

For Retired Club Members



The Best Years

FOR RETIREE'S ONLY



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, Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles. 11:30 a.m., meeting 1 p.m.

June 9: Golf tournament, Alhambra Municipal Golf Course, 630 S. Almansor St., Alhambra. Start: 7:30 a.m., lunch 12:30 p.m.

Aug. 11: Annual picnic, Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park, Los Angeles. 11:30 a.m.

Oct. 6: Annual corporation meeting and elections, Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles. 11:30 a.m., meeting 1 p.m.

Dec. 1: Holiday party, Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles. Noon.

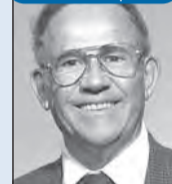
Call (800) 678-4145, ext. 701 for reservations.

RLACEI:

Health Plan Statements Coming This Month

President, Ed Harding reports:

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



Ed Harding

"Congratulations to Tom Moutes, LACERS' newly appointed General Manager.

"On Dec. 17, at a special meeting, the Board of Administration of LACERS appointed Tom Moutes as General Manager. The Mayor confirmed his appointment, and on Feb. 1, the City Council confirmed the appointment and was sworn in by the City Clerk. Tom will be administering the City of Los Angeles Pension

System for approximately 43,000 members and beneficiaries. Our RLACEI Directors and I are very pleased with Tom's appointment. Congratulations, Tom!

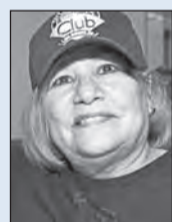
"Li Hsi, Chief Management Analyst, was promoted to Assistant General Manager to fill the vacancy that Tom Moutes created. Li was appointed Feb. 2. Congratulations, Li!

"We look forward to working with Tom and Li.

"April 14 at 1 p.m. will be our first General Membership Meeting for 2011 at the Friendship Hall on Riverside Drive. An update of retirement benefits will be discussed. And a LACERS' representative will be there to answer any questions or concerns.

"Be sure to call and make reservations for a good lunch. More than 40 door prizes will be raffled."

LACERS Update by Mary Beetz:



Mary Beetz

New for 2011: Health Plan Confirmation Statements Mailed to Retired Members in March.

"LACERS retired members who are eligible to receive a subsidy and who are enrolled in a LACERS health plan will receive a LACERS Health Plan Confirmation Statement in March. The statement will include 2011 health plan selections based upon LACERS current information, as well as important health legislation updates and health plan reminders. Retired members should contact LACERS at (800) 779-8328 immediately if any information that appears on their Statement is incorrect.

"SafeGuard Dental HMO Is a MetLife Company

"In 2008, MetLife Insurance Company acquired SafeGuard Health Enterprises, Inc. Because SafeGuard Dental HMO is now a subsidiary of MetLife, SafeGuard

Dental HMO subscribers may occasionally receive dental plan mailings from MetLife as part of their normal course of business.

"Note: MetLife does not issue ID cards to their MetLife Dental PPO subscribers. However, MetLife and LACERS can provide generic ID cards upon request.

Closing the Medicare Part D Drug Coverage Gap ('Donut Hole')

Beginning last Jan. 1, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide a discount on brand-name drugs once retirees enter the Medicare Part D coverage gap (a.k.a. the "Donut Hole"). As a result, once retired members with Medicare Part D (and their medical plan) pay \$2,840 or more for prescription drugs during a plan year, they will see a 50 percent reduction in their co-pays for brand-name prescrip-

tion drugs for the rest of that year.

Reminders for Medicare Enrollees

"To maintain their LACERS medical plan coverage, retired members enrolled in Medicare are required to:

- Pay their Medicare bill in full, including any applicable Medicare Part B and Medicare Part D Income-Related Monthly Adjustments Amounts;

- Not enroll in a non-LACERS Medicare plan while enrolled in a LACERS Senior Plan. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services only allows retirees to enroll in one Medicare plan (i.e., a LACERS Senior Plan, which already includes Medicare Part D).

"Failure to adhere to these requirements will result in the termination of LACERS medical plan coverage.

Meet New RLACEI Board Member Michael R. Wilkinson



Michael Wilkinson

"Michael retired from the City Attorney's office last year, after 34 years of service, mostly with the City Attorney's Office. The last nine years, Michael worked as a Deputy City Attorney in the

Retirement Benefits Division as a legal adviser and trial lawyer to LACERS Employees' Retirement Plan, the Department of Water and Power Employees' Retirement Plan and the Fire and

Police Retirement Pension Plan.

"Michael is looking forward to working with RLACEI to continue to ensure a successful retirement for our members and beneficiaries."

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!



Don and Myrna at the International Café.

2010 Club Excellence
Award Recipient



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
• 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

Mary Beetz: Publicity Chair
Hal Danowitz: Secretary/Treasurer
Edward Harding: President
Michael Karsch: Treasurer
Phil Skarin: Director
Kenneth Spiker: First Vice President
Tom Stemnock: 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 Stemnock: Audit
Tom Stemnock and Phil Skarin: Golf

Directors

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



Time Between the Shores

■ Part 2 of Hal and Co.'s cruise to the 50th state.

Evelyn and I are aboard the Golden Princess, sailing to Hawaii on a 14-day cruise from San Pedro. Don and Myrna, our cousins, are with us. It will take us four days to sail to Hilo, our first stop. We pick up the story on our second day at sea.

On the first day, we played duplicate bridge and finished fourth out of seven teams. Not bad for us. The conditions for playing are not good – we are in the Bernini dining room, with bad lighting and no water or coffee. I have informed the Captain's Circle Coordinator, and she said she would inform the cruise director. We will see what happens today.

We had cocktails in our cabin before dinner last night. There was lots more room in the mini-suite on this ship, the *Princess*, than the Veranda cabin on the Holland-America line. We had a nice meal at the Crown Grill, one of the two specialty restaurants. Service was good and the food was okay. I thought the steak (a rib eye) was not as good as Holland-America's, but was worth the extra \$5 we paid. The regular price is \$25, but we had \$20 credit because of American Express. We brought our own bottle of wine, a Silver Oak 2002 cabernet, and it was great. Corkage fee was \$15.

After dinner, we found our way to the Vista Lounge and listened and even danced to the sounds of Big Band music of the 1930s and '40s.

We saw the 10:15 p.m. show in the Princess Theater. The singers and dancers did a production show of Latin music called *Caliente*. We sat in the second row and it was too close, but we did enjoy the show.

We got up this morning, the second day, about 7 a.m. We were to have our first Pilates class at 9 a.m. I wanted to eat breakfast before the class, so I went to the buffet while Evelyn headed straight to the gym.

I decided to eat light and had pickled herring and smoked white fish with a bagel and cream cheese. They were just great, as far as I was concerned. I have learned to be selective in what and how much I eat while cruising. You can always go back for more.

Before Pilates, I did 30 minutes on a bike. The Pilates instructor was very good, and we really worked up a sweat.

Afterward, I showered and ended up in the Internet room to write my notes for the day and check my e-mail.

I was meeting Evelyn for lunch at noon, and we were to play bridge that afternoon. The weather was still overcast, but much warmer. They were saying that, by tomorrow, we were to have sun. In that case, I wanted to sit by the pool.



Evelyn aboard the ship.

There was sushi for lunch, which was not worth eating. I found out later that *Princess* does not serve any raw seafood, so all the sushi has to be cooked like a California roll. I tried the pizza, which was just okay – too much grease for me. I finished with a hot dog, which was good.

Yesterday, I visited the Captain's Circle hostess to see if I could improve the conditions for bridge, and when we played that second afternoon, we did have water to drink. I also got a call from the cruise director, wanting to know if everything was okay, explaining their procedures. It was very nice of him to do that, but it didn't really have any effect on the bridge accommodations.

When we boarded, Evelyn and I received priority tender boarding passes to be used when the ship used tenders to go into port – you don't have to wait in line to board the

tenders, but they did not provide any for Don or Myrna. I found out that we had received ours from the public relations dept., so I asked if we could have two for Don and Myrna, which, after some confusion, they did supply them for us.

Evelyn and I signed up for a Chef's Table dinner, which cost \$75 per person, and I received a message that we needed to meet tomorrow at 10 a.m. in the dining room to review the requirements.

The seas were very calm, just a slight roll of the ship. The sun was out for a while that afternoon, and the temperature is in the high 70s.

The ship holds 2,600 passengers, and we had been told that many were from foreign countries, including China.

Tonight was to be the first formal dress-up night. We would have cocktails in our cabin and then go down to meet the Captain, before having dinner at 7:30 p.m. The show that night was "The Comedy of Steve Moris," who performed with the Beach Boys for more than 20 years. After drinks, we went to the Piazza where they were taking formal pictures, and you could meet the Captain. After Evelyn and I took pictures, we had a 7:30 p.m. reservation for dinner. We never saw the Captain.

The food and service had been very good, as good or better than Holland-America (HAL) in the dining room. I liked the buffet for breakfast; it did not seem to have the large selection that HAL had, but I was able to eggs-to-order quickly, and the bagels and toast were ready and warm. This was not always the case on HAL. I haven't tried the buffet for lunch yet, but Evelyn didn't think it had as good a selection as HAL. There is an ice cream station, which has soft serve chocolate or vanilla, either in a cone or cup with toppings.

After dinner we all were tired, so we skipped the show and just went back to our cabin.

The next morning, Evelyn and I decided to eat breakfast after we worked out, then attended the meeting on the Chef's Table Dinner, and then skip lunch. We would be



doing the wine tasting at 3 p.m., and that should hold us until dinner.

The Chef's Table meeting was to explain the event. There were two other couples and us. The Maitre'd (dining room manager) had us sign a waiver because we were going to be in the galley during dinnertime. There was also a set of rules on what you could wear. The dinner takes almost 4 hours and is cooked by the head chef. There were to be four dinners on this cruise, with four or five couples per dinner. The cost was \$75 per person, which included premium wines.

After the meeting, I lied by the aft pool. This was my first chance to relax by the pool. Evelyn decided to sit on the balcony and read. I decided to go by to the cabin at 2 p.m. to get ready for the wine tasting.

The wine tasting was held in the Canaletto Dining room. We sat at a table for six. There was a newlywed couple from Wales and mother and daughter from Sacramento. We tasted six wines, which were paired with hors d'oeuvres. The last wine was Robert Mondovi, Napa Reserve Cab. The experience was good.

Don and Myrna played bridge, and we sat on the balcony, enjoying the fine weather. Temperature was in the 70s, and it was nice and sunny.

Later we had drinks in the Piazza before dinner. After dinner we went to the Wheelhouse Bar to listen to music and dance. We then saw the 10:15 p.m. show in the Princess Theater -- illusionist Alexander. I

think he was pretty good, but I dozed thought most of the show.

Morning came again; I had breakfast early and then worked out for 45 minutes until it was time for our third Pilates class at 10 a.m. We played bridge that afternoon. Tomorrow we were going to reach land in Hilo. In case you missed it, sea days tend to lend themselves to a routine. It was another day in paradise, more or less.

I began to form an impression of this cruise. The ship has 2,600 passengers, which may be too many for me. The outside area has lots of deck chairs and a good number of pools. The bars do get crowded, but that is to be expected. The buffet area is too small and badly designed. A lot of people got in each other's way. Breakfast has been okay, but lunch seemed to be a bust. The best lunch food seemed to be the International Cafe. We had lunch there today, and it was very good.

We played duplicate bridge in the afternoon, and Evelyn and I came in third in east/west, not bad for beginners.

After dinner, we sat in the Promenade Lounge and listened to Kathy Phippard, who plays the piano and sings your requests. She had a very large inventory of songs, between the 1930s to current ones. We really enjoyed her and will make it a point to see her again.

In our mail this evening was an invitation to visit the Ship's bridge, a very rare invitation in this day and age.

Tomorrow morning we docked in Hilo, our first stop in Hawaii. That's next time.

Moutes Appointed GM

■ Council confirms Thomas Moutes as General Manager, LACERS.

Story and photo courtesy LACERS



Thomas Moutes, with 26 years of City service, is sworn in as General Manager, Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System, by City Clerk June Lagmay.

LACERS — The Los Angeles City Council confirmed the appointment of Thomas Moutes as General Manager, Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS), at its meeting Feb. 1 in a unanimous vote.

The LACERS' Board of Administration appointed Moutes at a special meeting Dec. 17. He had been Interim General Manager since October 2010. Prior to October, he was LACERS Assistant General Manager, a posi-

tion he has held since 2007, where he has been instrumental in the day-to-day operations of the Department. Joining LACERS in 2001, he served as Chief Management Analyst, heading the Retirement Services and Administrative Services Divisions, prior to becoming the Assistant General Manager.

LACERS administers the City of Los Angeles' pension plan to approximately 43,000 members and beneficiaries. LACERS' portfolio is currently \$10.7 billion.

For Retired Club Members

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.

Healing Children

Bienvenidos is a compassionate community of care dedicated to healing children and their families.

Strengthening Families

Our vision is of a society in which every family can provide a loving, healthy and secure home where children can grow and thrive.

Transforming Communities

By empowering those we serve to lift themselves up and change their lives, Bienvenidos is helping build healthier families, brighter futures and more vibrant communities.



■ This ad is possible thanks to the generosity of Terrance Yeager ■

www.bienvenidos.org

MILITARY MEMORIES

Here are some Armed Forces memories by retired Club Members of the Club.

Ken Kochakji, Retired, Transportation:

"Here are photographs of my Artillery Battalion three miles from Czechoslovakia in 1968. We had to stay out in a mountainous forest for three weeks until the alert was called off. We had two Sergeant Missiles armed with nuclear warheads ready to fire [upon] President Johnson's command. Thank God nothing ever came of it."



"I'm the one leaning over the truck."



"Bathing out of my helmet, was the only option I had."

Do you have a military memory? Send in a few paragraphs and a few pictures to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Background on the Soviet 1968 Invasion of Czechoslovakia:

Soviet troops marched and tanks rolled down Wenceslas Square in Czechoslovakia's capital to crush a reform movement known as Prague Spring. Alexander Dubcek's attempts to create "socialism with a human face" are often seen as historical and ideological forerunners to Mikhail Gorbachev's reform policies of glasnost and perestroika in the 1980s in the USSR. The events of 1968 shattered many illusions about socialism and the Soviet system, both in Czechoslovakia and in the West.



RLACEI MEMBER NEWS:

Mary Beetz, RLACEI, received a letter from **Earl Rogers, retiree from the Engineering Department**. He writes that he is enjoying his retirement years doing what he loves, painting landscapes and portraits in oil. He and his wife are now living in Bellingham, Wash.

33rd Annual Retirees Invitational Golf Tournament



The 33rd Annual Retired Los Angeles City Employees Invitational Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2011 at the Alhambra Municipal Golf Course with a "Shotgun Start" at 7:30 a.m. The course is located at 630 South Almansor Street, Alhambra, CA 91801. Check-in is at 7:00 a.m. **SOFT SPIKES MANDATORY!**

- The tournament is open to retired and active employees and friends. The cost is \$65 for R.L.A.C.E.I., City Club and All City Employee Benefits Service Association members (\$75 for all others) and includes green fees, carts, prizes and lunch at the Almansor Court restaurant. Lunch only is \$25.
- Those interested in participating must complete the reservation form and mail it with their check payable to **"R.L.A.C.E.I." by May 31st** to: Tom Stemnock, Chairman, 4040 Vineland Avenue, Suite 108, Studio City, CA 91604. For any questions, call Chairman Tom Stemnock at (818) 487-6789.

2011 Golf Tournament Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Amount Included \$ _____ \$65 for R.L.A.C.E.I. and City Employees Club Members. (\$75 for all others)
 Luncheon: \$25

Make checks payable to R.L.A.C.E.I.

NOTICE: SOFT SPIKES MANDATORY!

FOURSOME

Name	Member R.L.A.C.E.I.	Member A.C.E.B.S.A. or City Club	Guest
1. _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(check all that apply)

Reservation deadline: Thursday, May 31st. Mail completed reservation form and check to:
 Tom Stemnock, Chairman
 4040 Vineland Avenue, Suite 108, Studio City, CA 91604, (818) 487-6789