



By Mary Beetz,
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

James R. Wilke, **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. 12: Annual picnic, Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park, Los Angeles. Noon.

Oct. 7: Annual Corporation Meeting and Elections, Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles. 1 p.m.

Dec. 9: Holiday party, Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park, Los Angeles. Noon.

Call (800) 678-4145, ext. 701, for reservations.

RLACEI:

LACERS Keeping Track of Federal Healthcare Changes

President, Ed Harding reports:



Ed Harding

"I wish to thank James R. Wilks, President and Board of Director of the Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association, for inviting me to attend the Association's annual barbeque celebration June 2 at Grace E. Simons Lodge. There were approximately 200 in attendance. It was a great lunch, and I enjoyed it immensely.

"June 3 was our 32nd annual golf tournament at the Alhambra Golf Course. It is always a fun day,

starting at 6:30 a.m., registering the golfers and giving out a sleeve of balls donated by the credit union. As usual, Tom Stemnock, Phil Skarin and Americo Garza put on a great event.

"The weather was perfect; the food was delicious, as was the dessert. Great prizes were raffled.

"John Hawkins and Robert Larios of the City Employees Club were there, taking pictures and raffling off some great prizes. Also in attendance was

Edward Rivera, the new Managing Editor for *El Pueblo*, who also took pictures. Thank you guys for being there supporting our event.

"Special thanks go to those that tallied the score cards -- not an easy task. One could actually feel the intensity among the golfers waiting for the winner of those special prizes and trophies.

"Our next event will be our picnic at Grace E. Simons Lodge Aug. 12. See you there."

LACERS Update: Mary Beetz reports:



By Mary Beetz,
RLACEI
Publicity Chair

"Are you moving? Do you need to update your LACERS info?"

"LACERS retirees who plan to move or need to update their contact information must fill out a LACERS Change of Address Request Form. This form is available on LACERS' website (www.lacers.org) or by calling LACERS directly at (800) 779-8328. After completion, retirees must mail the form to LACERS, 360 E. Second St., Second Floor, Los Angeles CA 90012, Attn: Member Processing Unit. Retirees can also fax the form to LACERS, (213) 687-4174, Attn: Member Processing Unit.

"It is important to keep in mind, that LACERS HMO health plans are available in authorized zip code service areas only. Moving out of your current zip code service area may affect your eligibility to maintain your current HMO coverage. Contact your health plan provider to verify that your new zip code is included as an authorized HMO service area. Should you no longer qualify for your existing health plan, you may elect to enroll in another LACERS medical plan for which you are eligi-

ble or the Medical Premium Reimbursement Program (MPRP) within 30 days of changing your residence.

"*Health Care Legislation and LACERS Health Benefits:* The Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 were signed into law in March. Some provisions will take effect as early as this year. However, the most significant changes become effective in 2014.

"A timeline summary of various provisions that may impact LACERS' retired members can be found on LACERS' Website. For example, beginning in 2011, adult children up to age 26 may be added as dependents on their plans. They may no longer be required to be full-time students, and any medical subsidy applied towards their coverage would not be taxable to the retiree. Also, health plans may be required to provide coverage without cost sharing for preventive services rated A or B by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Additionally, health plans may no longer impose lifetime coverage limits; however, they may be able to impose annual coverage limits until 2014.

"The information provided is preliminary. LACERS' policy will be provided to members after the final regulations are prepared by the federal Department of Health and Human Services. LACERS will inform members regarding any impact this may have on their health benefits by mail and on LACERS website at www.lacers.org.

"*Correspondent's Note:* In the June RLACEI column, members were advised to submit proof of Medicare B premiums to receive reimbursement. If you are having difficulty in obtaining proof, contact the Social Security office in your area and ask for a "Verification Letter," which will be sent to you within three to four days. If you do not know where the office is in your area, call Social Security at (800) 772-1213. They will ask for your zip code, or if you prefer using your computer, enter www.ssa.gov and click on "Find a Social Security Office."

"After receipt of the verification letter, send it to LACERS, 360 E. Second St., Second Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012. If you continue to have a problem, call Mary Beetz at (800) 678-4145, extension 711.

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!



Hal and Evelyn in a Lisbon shopping area.



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

Edward Harding, President
Kenneth Spiker, First Vice President
Tom Stemnock, Second Vice President
Hal Danowitz, Secretary
Michael Karsch, Treasurer

Committee Chairpersons

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



Lovely Lisbon

■ Hal and Co. continue their European cruise in Portugal. Part 8.

Evelyn and I are on a 35-day trip with our cousins, Myrna and Don, which includes a self-guided week in Italy and then a 28-day cruise with ports in Italy, Croatia, Greece, Spain, Morocco and Portugal, and then an ocean crossing to Fort Lauderdale. This month, we pick up our travels in Lisbon, Portugal, aboard our Holland-America (HAL) ship, the *Oosterdam*.

The ship docked in Lisbon around 10 a.m., and the weather was overcast and in the high 60s. There was a chance of rain. We decided to use the local hop-on hop-off bus (Yellow Bus), which just happened to stop directly where we got off the ship. The cost was \$15 per person for a two-and-a-half-hour ride around the city. The ship was docked at stop no. 14, and we rode the bus until we reached stop no. 1, which was at the Praca do Comercio (the commercial area). It had a large number of walking streets with stores, restaurants and many souvenir shops. We walked the area and then sat at a Pasteriria and had coffee and cakes, a Lisbon tradition (only \$35 for the four of us). Don and Myrna got back on the bus to finish the tour, and Evelyn and I started looking for a Starbucks so she could get a mug. We found a tourist information store, and they said there was only one Starbucks in Lisbon and it wasn't near where we were (I think they were laughing at the dumb Americans). We made our way back to the bus and finished the tour; about halfway back it began to rain lightly, and we had to put on our foul weather gear for the first time. By the time we reached our ship stop, the rain had stopped.

Lisbon is also a very pretty city of about 700,000 people built at the seashore on rolling hills. There is some Roman influence (walls, aqueducts, etc.), but very little Moorish. The architecture is a mix of very new and modern mixed with typical Spanish four-story buildings with plaster and beautiful rough ironwork. One thing that distinguishes the architecture is the beautiful tile-work the city is known for. Entire buildings are covered in intricate blue and white tile.

Evelyn's rule no. 1 when traveling is that, if you see something you really like, get it. You won't see it again. By this point in Lisbon, she had encountered it twice.

We met Don and Myrna back at the stateroom and had a drink before dinner. The ship was not to sail until 11 p.m., and there was to be a barbecue on the Lido deck; we decided to have the barbecue for dinner. After dinner we played a little bridge.

Here are a few more words about Lisbon. The city is a wonderful place to visit, small enough to walk but big enough to offer a lot of attractions. The town was leveled by an earthquake in the 1700s and was rebuilt using a grid pattern, which makes it easy to get around. The city has a very good transportation system (trams, streetcars, buses and a subway). Of all the cities we have seen, Lisbon seems the prettiest.

The next day was a day at sea.

Evelyn and I started that day at the gym, and then she and Myrna went to a cooking demo in the culinary center. Brian Archibald, a guest chef, was on board and doing demonstrations and lessons during the sea days. After lunch we played duplicate bridge for the first time -- we were not sure we were

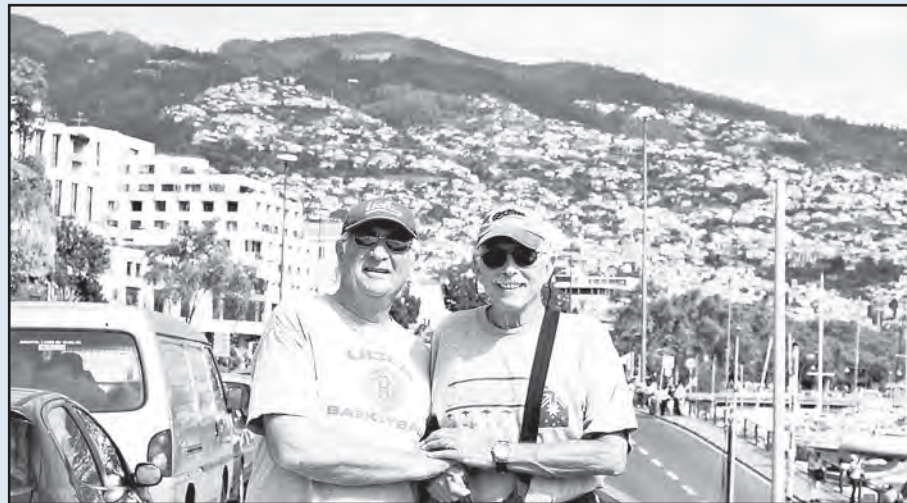
ready for this. Things move very quickly, and the process does not seem social or enjoyable. We may stick to party bridge, where things are more social. Don and Myrna are experienced players and enjoyed themselves. That night was another formal night, and we had reservations in the dining room. After dinner, we saw the show, which featured comedian Milt Abel. The next day was our last stop, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal, before we started our six-day ocean crossing.

The comedian the night before was very funny, and we all enjoyed the show. That morning, we docked in Funchal, the capital of Madeira Island, an autonomous region of Portugal. We walked from the port area along the water and reached the start of the old town, about a 25-minute walk. We planned to use the hop-on hop-off bus and found there were two of them, a red one and a yellow one. The red one made three more stops, which included a high-view point above the town, so that was our choice. The cost was \$10 each. It was Sunday, and most



A tiled building in Lisbon.

ADVENTURES with HAL!



Don and Hal at the waterfront in Funchal.

of the town was closed. It was very clean and neat, reminding us of Hawaii. The city is built on rolling green hills. There is a tropical feel, with beautiful foliage and temperate weather. The ride around town took about an hour and half. We learned that the name Funchal came from the fennel plant, which grows in abundance on the island. Other crops were sugar beets, tropical fruits and, of course, grapes. Madera had been known for centuries for its fortified wines, such as port, which have graced all the great courts of Europe over the centuries.



Myrna with her new best friend in Funchal.



Don and Myrna at a Lisbon pastry shop.

We left the bus and walked a short distance to the old town. A few of the tourist stores were open, and there was an open-air market lining the street, which also had a large number of cafes. We did a little shopping and then had lunch. Prices here were much better than Lisbon, with two club sandwiches, two beers and two coffees for just \$17. We walked back to the ship. The weather was great, with a slight breeze and the temperature in the high 70s.

Funchal is truly beautiful; it has a resort feel at a leisurely pace, and all of the white-washed buildings with tile roofs paint a truly

romantic picture.

Back on board, we played afternoon trivia and did not do well. We found out that one of trivia players' husbands was pick-pocketed in Lisbon. They were getting on a local bus and a "nicely" dressed man let them go ahead. A second man jostled them from behind and picked his wallet. We have heard a number of stories about passengers getting pick-pocketed. Just don't put your wallet in your back pocket, and be aware of who is around you at all times. We have not had an incident, but Evelyn was warned by a local to watch her camera while we were walking around Barcelona.

After trivia, we played a little bridge and then got ready for the evening. We had a drink on the veranda and then saw the early show -- Elliot Finkel, a pianist. Hal liked him, as it seems most everyone else did, but Evelyn did not.

We had dinner at 8 p.m., and we were disappointed in the service in the open seating. I think it was because the waiters were serving different stages of the meal at the same time -- appetizers, entrees and dessert and coffee. It didn't help with the coordination of the food. I also found the service to be better if you eat early rather than late. Oh well, it's only one meal!

We moved the clock back an hour a day as we moved closer to the United States. That night, it seemed that the entire world that uses daylight savings went off of it except for the United States, which, as you know, has changed it to the first Sunday in November. It's playing havoc with Evelyn's Palm phone, which has a world clock that can keep three time zones but can't seem to accommodate this partial "fall back" scenario.

We called home twice on Skype. It's amazing how you can call from a computer in the middle of the ocean (if you have an internet connection) to a landline or cell phone, and the whole thing works. All we needed was a video camera to do video chat.

I was confident we would be in the workout room the next morning with 200 of my best friends. On sea days, everyone who has been eating 5,000 calories a day decides to work out and drop a few pounds. It should only be so easy.

Next month will finish out our cruise story. Remember, you can also follow us on our blog at halandevelyn.blogspot.com.

RLACEI MEMBER NEWS:

Nick Buckroff, Rec and Parks Retiree, writes that May was a very, very busy and exciting month for him and his wife, Lilie. Their daughter, Nicole, was married on May 15; the following week, their other daughter, Felicia, graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a degree in psychology with 3.9 GPA. Congratulations to the entire Buckroff family from RLACEI.

If you have an update on your life and happenings, send it to Mary Beetz, 137 Westmont Dr., Alhambra, CA 91801.



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 West 2nd Street
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: Cathy Bushey, LAPD, 30 years of service; Gloria Vargas, LAPD, 29 years of service; Guy Leacher, GSD, 23 years of service; and Richard Cooper, Building and Safety, 11 years of service.



From left: Phil Skarin and John Hawkins, President, The Club.



From left: Steve Uranga, Commissioner, LACERS; Ruben Munoz, guest; Hector Ramirez, guest; and Hans Markus, guest.



From left: Romero Arguello, guest; Phil Skarin, RLACEI Director; Mr. Koppenhaver, guest; and James Gomez, grandson of Ed Harding, President of RLACEI.



From left: Commissioner Steve Uranga and RLACEI President Ed Harding.



From left: Gil Garnas, Public Works/Sanitation, 30 years of service; Dennis Vanderhook, Public Works/Sanitation, 35 years of service; George Chapman, guest; and Ken Ward; guest.



From left: Oliver Cunningham, Public Works/Sanitation, 30 years of service; George Walker, General Services, 30 years of service; Billy Johnson, guest; and Emmett Pouncil, guest.



From left: Dominic Rescineo, Building and Safety, 33 years of service; Ralph Gutierrez, guest; and Dan Dodd, guest.



From left: Jim Hamilton, LAPD, 32 years of service; Gail Draper, LAPD and ITA, 40 years of service; Ken Peters, ITA, 23 years of service; and Dan Koenig, LAPD, 35 years of service.



From left: Earl Gales Sr., Airports, 34 years of service; Edward Gales, guest; Frank O'Toole, guest; and John Sepulveda, Planning, 33 years of service.



Retirees Tee It Up

Story and photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations

RLACEI – On June 3, the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) held its annual golf tournament. This year's event, like others in the past, was held at the Alhambra Municipal Golf Course.

Tom Stemmok was the chairman of the tournament. During the luncheon, Bob Okuda, Alice Walker and Mary Beetz were introduced as volunteers. RLACEI President Ed Harding assisted Tom Stemmok in presenting the golf awards. Tom Stemmok presented the raffle prizes and was assisted by Gary Mattingly, Neal Ricci and Phil Skarin. Ed Harding announced upcoming events including the retirees picnic at Grace Simons Lodge Aug. 12; the RLACEI annual meeting and elections Oct. 7; and the holiday party Dec. 9.



From left: Robert Gomez, Transportation, 31 years of service; Mike Stawicki, Transportation, 25 years of service; Richard Flores, Transportation, 34 years of service; and Jess Molina, guest.



From left: Walt Matsuda, Public Works/Engineering, 30 years of service; and Walt Naydo, Public Works/Engineering, 38 years of service; and Bob Yokoyama, guest.



From left: Norm Gottlieb, CAO, 30 years of service, and his wife, Faye; Leon Gottlieb, guest; and John Bobo, guest.



From left: Ed Anderson, Public Works/Engineering; 36 years of service; Alex Carter, guest; Andy Pollard, guest; and Dave Carlborg, guest.



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



From left: Gary Mattingly, Fire and Police Pensions, 38 years of service; Hal Donowitz, RLACEI Director and *Alive!* columnist; Ray Alle, Personnel, 31 years of service; and Neil Ricci, RLACEI Director.



From left: Fred Ige, Planning, 30 years of service; and Gerald Carrido, guest.



From left: Tom Stemmok, Planning, 14 years of service and RLACEI Director; Bob Rogers, Planning, 31 years of service; Dick Hovious, Building and Safety, 27 years of service; and Bernard Anderson, Building and Safety, 34 years of service.



From left: Ray Jantz, Planning, 38 years of service; and Jeff Jantz, 25 years of service.