

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

James R. Wilke, President
Phone: (323) 283-4441
Fax: (626) 285-1461
E-mail: larfa@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:

Oct. 7: Annual corporation meeting and elections, 1 p.m., Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles.

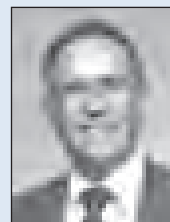
Dec. 9: RLACEI holiday party, noon, Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park.

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

RLACEI:

First Joint Meeting Between RLACEI, LACERS Set Oct. 7

President, Ed Harding reports:



Ed Harding

"It is with a heavy heart that I must report that Jack Mathews has resigned his position of Director of RLACEI, due to ill health. Jack has been one of our Directors for the last 15 years. I have known Jack for the last 35 years. Jack was President of the All City Employees' Association for 20 years prior to his retirement. No matter what Jack did, he did a good job and everybody loved him. I am going to miss him sitting across from me at our director's meetings. The Board unanimously approved Jack as an

Honorary Member of RLACEI.

"I just received a flyer from LACERS regarding the Open Enrollment Meeting on Oct. 7 at the Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr. in Los Angeles. This is the first joint meeting with LACERS and RLACEI. LACERS is starting their meeting at 9 a.m., with a Continental breakfast and fill continue with their meeting until noon.

"RLACEI will serve lunch at noon with a choice of three different kinds of sandwiches and a side salad. After lunch we will elect

Directors. The nominees to be elected are Ken Spiker, Helen Salgado, Mary Beetz, Gary Mattingly and myself, Ed Harding. Please come to the meeting and support the newly nominated Directors. They have done so much for all our retirees.

"After the election, LACERS' representative will talk and bring us up to date on what is new at LACERS. The giving away of many door prizes will conclude the meetings."

LACERS Update: Mary Beetz, LACERS representative, reports:



Mary Beetz

"LACERS Health Plan Open Enrollment for Plan Year 2011 to be Oct. 15-Nov. 15. These events will give LACERS retired Members an opportunity to speak with their medical and dental plan providers as well as direct questions to LACERS health advocates, representatives, and other health benefits staff. There will be a Continental breakfast served, carrier presentations, health screenings, raffles, and more at each location. Parking at each location is free or validated."

"Open Enrollment Meeting: RLACEI will co-sponsor LACERS' first retiree health benefits Open Enrollment Meeting for plan year 2011, which will take place Thursday morning, Oct. 7 at the Friendship Auditorium. RLACEI's Annual Meeting and Elections will follow at 1 p.m. after the Open Enrollment meeting.

Open Enrollment Meeting Schedule: 9 a.m. – noon (except Las Vegas: noon – 3:30 p.m.)

| | | |
|---------|---------------------|---|
| Oct. 7 | Los Angeles | Friendship Auditorium 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles |
| Oct. 21 | San Fernando Valley | Airtel Plaza Hotel 7277 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys |
| Oct. 27 | Inland Empire | Ayres Hotel and Suites 1945 East Holt Blvd., Ontario |
| Nov. 2 | South Bay | DoubleTree Hotel San Pedro 2800 Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro |
| Nov. 4 | Las Vegas | The Orleans Hotel and Casino 4500 West Tropicana Ave., Las Vegas |
| Nov. 10 | North Hollywood | Beverly Garland Hotel 4222 Vineland Ave., N. Hollywood |

RSVP today by calling LACERS at (800) 779-8328

"Express Scripts: LACERS Anthem subscribers who are using the NextRx mail order pharmacy are being transitioned to Express Scripts. The transition is being done gradually, and new Express Scripts cards will be issued in

January. Until then, Anthem subscribers can use their existing ID cards and numbers, and customer service phone numbers.

"Should you experience any difficulties in filling your prescriptions

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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



Evelyn dances with a friend.



By Hal Danowitz, Secretary, RLACEI

Retiree Hotlines

Who to call? Call the Helpline and reach the officers of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. If you move or change your address, contact Helen Salgado. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, and LAFUCU.

City Employees Retirement System: (213) 473-7200

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

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| • Mary Beetz | Ext. 711 |
| • Hal Danowitz | Ext. 707 |
| • Americo Garza | Ext. 710 |
| • Edward Harding | Ext. 703 |
| • Michael Karsch | Ext. 704 |
| • Jack Mathews | Ext. 712 |
| • Gary Mattingly | Ext. 702 |
| • Neil Ricci | Ext. 714 |
| • Helen Salgado (membership) | Ext. 713 |
| • Phil Skarin | Ext. 709 |
| • Ken Spiker | Ext. 705 |
| • Tom Stemnock | Ext. 708 |
| RSVP: | Ext. 701 |
| DWP Retirement Plan Office: | (213) 367-1722 |

RLACEI:

Officers

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

Committee Chairpersons

Hal Danowitz: Bylaws
 Americo Garza: Picnic, Holiday Party and Installation
 Jack Mathews: Senior Citizens
 Neil Ricci: Health and Nominating
 Helen Salgado: Membership
 Phil Skarin: Publicity and Parliamentarian
 Ken Spiker: Legal and Legislative
 Tom Stemnock: Audit
 Tom Stemnock and Phil Skarin: Golf

Directors

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



A Birthday by the Bay

■ Hal and Co. celebrate a birthday in San Francisco.

The birthday of our cousin Myrna (of Don and Myrna fame) is in July, and she asked us if we would go to San Francisco with them to celebrate the occasion. What sealed the deal for me was when she said she would pay for the airfare. Seeing that it was her party, I let her plan where we would stay and all of the activities. To tell you the truth, it was nice not having to do all the reservations and planning.

We flew up on Tuesday morning from LAX to San Francisco International on Southwest Airlines. For short trips they are the best airline, with no baggage charge. Now, if I were planning the trip, I would have flown into Oakland International, one, because it has more Southwest flights; and two, because it is a smaller, less crowded airport that's closer to downtown San Francisco. As it was, it was no problem getting our bags (it seems they had come on an earlier flight), and the taxi ride into San Francisco only took about 30 minutes and cost \$40, including tip.

We stayed at the Andrews Hotel (624 Post Ave, [800] 926-3739), which is in a great location just two blocks from Union Square. It's a charming, European-style hotel centrally located in San Francisco's renowned theater and shopping district. Its small size -- just 48 guest rooms -- allows the friendly and courteous front desk staff to give you individual attention.

The hotel offers a complimentary Continental breakfast buffet each morning served on each floor, and complimentary coffee and tea in the cozy (small) lobby all day long, along with free Wi-Fi throughout the hotel.

In the evening you can have a complimentary glass of wine at Fino Ristorante & Bar, just off the lobby.

This is how the hotel describes itself: "It was built back in 1905; construction began for the Sultan Turkish Baths, a gentleman's bath and relaxation establishment. It was a Class-A structure, meaning a steel frame that was state of the art for the time. It was a good move on the part of the architects, because some months later, in 1906, the big quake struck the city. Though the fire that followed left its mark, the baths frame was

hardly damaged by the earthquake, and repairs didn't take long. The Sultan Baths, which finally opened in 1907, was a full-service affair, with a tiled hot room, a rubbing room, a restaurant, bar, barber, and chiropodist. Bedrooms could be rented as well, and the place had a steamy reputation that didn't arise from the sauna.

for lunch, we walked around Union Square and the Market Street area. They have done a lot to cleanup the area, and there is a lot of high-end shopping. As a tourist, you want to stay east of Jones Street and north of Market Street. To the west is the area known as the Tenderloin with a heavy population of homeless and street people.



Evelyn with the famous San Francisco cable car.

"In 1928, the Sultan Baths catered to its last gentleman, and a hotel opened in its place. During the next decades, 624 Post was an office building, a youth hostel, and a number of restaurants (including the China Doll, which had an aquarium spanning most of a wall). In 1981, Harry Andrews acquired the property, renovated it to its original Victorian splendor, and named it after his grandfather, under whose name it flourishes today."

Our room was a petite suite, all of 140 square feet, but at \$172 night (including taxes) it was fine. The location was great and the hotel services were what they advertised.

After checking in and getting a quick bite

While the ladies did some shopping, Don and I had a beer at an outdoor café in Union Square.

Myrna planned for our dinner that evening to be at the Cliff House (1090 Point Lobos, [415] 386-3330), which has been around for years and is known for its sunset views and is part of the Sutro Historic Landscape District. The first Cliff House was a modest structure, built in 1863 by Sen. John Buckley and C.C. Butler. Perched on spectacular cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the Cliff House is one of the crown jewels of San Francisco's Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the largest urban park west of the Mississippi River.



We had to wait for a table by the window, so we had a drink in the lobby area. The food was just okay, and I was disappointed that the changes made to both the inside and outside of the structure have changed the appearance from a 19th-century building to 20th-century modern.

The one attraction we did plan to see was the *Birth of Impressionism: Masterpieces From the Musee d'Orsay* at the De Young Museum in Golden State Park. The d'Orsay is in Paris and is being renovated. Paris is a sister city to San Francisco, and the almost 100 paintings represented the beginning of the impressionism movement. The current showing ended in September; however, another group of paintings from the later period was scheduled to open at the end of September. All of us had been to the d'Orsay, but seeing them again in a closeup showing was great. Evelyn were scheduled to go to Napa at the end of September and hope to see the second part of the show.

We caught a taxi back to Union Square and walked through the Stockton Street Tunnel to go to Fisherman's Wharf. San Francisco is a very hilly city, and normally you would have to climb a hill to get over California Street. But using the tunnel, you can skip the hills. It is about a two-mile walk, and you pass through Chinatown.

We had lunch on Pier 39 where we stopped to watch the seals, and then walked over to Ghirardelli Square for ice cream. The square once had a lot of shops, but is now being converted into a hotel, condominiums and timeshares.

We took the cable car back to Union Square, waited about 45 minutes and paid \$5 to take a very uncomfortable ride with a bunch of smelly tourists.

We had dinner at Fino on the ground floor of the Andrew Hotel adjacent to the lobby. The food was Italian, and overall I give the restaurant a good rating with the exception that it was very noisy.

Thursday was our last full day, and we took a walking tour of Chinatown. It is the oldest Chinatown in North America and the largest Chinese community outside Asia. Since its establishment in the 1840s, it has been highly important and influential in the history and culture of ethnic Chinese immigrants to the United States and North America.

We booked our 10 a.m. tour with Local Taste of San Francisco which started at the main gate on Grant Street. We met our guide and began our private tour by visiting one of the oldest cathedrals in San Francisco, which survived the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

Next stop was at a music store, where they seemed to have every musical instrument ever made. We stopped to sample some dim sum, which was not very good. We then visited a local Buddhist temple, which was very interesting. Then at a local market, we stopped to watch them make fortune cookies, and they even let us put our own fortunes in the cookies. Our last stop was at a teashop, where we tasted at least 15 different types of tea. Except for having to use the bathroom, the experience was good.



In front of our hotel.

We played a little bridge in the afternoon, and for dinner we celebrated Myrna's birthday by eating at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse. The food and service were very good.

In the morning, Evelyn and I decided to go to a breakfast place that was recommended by one of the taxi drivers. Dottie's True Blue Café (522 Jones St.) is a small hole in the wall with about 10 tables and a seven-stool counter. The wait time in the morning is about an hour, but you get to talk to other tourists, and the food is well worth it.

After breakfast, we walked over to Union Square and then back to the hotel where we met up with Don and Myrna. We took a taxi back to the airport to catch our afternoon flight home.

San Francisco is a great short vacation trip, with lot of attractions and very good restaurants.



The four of us have dinner at the Cliff House.

LACERS Update

■ By Mary Beetz



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during the transition, please contact Anthem's member services at (800) 288-2539 (PPO/Medicare Supplement) or (800) 227-3771 (HMO) or call LACERS to assist you.

Health Care Legislation: The federal government will reimburse LACERS up to \$20 million in health care costs, subject to approval.

"LACERS will receive an estimated \$20 million in reimbursements and savings as a health plan sponsor as part of its successful acceptance in the Early Retiree Reimbursement Program (ERRP). LACERS was one of the first agencies to submit its ERRP application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The ERRP is part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), as amended by the Health Care and Education

Reconciliation Act (HCERA).

"LACERS was notified of its acceptance into the federal ERRP by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The ERRP was created by the Affordable Care Act to assist employers in maintaining coverage for early retirees age 55-64 who are not yet eligible for Medicare.

"The ERRP is a temporary program that will reimburse 80 percent of early retiree medical claims ranging between \$15,000 and \$90,000, with each claim subject to approval as a condition of ERRP. The ERRP ends on January 1, 2014, when state health insurance exchanges are up and running. LACERS is one of the nearly 2,000 organizations that have been accepted into the program, which will begin issuing reimbursements this fall."

LACERS Joins Fed. Early Retiree Program

■ LACERS approved into the federal early retiree reinsurance program.

On Aug. 31, the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) was notified of its acceptance into the federal Early Retiree Reinsurance Program (ERRP) by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The ERRP was created by the Affordable Care Act to assist employers in maintaining coverage for early retirees age 55 and older who are not yet eligible for Medicare.

The ERRP is a temporary program that will reimburse 80 percent of early retiree medical

claims ranging between \$15,000 and \$90,000. The ERRP ends on Jan. 1, 2014, when state health insurance Exchanges are up and running. LACERS is one of the nearly 2,000 organizations that have been accepted into the program, which will begin issuing reimbursements this fall.

LACERS administers the City's pension plan to more than 43,500 active and retired City employees and other beneficiaries



Bob Wilkinson

RLACEI

■ Bob Wilkinson, Ex Councilman, RLACEI Officer, Dies at 92

Robert M. "Bob" Wilkinson, who served the City as a Councilman and, in retirement, continued that service as an officer of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI), died Sept. 27. He was 92.

He served on the Council for the Third and then the 12th districts. The Robert M. Wilkinson Multipurpose Senior Center in Northridge was named for him.

For the RLACEI, he served as officer/first vice president, and then as a chair of the audit committee in the mid- to late-2000s. He left the RLACEI leadership position in December 2008. Services are to be held Oct. 9 at the First Lutheran Church in Northridge.

Did You Know?

■ Halloween History

The origins of Halloween can be traced back to ancient Ireland and Scotland.

On Oct. 31, the Celts celebrated the end of summer. This was important because it was when animal herders would move their animals into barns and pens and prepare to ride out the winter. This was also the time of the crop harvests. This annual change of season and lifestyle was marked by a festival called Samhain – pronounced "sow-ane," and it means "end of summer." Sow rhymes with cow.

There was much superstition associated with this time of change, including the belief in fairies, and that the spirits of the dead wandered around looking for bodies to inhabit. Since the living did not want to be possessed by spirits, they dressed up in costumes and paraded around the streets making loud noises to confuse and frighten the spirits away. In addition, the new year began for the Celts Nov. 1. So, the day of Samhain was believed to

be a day that was in neither the year past nor the year to come. Since it was in between, chaos ruled on that day. Often, people would pull practical jokes on others as a result.

Around the fifth century, the developing Catholic Church moved into the Celts area, instead of adding on a new day and to celebrate, the church took over the Samhain celebration. Nov. 1 became "All Hallows Eve," where all the saints of the Catholic church were honored. A later custom developed where people would go door-to-door on Nov. 2, requesting small cakes in exchange for the promise of saying prayers for some of the dead relatives of each house. This arose out of the religious belief that the dead were in a state of limbo before they went to heaven or hell and that the prayers of the living could influence the outcome. This may have been the precursor to trick-or-treating.

— Mary Beetz, RLACEI