



For Retired Club Members

The Best Years



By Mary Beetz,
RLACEI Publicity Chair

City Retiree Associations

DWP Retirees Association



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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:

- 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:

Bills for Comprehensive Pension Reform in 2012?

President, Ed Harding reports:

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



Ed Harding

"I wish to congratulate LACERS' Commissioner Jerry Bardwell for being appointed by the mayor in July for a second term as Commissioner for a five-year term. The City Council confirmed his appointment in August. Prior to Jerry's appointment, he was RLACEI Treasurer and financial adviser. Jerry and I worked closely together for approximately 15 years. He

helped me immensely and made my job as president a lot easier.

"On Oct. 6, we will have a joint meeting with LACERS on its Open Enrollment meeting. A light breakfast and lunch will be served. After lunch we will have our annual corporation meeting and election of our officers. Neil Ricci and his nominating

committee have recommended that Hal Danowitz, Tom Stennock, Michael Karsch, Americo Garza, Michael Wilkinson, and Neil be reelected."

Legislative Report by Michael Karsch:



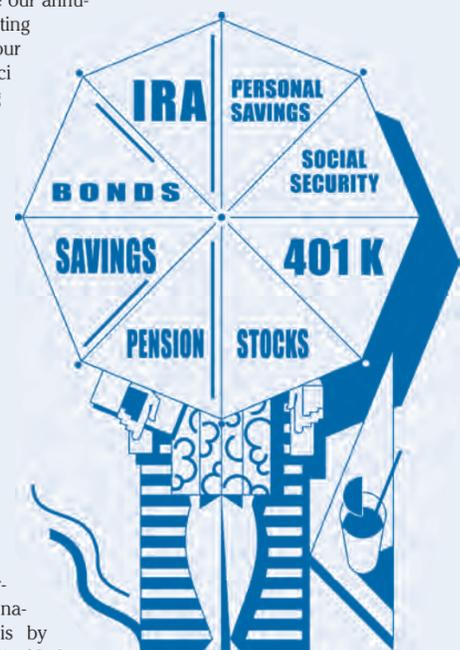
Michael Karsch

"Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed a Senate bill allowing CalPERS (only applicable to those government agencies using CalPERS) to combine survivor benefit levels with the highest benefit and to suspend employee premiums for certain local government members. In his veto message, the governor said he did not want pension changes in a piecemeal solution but to be part of comprehensive pension reform. There are nine other pension reform bills heading to his desk, which may meet the same fate. The message in this is that the governor is intending to propose a multi-point pension reform package in January, probably based on his 12-Point Pension Reform Plan proposals from last April. According to the league of California cities, the governor will likely propose a pension benefit cap, improving retirement gover-

nance, limiting post-retirement public employment, and offering a hybrid pension option.

"Another initiative has been submitted to the attorney general for review prior to circulating for signatures. This one is by Larry Click and is titled, 'The Fair and Proportional Retirement For Public Officials Act of 2012.' This 15-page proposal basically aims to limit any person serving in an elected position from receiving a pension that is not based on the general pension plan available to all employees in the agency over which he or she is serving. The

politician's pension shall follow the most restrictive rules, which apply to union members, or non-union hourly workers at a lower level in the same organization."



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



From left: Nancy, our host, and Evelyn at the Hasley House.

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 LAC-ERS, 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 Stemmok	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 Stemmok: Second Vice President

Committee Chairpersons

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

Directors

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



By Hal Danowitz,
Secretary, RLACEI

Hal Heads to The Hamptons

Hal and Co. go fancy for Independence Day.

My wife, Evelyn, has a very good friend, Nancy, who lives in New York City. We visit her whenever we are there. She visits us at least once a year when she comes to Los Angeles on business. She lives in Manhattan in the west Seventies, a block off of Central Park in a rent-controlled apartment too small for guests. About 10 years ago, she bought a house in East Hampton, NY.

"The Hamptons" refers to several villages and hamlets in the towns of Southampton and East Hampton on the far east end of Suffolk County in Long Island, New York, about 100 miles from New York City. These townships occupy the South Fork of Long Island, stretching into the Atlantic Ocean. The Hamptons form a popular seaside resort, one of the historical Summer Colonies of the American Northeast. They have some of the most expensive residential properties in the United States.

A few years ago on one of our visits, we stayed with her for a couple of days. Since then, she has done a complete remodel, and when she stayed with us in March she asked us to visit this summer so we could see what she had done. Now, if you ask me, I thought the house was very nice already. It has three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, a usable kitchen and a large great room. It sits on a half-acre and has a pool. It is about a mile to the beach.

Evelyn and I agreed to visit over the Fourth of July. We booked to fly from LAX June 30 and return home July 5.

We left LAX at 8 a.m. and landed at JFK early at 4:30 p.m. Normally when we fly to New York City, we use Newark Airport because it is closer to Manhattan and easier to get around. This time, we flew into JFK because it is closer to the Hamptons, about 95 miles away.

The last time we flew into JFK was in February 2002, and it was in the process of expansion. JFK now has eight terminals connected by a train system. I did not know this. I had reserved a rental car from Hertz. After we got our luggage (\$25 each for checking), I saw that we had to take the train to Station C to pick up our rental car. It took us a while to find the train, and when we got on we found we were going in the wrong direction, which cost us only a little time. It seems that Station C is Federal Circle, where all the rental car lots are. It took one hour from the time the plane landed to when we left the rental car lot.

I had with us our GPS unit and also direc-

tions from Google. I do both because Google maps are updated regularly, while the software in my GPS unit is at least a year old. The cost of updating the GPS software is more than buying a new one. Anyway, Evelyn says that bringing both is like wearing a belt and suspenders.

As you can guess it was rush hour, and it took us one hour to go the first 20 miles, 45 minutes to go the next 50 miles, and then another hour to go the last 25 miles.

When we arrived, we were surprised to see a house still under remodel. It had no working kitchen, no great room, and a half-finished new sunroom; the house was just a general mess. The bathrooms had no mirrors, and I couldn't find a hair dryer. Still, the back porch and pool were fine. We found out there was no hot water only when we got ready for bed. Neither Evelyn nor Nancy could figure out how to fire up the water heater, which was oil-fueled. I didn't care to try and went to sleep. In fact, both Evelyn and I slept very well and awoke about 8 a.m.

There was still no hot water, but we made do. Nancy brought hot doughnuts that were very good. While she worked on getting someone out to fix the water heater, Evelyn and I drove to East Hampton to the Starbucks for coffee and to use the Internet. Parking is a real problem during the summer; you can park on the street for one hour or in a city parking lot for two hours. The parking is free, but the rules are enforced with a \$65 fine. We sat at Starbucks for about the two-hour limit, talking to other patrons, mostly tourists.

We drove to Sag Harbor for lunch. Last time we were here we ate at Dockside Bar & Grill restaurant, run by the America Legion. We decided to try it again. The food and service were very good, and Nancy joined us after the water heater was fixed (it seems a switch was off).

Evelyn and I drove over to the Pollack-Karsen House, the last home and studio of Jackson Pollack and his wife, Lee Karsen. Jackson Pollack (1912-56) is regarded as the undisputed leader of the Abstract Expressionist movement. In 1945, he married fellow artist Lee Krasner (1908-84) and moved from New York City to Long Island's East End. With a loan from art dealer Peggy Guggenheim, they purchased a small homestead on one-and-a-quarter acres overlooking Accabonac Creek in the Springs, near



East Hampton. The house and studio are well preserved and provide a good look and understanding of both artists.

We drove back to our friend's house, and I swam in the pool. As I was sunning myself, the private jets started to land at the East Hampton airport. It was one after another flying over the house.

We had dinner at a restaurant called the Living Room in the Maidstone Luxury Boutique Hotel. It was a very nice two-and-a-half-hour meal. The food and service were excellent.

We awoke the next morning still without a mirror in the bathroom. I used one of Evelyn's compacts to comb my hair. It reminded me of the old movie, *Mr. Hobbs Takes a Vacation*.

I drove over to Starbucks for coffee, a newspaper and to download our e-mails. You can always count on Starbucks to have a wireless connect.

We couldn't go to the beach because Nancy couldn't find her car registration, which was required to get a beach parking pass. We couldn't get our own because they won't give one to a rental car, which means that, if you own a house but take the train up or rent a car to drive from New York City, you can't park at the beach. It doesn't make very good sense. The beach was too far to walk, but there was a shuttle somewhere. We planned to go after 4 p.m.

Her pool was nice but is full of leaves. We didn't have a skimmer; we were waiting for the pool service to bring one over.

We had breakfast the next morning at Babette's in the Village. The prices were very high; the food was good but not great. We ate there the last time, and I wasn't impressed.

Evelyn and Nancy spent part of the morning opening boxes. I was hoping they would find a mirror or at least Jimmy Hoffa.

Our host asked if we would go with her to pick out two fans before driving around



the area. We ended up in Southampton and then drove home. The roads were very crowded there. Most have just two lanes and a few stoplights. The main road is Route 27, which cuts through the middle of the area. We finally made it back to the house. The pool people had come and skimmed the pool. The weather was great, with lots of sun and temperatures in the high 70s and low 80s. At night it dropped to the low 60s. We anticipated some rain showers for the next day, but it was expected to clear up for the Fourth.

That night we went to a charity cocktail party in Southampton. The party was for the Halsey House, one of the oldest (1650) structures in the area. The cost was \$125 per person, but with the food and drink provided it was well worth it. It lasted only two hours, and afterwards a miracle occurred -- a mirror was found at K-Mart. After the miracle, we stopped in the village for ice cream.

I must admit that I ate and drank too much and had a very uncomfortable night.

I'll finish up our adventure next month.



Evelyn at Nancy's house in East Hampton.

LACERS Update



By Mary Beetz,
RLACEI Publicity Chair

“Changes to LACERS Health Plans: Your 2012 LACERS Health Plans Open Enrollment packet was mailed to you early this month. *The 2012 Health Benefits Guide* included in your packet will help you understand LACERS' health plan changes, premiums, and subsidies for the upcoming year. The guide is also available online at www.LACERS.org.

Please review your 2012 Health Benefits Guide and Open Enrollment Overview. Some changes that may impact you include:

- **MetLife Dental PPO** – There will be increased coinsurance amounts for some out-of-network services. Subscribers will see a payroll deduction because the dental PPO premium will be higher than the maximum allowable dental subsidy.
- **Vision Service Plan (VSP)** – Subscribers will see a slightly reduced network of providers and reduced discounts on non-covered items.
- **Anthem Blue Cross Medicare Supplement Plan** – This plan will be replaced by the Anthem Blue Cross Medicare Advantage LPPA Plan.

- **Anthem Blue Cross HMO** – Subscribers will experience a significant payroll deduction increase because the medical premium will be higher than the maximum allowable medical subsidy (however, as long as ERRP funds are available, LACERS will temporarily defray medical plan premium payroll deduction increases).

- **Evercare – Solutions for Caregivers Program** ends Dec. 31. Take advantage of the *Evercare – Solutions for Caregivers* program before the end of the year. Starting Jan. 1, only LACERS Members enrolled in UnitedHealthcare Group Medicare Advantage HMO (formerly SecureHorizons) will have continued use of the program. *Evercare – Solutions for Caregivers* provides services like preparation of a Durable Power of Attorney, a simple will or living will, and geriatric case management.

“Call 866-896-1895 or visit www.liveand-workwell.com (access code: Evercare) for more information.

“Open Enrollment ends Nov. 15. If you have questions about your health plan options, the following Open Enrollment meetings are still available:

Orange County

Thurs., Nov. 3; 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Atrium Hotel
18700 MacArthur Blvd. Irvine

South Bay

Thurs., Nov. 10; 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Doubtree Hotel San Pedro
1800 Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro

“There will be presentations by your health plan representatives, health screenings, opportunity drawings, and LACERS staff members available to assist you with the enrollment process. Attendance is by reservation. Reservations will be accepted for you and only one guest. RSVP by calling LACERS at (800) 779-8328 or (888) 349-3996 TDD, Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Voicemail or e-mail messages will not be accepted as reservations. Free parking is available.

Member News

RLACEI DIRECTOR HAL DANOWITZ AND HIS WIFE, EVELYN, will be traveling from Oct. 11 to Nov. 13, covering countries including Italy, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Dubai, India, and Singapore. Follow their adventures at www.halandevelyn.blogspot.com. There will be more to follow in our next issue – keeping track on Hal and Evelyn's adventures.

IF YOU ARE A RETIREE AND HAVE NEWS OF INTERESTING UPDATES ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY OR OTHER RETIREES, send them to mbeetz4841@aol.com. I am sure your coworkers or friends you made during your employment with the City will enjoy reading about life after retirement.

As a wise man once said: ‘I shall retire and grow old, but never lose life's zest, because the road's last turn will be the best.’

TRANSPORTATION, COUNCIL

Hello, Bike Lanes

Transportation builds downtown's first bike lanes.



More than 100 cyclists, pedestrians and City employees converge in MacArthur Park at Seventh and Alvarado Streets to inaugurate a new bike lane that will increase safety and provide better access.

Story courtesy the office of Councilman Ed Reyes;
Photos courtesy Transportation

On Sept. 8, Transportation painted the final bicycle marking to complete the first phase of bike lanes on Seventh Street downtown. The 2.2 mile bike lane is striped from Catalina Avenue to Figueroa Street through downtown, Koreatown and Westlake, three of the City's most densely populated neighborhoods.

Councilmember Ed Reyes joined other bicyclists in celebrating the bike lane.

As detailed in *Alive!* three months ago, the Seventh Street bike lanes are part of the City's Bicycle Master Plan, spearheaded by Councilmember Reyes. The next phase involves extending the Seventh Street bike lanes an additional 2.9 miles through downtown to Soto Street in Boyle Heights. The plan lays out 1,680 miles of interconnected bikeways and calls for more than 200 miles of new bicycle routes every five years Citywide, including along the Los Angeles River. The plan will be implemented in part using funds from Measure R, a half-cent sales tax increase approved by voters in 2008 to fund transportation projects. The plan was developed to encourage



Councilmember Ed Reyes puts the finishing touches on a Transportation-prepared bike lane at Seventh and Alvarado Streets, the first for downtown LA, as part of the Mayor and City Council's Master Bike Plan, approved in February.

alternative transportation options and promote safe and healthy living, especially in Los Angeles' urban neighborhoods.

DWP

Dedicated To Safety

DWP's Field Training Unit honors employees without lost-time injuries.

Story and photo courtesy Debbie Winger, DWP,
Club Member

The Field Training and Projects Unit of the Customer Service Division of the DWP celebrated a milestone in July. Every member of the unit has worked at least 2,074 days without a lost-time injury. The supervisor of the unit, Earl Rodgers, treated his unit to a luncheon at the Odyssey in Granada Hills to celebrate, where he presented each employee with a certificate of appreciation.

Mr. Rodgers expressed his appreciation to the unit for not only working safely, but for their excellent example of promoting safety to the hundreds of field employees that they have trained. The unit consists of Earl Rodgers, Supervisor; Trainers Shirlene Mills, David Calderon and Mitchell Martinez; Route Design Specialists Roger Cummins and Gerald “Joe” Reynolds; Meter Installers Raymond Thornton and Lance Holcombe; and Sr. Clerk Typist Debbie Winger. Congratulations to all and keep up the safe work habits!



The Field Training and Projects Unit, clockwise, from left: Earl Rodgers, Jay Gourneau (former trainer in the FTP Unit), Roger Cummins, Joe Reynolds, Lance Holcombe, Raymond Thornton, David Calderon, Shirlene Mills, and Debbie Winger. Not pictured: Mitchell Martinez.