



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:

June 9: Golf tournament, Alhambra Municipal Golf Course, 630 S. Almanson 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.

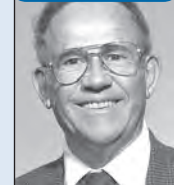
Call (800) 678-4145
ext. 701 for reservations

RLACEI:

Pension Reform Proposal Starting to Make Rounds

President, Ed Harding reports:

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



Ed Harding

"As I write this message, I am thinking about the many lunches that we have ordered from Chris & Pitts BBQ for our April 14 General Meeting and hoping we had full attendance, and that we enjoyed all this food. Having said that, I urge all members planning to attend our functions, to make reservations.

"On April 5, several of our direc-

tors and I met with Roslyn Carter-Phillips, CEO of the All City Employees Benefit Services Association, and with Heidi DeMarco the new managing editor of "El Pueblo." She has agreed to be at our functions taking pictures for "El Pueblo." Not only is Heidi a lovely person, but is well qualified for the job, and we are looking forward to working with her.

"Roslyn Carter-Phillips surprised us with a sizable donation towards prizes for our Annual Golf Tournament, to be held June 9 at the Alhambra Municipal Golf Course. We are looking forward toward a great turnout this year, with our golfers happily competing for those great trophies and prizes – thank you Roslyn and ACEBSA for your prize donation.

Legislative Report by Michael Karsh:



Michael Karsh

"A new pension reform for government personnel is being summarized by the Attorney General, after which it can be released for signature gathering, conceivably having a chance for the November ballot but more likely for the primary election in 2012. It was initiated by Roger Niello. Mr. Niello was County Supervisor for Sacramento County from 1999 to 2004 and was a member of the Assembly from 2004 to 2010. He was recently named the University of California Center's first

Governance Fellow to teach and mentor students in Sacramento.

"His initiative would forbid a public agency (a city, county or the state government) from providing retroactive increases in pension benefits. It would require that full retirement age be no less than 62 years of age; require an employee to have been full time for at least five consecutive years; require the employee to contribute an amount at least as much to his or her retirement plan as the employing agency; and limit

retirement benefits to no more than sixty percent (60 percent) of the highest annual average base wage over three consecutive years of employment.

"The governor is also considering changes in public pensions, which may or may not be part of a state budget deal in May or June. Details of his proposals are not introduced yet in detail, but would probably affect only government employees currently working, any new hires, but have no affect on those now retired."



Mary Beetz

LACERS Update by Mary Beetz:

"**Free Diabetes Expo:** Did you know that one in ten people in Los Angeles County has diabetes? The American Diabetes Association EXPO provides the most comprehensive array of diabetes-related products, services and information available under one roof. The

Diabetes Expo will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 21 at the Convention Center and is free to the public. The Expo includes more than 100 exhibitors specializing in health screenings, cooking demonstrations, products and services. The expo also

includes leading experts talking about diabetes management and prevention for seniors, youths and culturally diverse populations. Register today at www.diabetes.org/laexpo, or for more information, call 888-DIABETES, x 7503.

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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

ADVENTURES
with HAL!

Evelyn and Hal with the Captain of the Golden Princess.

2010 Club Excellence
Award RecipientBy 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 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



The Long Trip Home

■ Hal and Co. continue their Hawaiian cruise. Part 4.

My wife, 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. We have been on board for eight days, with our first stop at Hilo and then stops in Honolulu and Kauai.

This morning, we were anchored off of Lahaina, Maui. We awakened to the sounds of the tenders being lowered into the water. This was at 6:30 a.m.

The island of Maui is the second largest of the Hawaiian Islands at 727.2 square miles and is the 17th largest island in the United States. Maui is the largest of Maui County's four islands, bigger than Lanai, Kahoolawe and Molokai. Maui is the third most populous of the Hawaiian Islands; Kahului, where the airport and Costco are, is the largest town on the island with a population of more than 20,000. The big tourist spots in Maui include the Hana Highway, Haleakala National Park, and Lahaina.

The Hana Highway runs along the east coast of Maui, curving around many mountains and passing by black sand beaches and waterfalls. It ends at the cemetery where Charles Lindbergh is buried. The road had some ruts, so don't tell your rental car company you're going. Haleakala National Park is home to Haleakala, a dormant volcano. Lahaina, a historic whaling town, is one of the main attractions on the island, with an entire street of shops and restaurants that lead to a wharf where you can set out for a sunset cruise or whale-watching journey. Snorkeling can be done at almost any beach along the Maui coast.

We had VIP Tender passes, so we ate breakfast and then got on the next tender without getting a number or waiting in line. This saved some time but was no big deal. The tender lets you off at the fishing dock across from the Pioneer Inn. The inn goes back to the whaling days and is a bar, restaurant and hotel. We walked around the shops and brought some T-shirts. About 12:30 p.m., we decided to have lunch at the Pioneer Inn. The food was good and was a nice change from the ship food.

Lahaina had many art galleries and jewelry stores; local art and souvenirs are abundant. There were also a number of restaurants with decent food and great views.

We returned to the ship, which was to sail for Ensenada, Mexico, at 5 p.m. Because of the Jones Act, foreign cruise ships (or airlines) cannot carry U.S. passengers from a U.S. port to another U.S. port without stopping in a port outside the United States, so we were going to stop in Ensenada.

We played bridge with Don and Myrna. Don, who is a big UCLA fan, was upset because the ship's TV wasn't showing the UCLA vs. Oregon football game. Instead they had some unknown soccer game. I have a Sling Box on my TV at home, which intercepts my home cable programming and sends it to me via the Internet. Through my Sling Box, we were able to watch the game on my iPad.

We decided to have a simple dinner and checked out the buffet and then settled on hamburgers and hot dogs, which suited everyone fine.

We saw the show in the Princess Theater, a production show called "Stardust" with the ship's dancers and songs from the 1940s and '50s, done very well.

We ended the evening at the International Café for dessert and coffee.

We spent the next four days at sea.

We moved the clock ahead one hour the night before, so we slept in until 8 a.m. That next day was our 21st wedding anniversary, and I bought a card in Lahaina because I forgot to bring one from home. It was a nice surprise for Evelyn.

We both worked out in the gym. I was surprised as to how few people were there; it must have been the time change. While Evelyn was still exercising, I had breakfast and ran into the bridge (card game) instructor, and we had a nice chat. He is from Minnesota and is retired from 3M. He is 75 years old but looks much younger. He and his wife (Tom and Judy Hammond) are life master bridge players and very nice people. They spend the winters in California.

We played duplicate bridge that afternoon.

That night was a formal night, and we were invited to the cocktail party for the Captain's Circle members. I made reservations for Sabatini's for the four of us. It's the Italian specialty dining room (\$20 per person).

We scheduled to visit the ship's bridge by invitation of the captain, for the next day. We



The Pioneer Inn on Maui.



Officer of the watch on the bridge.



also received our conformation for the "Chef's Table," which was set for Sunday evening.

Later that same day, we played bridge. We did not fare well.

The weather was good, with clear skies, temps in the mid-80s, and of course high humidity. The ship was rolling a little more than usual, but not too badly.

The Captain's Circle party was nice; you could get a drink from the bar. This ship holds 2,600 passengers, and 1,200 of them are return Princess passengers. We were told that there are more than 10 million Captain's Circle members around the world.

After the party, we had dinner in Sabatini's. It cost an extra \$20 per person. We all enjoyed the dinner and service. Evelyn and I had brought a bottle of Opus One wine from home. This is a very special wine, and when the staff saw it, they called the ship's sommelier to open and serve it. It is customary to offer the sommelier a taste, and he enjoyed it, too. The ship had this wine on the menu, so management did not charge a corkage fee. The dinner took more than two hours to enjoy.



Hal, Myrna and Don shopping.

After dinner, we sat in the piano bar and listened to the music and had a nightcap.

When we awakened the next morning, the sun was shining and the sea was calm. Today was our day to visit the bridge, something we had not been able to do since Sept. 11, 2001. I wasn't sure how many passengers were going to be on the tour.

There were four of us on the bridge tour – a newlywed couple who got the bridge tour as part of their honeymoon package, and us. The tour lasted about a half hour. The captain showed us pictures of the ship being built and explained the process. We took pictures with him, and then he turned the tour over to the junior officer of the watch. There are two officers of the watch and one lookout for each watch while at sea. The ship runs on autopilot while at sea. After taking a few more pictures, we left the bridge. It was a very interesting and unusual experience.

While Evelyn attended the bridge lesson, I found a place in the shade to read my book, and I took a nap. I caught up with Evelyn, Myrna and Don at noon and we had lunch in the Crown Grill, which at lunch becomes an English pub. We all had fish and chips, which was okay but not great.

At bridge that afternoon, Evelyn and I came in third, playing east/west. It was a much better showing than the day before.

We had cocktails in our cabin before dinner. I think we may have brought too much booze; we had a lot left to drink and not much time. We ate in the dining room at 8 p.m. It seemed that most passengers ate early, and after 7:30 p.m. it was easier to walk in a get a table; the service was very good because the staff had fewer tables to serve.

We saw the late show in the Princess Theater, which featured John Bressler, a very good piano player but a so-so singer and comedian.

Next month I promise the end of our Hawaiian cruise will be next month.

LACERS Update



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"Retirement Account Info: MyLACERS is a service that allows members to securely view their account information online at www.LACERS.org. As a retired member, you can view your 1099R information, current payment statements, designated beneficiaries, current deductions and health deduction information. It's easy, fast and informative. Just click on MyLACERS from the LACERS homepage (www.LACERS.org) and follow the directions to register for a MyLACERS account. Once an ID and password are created, you can log-on to the secure website as often as you like. For more information or assistance with setting up a MyLACERS account, contact LACERS at lacers.services@lacity.org or 1-800-779-8328.

"Your Health Matters E-Newsletter: The spring 2011 *Your Health Matters* E-newsletter is now available online in the publications section of the LACERS Website at www.LACERS.org/retired/publications.html. You can learn about diabetes and pre-diabetes, the risk factors and symptoms, some of the myths about diabetes, and what can be done to prevent the onset and progression of this disease through healthy living choices. You can also find out about some of the disease management programs offered through your LACERS medical plan. The Publications section of LACERS website also contains past issues of the *Your Health Matters* newsletter, as well as other informative LACERS publications.

"Health Plan Website Workshop: Do you want to learn more about disease management and wellness programs available through your LACERS health plan, but don't know how to use their Website?

Then consider attending a *LACERS Retiree Health Plan Website Training Workshop*, tentatively scheduled for July 21. At this workshop, you will get hands-on computer training on how to use LACERS and your health plan's Websites. Look for more information and reservation details in the upcoming paycheck flyer that will be sent on June 30.

If you have news about yourself or other retirees that you would like to share, send it to Mary Beetz at: 137 Westmont Dr., Alhambra, CA 91801 or MBeetz4841@aol.com

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 Almanson 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 Almanson 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

Member R.L.A.C.E.I. Member A.C.E.B.S.A. Guest or City Club

(check all that apply)

Name	Member R.L.A.C.E.I.	Member A.C.E.B.S.A.	Guest or City Club
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"/>

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



Lee Burrell, Retired Refrigeration Air Conditioning Supervisor.



Alice Wilder, Retired Election Division; Mary Beetz, Member Information Committee Chairperson, Club Member; and Helen Salgado, Membership Committee Chairperson, Club Member.



Ken Spiker, RLACEI First Vice President, Club Member.



At the RLACEI Spring meeting.



Tony Alvarez, Retired Parking Manager, General Services, Club Member.



From left: Leroy A. Richards, Club Member, Retired Heavy Duty Truck Operator; and Quentell Webb, Retired Motor Sweeper Operator.



At the RLACEI Spring meeting.



Norma and Leo Rosen, Retired Public Works/Engineering, Club Member.

RLACEI Spring Meeting

Retirees Assn. hosts annual spring meeting.

Story and photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations



RLACEI — The Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) held its annual general membership meeting April 14 at the Friendship Auditorium. As always, the ever-present and charismatic Ed Harding, RLACEI President, presided over the event, which included a delicious complimentary lunch provided by Chris & Pitts barbecue. Thanks to the RLACEI leadership for inviting and welcoming the Club to this annual spring meeting.



Ed Harding, RLACEI President.



The Chris & Pitts catering team.



Marguerite and John Shadle, Retired, Building and Safety, Club Member. John and Marguerite have been married of 64 years!



John Hyde, Club Member, Convention Center, Retiree, 32 years, and Nancy Hyde, Library, 11 years.



At the RLACEI Spring meeting.



Phil Skarin, RLACEI Parliamentarian.



Retirees touch base and catch up.



At the RLACEI Spring meeting.



Michael and Cleone Vrabel, Retired Clerk Typist, LAPD, Club Member.



At the RLACEI Spring meeting.



At the RLACEI Spring meeting.



At the RLACEI Spring meeting.



At the RLACEI Spring meeting.



From LACERS: Lita Payne, Assistant General Manager, and Alex Rabrenovich, Division Manager.



Americo Garza, RLACEI Director, Club Member, and Mary Beetz, RLACEI Member Information Committee Chairperson, Club Member.