



For Retired Club Members

The Best Years



By Mary Beetz,
RLACEI Publicity Chair

RLACEI:

Lunch But No Meeting Ends Joint Experiment

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:
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**

President Ed Harding reports:

2010 Club Excellence
Award Recipient



Ed Harding

"No sooner did I congratulate Commissioner Jerry Bardwell after the mayor reappointed him LACERS' Commissioner for the second term, when later I was informed the Commissioners elected him Vice President. Congratulations again, Jerry.

"I also would like to congratulate Commissioner Rick Rogers, who was elected President to fill the vacancy left by Roberta Conroy. Rick has always been a good friend of ours.

"Last but not least, I would like

to thank LACERS for including us in their medical seminars, and for the joint meeting we had in October. We will continue to attend their seminars, but we will discontinue the joint meetings. At the October LACERS' Open Enrollment meeting and RLACEI general meeting, more than 200 retirees attended. However, after LACERS' part of the meeting (open enrollment), more than 100 retirees took a box lunch purchased by RLACEI and went

home, not staying for RLACEI'S general meeting. Therefore, until we find a way to keep most of our retirees at both sessions, we will discontinue the joint meetings.

"I'm looking forward to seeing retired members at our holiday party Dec. 1, held at the Friendship Auditorium on Riverside Drive. This change is necessary because Grace Simons Lodge was too small for the number of retirees we had at last year's holiday party."

Legislative Report by Michael Karsch:



Michael Karsch

"San Francisco pension reform, California reform, and the Minnesota rate of return: The City and County of San Francisco had two hotly contested pension reforms on the Nov. 8 ballot, one by Mayor Ed Lee and the unions, and one by Public Defender Adachi. The former won. Both sought to shave down the costs of their pension system by increasing the active city employees' wage contributions for their pension. The mayor's plan will increase those wage deductions, but not as much as the competing measure. Over ten years, the Adachi measure would have saved about \$400 million more than the successful measure.

"Governor Jerry Brown's pension overhaul, which seeks to raise the retirement age from 55 to 67, and to combine a 402(k) savings

plan with a reduced defined benefit plan, will be considered by a legislative committee Dec. 1. His package of reforms will have to be approved by the voters, which could go the ballot no sooner than November 2012. His proposal would go through the legislature and then to the general election ballot next year. The Legislative Analyst's Office reported that much of the governor's proposals face considerable legal hindrances, making success of the proposals 'very difficult, perhaps impossible' to do by legislative action alone, as opposed to constitutional amendment by the voters.

"In Los Angeles, in October, our pension board struggled with the issue of changing its annual performance assumptions for its investments. Many pension systems

across the country are looking at the typical 8 percent rate of return and considering a lowering of that expectation, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. Minnesota was highlighted for its high rate of 8.5 percent, as was the Illinois Teachers' Retirement System. When a pension fund lowers its rate of return, then the contributing members, whether cities, counties or school districts, must then contribute more money annually to make up for the loss in investment returns. When Minnesota saw a decline in expected returns, it cut back on pension benefits and increased contributions to the fund from employees. The state legislature also reduced cost-of-living increases for retired public workers until the funding level of the pension system improves."

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. For information on problems, activities, meetings or membership. Each officer's extension is listed below.

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
• Michael Wilkinson	Ext. 712

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

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 Stenmcock: Audit
Tom Stenmcock and Phil Skarin: Golf

Directors

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



The impressive Chicago skyline.



Hal with Marilyn.

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



By Hal Danowitz,
Secretary, RLACEI

A Windy City Wedding

Hal and Evelyn make quick work of Chicago for a family wedding.

Last spring I received an email from my cousin who lives in Champaign, Ill., with a save-the-date request for his son Joel's wedding in Chicago over the July 15-17 weekend. I marked it on our calendar and really didn't know if we would go or not. We were already going to the Hamptons for the Fourth of July, and I didn't know if we wanted to travel again so soon. When I found out that Evelyn and I would be the only other attendees from our side of the family, we decided to go. The fact that they were closing the 405 Freeway that weekend (the so-called "Carnageddon;" remember that?) helped make up our minds.

I booked our flights on Southwest, leaving Friday morning and returning Sunday afternoon. We flew into Midway Airport, which is closer to downtown Chicago and much easier to navigate than O'Hare International Airport.

I enjoyed the flight on Southwest much more than on our flight on America two weeks earlier; it had better leg room and as many snacks as I wanted.

Chicago is the third largest city in the United States, with a population of nearly three million people in the city proper, and more than eight million in the metro area.

Chicago's first permanent resident was a trader who came here in the late 1770s. In 1795, the U.S. government built Fort Dearborn at what is now the corner of Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive (look for the bronze markers in the pavement). It was burned to the ground by Native Americans in 1812, rebuilt and demolished in 1857.

Incorporated as a city in 1837, Chicago was ideally situated to take advantage of the trading possibilities created by the nation's westward expansion. The completion of the Illinois & Michigan Canal in 1848 created a water link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River, but the canal was soon rendered obsolete by railroads. Today, 50 percent of U.S. rail freight continues to pass through Chicago, even as the city has become the nation's busiest aviation center, thanks to O'Hare and Midway International airports.

The wedding guests all stayed at the Westin Chicago River North, and before I left Los Angeles I checked to see what was the best way to get from the airport to the hotel. I found that it was possible to take the Chicago rapid transit system – the 'L' for elevated trains – but I didn't think Evelyn would have been too happy. So we took a taxi to the hotel.

We had a nice room overlooking the Chicago River, and we relaxed until we met everyone in the lobby to go to dinner. The dinner was a Pequod's (2207 N. Clybourn Ave.), a very well known pizza restaurant serving Chicago deep-dish pizza. I like pizza and I don't care if it is thin crust, regular crust or deep dish as long as it has pepperoni and cheese. I'm not a big fan of the designer pizza. This restaurant served both regular crust and deep dish, but when I found olives under the pepperoni I was not impressed.

The wedding was Saturday evening, so we had all of Saturday to sightsee. We had stopped here in 2008 on our road trip to my 50th high school reunion in Lansing, Mich. When our friends heard that we were going to Chicago, everyone suggested that we take the Chicago Architecture River Cruise. We were only a short walk from the cruise area, and along the way we stopped at Starbucks for breakfast.

That weekend was the unveiling of 26-foot-tall sculpture of Marilyn Monroe in her most famous pose as she appeared in *The Seven-Year Itch* on Chicago's Magnificent Mile. We stopped to take pictures with the other tourists. The Marilyn Monroe statue is scheduled to stand until next spring.

The architecture of Chicago has influenced and reflected the history of American architecture. The city of Chicago features prominent buildings in a variety of styles by many important architects. Since most buildings downtown were destroyed (the most famous exception being the Water Tower) by the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, Chicago buildings are noted for their originality rather than their antiquity.

Beginning in the early 1880s, architectural pioneers of the Chicago School explored steel-frame construction and, in the 1890s, the use of large areas of plate glass. These were among the first modern skyscrapers.

Louis Sullivan was perhaps the city's



Cousin Chuck and Evelyn.



most philosophical architect. Realizing that the skyscraper represented a new form of architecture, he discarded historical precedent and designed buildings that emphasized their vertical nature. This new form of architecture became known as the Commercial Style, but it is called the Chicago School by later historians.

There are a number of companies that offer cruises, but we picked the Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise because that was the first one we saw. The cost was \$35 for the 90-minute cruise. We had a very knowledgeable guide, and it was very interesting to see the change in building designs over the decades of the last 150 years. The river itself has a very interesting history. The Chicago River runs 156 miles, flowing through Chicago, including downtown (the Chicago Loop). Though not especially long, the river is notable for being the reason why Chicago became an important location, as the link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley waterways. In the 19th century through civil engineering, the flow of the river was reversed to head toward the Mississippi River basin, away from Lake Michigan, into which it previously emptied. This was done for reasons of sanitation. The river is also noted for the local custom of dyeing it green on St. Patrick's Day. It looked green to us without the food coloring.

That evening we attended the wedding at Fulton's on the River, which was just across the street from the hotel. The wedding was very nice, and following the ceremony there was a cocktail hour and then dinner.

The next morning the family met for breakfast before everyone left for home.

Both Evelyn and I were glad we went. It is important to keep in contact with family, and we certainly enjoyed our short time in Chicago. I think that Chicago has as much to offer the visitor as New York City and should be on everyone's list to visit.

The best part was, after we landed at LAX at about 3 p.m., we found out that the closing of the 405 was over and we had a very quick drive home.

For Retired Club Members



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“My Christmas List”



By Phil Skarin

At this time of the year
 We go to parties
 And put up Christmas trees
 With lots of decorations
 We give each other presents.
 The more expensive they are,
 The greater is our friendship.
 But one of the most valued gifts
 We could give to others
 Is our time.
 time to listen quietly
 time to make them feel special
 time to share their joys and sorrows
 time for them to feel loved.
 When I make my Christmas List
 My number one request will be for
 A little of
 Your time.

Poetry Contest

Deadline: Jan. 15, 2012

Let's start 2012 by honoring Phil Skarin, former RLACEI Publicity Chairman for more than 16 years, with a “Phil Skarin Poetry Contest.” Winner will receive \$25.

Submit all poems to Mary Beetz by email at mbeetz4841@aol.com or general mail to 137 Westmont Dr., Alhambra, CA 91801. Deadline: Jan. 15, 2012!

LACERS Update



By Mary Beetz, RLACEI Publicity Chair

“Medicare Part B: To qualify for and continue to receive a medical plan premium subsidy from LACERS, you and your eligible dependents are required to enroll in Medicare Part B upon turning age 65. If you're eligible to receive Medicare Part A free, you are also required to enroll in it. Failure to meet this LACERS Medicare enrollment requirement or being delinquent in your Medicare Part B premium payments may result in the termination of your medical subsidy and plan coverage.

“If you are a California resident and have both Medicare Parts A and B, you have more medical plan options when you turn age 65. You can choose from the Anthem Blue Cross PPO Medicare Supplement Plan (being changed to the Anthem Blue Cross Medicare Advantage LPPO (Medicare Preferred PPO plan beginning Jan. 1), Kaiser Senior Advantage HMO, SCAN HMO, or UnitedHealthcare HMO (formerly Secure Horizons). You will receive an information packet from LACERS on how to enroll in Medicare and a LACERS Senior plan approximately three months before you turn 65.

“Kaiser Changes Plan: LACERS was recently informed of a new plan design

change affecting Kaiser Permanente members. Beginning Jan. 1, Kaiser Permanente will honor eye care prescriptions from non-Kaiser Permanente doctors at all Kaiser Permanente Optical Centers.

“LACERS Reminders:

- Any health plan changes made during LACERS Open Enrollment period will become effective Jan. 1;
- Plan design changes affecting LACERS health plans in 2012 go into effect Jan. 1; and
- Any 2012 monthly health plan premium deduction will begin with your December 2011 LACERS retirement allowance.

“FORM 1099-R: LACERS will mail Retired Members their IRS Form 1099-R (Distribution from Pensions, Annuities, Retirement, etc.) by the end of January. Members who do not receive a 1099-R by Feb. 15 should contact LACERS to request a new one. Regenerating a 1099-R may require a few working days to process. Retirees who recently moved should contact LACERS to update their address information to ensure that they receive their 1099-Rs on time.”

LAPD

Rampart Says Thanks

Rampart Police Station thanks civilian employees for their dedication.



Story and photos by Jackie Causillas, Club Counselor

LAPD's Rampart Police Station showed its appreciation of its civilian employees by hosting a barbecue Oct. 27. It included carne asada and chocolate cake that were enjoyed by all. The event was held throughout the day to assure all shifts could enjoy the celebration.

Thanks go to Susie Gras, Club Member, for inviting us.



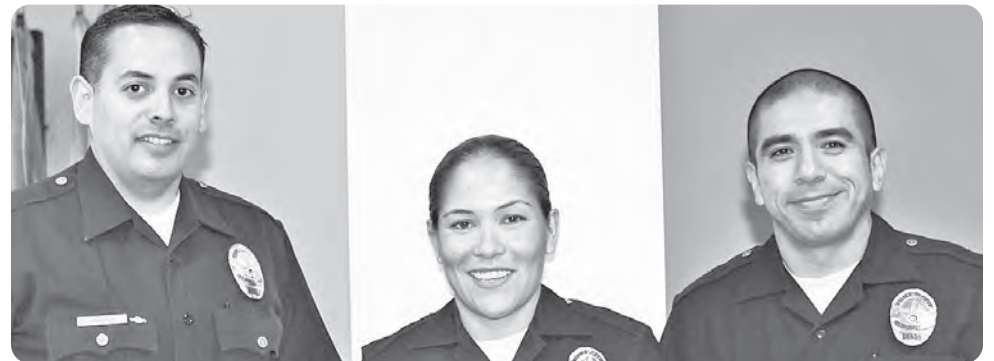
From left: Sr. Lead Officer Lewis Ford, 22 years of City service; and Sr. Lead Officer Vic Gutierrez, 23 years, Club Member.



From left: Sr. Lead Officer Susie Gras, Club Member; and Sr. Lead Officer Patty Braendle.



The cake!



From left: Officer II Philip Zalba, 9 years of City service; Officer II Nellie Knight, 4 years; and Officer II Antonio Hernandez, 9 years, Club Member.



From left: Terry De Ridder, Equipment Mechanic, 3 years of City service, Club Member; and Harvey Castro, Garage Attendant, 22 years, Club Member.



From left: Salvador Hernandez, Custodian, 6 years of City service; Akia Lindo, Clerk Typist, 3 years; and Gregory Wheatley, Custodian, 25 years, Club Member.



Sr. Lead Officer Justin Stewart, 16 years of City service, Club Member.



From left: Det. I, Ray Martinez, 17 years of City service; and Sr. Lead Officer John Wolfe, 17 years of City service.



Top row, from left: Terry Price, Police Service Representative, 9 years of City service, Club Member; and Martha Castaneda, Principal Clerk, 31 years, Club Member. Bottom: Rosalyn V. Davis, Police Service Representative, 15 years, Club Member; and Coleen Rodriguez, Clerk Typist, 5 years.



From left: Sgt. Demian Wyma, 16 years of City service, Club Member; and Capt. Gina Sanders, 31 years.