



For Retired Club Members

The Best Years



By Mary Beetz,
RLACEI Publicity Chair

City Retiree Associations

DWP Retirees Association



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Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association

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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:
RLACEI@verizon.net

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:

- 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:

Open Enrollment Meetings For LACERS Set for Fall

President, Ed Harding reports:



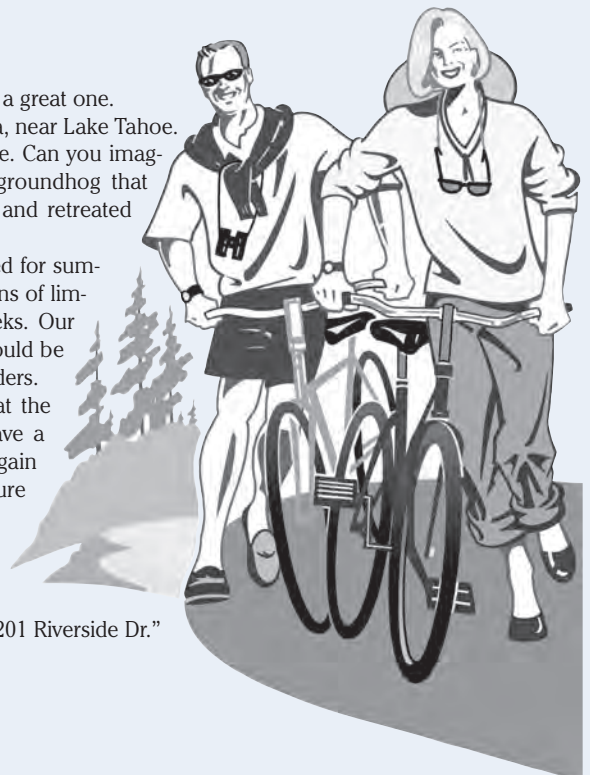
2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient
Ed Harding

"Summer is here, and I hope everyone is having a great one. Martha and I are at our second home in Nevada, near Lake Tahoe. It is beautiful here, but the summer has yet to arrive. Can you imagine snow skiing in July? I guess in Nevada, the groundhog that emerges from its burrow did not see his shadow and retreated back into its burrow, so winter will continue.

"Martha had foot surgery right after school ended for summer vacation, and her doctor placed some restrictions of limited walking and no climbing of stairs for six weeks. Our home in Nevada is one story, which we thought would be a perfect place to recuperate and follow doctor's orders.

"On Aug. 11, we will have our annual picnic at the Grace Lodge in Elysian Park. As usual, we will have a great lunch, catered by Chris and Pitts BBQ, and again we plan to give many, many door prizes. Please be sure to make reservations.

"On Aug. 18, Hal Danowitz, Neil Ricci, Mary Beetz and I will join LACERS' Health Workshop on "Understanding Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease," to be held at the Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr."



LACERS Update by Mary Beetz:



Mary Beetz

Open Enrollment Meetings

LACERS will be hosting meetings concerning the open enrollment for retiree health plans Oct. 15 through Nov. 15.

"You're invited to attend a LACERS Open Enrollment meeting and talk to your health plan representatives to learn what's new for the 2012 plan year. There will be presentations, health screenings, opportunity drawings, and LACERS staff members available to assist you with the enrollment process.

"The RLACEI will co-sponsor the Los Angeles open enrollment meeting Oct. 6. The RLACEI annual meeting and elections will follow at 1 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

"Here are the locations, dates and times:

Los Angeles

Friendship Auditorium
Thurs., Oct. 6
9 a.m. – noon

Inland Empire

Ayres Hotel and Suites,
Ontario
Thurs., Oct 13
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Las Vegas

The Orleans Hotel and
Casino
Fri., Oct. 21
Noon – 3:30 p.m.

San Fernando Valley

Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van
Nuys
Thurs., Oct. 27
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Orange County

Atrium Hotel, Irvine
Thurs., Nov. 3
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

South Bay

DoubleTree Hotel,
San Pedro
Thurs., Nov. 10
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Reservations

"Reservations to attend an Open Enrollment meeting will be accepted beginning Sept. 13 by calling LACERS at (800) 779-8328 or (888) 349-3996 TDD. Calls will be accepted weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. No reservations will be taken before Sept. 13. Voicemail or e-mail messages will not be accepted as reservations. Reservations will be accepted for one retiree and one guest.

"Check your LACERS August paycheck flyer for more details."

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 on our walk to the Office.

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 Stenmcock	Ext. 708
Questions:	Ext. 0
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 Stenmcock: 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 Stenmcock: Audit
Tom Stenmcock and Phil Skarin: Golf

Directors

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



2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



By Hal Danowitz,
Secretary, RLACEI

More Cabo Without Grandkids

The pace seems relaxed when Hal and Evelyn make their annual trek to Cabo San Lucas. — Part Two

It was time for my wife Evelyn's and my annual trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. We didn't take the grandkids this year. Easter vacation was still a month away. This year our two younger grandchildren, Coco and Isabelle, were to go to Italy and Greece with their parents, and the oldest one, Maddie, would be surfing in Hawaii. It's a tough life growing up nowadays.

Effie and Pierre, who normally go to Mexico, had just returned from a trip to India. We invited some friends to use Effie

and Pierre were charged \$80 each, which included lunch, a number of drink tickets and the use of the pool and lounges. I had a feeling that the resort was testing the waters with this idea. If they offered it just once a week and, since there were new owners each week, the resort would have a group of unhappy owners on only one day.

Our friends from the pool caught a number of fish the day before (but not from the pool!) and offered us some, but we couldn't eat it as sushi so we passed. It was nice of them to offer.

For dinner we walked to Poncho's, another place we go each year. I discovered that two people get quicker service than a large group can. When we have the grandkids, with us there are at least seven of us and sometimes more, so the entire service takes much longer.

Poncho's was crowded, but we had made a reservation and got a nice table for two. We finally figured out which of our favorites restaurants it is better to stop by early in the week and make a reservation; Poncho's is one of them. They make the best grilled chicken, and I had it with pork ribs. It was as good as I remembered from last year, but next year I'll skip the ribs. Evelyn had the tamales, which were wrapped in banana leaves.

The next morning we had coffee and a light breakfast in our room. We could get Internet access if we went out on our balcony. The cost is \$8.50 per day for owners. Our cell phones also worked here (we have Verizon) on roaming only. It allowed us to keep in touch. Evelyn, who retired in February 2008, has gone back to work part-time for her old company. They asked her to do some consulting, and now it has turned into a real job. I hope it will last only until she can hire someone to take her place. Between you and me, she complains about it, but I think she is enjoying the challenge. So she kept in touch with her office while we were away.

We spent most of the day by the pool. The skies were clear and sunny but a little

windy, and in the shade it is cool. We were still seeing whales off the beach.

Before dinner we did the last of our shopping.

We stopped at the flea market, and Evelyn found pieces of silver jewelry for the two youngest granddaughters.

It was still too early for dinner, so we walked downtown and decided to stop and have a drink at supposedly the world's smallest bar, call Slim's. It has four bar stools and room at a window counter for a couple of more people. We each had had two shots of tequila when a guy sat down next to us. We started talking, and he said he was from LA but had been in Cabo for a long time. When I asked him what he was doing here, he said he was opening a bar call Bar Cuckoo. He bought us a beer and we talked for a while; he said his name was Dave. When we got ready to leave, he insisted on paying our bar bill. He was a very nice guy. So if you're ever in Cabo, check out the Cuckoo.

We walked over to Greenberg's for dinner and then had ice cream for dessert. We really liked the small plates. The dinner bill was less than our lunch around the pool at the resort.

The next day, after a light breakfast, we came down to the pool. Again they were allowing cruise passengers to use the facilities. I checked the Internet and found a listing for Solmar, which is the holding company for the Playa Granda Resort. I sent an e-mail to Solmar voicing my complaint, and believe it or not I got a response in 10 minutes apologizing and saying that they were stopping as of April 30.

The cost of food and drink at the resort was more than in the past years, and the discussion by the pool was that management wanted us to purchase a meal plan. The cheapest plan is \$105 per person and includes three meals and unlimited drinks. The problem is that you must purchase three days, and they are consecutive. The dinners at the resort are not that great, but I suppose that just eating breakfast and lunch and drinks might work. There are just too many



Breakfast at Mama's.

and Pierre's unit, but they had a family emergency, so it was just Evelyn and I. This was to be the first time in many years that Evelyn and I were on vacation on our own, except for our three-week road trip in 2008 to attend my high school reunion.

We arrived on a Saturday, and now it was Wednesday morning. We walked through the marina to Mama's for breakfast. We come here each year and the food is always good, if the service is sometimes spotty (slow; it's part of the atmosphere). But that day, both the service and food were excellent. On the way back to the resort, Evelyn brought a T-shirt with a surf shop logo for Maddie, our oldest granddaughter. She is in to surfing, so the T-shirt had to have a surfboard on it. Evelyn managed to bargain the price down from \$12 to \$10. She probably could have gotten it cheaper, but it was okay. Evelyn said that, next time, I could do the bargaining.

We spent the rest of the day around the pool. The buzz was about letting cruise passengers use the facilities. I found out that the





For Retired Club Members

good restaurants in Cabo to limit yourself.

This was our last pool day. The sun was shining, but there was a breeze. Evelyn wanted to do some last-minute shopping at the flea market.

We had our last drinks on the balcony and then walked to Hacienda de Cayote for dinner. It serves "authentic Mexican food." We had eaten there last year and I liked what I had. This year, not so much. It was okay, but I think we will skip it on the next trip. Also it was a family-friendly place, so there were lots of kids running around.

We packed that morning; our ride to the airport was at 11 a.m. Based on my unworn clothes, I made notes for next year to bring less. I always bring too much.

We got picked up on time and arrived at the airport before noon. Check-in was easy once you understand the process. Prior to getting to the check-in desk, your checked luggage is hand-searched. You receive your boarding pass

and then go through security with shoes and belts off, but no special check of computers. You are now in the waiting area. Make a note to bring your own food. Pizza is \$9 a slice; they had some pre-packaged sandwich, but only ham and cheese.

We flew back on United, and we left on time and arrived in LA on time. The bad news was that we landed at Terminal 7, and we were bused to the international terminal to clear immigration and customs. United was too cheap to open their overseas arrival area. Overall the process was pretty efficient, except that we got in the wrong line for customs and it seemed like it took forever.

Michelle and JP (our daughter and son-in-law) picked us up and took us for dinner at their house.



With a new friend.



At the "world's smallest bar."

Member News

by Mary Beetz



By Mary Beetz, RLACEI Publicity Chair

I received mail from **Mike Wilkinsen, retired City Attorney and new RLACEI Director.**

"Dear friends, my brother, Rich, and I are on a TransAmerica Bike trip. Executive Summary: Rich had the idea, and I decided to join him for a 4,200-plus-mile unsupported bike ride from Yorktown, Va. to Astoria, Ore., beginning June 11 following the route blazed by the Bicentennial in 1976. We would love to have followers on our blog site (see below) and at www.trackmy-tour/5381 as we push across the country on a trip that is expected to take about 90 days. Assuming our technology does not let us down (we are carrying more than six power chargers), we plan to post pictures and dispatches from all over small-town America as we explore.

"We will be camping most days, but also resting at motels and staying with others who have offered to provide hot showers and a place to pitch our tent along the way. Please see the link for the trip map. If you know of anyone who lives right along the route and may be open to hosting visiting cyclists, we would love to have the contact. Thanks, and see you in September. – Mike."

Follow Rich and Mike's Excellent Adventure here: 2011transamericabikeride.com To retirees who live along the bike route, you may want to log on to their blog or Website and cheer them on. Mike and Rich, we wish you a safe and exciting bike adventure.

IF YOU ARE A RETIREE AND HAVE NEWS OR INTERESTING UPDATES ABOUT YOURSELF OR OTHER RETIREES, please send them to me at mbeetz4841@aol.com, or call the toll-free number, (800) 678-4145, ext. 711. We enjoy hearing from you, and I am sure so will the friends you made while working with the City.

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.

It's Ken Vs. Arthritis

Ken Kockakji, Transportation, Retired, came in first in his age group in a recent 5K race. His participation raised funds for the Arthritis Foundation. He says he has arthritis in both knees that he's treating with exercise and nutrition. "Just because you have arthritis doesn't mean you have to quit," he says. "Because if you quit, I'm coming after you!" he laughed. Good going, Ken!

Ken makes his point about not quitting!

HARBOR



Retiree Kent Hobbs, Club Member and his daughter, Tabitha.

Kent Retires

Officer Kent Hobbs retires after 29 years of City service.



Margie and Kent Hobbs, Retired Officer, 29 years of City service.



Kent's retirement cake!



Story by Noelle Kauffman, Club Counselor and Arlene Herrero, Club Products Director; Photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Products Director



Friends, co-workers, and family of Port Police Officer Kent Hobbs gathered June 25 to celebrate Kent's retirement from the Port Police after 29 years of City service. The lively party took place aboard the *San Pedro Spirit* cruise ship where guests enjoyed a fine Italian dinner as well as a spectacular view of the Port's harbor.

Enjoy your retirement, Kent!



Brandon Smith, Sr. Lead Officer, 13 years of City service; Mike Alva, Sgt., 25 years of service; Mary Ramos, Clerk Typist, 7 years of service; Lt. Rosa Reynoso, 22 years of service; Robin Jackson, Management Analyst, 35 years of service; and Carolyn Cobos, wife of Sgt. Dan Cobos.



From left: Jane Racette, high school friend of retiree Kent Hobbs; Kent Hobbs, Retired Officer, 29 years of City service, Club Member; Sam Hobbs, Kent's aunt; and Lindsey Munce, Kent's cousin.



From left: Dan Cobos, Sgt., 8 years of City service; Kent Hobbs, Retired Officer, 29 years of service; and Logan Braun, Sgt., 4 years of service.



All of the Port Retirees in front of a Harbor police boat.



Mary Lou and Michael Martinez, Hobbs family friends.



From left: Brandon Smith, Sr. Lead Officer, 13 years of City service, Club Member and Kent Hobbs, Retired Officer, 29 years of service, Club Member.



From left: Dave Knight, Retired Port Police, 30 years of City service, Club Member; John Curry, Retired Sgt., 30 years of service, Club Member; Maria Corona, Port Police Dispatcher, 20 years of service, Club Member; Linda Wyatt, Retired Dispatcher, 37 years of service, Club Member; and Robert Lesley, Retired Police Officer, 34 years of service.



From left: Claudia Rodriguez, Sr. Clerk, 6 years of City service; Nina Gonzalez, Clerk Typist, 6 years of service, Club Member; and Keith Garcia, Emergency Coordinator, 3 years of service.



From left: Rudy Meza, Officer, 30 years of service, Club Member; Moe Meza, wife of Officer Rudy Meza; Lawanda Reynolds, Special Events for U.S. House of Representative Laura Richardson; and Robert Reynolds, Retired Port Police, 36 years of service, Club Member.



Dan Cobos, Sgt., 8 years of service, Club Member, and his wife, Carolyn.



From left: Dac Hoang, Communication Engineer Associate, 3 years of City service; Frank Huang, Planning Officer, 4 years of service, Club Member; Dave Malin, EPC, 21 years of service; and Al Garcia, Planning Officer, 23 years of service, Club Member.



From left: Tabitha Hobbs, daughter of retiree Kent Hobbs, and Margie Hobbs, wife of Kent.



From left: Martin Campbell, friend of the Hobbs family; Duncan and Shelley Roe, friends of the Hobbs family; Dick and Pat Haly, Kent's in-laws; Kent Hobbs, Retired Officer, 29 years of City service, Club Member; and Michelle Kuhnast, Kent's sister-in-law.



Ted Fernandez, MA2, 20 years of City service, Club Member, and Julie DiTucci, Secretary, 27 years of service, Club Member.



Julie DiTucci, Secretary, 27 years of City service, Club Member; Kent Hobbs, Retired Officer, 29 years of service, Club Member; Mary Ramos, Clerk Typist, 7 years of service, Club Member; and Lt. Rosa Reynoso, 22 years of service, Club Member.



From left: Capt. Curtis Thompson, 29 years of service, Club Member, and Sgt. Anthony Williams, 12 years of service.



Kent Hobbs, Retired Officer, 29 years of City service, Club Member; Rudy Meza, Officer, 30 years of service, Club Member; Dave Knight, Retired Port Police, 30 years of service, Club Member; Veea Knight; Bill Paxson, Retired Police Officer, 28 years of service, Club Member; and Sgt. Ian Schunke, 11 years of service, Club Member.