photos of the golfers and the trophy winners.

"The Fire and Police Retirees reported that Charter Amendment C, better known as the Remarriage Proposal, passed with more than 60 percent voter approval. Fire and Police Retirees should have member participation by July 1. We hope to eventually obtain this benefit for LACERS members.

"See you all at our annual retirees' picnic Aug. 13, 11:30 a.m., at the Grace E. Simons Lodge in Elysian Park. But, you must make reservations a week ahead by calling the RSVP number, (800) 678-4145, Ext. 701. Chris & Pitts will put on a great buffet BBQ meal.

"Are you planning to retire soon? If you are, you are invited to join the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI), which is the only one exclusively serving the interest of L. A. City retirees, for only \$1 a month. Call one of our board members at (800) 678-4145 for more information.

"Linkedin.com is a new social Website that will help you contact other retirees. No cost to join. Go to www.linkedin.com and join The Retired Employees of the City of Los Angeles group.

"Do have a poem for this year's contest, or have some news about yourself or other retirees that you would like to share? Send it to Phil Skarin at 5301 Norwich Avenue, Van Nuys, 91411."

Director Mary Beetz reports:



Mary Beetz

Evercare, Solutions for Caregivers: "If you are enrolled in a LACERS medical plan, you are eligible to receive a caregiver benefit

through Evercare – Solutions for Caregivers. Experts are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to:

- Identify community resources and coordinate services;
- Arrange up to six free hours of geriatric case management services, including onsite assessment, care plan development and consultation; and
- Arrange two free hours of consulting/services with an elder law attorney."

"For assistance, call Evercare – Solutions for Caregivers toll-free at (866) 896-1895.

Legislative Update, Ken Spiker reports:



Ken Spiker

"Here are some monthly check changes:

"1. July checks will include the annual cost of living benefit. Those retirees retired more than one year will receive the maximum three percent increase.

"2. The Federal Recovery Act of 2009 requires new withholding tables, which will require a check amount change for some retirees.

"3. The Internal Revenue Code, under a new interpretation, will require LACERS to report a

health subsidy as income, received for a non tax-dependent. LACERS will contact you if you are affected by this new action.

"If you want further clarification and have computer access, check your personal file. Click on the MyLACERS logo on www.LACERS.org and follow the instructions. Only you can reach your own account, where all of your income and deduction information is available.

"Shelly Smith, after serving

15 years as the active employees representative, will leave the Board June 30. Her replacement, Elizabeth Greenwood, received 72 percent of the votes of those voting and, upon confirmation by the City Council, will join the Board at our first July meeting.

"Impacts on Pensions: There are two items of current interest for those of us in the public sector as

Legislative Update,
continued Page 28

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



Bjorn, Evelyn, Myrna and Debbie, tasting and toasting.

By Hal Danowitz,
Secretary, RLACEI

Retiree Hotlines

Who to call? 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 below.

City Employees Retirement System: (213) 473-7200

RLACEI Retirement Counselors and Retiree Helplines: (800) 678-4145

• R.S.V.P.	Ext. 701
• 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
• Neil Ricci	Ext. 714

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

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
Mary Beetz



Grape Expectations

■ Hal and entourage do some wine tasting in Paso Robles.

When someone says they are going to the wine country, the first place everyone thinks of is the Napa Valley. Well, I'm here to tell you that there is great wine country much closer to us, just north on US 101. It is the California Central Coast wine region, which runs from Santa Barbara to Monterey.

My wife, Evelyn, and I had made plans in 2008 to attend the Paso Robles Wine Festival weekend, but another thing came up, and we didn't go. Our cousin's daughter, Debbie, has property in the area and asked her parents (Don and Myrna) and us if we wanted to go up for a few days. We picked the last weekend in January and decided to go up on Saturday and return on Monday. Little did I realize that it was Super Bowl weekend!

We decided to stay at the Paso Robles Inn (1103 Spring St., [805] 238-2660) because it was centrally located and close to Debbie's house. I booked a queen garden fireplace room.

Paso Robles is about 230 miles northwest of Los Angeles along US 101 and about 30 miles from the ocean as the crow flies.

Paso Robles is the fastest growing city in San Luis Obispo County; its population by 2010 will be approximately 32,400. The city is known for its hot springs, its abundance of wineries, and for playing host to the California Mid-State Fair. Translated to English, the city name means "Oak Pass" or "The Pass of the Oaks."

The Paso Robles Rancho (25,993 acres) was originally a Spanish land grant. In 1857, the entire rancho was purchased for \$8,000. At the time of the purchase, there was very little where the town is now—only the remains of the original log shanty built by Fr. Juan Cabot of San Miguel Mission around the main spring on the northeast corner of what is now Tenth and Spring Streets. As far back as 1795, Paso Robles was spoken of and written about as "California's oldest watering place"—the place to go for springs and mudbaths. A bathhouse was erected over the sulfur spring in 1888, with a plunge and 37 bathrooms. The following year, work

began on the large Hot Springs Hotel, (today the Paso Robles Inn).

Since the privileges of using the baths were restricted to guests of the hotel and many visitors could not pay the rates of the fashionable hotel, a few businessmen in Paso Robles made arrangements to bore for sulphur water on a lot nearby. A sulfur well was reached, a bath house built, and baths were offered at the affordable rate of 25 cents. The establishment was later offered to the city and is currently the site of the municipal pool.

Evelyn and I drove up to Westlake to pick up Don and Myna and then headed north. We stopped in Isla Vista just north of Santa Barbara for breakfast at the local I-Hop. The place was crowded with college kids from the University of California, Santa Barbara, which made the service very slow.

We got to the inn just after noon and settled into our rooms. The room was smaller than I hoped for, but there was a fireplace, and the room was clean. Parking is free, and there is both a restaurant and



Hal and Evelyn.

Paso Robles' growth industry—wine—has a long history with the area. Wine grapes were introduced to the Paso Robles soil in 1797 by the Spanish conquistadors and Franciscan missionaries. Spanish explorer Francisco Cortez envisioned an abundant wine-producing operation and encouraged settlers from Mexico and other parts of California to cultivate the land. The first vineyardists in the area were the *padres* of the Mission San Miguel, and their old fermentation vats and grapevine artwork can still be seen at the Mission, north of the city of Paso Robles. Today, Paso Robles is home to more than 200 wineries and 26,000 vineyard acres.

coffee shop as part of the inn. It also has a nice pool area, but while the weather was very nice, it wasn't pool weather.

We called Debbie and her husband, Bjorn, and they walked over to the hotel from their house.

We started out on our first wine tour. U.S. 101 splits the town in two, and some of the wineries are to the east, and some to the west of the 101. To be perfectly honest, while I do drink an occasional glass of wine, Evelyn is the connoisseur in the family. We headed west on CA 46 and started to drive

Adventures with Hal,
continued Page 28



Party in the Park

■ DWP Retirees Assn. hosts annual picnic.

DWP RETIREES ASSN. — On June 6, the DWP Retirees Association held its annual picnic. The event was held at Whittier Narrows Park.

Thanks to Dolores and Vince Foley, and to Maychelle Yee for their assistance in producing this article.



From left: Jose Nolasco, 32 years of City service; Nick Stassi, 34 years; and Donald Heiter, 32 years, all from Haynes Generating Station.



John and Mary San Marco, John was a Sr. Water Operator from Foothill Area.



From left: Eloy Morales, Charlie Edwards, Donna Lenton, Barbara Contreras, Judy Sanchez, Barbara Heiter, Cecelia Edwards, Annette Spigelmire and Mark Spigelmire.



The two oldest at the picnic (from left): Elias Spiak, Communications Division, 92 years old, and Vaughn Ermoian, 90.



George and Alice Lear, married 66 years in September. George retired from Water Construction after 40 years of City service.



From left: Anna Marie Lasky and Rose Marie Goldstein. Anna Marie retired from the DWP Credit Union, and Rose Marie still works there.



Bill Charles, Water Operations Division, Retired, 24 years of City service.





Adventures with Hal, *continued from Page 26*

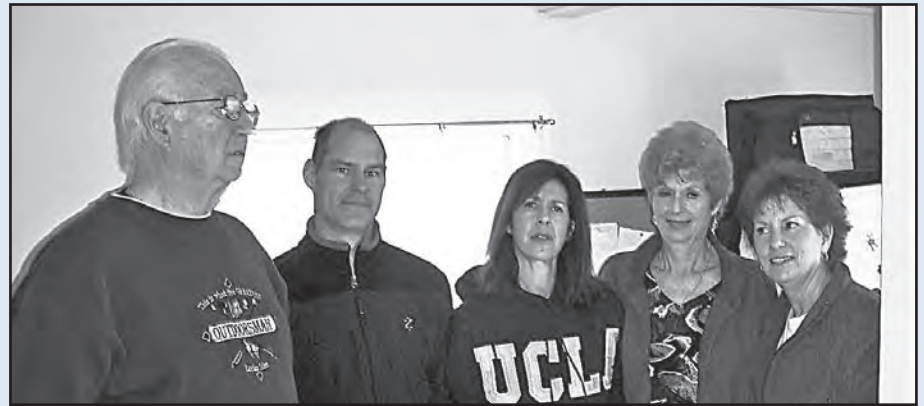
through very pretty rolling hills, many of which had vineyards. The wineries look much like the one you see in Napa -- some with large tasting rooms, and others with just small places to taste. Some of the wineries charge for tasting, and others provide it free. I was the designated driver, so I didn't do the tasting, and Don would rather drink martinis, so he didn't, either. Mostly, we sampled the free cheese and crackers and sat out by the vineyards. I did enjoy the drive through the countryside. We stopped at three wineries, and Evelyn even brought a few bottles to take home. We drove back to the inn to freshen up for dinner.

For dinner, Debbie suggested the A.J. Spurs Saloon and Dining Hall in Templeton, just a short drive south from Paso Robles. A.J.'s is a cowboy place, with lots of wooden tables and sawdust on the floor. Before our table was ready, we enjoyed a cocktail while

listening to a great piano player. The food is pure Western -- steaks, ribs and some chicken and fish. I make it a policy never to eat fish unless I can see the ocean, so I stayed with the meats. The prices are in the \$20 to \$30 range, and you get a lot of food. Except for the entrée, all food is served family-style. To finish off your meal, if you have room, is an old-fashioned root beer float or an after-dinner liqueur. It's great place for the family or large groups; it serves so much food that we took some with us.

Super Bowl Sunday was bright and sunny, with a slight nip in the air. We walked over to Debbie and Bjorn's home for breakfast. No one seemed to be in any hurry to start the wine tour, so after breakfast, Don and I walked back to the inn and read the paper by the pool, while Evelyn and Myrna took a walk around town.

Around 1 p.m., we drove to the east side of the 101 to seek out more wineries. I was trying to hurry them up because the game started at 4 p.m., but I was outvoted. We hit another three vineyards, and the tasters were able to



Breakfast at Debbie and Bjorn's house.

taste to their hearts' content, while Don and I enjoyed the local scenery. The wineries were very nice, every bit as good as the ones in Napa and other wine areas of California.

We got back to the inn in time to join the Super Bowl party in the bar, and we enjoyed the second half.

A lot of local restaurants were closed on

Sunday, so we found a small place on the other side of the town square and had a light meal.

My overall impression of the area is that this is a great place to visit for the wineries, but also a great family place because of its location in central California near Hearst Castle (San Simeon), Pismo Beach and Cambria.

Legislative Update

■ **Ken Spiker, continued from page 25**



either government employees or retirees. One is yet another initiative by Santa Monica accountant Paul McCauley on public pensions. The other is a bill moving in the Legislature, AB 155 (Mendoza), aimed at municipal bankruptcies.

"The newest McCauley initiative would impose a surcharge on resident taxpayers who receive more than \$40,000 taxable pension income, this being in addition to the ordinary income taxes already levied on any income. The surcharge would range from 20 percent of pension income from \$40,000 to \$50,000, to 60 percent for pension incomes more than \$150,000. For a nonresident who earns a pension from California employers, there would be a 35 percent excise tax on a pension amount exceeding \$50,000. This initiative was just released for circulation for signatures (needs 433,971 with a deadline of Oct. 15). The other McCauley initiative that is still seeking signatures has a deadline of June 22; that initiative would allow

vested pension benefits from state or local government agencies to be reduced by said agencies for existing and prospective retirees. McCauley has fielded similar initiatives in the past, and none has ever made it to a state ballot.

"The State Legislative bill, AB 155, is in response to the bankruptcy by the City of Vallejo, which was filed a year ago. The intended rearrangement of that City's finances was to change the Memoranda of Understanding for several of the labor contracts that endangered the soundness of the city budget. AB 155 would require any intended municipal bankruptcy to first be approved by the California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission before filing. Supporting the bill are the California Firefighters Association and other municipal unions, as well as the American Association of Retired Persons; the latter is interested because they worry that bankruptcies could affect pension contracts for anyone. The League of California Cities and the state association of counties are opposing AB 155. The bill has passed its Assembly policy and fiscal committees and is now pending a floor vote by the Assembly; if it passes the Assembly it would move to the Senate."

CLUB MEMBER SERVICE

FREE

Free Notary Service



When you need a notary service, there's never any charge. It's just one of the great services to Club Members.

Free notary service available during normal business hours at the:

**Club Store and Service Center
120 W. Second St.
Los Angeles 90012
TEL: (888) 777-1744**

Appointments are highly recommended; availability to walk-ins is limited.



The City Employees Club of Los Angeles

Celebrating the Lives of City Employees.



From left: Walt Naydo, Shogi Fukuma, George Egami and Robert Yokoyama.



From left: Fred Ige, Planning, 27 years of City service, and Gerald Carrido.



From left: Norm Gottlieb, Chief Accounting Office, 30 years of City service; Faye Gottlieb; and John Bobo.



From left: Steven Uranga, Ruben Munoz, Hector Ramirez and Hans Markus.



From left: Steve Hill, Public Works/Sanitation, 37 years of City service; Billy Johnson, L.A. County; George Walker, General Services, 31 years; and Oliver Cunningham, Public Works/Sanitation, 30 years.



From Building and Safety, from left: Dominic Rescigno, Mike Lee, Richard Sanchez and Phil Kawanoa.



From left: Gail Draper, LAPD/ITA, 40 years of City service; Jim Hamilton; Dan Koenig; and John Vacca.



From left: Dick Hovious, Building and Safety, 27 years of City service; Richard Cooper, Building and Safety, 11 years; Guy Leacher, General Services, 23 years; and Ed Lubrin, DWP, 38 years.



From left: Phil Skarin; Gary Mattingly, former General Manager, Fire and Police Pensions; Michael Koppenhaver; and James Gomez.



Closest to the Pin winners were, from left: Gerald Carrido, Oliver Cunningham, Gil Garnas, Dick Hovious and George Chapman.



Tom Stemnock, RLACEI Director, hands out trophies to (left) Vester Pittman for low gross score in the all golfers/front nine category, and to Michael Koppenhaver for low gross score in the all golfers/back nine category.



Tom Stemnock, RLACEI Director, hands out trophies to (left) Betsy Melancon for low net score, member/ladies category, and Chris Stemnock for low gross score in the all ladies category.



From left: Tom Stemnock, RLACEI Director; Chris Stemnock; Charles Raush; and James Anderson, Planning, 36 years of City service.



From left: Cathey Bushey, LAPD 30 years of City service; Betsy Melancon, LAPD, 28 years; Larry Miller, Public Works/Sanitation, 26 years; and Jim Olney.



Tom Stemnock, RLACEI Director, hands out trophies to (left) George Chapman for low gross score in the guest men category, and to Jim Slayden for low net score in the guest men category.



Phil Skarin, RLACEI Director, hands out trophies for longest drive on the second hole to (left) Vester Pittman and Cathey Bushey.



From left: Gil Garnas, Public Works/Sanitation, 30 years of City service; Dennis Vanderhook, Public Works/Sanitation, 35 years; George Chapman; and Frank Martinez.



From left: Ed Anderson, Public Works/Engineering, 36 years of City service; Dave Carlburg; Don Pickens; and Vester Pittman.



From left: Tom Stemnock, RLACEI Director, presents the award for high gross score/ladies and high gross score/men to Cathey Bushey and Jack Pike. Phil Skarin, RLACEI Director (far right), also presents.



Mike Lee won for low net in the member/men category.



From left: Robert Gomez, Transportation, 31 years of City service; Steve Gomez, Transportation, 3 years; Mike Stawicki, Transportation, 28 years; and Jess Molina.



From left: Ed Itagaki, Public Works/Engineering 32 years of City service; Mason Beasom, Public Works/Engineering, 32 years; Al Tsuyuki; and Roy Yoshioka.

Into the Swing

■ Retirees Assn. hosts annual golf tournament. Club donates raffle prizes.

Photos by Robert Larios, Director of Operations

RLACEI — The annual Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) hosted its annual board meeting and golf tournament June 2. The event was held at the Alhambra Golf Club.

John Hawkins, Club CEO, and Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations, had a great time handing out raffle prizes – official City-seal watches – and mingling with all the great RLACEI members. The Club thanks RLACEI for the invitation and fun times.



Gil Garnas won for low gross score in the member/men category.



From left: Adam Birkenbach, Harbor, 37 years of City service; Sheldon Russel; Henry Martinez, Harbor, 22 years; and Jim Santana, Harbor, 31 years.



From left: Earl Gales, Airports, 34 years of City service; Charles Clement, Rec and Parks, 38 years; Eugene Won, Public Works/Engineering, 30 years; and Leon Davis, Housing, 32 years.



From left: Earl Clark, Harbor 37 years of City service; Jack Pike; Jim Slayden; and Paul Bellia.



From left: Richard Telles, Rec and Parks 35 years; Greg Telles; Ray Telles; and Mike Reyes.



From left: Ezio Briasco, Building and Safety, 30 years of City service; Genevieve Briasco; Del Grubbs, Building and Safety, 32 years; and Charles Blake, Transportation, 30 years.