



For Retired Club Members

The Best Years



By Mary Beetz,
RLACEI Publicity Chair

City Retiree Associations

DWP Retirees Association



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9521 Las Tunas Dr. #4,
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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:

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

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

RLACEI:

Pension News Not Good In Other California Cities

President Ed Harding reports:

2010 Club Excellence
Award Recipient



Ed Harding

"I would like to report that our joint meeting with LACERS Open Enrollment Meeting held Oct. 6 was a great success. We had more than 100 attendees. Free flu shots and massages were given. A light breakfast and lunch were served.

"After lunch, we had our annual corporation meeting, at which time our members voted to re-elect Directors Hal Danowitz, Tom Stemnock, Michael Karsch, Americo Garza, Michael Wilkinson, and Neil

Ricci. They will serve two-year terms. Next year, Ken Spiker, Helen Salgado, Gary Mattingly, Mary Beetz, and I will come up for re-election.

"Neil Ricci, our Nominating Chairman, reported that there is a vacant Director position open. Those who are interested are requested to send a resumé to Ed Harding, 2890 Waterfall Lane, Simi Valley, CA 93065.

"I also would like to inform our members that there is a change in

location for our holiday party. The Grace Simons Lodge was too small for last year's holiday party, therefore, our holiday Party will be held at the Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr. in L.A. Dec. 1 at 10:30 a.m. See the Upcoming Events Section of the monthly newspaper.

"On a different and more hopeful note, don't forget to call and make reservations by calling our toll-free number (800) 678-4145, ext. 701.

Legislative Report by Michael Karsch:



Michael Karsch

"*Pension News From Other Cities:* The city of San Jose faces a pension bill this year of \$245 million, which is expected to rise to \$430 million in four years. Five of the city's unions announced at the end of September pension changes (pension reductions for current and future employees and reducing the annual cost of living raises and retirement bonus checks) to save the city almost a half-billion dollars over five years. More than 2,000 job positions have been eliminated over the last ten years; current workers have taken 10 percent in pay cuts, and actual layoffs occurred this June when 66 young police officers lost their jobs. The mayor of San Jose, Chuck Reed, wants a declaration of a fiscal state of emergency to be followed by pension reforms on the city ballot in the spring.

"The mayor's proposal would cap the city's contribution for future employees' retirement at 9 percent of pay and no more than half the cost of the benefit. Retirees would keep their current pensions but a cut in cost of living increases from three percent to one percent for five years and lose bonus check payments. Employees would keep the benefits they have earned to date, but would either pay more out of their salary to enhance those benefits in the future, or accept reduced retirement benefits plus work ten years longer than the current minimum retirement age.

"Voters in the city of San Francisco will decide in an election Nov. 8 whether to choose a pension reform proposed by Mayor Ed Lee, the Board of Supervisors (the city and county of San Francisco is one

entity with an elected mayor and a Board of Supervisors) and the city's labor unions, designated as Proposition C, and a competing measure, Proposition D, by the city's Public Defender, Jeff Adachi. Both measures would increase the contributions employees must make to their pension accounts; Proposition C would increase them less, and would then reverse the cuts when City revenues improve. Adachi's measure saves more costs to the city/county by \$300 million to \$400 million over the next decade, per the Controller's office. Each measure has wealthy backers: D has a venture capitalist who is a registered Democrat, and a businessman who is a registered Republican; C has the resources of the public unions and a wealthy Republican financier."

LACERS Update by Mary Beetz:



Mary Beetz

"*Go Green With LACERS:* Let's Help Preserve the Environment Together. The Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) wants to help the environment and decrease administrative expenses by saving natural resources, energy, postage, and

paper. To do this, we encourage you to call or email LACERS and say, "I Want to Go Green." When you opt to Go Green, you will be asked to provide or confirm your email address so you can receive LACERS' newsletters by email instead of receiving mailed copies.

If you change your mind, you will always have the opportunity to receive hard copies upon request. LACERS hopes to hear from you soon. Please call (800) 779-8328, or email lacers.services@lacity.org, and "Go Green!"

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

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 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



Evelyn at the lighthouse.

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



By Hal Danowitz,
Secretary, RLACEI

Hal in the Hamptons

The conclusion of Hal and Evelyn's trip to the tony Hamptons in New York.

My wife, Evelyn, has a very good friend, Nancy, who lives in New York City. We visit Nancy whenever we are there, and she visits us at least once a year when she comes to Los Angeles on business. She lives 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, NY, about 100 miles from New York City. These townships occupy the South Fork of Long Island, stretching to 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.

When Nancy visited us in the spring, she invited us to visit her at her "remodeled" home over the Fourth of July. When we arrived the Thursday before the fourth, we found a much-unfinished remodel, which I outlined in last month's article. As we begin this month's conclusion, we have been here three days.

That morning we got coffee and doughnuts and sat out on the beach for breakfast. You can park until 9 a.m. without a permit. Dogs are also allowed on the beach until 9 a.m. The east coast beaches just look different than Southern California beaches. The water is a different color, and of course there are no sunsets over the water (unless you are on the west side of the island).

Evelyn and I then drove to Montauk, at the end of the island. The attraction is the lighthouse. The Montauk Point Light House was the first lighthouse in New York state and is the fourth oldest active lighthouse in the United States. It became inactive in the



At the top of the lighthouse.

1980s and has been restored to its original layout. We climbed the 137 steps to the top. We had climbed the lighthouse in Key West a few years ago and it wasn't easy, so I was happy when we had no problems on this climb. One of the guides told me that this lighthouse is higher than the one in Florida.

We stopped in the village and, for lunch, we split a lobster roll, which was very tasty.

On the way home, we stopped at the Starbucks to download our e-mail.

The weather that day was somewhat overcast and felt like rain. As we walked around the Village, we felt a few drops.

We had dinner at home and watched a movie. The next day, Nancy was scheduled to go back to New York City. Evelyn and I were to be on our own until we flew home in a few days.

We had a picnic dinner on the back patio and then went to see Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris*, which I really enjoyed because I'm reading *The Paris Wife*, a fictional account of Ernest Hemingway's first wife when they lived in Paris in the early 1920s.

Today was Monday, July 4, and the weather that morning was sunny. We hung with our host until she left for NYC, and then we were going to take a drive to Sag Harbor and walk around. There were a few fireworks shows scheduled, but because of budget problems there weren't as many as you would think.

The traffic was expected to be heavy, as many people would be driving back to the city to go back to work Tuesday. Our flight



Hal in the block at Sag Harbor.



was to leave JFK at noon, and I think we would have to leave here before 8 a.m. With no traffic it takes about two hours.

I was seated on the back patio reading, smelling the flowers, and listening to the birds sing. The backyard was very lush, and the birds were beautiful too.

They don't have a trash pickup in the Hamptons, so the resident have to buy a trash permit and haul their trash to the city collection site. After the trash run, we drove around trying to find a place for breakfast and ended up in the Village at a diner. It was the best breakfast of the trip.

We went back to the house so Nancy, our host, could pack. We drove her to the bus stop to catch one of the buses that travel between the Hamptons and NYC. During the season, the buses depart almost every hour. You can also take the train, but you have to change in Jamaica (the city, not the country), and with luggage it can be a hassle.

After we dropped her off, we drove out to Sag Harbor and walked around the town and out on to the pier. We stopped for a drink on the pier and watched the boats. The weather was great.

We had dinner a Nick and Toni's in East Hampton. The food was good, with prices to match. When I called to see if they were open, I asked what the corkage fee was and was told it was \$50 per bottle. Evelyn ordered a glass of wine off the menu, and I had a local beer.

We packed most of our bags the night before. We left East Hampton about 7:15 a.m. and were at the airport just before 10 a.m.

We checked in for our flight and waited in the Admirals Club until we boarded our flight.

We spent four full days in the Hamptons and found it very relaxing. There are enough things to see and do and lots of water activities. There are lots of good restaurants, and you can always just sit and watch the beautiful people go by.

A note to readers:

Evelyn and I will be traveling from Oct. 11 to Nov. 13. You are welcome to follow our trip at halandevelyn.blogspot.com

For Retired Club Members



Seated, from left: Melba F. Talise, Community Development, 34 years of City service; Jesusa Juatco, General Services, 31 years, Club Member; and Corazon Biscocho, General Services, 31 years. Standing: Celia Merto, guest.



Barbara Porter, raffle winner.



From left: RLACEI Board Members (and Club Members) Tom Stemmnock, Phil Skarin, and Michael Karsch.

RLACEI HOLIDAY PARTY

Thursday, Dec. 1, Noon

Friendship Auditorium,
3201 Riverside Drive

You're Invited!

The RLACEI's annual Christmas Party and Installation of Officers is scheduled for noon Thursday, Dec. 1 at the Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles. There will be a light lunch (sandwiches, salad and drinks), entertainment and valuable door prizes. You must make reservations at least a week ahead: (800) 678-4145, x701. Guests welcome. Call one of the officers on the Retirees Helpline. Free taxi service can take you from the parking lot to the lodge.



From left: Ed Harding, President of RLACEI, Club Member; and Hal Danowitz, currently the Secretary/Treasurer of RLACEI and *Alive!* columnist, 35 years of City service, Club Member.

RLACEI/LACERS

A Combined Meeting

RLACEI, LACERS hold joint fall meeting that includes health fair, election of officers.



Raffle winner.

Ken Spiker, LACERS Commissioner and First Vice President, RLACEI.



Story and photos by Debbie Schroyer, Club Counselor

On Oct. 6, the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) and Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System (LACERS), the City's pension division, held a joint fall meeting. The event, which included a LACERS health fair and the election of RLACEI officers, took place at the Friendship Auditorium.

Retirees from all Departments from the City gathered to visit the vendor booths and collect health information. The fair was followed by a wonderful lunch. RLACEI concluded the afternoon with official business, including electing Officers for the upcoming year, and a raffle with lots of winners!

Special thanks to RLACEI's Mary Beetz for her assistance.



Partab Ramsinghani, City Planner, 37 years of City service, Club Member, and raffle winner.



Dorothy Tamashiro, Controller's office, 36 years of City service, Club Member and raffle winner.



Neil Ricci announced nominees for the election of RLACEI Officers.



RLACEI officers, back, from left: Hal Danowitz, Tom Stemmnock, Gary Mattingly, Americo Garza, Michael Wilkinson, and Neil Ricci. Front: Ed Harding, Robert Larios, the Club's Director of Operations, and Mary Beetz.



From left: Shirley Roy, City Clerk's Office and Public Works/Sanitation, 30 years of City service, Club Member; and Carol Mullen, Rec and Parks, 32 years.



From left: Josie and Jim Campbell, Rec and Parks, 40 years of City service, Club Member; and Phil Ord, Rec and Parks, 36 years.



From left: RLACEI President Ed Harding, Club Member, with Robert Larios, the Club's Director of Operations, are anxious to announce the raffle winners.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

Happy Thanksgiving.

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes;

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears;

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean;

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth;

Count on your faith instead of yourself.