

For Retired Club Members



The Best Years



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.

RLACEI UPCOMING EVENTS:

Here's a listing of all the RLACEI events, dates and locations for 2011:

April 14: General meeting, 11:30 a.m., Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr. Los Angeles, CA 90027

June TBA: Golf Tournament, Alhambra Municipal Course

Aug. 11: Picnic/board meeting, 11:30 a.m. (1 p.m. meeting), Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park, Los Angeles, CA

Oct. 6: Annual corporation meeting/elections, 1 p.m., Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90027

Dec. 1: Holiday party/board meeting, 1 p.m., Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90027

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

RLACEI:

Holiday Party at Simons Draws Capacity Crowd

President, Ed Harding reports:



Ed Harding

"More than 200 people attended our Christmas holiday party Dec. 9 at the Grace E. Simons Lodge. George, owner of Chris and Pitts BBQ, put on a great lunch, which included large barbecued beef and turkey sandwiches served with coleslaw, barbecued beans and fruit salad, with carrot cake for dessert. We raffled more than 80 prizes donated by the City Employees Club,

ACEBSA and LACERS. RLACEI donated cash prizes and gift certificates for See's candy. Next year's holiday Christmas party will be held at the Friendship Hall. Grace E. Simons Lodge holds only 200 people. Our attendance has now exceeds Grace E. Simons Lodge capacity.

"Tom Moutes, Interim General Manager, LACERS, installed the RLACEI directors elected on our

October meeting for 2011. They are Ken Spiker, Helen Salgado, Mary Beetz and I, as well as Michael R. Wilkinson, whom I appointed to fill the recently vacated position by Jack Mathews' resignation. Michael is a recently retired attorney from the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office as Retirement Benefits Deputy.

"RLACEI wishes everyone a Happy New Year."

LACERS Update: Mary Beetz, LACERS representative, reports:



Mary Beetz

"CMS Announces New Medicare Part B Premiums for 2011. On Nov. 4, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that the 2011 basic Medicare Part B premium rate will increase from \$110.50 to \$115.40 per month. However, because current Social Security beneficiaries will not be receiving a cost-of-living adjustment in 2011, their Medicare Part B premiums will not increase.

"The 2011 basic Medicare Part B premium of \$115.40 will apply to retired members who fulfill at least one of the following conditions*:

- Are new Medicare Part B enrollees in 2011;
- Lapsed in their Medicare coverage and must re-enroll in 2011;
- Do not have their Medicare Part B premium withheld from their Social Security retirement benefit payment or do not

receive a Social Security benefit payment; and

- Have incomes greater than \$85,000 (or greater than \$170,000 if filing jointly).
- *Other exceptions may apply.

"Retired members with Medicare Parts A & B who don't meet any of these conditions, and are currently receiving a Social Security benefit payment, will continue to pay their current Medicare Part B premiums (i.e., the basic premium rate of either \$96.40 or \$110.50). For more information on the 2011 Medicare Part B premium rates, please visit the Medicare website at <http://questions.medicare.gov>.

"Plan Design Changes Become Effective Jan.1: As LACERS enters its new retiree health plan year Jan. 1, here are a few reminders:

- Plan design changes affecting

LACERS medical plans in 2011, such as increased copays, go into effect Jan. 1;

- New 2011 monthly retiree health plan premium deduction amounts will be reflected in the December 2010 LACERS retirement allowance check; and
- Any retiree health plan changes made during LACERS Open Enrollment period will become effective Jan. 1.

"Form 1099-R: LACERS will mail retired members their IRS Form 1099-R (Distribution From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement, etc.) by the end of January. Members who do not receive their 1099-Rs by Feb. 15 should contact LACERS to request a new one. Regenerating a 1099-R may require a few working days to process. Also, retirees who recently moved should contact LACERS to update their address information."

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!

From 2005: Hal fishing.

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 LAFCU.

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
• Gary Mattingly	Ext. 702
• Neil Ricci	Ext. 714
• Helen Salgado (membership)	Ext. 713
• Phil Skarin	Ext. 709
• Ken Spiker	Ext. 705
• Tom Stennock	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 Stennock, Second Vice President

Committee Chairpersons

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

Directors

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

Around the World
In 64 Issues■ Hal recalls the highlights of writing his travel column for *Alive!*

Congratulations to *Alive!* on its 100th issue. It's been my good fortune to be part of 64 of these issues. During the time that I have been writing my travel articles, Evelyn and I have traveled to six of the seven continents, missing only Antarctica; 38 countries; and many towns and cities in our own country.

My first article was for the September 2005 issue, and it was about my fishing trip to the King Pacific Lodge in British Columbia. It was my second trip to this fishing lodge with my friend, Erwin, who at the time was 83 years old. That trip is very special to me, as it was last fishing trip that I was to take with Erwin, who passed away last year.

100th Alive!
SPECIAL EDITION

The rest of that year's articles were about our cruise to Northern Europe on the Celebrity Cruise Line's ship, the *Constellation*. The highlight of that trip was

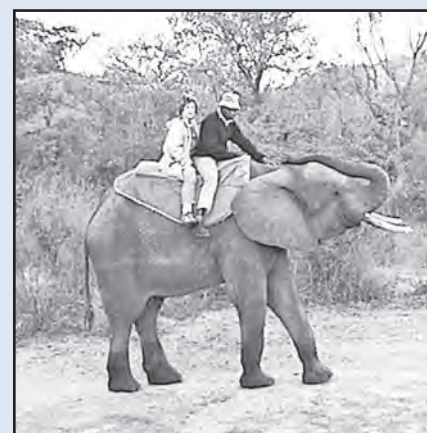
our visit to Berlin and the two days we spent in St. Petersburg, Russia. My mother's side of the family is from Russia, and I was interested to see the countryside. Berlin was interesting to me because I am somewhat of a history buff about World War II, and I was able to see that area of what was East Berlin and where the "Berlin Wall" was.

In 2006 I wrote about our Southeast Asia and China cruise on the *Diamond Princess* of Princess Cruises. Evelyn and I had been to China, Hong Kong and Korea in 1986 and Hong Kong again in the late 1990s, but this was a cruise from Beijing, China to Bangkok, Thailand, which covered a lot more places. While I loved Bangkok, the highlight of this cruise was our visit to Okinawa. We were lucky to find a wonderful taxi driver to take us around the island, where we visited the Imperial Japanese Naval Headquarters during WWII, and we also got to see a once-a-year ceremony at the Royal Palace, which we would not have seen if we had taken a ship's tour.

I also wrote about the first road trip I had



From 2005: Evelyn at Peter's Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia.



From 2008: Evelyn rides an elephant in Zimbabwe.

ADVENTURES with HAL!

taken since the 1960s, and I got to visit Graceland in Memphis and the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

In 2007 it was our cruise on Holland America Line's MS *Statendam* from Australia to New Zealand. It was our first time on that continent, and we just loved both Australia and New Zealand. The whole trip was a highlight, but I really enjoyed visiting the ports in New Zealand. Each town had characteristic features from the area in Great Britain where the settlers came from.

In 2008 I was able to retell the story of our trip to Africa back in 2001. We visited South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe. We saw Cape Town and stayed in safari camps in both Botswana and Zimbabwe. Seeing the animals in their natural enjoyment was unbelievable. The highlight of that trip was our stay in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, at the Victoria Hotel, where we got to visit the famous falls. It was a step back in time to the colonial days when Europe ruled much of southern Africa.

The end of 2008 was our great road trip for my 50th high school reunion in Lansing, Mich. We drove the southern route to get there and the northern route to get back home. I really enjoyed our stops at Mackinac Island, Mt. Rushmore and Yellowstone National Park, but the highlight for me was the Little Big Horn National Park. I've always wanted to see where "Custer's Last Stand" happened. The only way to see our great nation is by car, and everyone should do it at least once.

In 2009, we took the Christmas cruise with the grandkids and then a trip to Costa Rica. But the most important journey that year was our 35-day adventure that included a week driving in Italy and then a 28-day cruise on the Holland-America's *Oosterdam*. We started in Venice, Italy, and ended in Fort Lauderdale. Every day of that trip was a highlight, but I'm sure I write for both Evelyn and myself that the best part was when we renewed our vows on our 20th wedding anniversary while on the cruise. This trip exposed us to multiple sea days and being away from home for more than a month; previous to that trip, our longest time away from home was three weeks.

Last year, we visited Mexico, San Francisco and Napa Valley. We cruised to Hawaii, which you will read more of in the next issue of *Alive!*

We are already planning a big trip for this April, and another one in 2012.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading

about our adventures as much as Evelyn (she has a lot of input in each article) and I have in writing them. It you are interested in group travel, drop me a note at hdanowitz@verizon.net and let me know what destinations you are interested in. We hope to continue for many more years and look forward to being around for *Alive!*'s 200th issue.



From 2008: Evelyn at Mt. Rushmore.



From 2009: Evelyn and Hal renew their vows on the *Oosterdam*.



From 2007: Evelyn shears a sheep in New Zealand.



September 2005: Hal's first cover.



From 2006: Hal and Evelyn at a Buddha in Bangkok, Thailand.



From 2009: In-law, Effie; granddaughter, Isabelle, Evelyn; and granddaughter, Coco, with *Alive!* on our Christmas cruise.

RLACEI MEMBER NEWS:

Winfred Calhoun is doing commercials for the Auto Club on Channel 9. He also models for the Auto Club Magazine. Thanks to Trinidad Carlos Quiroz for sharing this information for our readers.

Readers are invited to send information about themselves for publication in this column. Write to: Mary Beetz, 137 Westmont Dr., Alhambra California, 91801.



John Peterson, Plumber, and his wife, Sam. Congratulations to them on nearly 40 years of marriage!



Ben Davis, Street Maintenance Supervisor, and his wife, Joyce.



Cleone Vrabel, Clerk Typist, LAPD, Club Member, with her husband, Michael.



From left: Barbara Bass, Club Member; and Dorris Bass, Heavy Equipment Engineer, Club Member.



Tom Moutes, General Manager, LACERS.



Ed Harding, President of RLACEI, Club Member.

Retirees Celebrate The Holidays

Story and photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations



John Shadle, Building and Safety, and Marguerite Shadle.



From left: Lorenzo Porter, Street Maintenance, 35 years of City service; and Charles Wilson, General Services, 30 years of service, Club Member.

The Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) held its annual holiday gathering and leadership induction ceremony Dec. 2.

The party was held at Grace E. Simons Lodge in Elysian Park.

The lodge was at capacity, as retirees were eager to celebrate the day with friends old and new.

Thanks to RLACEI President Ed Harding for welcoming us.



From left: Mayra Vines, Planning, Club Representative, 33 years of City service, Club Member; Gloria Unterburger, LAPD, 35 years of service, Club Member; and guest Wen Angreri.



Juan and Sally Lopez, Library, 15 years of City service.



From left: Jeanetta Adams, LAPD, 34 years of service; Barbara Adams Armstead, Retired, LAUSD.



Benjamin Davis, Street Maintenance, 32 years of service, with his wife, Joyce.



John Gomez, Park Supervisor, City Center, Club Member, with his wife, Carmen.



Tom Moutes inducts RLACEI leadership, from left: Mary Beetz, Helen Salgado, Ed Harding and Gary Mattingly.



From left: Michael Karsh, Treasurer, RLACEI, Club Member; and Hal Danowitz, Secretary, RLACEI, Club Member; and Alive! columnist.



RLACEI Directors (from left) Tom Stenrock and Ken Spiker.



The retirement cake.

Bon Voyage, John

Sgt. John Curry, Club Member, retires from the Port Police after 30 years of City service.



John A. Curry, Club Member since 2008, is happy to celebrate his retirement with 30 years of City service.



Family and friends, top, from left: Ashley Winter and David Rowe. Bottom: Craig Rowe and Becky Rowe.



Retiree John Curry with Christina Pena representing the Harbor Employees Club.

Story and photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations

A retirement dinner was held Nov. 19 for Sgt. John A. Curry of the Port Police, who retired with more than 30 years of City service.

The party was held at the Cabrillo Marina Community Center in San Pedro.

Here's a summary of his career accomplishments:

In 1979, John graduated from CSU Long Beach with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice/law enforcement.

In 1980, he was hired by the Los Angeles Airport Police as a Police Officer after being a part of the first graduating class from Rio Hondo Police Academy.

In June 1981, he was hired by the Los Angeles Port Police as a Police Officer.

In 1981, John graduated from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Academy and ranked in the top 10 in academics.

From 1981 to 2001, he was assigned to various details.

From 2001 to 2006, in the aftermath of 9-11, John was assigned as a Sea Marshal, boarding inbound and outbound Cruise Ships and escorting them to safe arrival and departure.

In 2002, he was promoted to Sr. Lead Officer. In 2005, he was promoted to sergeant.

From 1995 to 2008, John served on the Los Angeles Port Police Range Staff, and from 2005 to 2008 he served as Range Master.

The Club congratulates John for his great service and wishes him a wonderful retirement.



From left: Lt. Titus Smith, 20 years of City service, Club Member since 2007; and Dave Knight, Retired, 26 years of service, Club Member since 2008.



From left: Lt. Anita Hayden, 18 years of City service, Club Member since 1992; and Robin Jackson, Management Analyst, 33 years of service.



Officer Rudy Meza, 30 years of City service, and his wife, Moneka.



From left: Capt. Ralph Tracy, Club Member since 2010; Sgt. Mike Alva, 5 years of City service, Club Member since 2008; Sgt. Al Guerrero, 36 years of service, Club Member since 2008; Sgt. John Curry, Retired, 30 years of service, Club Member since 2008; Bill Fletcher, Retired, 26 years of service; and Capt. Mike Godward, 31 years of service.



From left: Maria Corona, Dispatcher, 20 years of City service, Club Member since 1993; Linda Wyatt, Retired Dispatcher, Club Member since 2009.

Sprint wins top two!



Two of the best phones on the market: Samsung Epic™ 4G and HTC EVO™ 4G voted PC World's best. Only from Sprint. Only on the Now Network.™ Use them with discounts for employees of City of Los Angeles.

Save 20%

Select regularly priced monthly service plans

Requires a new two-year Agreement.

"America's Best Smartphones" – PCWorld, September 9, 2010



Geoff Jaime
Sprint Govt Account Executive
Mobile: 310-704-6677
Geoff.Jaime@sprint.com

To purchase online or to view phone offers, go to:

www.sprint.com/lacityemployees

Get a \$50 invoice credit with an online device purchase & new line activation. Credit applied within 3 invoices. Free shipping and activation* online too!

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Discount Code: GLLCA_CLA_ZZZ
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May require up to a \$36 activation fee/line, credit approval & deposit. Up to \$200 early termination fee/line applies. Individual-Linked Discount: Available only to eligible employees of the company or organization participating in the discount program. May be subject to change according to the company's agreement with Sprint. Available on select plans only for eligible lines. Discount applies to monthly service charges only. No discounts apply to add-ons \$29.99 or below. Other Terms: Coverage not available everywhere. Nationwide Sprint Network reaches over 275 million people. Sprint 4G network reaches over 60 markets and counting, on select devices. Sprint 3G network reaches over 266 million people. See sprint.com for details. Not all services avail. on 4G and coverage may default to 3G/separate network where 4G unavailable. Offers & service plan features not available in all markets/trail locations or for all phones/networks. Pricing, offer terms, loss & features may vary for existing customers. Other restrictions apply. See store or Sprint.com for details. ©2010 Sprint. Sprint and the logo are trademarks of Sprint. The HTC logo, and HTC EVO are the trademarks of HTC Corporation. Android, Google, the Google logo and Android Market are trademarks of Google Inc. Other marks are the property of their respective owners. 13082