



For Retired Club Members

# The Best Years

## CITY RETIREE ASSOCIATIONS

### Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ed Harding, *RLACEI President*  
www.rlacei.com  
Contact him: (800) 678-4145 Ext. 703  
E-mail: edwardjharding@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 Mary Beetz, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 711.

### Retiree Upcoming Events

Call (800) 678-4145 • Ext. 701 for reservations

- June 1:** DWP Retirees Association picnic, Whittier Narrows – Meadows area
- June 6:** RLACEI golf tournament, Alhambra Golf Course
- Aug. 8:** RLACEI picnic, Grace E. Simons Lodge
- Sept. 19:** RLACEI annual corporation meeting and elections, Friendship Auditorium
- Dec. 5:** RLACEI holiday party, Friendship Auditorium

#### RLACEI Website

Hal Danowitz asks you to visit the RLACEI Website at [www.rlacei.com](http://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 202 W. First Street, Suite 500, (LA Times Building), Los Angeles, CA 90012. Hours: 8AM–5PM. 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. [www.lacers.org](http://www.lacers.org)

#### DWP Retirees Association



Dolores Foley, *President*  
Phone: (626) 445-7376  
E-mail: [vincedolores@gmail.com](mailto:vincedolores@gmail.com)  
[www.dwpretirees.org](http://www.dwpretirees.org)

#### Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)



Bill Quinn, *President*  
Phone: (323) 283-4441  
Fax: (626) 285-1461  
9521 Las Tunas Dr. #4,  
Temple City, CA 91780  
[www.larfpa.org](http://www.larfpa.org)

## RLACEI

### Healthcare Reform Talk at General Meeting a Success

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



Ed Harding

By Ed Harding,  
RLACEI President

I am proud to announce that the presentation April 11 on healthcare reform, also known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA), was a total success. The talk took place at our April general meeting.

Almost 200 retirees attended. The survey sheet we passed out afterwards received positive written comments, including:

- “Enjoyed this presentation very much.”

■ “It was clear, hopefully no changes made by effective year 2014.”

■ “Retirees need to be kept in the ‘loop.’ RLACEI thank you for this presentation.”

■ “RLACEI, we need more meetings of this type. Thank you.”

■ “Alex did an excellent in reinforcing our continued medical care.”

I wish to thank the speakers Herb K. Schultz, Kenneth Reiff and Carmella Gutierrez for taking

time from their busy schedules to speak on a topic of concern as the Affordable Care Act.

Thank you, Director Phil Orland, for your efforts in arranging these speakers for our general meeting. A special thanks, too, to Alex Rebrenovich, Division Manager, LACERS Health Benefits and Communication, and staff for assisting RLACEI in setting up this presentation.

See you at the 35th annual golf tournament June 6.



Michael Karsch

#### RLACEI Legislative Report – Pension Law and Policy by Michael Karsch

**Pension Reforms:** Recent reforms by various public agencies of their retirement systems seem to be bearing fruit and overcoming the financial crisis of recent years. The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College reported in March that they had reviewed 32 pension plans in 15 states and found that most of them had “fully offset or more than offset the impact of the financial crisis.” Costs could even fall below pre-crisis levels, the report added.

The state of New Mexico is enacting its long-term reform of its pension system by reducing yearly cost-of-living adjustments for pension benefits from three percent to two percent, according to BusinessWeek.com. Such cost-of-living adjustments are

currently available to a retiree after two years of retirement; the reform would stretch that period to seven years. Lastly, the reform has a “Rule of 85.” The combined years of work and the age at retirement equaling or exceeding 85, thereby entitling the retiree to his full pension. Using myself as an example, I was 63 when I retired after 31 years of City service: 63 plus 31 equals 94, well above 85. Less than 85 would mean a reduced pension.

Wisconsin has a fully funded pension system for all of its public retirees. When its fund’s investments go down, the return to retirees also sees a reduction. When the fund is making more money, a bonus is given to retirees (the bonus was 17 percent in 1999). This year, however, the fund will recoup some of its losses from the prior five years of recession and reduce pension paychecks by up to 13 percent below last year. The former chief investment officer for the

Pennsylvania State Employees’ Retirement System, Peter Gilbert, observed that “this is a good demonstration that defined benefit plans can work and they should not be written off,” according to the *Institutional Investor*.

My last example is San Francisco as covered by [SFXaminer.com](http://SFXaminer.com). In 2011, the voters in that city approved Proposition C requiring employees to contribute more toward their pensions, as the city was also doing, but the city pension costs still exceeded \$500 million in the next fiscal year. The city contribution rate for the pension system was 20.71 percent of payroll in 2012-13; for next fiscal year, that rate will rise to 24.82 percent. The employee rates of contribution vary, but generally will rise to 11.14 percent of payroll from the base rates of seven percent to eight percent. So both the employer (the city, or the taxpayers) and the employees are paying more.



Michael R. Wilkinson

#### RLACEI Law and Policy Issues by Michael R. Wilkinson

**Wall St. Smacked by Judge in Stockton Case:** U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Christopher Klein pummeled Wall Street creditors in the Stockton bankruptcy case, finding that they had acted in bad faith by walking out of negotiations on the city’s debt and rejected their claims that the city was not really broke. The creditors, in particular insurers of the city’s bonds, had earlier left talks and refused to pay their share of negotiation fees because the plan did not include cutting payments to the state pension plan, CalPERS.

CalPERS had argued that it is not in the same position as the other creditors and is owed the regular contribution payments for the city workers, even in a bankruptcy. Other municipal bankruptcy cases in California have not attempted to take any action against pensions, believing that statutory and constitutional protections would trump bankruptcy law.

The *Los Angeles Times* quoted an attorney who helped draft the mediation requirement before filing for Chapter 9 (municipal bankruptcy) protection, as promising, “Now the stage is set for the real dogfight.”

The fight will be closely watched by cities throughout the country, since a key issue has never faced a court deci-

sion. The issue is whether the promise under both statutes and the United States and California Constitution protects retirement plans even when bondholders may have to accept losses in a bankruptcy. Outside lawyers representing LACERS have assured the plan that the law protects plan assets even in a bankruptcy.

While this round went to CalPERS and everyone who believes public pensions cannot be reduced in a bankruptcy, it is clear that this is not the last word. Judge Klein said, “There are very complex and difficult questions of law that I can see out there on the horizon.” Read between the lines: CalPERS may yet have to take a haircut and end up having its contributions cut. Stay tuned.

## LACERS Update



Mary Beetz

By Mary Beetz,  
RLACEI Publicity Chair

### Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2013

By May of each year, the Board is required to determine the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Los Angeles area in order to provide a COLA to eligible retirees. The Administrative Code states that the COLA cannot exceed 3% annually.

When the CPI is greater than 3%, the difference is "banked" for future years. When the CPI is less than 3%, LACERS can then use available "banked" amounts to increase the COLA to the maximum 3%. Just how much of a COLA a retired Member will receive depends on their retirement date and how much is "banked" from previous years.

In 2013, the CPI for the Los Angeles area is 2%. The Board of Administration adopted the cost-of-living-adjustments for eligible retired members and beneficiaries at their February 12, 2013 meeting. This COLA will be effective July 1, 2013.

### LACERS' Well – Find Your Balance Campaign has Begun – Mix It Up – Online Nutrition Program

LACERS and Health Works by Kaiser Permanente have teamed up to bring retirees a brand new challenge as part of the LACERS Well wellness program. It is an online nutrition program called *Mix It Up*. Participants may register online by visiting the LACERS Well webpage at [lacers.org/lacerswell](http://lacers.org/lacerswell). Those who register by July 16, and meet the reward program criteria, can earn a \$50 Visa reward card. Membership with Kaiser is not necessary to participate in this program. The first 500 participants to log in to *Mix It Up* for 28 consecutive days will also receive a prize.

### LACERS In Motion – Fitness Program

Anthem Blue Cross will sponsor LACERS in Motion, a free fitness program for LACERS' retirees, their beneficiaries, and their spouses or domestic partners registered for LACERS' Well. LACERS in Motion may include yoga, stretching, strength training, Tai Chi and/or Zumba. These fitness programs will take place at centrally located venues within Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties starting in August 2013, and will run until December 2013. Membership in Anthem Blue Cross is not necessary to participate. Anthem will launch the program at a LACERS' Well Workshop on July 18, 2013.

*Retirees who did not attend the "Health Care Reform" workshop on April 11th and wish to obtain material handed out, please contact LACERS at (800) 779-8328. Be prepared to give them your address or your email.*

## LACERS

## For Retired Club Members

# The Best Years

## RETIREMENT HELPLINE

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
- Cliff Cannon Ext. 715
- Hal Danowitz Ext. 707
- Americo Garza Ext. 710
- Edward Harding Ext. 703
- Michael Karsch Ext. 704
- Gary Mattingly Ext. 702
- Phillip Orland Ext. 709
- Neil Ricci Ext. 714
- Helen Salgado (membership) Ext. 713
- Ken Spiker Ext. 705
- Tom Stemmcock Ext. 708
- Michael Wilkinson Ext. 712
- Questions: Ext. 0
- RSVP: Ext. 701

**DWP Retirement Plan Office** (213) 367-1722

## RLACEI:

### Officers

Edward Harding: President  
Kenneth Spiker: First Vice President  
Tom Stemmcock: Second Vice President  
Hal Danowitz: Secretary/Treasurer

### Committee Chairpersons

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

### Directors

Mary Beetz  
Cliff Cannon  
Americo Garza  
Michael Karsch  
Gary Mattingly  
Phillip Orland  
Neil Ricci  
Helen Salgado  
Michael R. Wilkinson



## Life After Retirement



### As a reminder:

If you have news about yourself, family or other retirees that you would like to share with our readers, send it and we will publish it.

If you would like to contact a former city employee that you met

or worked with, send your contact information and we will publish it so they can contact you.

**Note:** Due to our Confidential Policy, we do not give out any information without authorization.

### Mail information to:

Mary Beetz at  
137 Westmont Drive,  
Alhambra, CA, 91801  
or Email  
[mbeetz4841@aol.com](mailto:mbeetz4841@aol.com)

## 2 Upcoming Issues To Impact Retirees



Lee Kebler

By Lee Kebler,  
LARFPA Director

There are two issues that may have significant effect for our retirees. The first one is how will President Obama's budget affect our members? During the presentation it was mentioned that there will be changes in how the Consumer Price Index is calculated for Social Security. Is this going to cause changes in our members Cost of Living Adjustments? Then, we have to be concerned how the changes in

Medicare will affect the healthcare subsidies we receive. Unfortunately, we will have to wait until Congress deliberates and adopts a final budget to see what changes we have to live with.

The second item is the mayoral election in Los Angeles on May 21. Both candidates, Eric Garcetti and Wendy Greuel, are qualified and skilled politicians and agree on many issues that confront the City. They are different in their priorities and on how to confront and manage the City's problems. At a recent face-to-face debate, the moderator

gave each candidate 10 seconds to name their top priority if elected mayor. Wendy Greuel said it would be the traffic problem because everybody in the City is affected by the traffic. Eric Garcetti said he would fix pensions. The choice is yours. Don't forget to vote.

If any of you want to enjoy a good pancake breakfast, there will be one on Fire Service Day, May 11, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Fire Museum in Hollywood. The museum is at 1355 N. Cahuenga Blvd. in Hollywood.

## LARFPA

# PLAY BALL!

## Dodgers, Angels Tickets: Select Games.

– SEE PAGE 21

# The Best Years

## For Retired Club Members

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



By Hal Danowitz, Secretary, RLACEI

## Unusual Coffins, And a Birthday

Hal and Co. continue their cruise from Cape Town to England.

PART SEVEN



Evelyn and I took a 38-day trip, which included four days at the Botlierskop Safari Resort near George, South Africa; a 28-day cruise on the *Ocean Princess* from Cape Town, South Africa, to London; and four days in London at the end. Don and Myrna, our cousins, took the cruise with us.

The itinerary was as follows: Cape Town; Lüderitz and Walvis Bay, Namibia; Cotonou, Benin; Lome, Togo; Dakar, Senegal; Mindelo, Cape Verde Islands; Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands; Casablanca, Morocco; Cadiz, Spain; Lisbon, Portugal; Le Havre, France; and Dover, England.

As we continue the story, we arrived in Tema, the port for Accra, the capital of Ghana.

Our tour that day included: the Nkrumah Mausoleum, the final resting place of the African leader and the first President of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah; the National Museum; and the local Arts and Crafts Center. The ride from Tema to Accra takes about an hour without traffic or, in our case, with a police escort. There were two buses in our group, and each had a motorcycle escort the whole time. We never stopped for a traffic light; we drove on the wrong side of a divided road (into oncoming traffic); and we managed to make the South Korean envoy pull over to let us pass. The envoy even had the South Korean flags flying from the fenders of the black sedan. It was quite an experience.

Ghana is a step up from Togo and Benin – much more economically advanced, though people were still selling along the streets. We didn't see a lot of garbage in the streets, and I even saw a trash truck. There were lots of cars, a few motorbikes and fewer bicycles. Our bus had working air conditioning, which was nice. We purchased a few things at the art and craft center and we learned to bargain better. The Mausoleum and National Museum were interesting. The monument to Nkrumah was very impressive and the buildings were well built and maintained. There seemed to be a good-size middle class in Ghana.

We stopped at La Palm Beach Hotel for a rest break. We were told that drinks, water, beer, or soda would be \$2. We had trouble convincing the bartender, and when we finally got that straightened out, he didn't want to take \$1 bills. We were told that they get a better rate of exchange for larger bills, the idea being that if our drink was \$2, then we gave them at least a \$5 and they gave us \$3 back. That was enough to make us dizzy, and we doubted the front office knew anything about the scheme. Someone on our bus took all the U.S. dollar bills and gave them bigger bills. Interesting; I guess there is always an angle.

Our last stop was very strange, a place that makes coffins – in the shape of a beer can, a Coke bottle, and other things or occupations. You could order whatever you wanted. Evelyn was thinking of a coffin in the shape of a TV remote for Hal for the distant future.

We returned to the ship around 1 p.m. Our next three days were to be at sea, followed by the next port, Dakar, Senegal.

We had some excitement while sailing: two couples went missing. Everyone was to be on board by 5:30 p.m., and the ship usually sailed at 6 p.m. At 5:30 the ship started making announcements every 15 minutes about these two couples. To exit and enter the ship you must insert your cruise card in a reader, which records if you are aboard. So the ship knew who was on board and who wasn't. If they start calling your name, you know there is a problem. The ports required the ship to leave on schedule because of the scheduling of the pilots and the need for dock space. Ships pay to dock, and the timing and scheduling is a ballet for a busy port. Any delay can cost money, not just for the ship but for the passengers.



Hal with our tour's motorcycle escort.



The Nkrumah Mausoleum.

It is expensive to have the pilot boat take you to the ship or, even worse, have to fly to the next port. As the ship holds all the passports, that means a stop at the American Embassy, too. (We found out later that the ship gives your passport to the port officials.) Anyway, these two couples showed up a few minutes after 6 p.m. and made it on board. All of us on the gangway side waived from our balconies and gave them a round of applause. My guess is they were held up by traffic and didn't estimate the drive time.

We went up to the lounge reserved for



Coffins in the shape of a beer can and a Coke bottle.

suite passengers and enjoyed an adult beverage, and then had dinner in the buffet.

That evening's show was Mathew Fallon, a hypnotist. Don volunteered to go on stage but was not put under. That is code for not being a good subject. They started with seven volunteers, and only three were actually put under. It was an okay show, but I would have liked more action by the subjects. Despite the hypnotist saying no one would be embarrassed or humiliated, when Myrna said something to one of the subjects the next day, the poor woman turned around and walked away.

We sailed west before turning north toward Senegal. It was a beautiful day, with calm seas, a clear sky and a temperature in the high 80s, but muggy.

I read the clock wrong that morning, and we ended getting up at 6 a.m. instead of what I thought was 7 a.m. I sat on the balcony looking for other ships, and I saw a few. We were doing more than 17 knots, much faster than we had done the last couple of days.

The running track required 13 turns around deck 10 to make a mile. On the sea days, Evelyn tried to get some exercise. That day she ran three miles. The fitness center was pretty busy in the mornings, so the track was easier.

That day was just a normal sea day: breakfast, bridge lesson, trivia (we came in second), lunch, bridge (we came in fifth out of six), Friday services, dinner in the dining room (it was a formal night), music listening in the Casino Lounge, and then one of the best piano players ever – Hyperion Knight, a wonderful concert pianist. We couldn't wait for his next show.

*It was Hal's birthday, and I started the day with a card for him. The ship decorated the front doors of the cabin with birthdays or anniversaries, so all of our neighbors wished him a happy birthday.* – Evelyn

It was raining when we woke, but by the time we got on deck the sun had come out. I spent some time in the gym on a bike, and Evelyn walked the track.

For my birthday,

we went to the steakhouse for dinner. Other than that, our day was the normal sea day.

There was no Internet service at that time, and I didn't know what the problem was. We finished our bridge lesson for the day and hung out in the Tahitian lounge waiting for trivia.

The *Ocean Princess* is a small cruise ship, at just more than 30,000 tons; most of the ships are three times larger. It carries just more than 600 passengers and a crew of 350. It is small enough to find your way around, but with enough space to let you be alone if you wanted. There is a salt pool and two freshwater Jacuzzis. The ship includes a casino, with blackjack, three-card poker, and roulette. The casino seemed to be getting a lot of business. You didn't even need

cash, just a cruise card to play. The dining room was on deck five, and it had a bar just outside of it. Between the dining and the showroom, there were shops and the casino bar. In the evening there was always entertainment in the casino lounge.

Besides the bridge and trivia, there were daily dance classes, exer-

cise classes, arts and crafts, ceramic painting and other activities. There was also a series of lectures either on the ports we were to visit or on the history of the various areas. There were enough choices that I could always find something to do if I wanted. That being a long cruise, most of the passengers were older, but very active. With only 600 passengers on board, we pretty much met everyone. There were even people we had met on other cruises.

We had drinks at the suite party and dinner in the steakhouse. The service was great and the food was a step up from the regular dining room. I paced myself: I ate the appetizer, a very good scallop's dish; a third of a very tasty blue onion soup, and about two-thirds of my rib eye. I passed on dessert, but a birthday cake and song were delivered to the table. The "Chef's Table" activity was going on also, so the head *maitre 'd* came by our table to say hello and check on the food. We spent about two hours there. Evelyn noticed that the dessert they served at the Chef's Table was the same one we had at our last Chef's Dinner on this ship last year. She was not interested in doing it again. We guessed that the rest of the menu was probably the same.

By the time we finished, it was past our normal bedtime, but because it was a special occasion we stayed up for the show, which was the ship's company singing and dancing many famous movie songs. The crew did great job and was very entertaining.

Next month, I'll report on our stay in Senegal.



Evelyn by the pool at our rest stop, the La Palm Beach Hotel.



Don, Myrna, Evelyn and Hal at the birthday party.

RETIREES:

For Retired Club Members

# Enjoy These Great Member Benefits

As a member of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles, you'll enjoy these amazing benefits:



**City Employees Club of Los Angeles**

*Celebrating the Lives of City Employees*

**Full Club Membership**

Through June 2013, full Club Membership\*, including:

- **The cheapest tickets in the City – UP TO 70% OFF**
- Great Club apparel and gifts
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- Club-exclusive events
- E-mail notices about upcoming events and promotions
- Access to Club Website
- And much more!

\* After June 2013, members must join the Club and pay the regular (reduced) rate for City Retirees to retain Club benefits.

**The *Alive!* Newspaper**

Your own personal edition of *Alive!*, delivered to you each month. (Sent to all RLACEI members in good standing). Stay connected to RLACEI, and to all your Retired City friends, read about exciting City projects, take full advantage of free *Alive!* classifieds, and much more.

**For more information, contact the Club:**

- [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)
- [www.cityemployeesclub.com](http://www.cityemployeesclub.com)
- (800) 464-0452

## 35th Annual Retirees Invitational Golf Tournament



The 35th Annual Retired Los Angeles City Employees Invitational Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2013 at the Alhambra Municipal Golf Course with a "Shotgun Start" at 7:30 a.m. The course is located at 630 South Almansor 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 \$67 for R.L.A.C.E.I. and City Club Members (\$77 for all others) and includes green fees, carts, prizes and lunch at the Almansor 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 24th** to: Tom Stemnock, Chairman, 4040 Vineland Avenue, Suite 108, Studio City, CA 91604. For any questions, call Chairman Tom Stemnock at (818) 487-6789.

**2013 Golf Tournament Reservation Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Included \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$67 for R.L.A.C.E.I. and City Club Members (\$77 for all others)  
 Luncheon Only: \$25

**Make checks payable to R.L.A.C.E.I.**

**NOTICE: SOFT SPIKES MANDATORY!**

**FOURSOME**

	Member R.L.A.C.E.I.	Member City Club	Guest
	<b>(check all that apply)</b>		
Name			
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: Friday, May 24th. Mail completed reservation form and check to:  
**Tom Stemnock, Chairman**  
 4040 Vineland Avenue, Suite 108, Studio City, CA 91604 • (818) 487-6789



### Show Us Your Grandkids!

Retirees: *Alive!* wants to show off your grandkids! So send in those photos!

1. **Make sure to have the permission from their parents.** If you send in a photo, *Alive!* assumes you have already received that permission.
2. Photos with you in them are better, but if not, that's okay, too.
3. Make sure you list the names of your grandkids.
4. Tell us, in a sentence or two, a little bit about them – their school, their accomplishments, what they love to do, how proud you are of them, etc.
5. Digital photos are best! Send them to: [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)



Print photos can be sent to:  
*Grandkids*  
 City Employees Club of Los Angeles  
 120 West 2nd St.  
 Los Angeles, CA 90012  
 (800) 464-0452

If you want the print photo returned, make sure you write your name and phone number on the back.

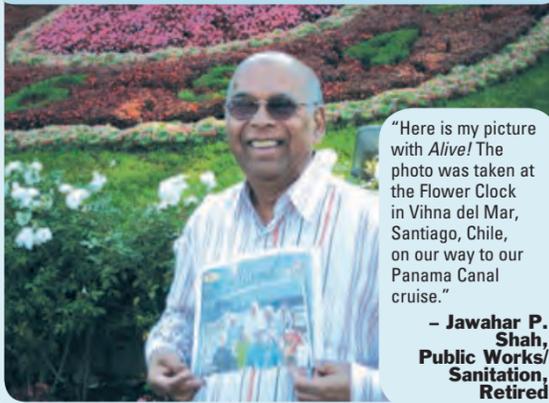


# The Best Years

## RETIREES AROUND THE WORLD



### 1 Chile



"Here is my picture with *Alive!* The photo was taken at the Flower Clock in Vihna del Mar, Santiago, Chile, on our way to our Panama Canal cruise."

– **Jawahar P. Shah,**  
Public Works/  
Sanitation,  
Retired

### 2 Bolivia



"These pictures are from my trip to Bolivia. The first is with my friend, Cesar, on Sun Island, Lake Titicaca, Bolivia. The second was taken on the roof of the San Francisco Monastery in La Paz."

– **Barbara LaRue,**  
Transportation, Retired

### 3 Southeast Asia



"Greetings. I just recently visited Thailand and Vietnam and took the Club with me, of course."

– **Elsie Reiley, DWP, Retired**



**Take the Club with you, wherever you go!**

Club members are a well-traveled bunch. Bring your recent copy of *Alive!* with you. Snap a **high resolution** photo with you **holding a copy**, send it in, and we'll publish it. Send to: [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)



## Club Featured Businesses

The *Alive!* newspaper is mailed to over 30,000 recipients each month throughout Los Angeles and beyond. The *Alive!* is also viewable digitally from all over the world. If you would like to feature your business below, please contact the Club at [info@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:info@cityemployeesclub.com) to start your ad placement right away!

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SOLAR CANOPIES - SOLAR FARMS  
[WWW.CLEANYOURSOLAR.COM](http://WWW.CLEANYOURSOLAR.COM)

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# The Best Years

## Retirements

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City this month. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS
Alexander, Dean M.	Traffic Officer II	Transportation	22	Frazier, Curtis L.	Custodian	Airports	31	Moore, Wayne	Asst. Gen. Mng.	Transportation	14
Alexander, Dorothy J.	Sr. Constr. Inspector	Airports	23	Garcia, Stella	Sr. Clerk Typist	LAPD	27	Nazel, Reginald P.	Park Maint. Supv.	Rec and Parks	17
Allen, Stacy K.	Tel. Plan Util. Ofcr.	Harbor	31	Glasgow, Herbert H.	Ch. Airport Plan. II	Airports	34	Obregon, David M.	Painter II	General Services	34
Amanti, Jack S.	Comm. Exec. Asst. II	LACERS	31	Gomez, Sherry K.	Custodian	General Services	10	Oglesby Jr., Calvin A.	Housing Inspector	Housing	38
Anthony, Carlee	Ref. Coll. Truck Op. II	Public Works	24	Guerrero, Wilbert T.	Mech. Engr. As. III	Building & Safety	10	Olivera, David W.	Rec. Facility Director	Rec and Parks	12
Applebaum, Leonard	Dept. Ch. Acct. IV	General Services	44	Hinkle, David R.	Ref. Coll. Truck Op. II	Public Works	29	Ozawa, Susan J.	Sr. Labor Rel. Spec. II	CAO	25
Arnaiz, Linda D.	Mgmt. Analyst II	Transportation	30	Hsing, Gail J.	Work. Comp Analyst	Personnel	24	Pereyra, Andres O.	Main. Laborer	Public Works	10
Barry, Jeannette M.	City Atty. Invest. III	City Attorney	33	Hu, Kang	Sr. Trans. Engineer	Transportation	27	Perez, Martinian	Ref. Coll. Truck Op. II	Public Works	24
Bradley, Raebette O.	Pr. Clerk City Att. II	City Attorney	25	Jessup, Samuel E.	Asst. St. Light. Elect.	Public Works	23	Pongvarin, Suree	Equip. Mechanic	General Services	15
Burr, Henry A.	Deputy City Att. IV	City Attorney	19	Jett, Joanne F.	Police Service Rep	LAPD	21	Ricard, Patricia H.	Secretary	LAPD	35
Calderon, Sandra J.	Pr. Clerk	Airports	27	Johnson, Lloyd M.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	22	Roberts, Jr., Dewitt	Ch. Deputy Contr.	Controller's Office	1
Canales, Virgilia	Custodian	Airports	8	Lilly, Dianna M.	Asst. General Mng.	El Pbl. His. Mon.	5	Ross, Oleg	Clerk Typist	Library	34
Carroll, Shari A.	Animal Keeper	Zoo	6	Lin, Jinn J.	Sr. Eenvtl. Comp. Insp.	Public Works	23	Salazar, Victor S.	Spl. Prog. Asst. II	Rec and Parks	1
Cheng, Garland	City Planner	City Planning	36	Lujan, Ezequiel	Custodian	Airports	10	Scally, Eileen F.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst II	CDD	27
Chiba, Penny A.	Librarian III	Library	14	Mack, Darryl T.	Field Engr. Aide	Public Works	21	Schulman, David L.	Dep. City Att. IV	City Attorney	22
Coleman, Carl L.	Wwtr. Trt. Mch. II	Public Works	30	Mahony, Paul B.	Auto. Supervisor	General Services	13	Sloss, Michael	Per. Analyst II	Personnel	27
Cunningham, Ronald	PR Inspector	Housing	25	Maiale, Tove V.	Sr. Eenvtl. Comp. Insp.	Public Works	33	Sofelkanik, Victor R.	Deputy City Att. III	City Attorney	31
Daniels, James	Plumber Supervisor	Rec and Parks	25	Mariscal, Dan	Truck Opr./One Man	Public Works	23	Taylor, Dennis	Hvy. Dty. Trck. Opr.	Public Works	12
De Grandis, Deborah	Property Officer	LAPD	24	Marrero, Victor A.	Sr. Comm. Elect.	ITA	32	Tse, Teresa D.	Accounting Clerk II	LAFD	33
Delpasand, Morteza	Trans. Engineer	Transportation	32	Martinez, Luis	Spl. Prog. Asst. III	Rec and Parks	4	Valenzuela, Eduardo	Building Oper. Engr.	Airports	6
Dickey, Bill	Traffic Officer II	Transportation	31	Medina Jr., George	Wwtr. Trt. Mch. II	Public Works	30	Walters, Jon R.	Hvy. Dty. Eqp. Mech.	General Services	28
Dorsey, Tommy	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	14	Medof, Trina D.	Librarian III	Library	32	Watson, Ellen K.	Benefits Specialist	LACERS	13
Esguerra, Eleanor O.	Fiscal Sys. Spec. II	Public Works	30	Molles, Sheree L.	Clerk Typist	Building & Safety	13	Yanez, Raul M.	Equipment Operator	Public Works	27

### The Retiree Files

Tell Us What You Did... And What You're Up To!

Introducing *The Retiree Files*. Send in your bio and a photo, and we'll share them with your fellow retirees.

Send in your career bio – the impressive stuff you did as a City Employee, plus what you're doing now. Tell us about your family, too. Include a high-res photo, and we'll publish them in a new *Alive!* "Best Years" feature.

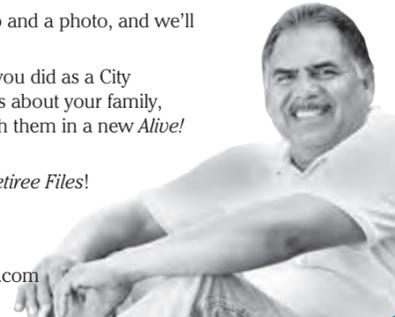
Go ahead... show off a little. Be part of *The Retiree Files!*



Send them to:

Subject: *The Retiree Files*

talkback@cityemployeesclub.com



"Ah... Hawaii."  
– Frankie Wong,  
Public Works/Sanitation,  
31 years of City service



"Seville, Spain!"  
– Mic Bacon, Housing,  
31 years of City service,  
Club Member



"Colorado! Colorado!  
Colorado!"  
– Fred Kong, Public  
Works, 32 years of City  
service, Club Member



"The place for us is Scandinavia."  
– Varsha and Jawahar Shah,  
Public Works/Sanitation, 34 years  
of City service, Club Member



"Los Angeles is the  
place to be!"  
– Ruth Kong



"I'm taking a vacation  
right now!"  
– Stephen Frelander,  
Building and Safety,  
Retired, 26 years of  
City service



"Vegas, baby!"  
– Henry Starks,  
Public Works/Street Services,  
38 years of City service,  
Club Member



"Laughlin. It's not far,  
but far enough."  
– Gilbert Hernandez,  
Public Works/Street  
Services, 38 years of  
City service



"There are two for me –  
the island of Mallorca,  
and Paris."  
– Rose Hyland,  
Controller's Office,  
28 years of City service,  
Club Board Member



"The only place in the world to have a  
real vacation is in the Philippines."  
– Imelda and Eliseo Zapata,  
Public Works/Engineering,  
25 years of City service

## Retirees Question of the Month:

# What's your favorite vacation spot?

# Club Scholarship Deadline June 28

Applications for Club Scholarship are available online and at the Club Store.  
**Deadline is noon, June 28, 2013.**

Pick up your application for the Joannie Mukai Memorial Club Scholarship at the Club Store, or download an application today! The Club's scholarship program is named after the late Club Board Member Joannie Mukai.

The 2013 Mukai Club Scholarship Program, which expects to grant 10 awards, is now accepting applications.

All materials must be turned in physically at the Club Store and Service Center downtown, 120 W. Second St. by noon, June 28, 2013.



Ashley Arikawa received a stipend last year as part of Club Angels' Mukai Scholarship Program.

The Club expects to give each recipient a stipend of at least \$500.

Those eligible include Club Members, their spouses and their children who are in college or will be attending an accredited college or university in Fall 2013.

"The Club loves recognizing excellence in our Club Members and their families," said John Hawkins, Club CEO. "The Club Scholarship Program reflects that commitment.

"Every year, we're amazed at the quality of the applicants. We expect this year to be every bit as good."

This year, the Club has rolled the Mukai Scholarship into the Club's Club Angels program, which reflects the scholarships' nature of giving back.

You can pick up an application at the Club Store and Service Center, 120 West 2nd St. downtown, or download an application at:

[www.cityemployeesclub.com/scholar.asp](http://www.cityemployeesclub.com/scholar.asp)

"We fully support the dedication of our Club families to taking care of the educational needs of themselves and their children," Hawkins continued.

"We want to help them in every way possible. We look forward to giving back."



Joannie Mukai.

### Eligibility requirements:

- All Club Members and their spouses, and children of Club members under the age 25, are eligible to apply. Club members must be in good standing.
- The successful candidate must attend an accredited four-year college or university full time in the fall semester 2013. Current high school seniors matriculating to a four-year school in Fall 2013 are eligible.
- Candidates will be judged for academic excellence, community service and financial need.
- Ten (10) scholarships are expected to be awarded, in equal amounts of at least \$500 (each).
- Deadline: Applications must be in the Club Store and Service Center, 120 W. Second St. downtown, by noon June 28, 2013. All applications must be physically in the Club office at that time to be eligible. Sorry, but the Club is not responsible for delays in delivery.
- Decisions will be made by Club personnel and will be considered final.
- Club Store and Service Center address: 120 West 2nd St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Send questions to:  
[scholarship@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:scholarship@cityemployeesclub.com)



Raven Burrell received a stipend last year as part of Club Angels' Mukai Scholarship Program.



Jacob Muñoz received a stipend last year as part of Club Angels' Mukai Scholarship Program.

## Club Scholarships... At Work

Mother of a past Club Scholarship winner thanks the Club for helping in the success of her daughter, Aryel.

By Tonja Bellard Evans, Personnel, Club Member

"Well, as you can see, we did it! Yes, I mean "we" – me, the Club, and so many others who poured their time, talent and treasure into Aryel and her educational endeavors. She will be graduating *magna cum laude* from Azusa Pacific University in May as a member of the Dean's Academic List of Distinguished Students, for maintaining an overall GPA of 3.80.

"We are all so very proud of her, and I hope that the Club will also take a bow for being such a significant part of

her journey. Aryel will continue her studies at APU this summer in the Master's program. We are truly grateful for the Club's financial support and continued encouragement as Aryel pressed through the difficult years of undergraduate college life. None of her success would have been possible without the love, prayers and generosity of all the people who contributed to her success. The Club's scholarship program helped purchase books at times when we were truly stretched for funding. No matter what she needed, somehow God dropped the

needed blessings right at our doorstep on time, every time. The Club has incredibly blessed Aryel, and we cannot truly express the depth of our gratitude to the staff, the membership, and to the administrators of your programs for making her dream of earning a college degree a reality. These are simple words, but know that our hearts are behind them in thanking each of you for being a part of our life's story."



Past Club Scholarship winner, Aryel Gilmer.

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– SEE PAGE 45

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# THE SMART MOVE



BY PATRICK MILLER  
Dearborn Insurance  
The Club's Insurance Partner

## Affordable Care Act Raises Many Questions

Here comes Obamacare. What can we expect? How will the Affordable Care Act affect me as a public employee? The answer is – pretty much the same as every other American out there with a good health plan. We still don't know all there is to know about Obamacare, but we know a couple of things are certain. Premiums, no matter who pays them, are going up and benefits are going down, meaning you could pay more out of your pocket when you use your health plan. We know that the Affordable Health Care Act could provide health insurance for approximately 30 million more people but not add a single doctor. Who do you think is going to see all those new patients? The extra load on the system could overwhelm it. There's already a shortage of doctors and medical professionals in this country. You could have fewer choices of doctors and longer waits. We know that the insurance companies will be required to spend 85 cents of every premium dollar they take in on medical care. That leaves only 15 percent to market, enroll and administer their policies. That will drive some insurance companies out of the business, and you could have fewer choices.

We have enjoyed the best healthcare system in the world, yet the system is

broken. Obamacare is designed to put the system in order by reducing health care costs and making health care available to more Americans. Those of us who have had benefit of a "rich" health plan with low out-of-pocket costs are going to be forced to share our "rich" plan with those who have no coverage and to share doctors and facilities. If the Affordable Care Act is going to cover most of the 40 million uninsured people in this country, it means having to redistribute some of the rich benefits we enjoy to those without any benefits.

How do I protect myself financially from the unknown? Voluntary supplemental benefits have never been more important than they are today or will be in the future. With pension uncertainties, uncertain retiree health benefits and now the Affordable Health Care Act, it's important that you have a backup. Policies like lump sum critical illness policies give you extra money to pay out-of-pocket costs your insurance doesn't cover. Accident policies pay benefits to help cover deductibles and co-pays. Supplemental insurance products have been gaining in popularity as the benefit scene changes. The Club's Counselors can help you decide which benefit gives you the most protection and peace of mind.

Patrick Miller represents Dearborn Insurance, the Club's new partner for two areas— critical illness insurance and retirement income. Currently, the Club offers three Dearborn products: the Security Builder Plan, the Timber Ridge Critical Illness Plan, and Paycheck Protection Plus. Ask your Club Counselor for details.

## NEWS BRIEF

### AIRPORT PUPS:

Starting last month, passengers at LAX can be greeted by a new breed of furry Airport volunteers — dogs! Airport officials announced the new program — PUP (Pets Unstressing Passengers) at LAX. As one of the few programs of its kind in the United States, the LAX PUPs program hopes to provide a less stressful airport environment.

"We are pleased to launch the PUP program during in honor of National Volunteer Week," said Airports Executive Director Gina Marie Lindsey. "It's a great opportunity to spread happiness to millions of travelers from all over the world. Expect to see the PUP's on a regular basis in Terminals at LAX."

Various trained dogs and handlers, on rotating schedules, roam through the gate areas on the departure level of each terminal. They visit with passengers awaiting flights, provide comfort, and offer airport information. Each volunteer underwent classroom and in-terminal training to learn about LAX and how to assist passengers. Each dog and

handler team is equipped with a trading card featuring the dog's vital statistics and airport improvements information.

"It is our pleasure in partnering with Los Angeles World Airports to spread happiness to millions of people from all over the world every day at an exciting new venue for our organization," said Executive Director for Therapy Dogs Inc. Billie Smith.



Since 1990, Therapy Dogs Inc. has been, spreading smiles and joy to people in hospitals, special needs centers, schools, nursing homes, etc. All PUP volunteers and dogs are registered with this volunteer organization dedicated to regulating, testing and registering therapy dogs and their handlers for the purpose of providing comfort and stress relief at

facilities such as hospitals, schools, senior homes and other institutions. The organization's objective is to form a network of caring individuals who are willing to share their special animals in order to bring happiness and cheer to people, young and old alike.

## TRANSPORTATION

# President Zaki



Zaki Mustafa, Club Member, elected president of transportation engineers group.

Zaki Mustafa.

Story and photo courtesy Institute of Transportation Engineers

Zaki Mustafa, Executive Officer, Transportation, Club Member, was elected president of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. As president, Mustafa serves as a member of the Executive Committee, helping to shape ITE's priorities and strategic direction. He will supervise the preparation of the agenda and preside over each international board meeting as well as exercise general supervision of the affairs of ITE. The announcement was made at the Annual Business Meeting during the ITE 2012 Annual Meeting and Exhibit last year. More than 1,000 transportation professionals were on hand to participate in the four-day event.

Mustafa has been working for Transportation for more than 28 years. As the Executive Officer for the Project Delivery Group he reports to the General Manager, is the department's lead engineer, and manages a staff of 155 professionals. His office is responsible for delivery of streetscape improvements projects, pedestrian and school safety improvement projects, the Signal Synchronization program, project management of all "Measure R" transit capital projects, traffic impact studies, the implementation of the Bike Plan, and preparation of engineering plans for all of the

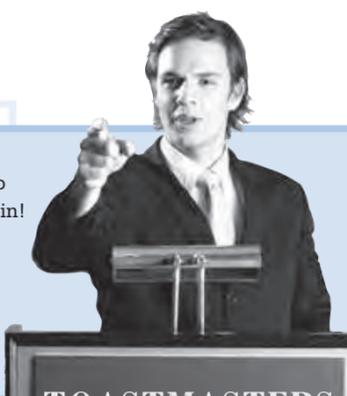
traffic control devices.

Over the past 30 years Mustafa has been actively involved with the Institute of Transportation Engineers and served at all levels of ITE leadership: as a Student Chapter President, Section President, District President, International Board Representative, and as the International Vice President. Western District's Student Endowment Fund was established under his leadership and he played a part in the establishment of eight new student chapters throughout the Western U.S.

Founded in 1930, ITE is an international educational and scientific association responsible for meeting mobility and safety needs. ITE facilitates the application of technology and scientific principles to research, planning, functional design, implementation, operation, policy development and management for any mode of ground transportation. Through its products and services, ITE promotes professional development of its members, supports and encourages education, stimulates research, develops public awareness programs and serves as a conduit for the exchange of professional information.

ITE is a community of more than 17,000 transportation professionals including, transportation engineers, transportation planners, consultants, educators and researchers.

# JOIN A Toastmasters Group



**Club Members:** Gain confidence in your public speaking and leadership skills; two City Toastmasters groups invite you to join!

Joining the Toastmasters is inexpensive, educational and fun. Toastmasters International is a nonprofit, worldwide organization that helps its members develop their public speaking and leadership skills.



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1149 S. Broadway  
6th Floor Conference,  
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Guests welcome.

**QUESTIONS:**  
Ivan Gerson  
(213) 485-1169  
or  
Dominic Buenaventura  
(213) 847-0593



**DWP:**  
The Water and Power  
Toastmasters Club

**Wednesdays**  
noon to 1 p.m.

111 N. Hope St., Room 1171  
(last Wednesdays in room 1471)

Guests welcome.

**QUESTIONS:**  
Eric Yoshida  
(213) 367-3962