



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

#### Reservation Lines:

RLACEI events: (800) 678-4145, ext. 701  
DWP events: (626) 445-7376 (Dolores Foley)  
LARFPA: (888) 288-5063

- June 5:** LARFPA annual summer picnic and barbecue, Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park Dr., Los Angeles.
- June 6:** RLACEI 35th golf tournament, Alhambra Golf Course, 630 S. Almansor St., Alhambra. 7:30 a.m.
- Aug. 8:** RLACEI picnic, Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park Dr., Los Angeles. 11:30 a.m.
- Sept. 19:** RLACEI annual corporation meeting and elections, Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles. 11:30 a.m. lunch; noon meeting.
- Dec. 5:** RLACEI holiday party, Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles. Noon.

#### 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)

## LACERS 2012 Report Card: All Good Marks

**RLACEI**

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



Ed Harding

### By Ed Harding, RLACEI President

Cliff Cannon, one of our newer directors, was appointed as RLACEI Website Chairman. He and his committee are in the process of updating our Website to better serve the members. Cliff stated that the type of information that will be accessible will include:

- a calendar of RLACEI events
- all member meeting dates
- board contact information
- general information of current member benefits

■ vital up-to-date information affecting members' benefits.

Certain types of information will be provided to nonmembers. However, all vital, comprehensive or up-to-date information affecting RLACEI retirees and their family will be available only to members. Should you want to become an RLACEI member, a payroll deduction form is provided that can be filled in online.

Also, since both members and nonmembers will have access to the Website, a pass code will need to be established to differentiate between members and nonmembers. Information on this will be forthcoming.

It is important to note that this is in addition to Retirement news that is submitted to *Alive!* The Website will be updated as vital information affecting retirees is received. This information will be available to RLACEI-only members immediately.

More information on the Website will be forthcoming. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Cliff Cannon at [ccannonjc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ccannonjc@sbcglobal.net). Great job, Cliff!

RLACEI members, please provide your email address to [mbeetz4841@aol.com](mailto:mbeetz4841@aol.com).

See you at our 35th annual retirees golf tournament June 6.



Michael Karsch

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

The pension issue was prime time for the April meeting of the League of California Cities in April. Three speakers represented the spectrum of city management (City Manager Ron Bates of Pico Rivera), organized labor (Steve Koffroth, representing AFSCME), and a statewide newsletter on public sector pensions (Amy Brown of the Public Retirement Journal). The bottom line was that California lawmakers and other stakeholders have sorted out and enacted pension reform that will stand for at least a few years. The governor and legislature enacted pension reform last year that makes some changes that affect current employees,

but the bulk of reform is for new hires. Brown said that most of the pension controversy has calmed down with the defeat last November of Prop. 32 (prohibiting political contributions by payroll deduction) and the passage of Prop. 30 (increases state sales tax and income tax). Koffroth believed we would not see much more in pension reform because the unfunded liability issue is not a problem. Bates, who has served as the president of the Southern California Councils of Government and president of the state League of California Cities, affirmed that the major benefit of the reform won't be seen for about 40 years when active City hires after this reform will begin retiring under the new terms. He added that some complications exist for government employees who move from one agency to

another, but the pension promised at the end of their careers should be intact.

Ten days after the League of Cities meeting, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on another pension reform package, this one for private sector, multi-employer pension plans affecting 10.3 million workers and retirees. The proposal would amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act that has been on the books since 1974, affecting such sectors as construction, trucking and retail food. The key element in the proposal, which is from both organized labor and employer groups, is the ability to reduce current retiree benefits. The federal law covers about 1,450 multi-employer pension plans, most of which are satisfactorily funded, except 150 of those plans facing insolvency.



Michael R. Wilkinson

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

Can an Illinois Law Override Constitutional Pension Protections?

Another court test of the limits of "pension reform" might be brewing around one of the country's most troubled state pension plans. The Illinois House of Representatives has passed a bill to limit state pensions, but it is far from clear whether it will survive a legal test claiming that this violates the state constitution, which bars changes that result in benefits that are "diminished or impaired."

The plan, backed by Democratic House Speaker Mike Madigan, is designed to limit cost

of living increases for future retirees; increase retirement ages; boost employee pension contributions; and exempt pension changes from union negotiations.

Madigan told Reuters that the plan will survive a challenge that it violates the state's constitutional protection of pension benefits, but another Democrat, Senate President John Cullerton, says the unions are right that the benefits cannot be reduced.

The question being asked here, as in other jurisdictions, is whether the constitutional language is absolute. Here the 1970 constitution states that public pensions are "an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired."

House Speaker Madigan argues the state has a right to change the pension promises

when other vital services could be cut because of the high costs of the pensions, a bill totaling more than \$6 billion per year in state contributions.

Legal commentators are split on how the question will be decided. Tyrone Fahner, a former Illinois attorney general who now works for a business group, believes that "[the state] has the absolute power to preserve the state and its basic functions."

However, John Marshall Law School Professor Ann Lousin, a constitutional expert, believes that the courts may view that the state is not doing everything that it can to raise tax money, such as levying a tax on pension or Social Security benefits as other states do. If viewed that way, the state may lose the argument that it is compelled either to cut pension benefits or vital services.



## LACERS 2012 Highlights



Ken Spiker

### Legislative Update By Ken Spiker

The LACERS Board and staff were very busy in 2012. Here are some highlights from the year that just ended.

#### Investments

LACERS' portfolio returned an outstanding 14.5 percent, gross of fees, for the 2012 calendar year, placing LACERS in the top quartile for our peer group. The total fund outperformed the policy benchmark by 0.25 percent. Three of the largest portfolio asset classes that represent more than 80 percent of the total fund investments, U.S. equity, non-U.S. equity, and fixed income, beat their respective benchmarks by respectable margins. Private market investments, including private equity and real estate, trailed their respective benchmarks, but, with anticipation that outperformance will be realized in 2014. The domestic economic environment has strengthened with debt dele-

veraging, reduced unemployment, and rising housing prices. Fears of European Union (EU) instability have calmed for now by the approval of debt restructuring plans of some of the most financially challenged EU member nations. Growth regions such as Asia and Latin America continue to be attractive to investors who are eager to earn above-average returns. An improved global economy is an ideal backdrop for stronger investment returns across all major asset classes.

During 2012, our Board conducted an asset allocation analysis to help ensure our investment portfolio is well positioned for the current and anticipated market conditions. This is a very important decision and can account for up to 90 percent of the investment returns (much more so than any specific investments).

The Board of LACERS' investment staff looks forward to 2013 and will be conducting multiple money manager searches that will support our updated asset alloca-

tion from both return and risk perspectives.

#### Actuarial

During 2012, the Board decided to transition our actuarial cost method from Projected Unit Credit to a more desirable funding methodology known as Entry Age Normal. This change provides for more level contributions from the City to the System throughout each Member's career and aligns our accounting and financial reporting process with the new Governmental Accounting Standards Board's guidelines.

#### Benefits

LACERS Board and staff successfully negotiated overall healthcare cost increases that were below the medical trend rate. This means that the increases we negotiated for the 2013 plan year were lower than predicted compared to increases taking place throughout the country. We were able to do this without having to resort to benefit reductions or increased cost sharing.

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## 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



## LACERS Update



Mary Beetz

### By Mary Beetz, RLACEI Publicity Chair

#### Registration is Open for *Mix It Up* – Online Nutrition Program

LACERS' retirees can now register for *Mix It Up*, a fun interactive online nutrition program, presented by LACERS and HealthWorks by Kaiser Permanente. Once registered, you may begin logging in your daily produce intake to become eligible for rewards. The first 500 participants to log in to *Mix It Up* for 28 consecutive days will receive a prize. All participants who log in 160 produce points by the end of the program will receive a \$50 Visa reward card. Membership with Kaiser is not necessary.

To register for *Mix It Up*, retirees first must be registered as LACERS *Well* participants. Each new LACERS *Well* registrant will receive a \$25 Visa reward card. Visit [LACERS.org/lacerswell](http://LACERS.org/lacerswell) to register.

#### Save the Date: July 18, 2013 is the Kick Off of the LACERS in Motion Program

Anthem Blue Cross will launch LACERS in Motion, its new fitness program, at a LACERS *Well* Workshop on July 18, 2013. Watch your mail/email for further details.

#### Free LACERS In Motion Fitness Classes Start in August

Starting in August, the Anthem Blue Cross LACERS in Motion program will sponsor free fitness classes for LACERS retirees who have registered for LACERS *Well*. LACERS in Motion features yoga, stretching, low-impact cardio, dance, Tai Chi, Pilates and Zumba classes at centrally located venues in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties. Membership

with Anthem Blue Cross is not necessary. LACERS in Motion will run until December 2013. Watch your mail/email for further details.

#### LACERS Well to Feature Kaiser Permanente Health Education Classes

Kaiser Permanente will offer three free health education classes to LACERS *Well* participants in the greater Los Angeles Area. "Back Health" is scheduled for July 30, 2013, "Moving More" will be scheduled for September, and "Stress Management" will be scheduled for November.

Kaiser will also hold three health education webinars: "Ready, Set, Goal" in August, "Healthy Eating" in October, and "Stress Management" in December. Membership with Kaiser is not necessary. Watch your mail/email for further details.

## LACERS

## 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

## Good News on Pensions Is Coming This Summer



Lee Kebler

### By Lee Kebler, LARFPA Director

Good news for our retirees: On July 1, your pension will be increased by 2.2 percent. It will show up on your pension check or direct deposit Aug. 1. And, the Fire and Police Pension Board finally increased the health subsidy by

seven percent, effective July 1. This raise is still below the assumed rate of health premium increase of nine percent. This is the seventh year that our health subsidy is lower than the assumed rate of health subsidy increase. This will help keep the out-of-pocket expense to a minimum.

Lastly, the Investment Section of the Pension system is doing such a outstanding job, the investments are

earning 13 percent and the Pension Fund is the highest in its history at \$16.1 billion.

Don't forget the Retired Fire and Police Association's annual barbecue at Grace E. Simons Lodge in Elysian Park June 5. The general meeting starts at 10 a.m., and the barbecue starts at noon. Make your reservations early. For more information, call our office at (888) 288-5063.

## LARFPA



# The Best Years

## For Retired Club Members

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



By Hal Danowitz,  
Secretary, RLACEI

## Sad Senegal History

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

PART EIGHT



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 are now halfway through the cruise and are coming up to Dakar, Senegal. We had a tour booked to go to Ile de Goree, an island off the coast that was the site of slave detention and the major point of departure in this area of Africa.

Before we left home, I joined a Website called Cruise Critic, which features a bulletin board online for cruises so that passengers on the same cruise can set up private tours and exchange information. On that day, they had a get-together and we went. We had already met a member who we played bridge with. He organized a tour to Marrakech when we were in Casablanca. Anyway, he had a cancellation and asked if we wanted to go. Evelyn did but I didn't want to do a seven-hour roundtrip bus drive. You have only a couple of hours once you get there. Evelyn said I had better find her something to do in Casablanca or I was in trouble. We have toured Casablanca before,



Our trivia team waits for the ferry to Ile de Goree.

but we never got to the really good markets, so my task was to find out where they were so we could go there for shopping. We had already done the regular city tour and the grand Mosque. Casablanca isn't as romantic as Rick portrayed it in the movie.

One of my food complaints was that there was no bread for sandwiches at the lunch buffet. They have readymade sandwiches, but that day they were carving roast beef, and it dawned on me to go to the grill and get a hamburger bun and make a roast beef sandwich. We were on this same ship six months ago and I never thought of doing that. Duh!

We played bridge and awaited the results. In duplicate you never know how well you do until everyone plays the same hand and the results are tallied. You can bid and make a contract, but someone may bid a better contract and make it. We just waited to see. The results were not good.

The Cruise Critic get-together was informative. We then had a better understanding of how it worked, and it was something that we may use or contribute to in the future.

The entertainment that night was Shan O'Shay. Billed as a comic, he was more a funny impressionist singer. He started out slow but improved as the show progressed. He was a good friend of Hyperion Knight the pianist, and Don thought they were a couple.

We played music trivia in the Casino Lounge, and our team scored 17 out of 25. We thought the score was pretty good and we finished third. All the questions were multiple choice, so maybe that helped a little. Our team name is now "Deck 8," as all of our cabins were on the eighth deck.

We docked the next morning before 7 a.m. and awaited clearance to go ashore. We were going to Ile de Goree to see the slave history sites. Evelyn was already nervous about missing shopping. On this cruise, *Princess* had a free shuttle in every port, a departure from past practices. I noticed a lot of improvement in the support of independent travel. They provided a lot more information on doing things on your own, not just on a *Princess* tour.

We left the ship at 8:30 a.m. for our tour. It was a chartered ferry, so we were picked up quite close to our ship's berth. It was about a 15-minute ride to the island. We were in groups of about 30 people. It took a while to get organized, and the one group visited the slave house and the rest took a walking tour of the island. It has been inhabited since the late 1400s, and between 1536 and 1848 (the date France abolished slavery), 15 to 20 million souls were sent to the Americas as slaves, and millions died in transit. According to what we have read, approximately 40 million Africans were captured during the 300 years slavery was practiced. How many actually made it to the new world is unknown.

During our walkabout, we were trailed by many sellers of local merchandise. We brought two hats for \$10 and then got two more for \$5. Then we bought a couple of T-shirts and some local jewelry.

We bought four small sand paintings. The sand paintings are a local craft, where sands of different shades are used with glue made from a local tree called the Monkey Bread tree.

We then returned to the slave house (the current one was built in 1776) for our tour. It



It was trash pickup day.



A statue honoring slaves who left from the island.

was heartbreaking to see the conditions that the people were forced to endure and the inhuman treatment. The door of no return was the last time most would ever see Africa. This door led directly to a seawall, and you either got on the ship or were pushed into

the sea. The island was the most westerly point in Africa and as such was closest to the Americas. This was one of the reasons that a great deal of the slave trade was here.

Our last stop was the Fort, and we heard an interesting explanation of life in Senegal. More than 80 percent of the population is Muslim, and many had up to four wives.

Of the five West African countries that we visited, Senegal was the most developed. The city of Dakar, the capital, was founded just more than 100 years ago, even though it has a fine harbor. Before that, most trade took place near or on Goree Island. In 1677, the French captured the island from the Dutch. The French controlled Senegal until 1960, when the country gained independence. During World War II, there was a naval battle between British/free French and Vichy French, who controlled Senegal. The battle was called off after several British battleships were damaged, and Senegal stayed under Vichy control until 1943.

We returned to the ship for lunch and decided to take the ship's shuttle to Independence Square and walk around. Many people were selling the same things we had already purchased. Don and Myrna decided to go back to the ship, but Evelyn wanted to look around some more. A local latched on to us and wanted to show us where the central market was. We couldn't shake him – he wouldn't take no for an answer. Finally we turned around and started

to walk back to the shuttle and somehow he thought that Evelyn insulted him and he wanted to know why I let my wife insult him. He wasn't angry or threatening, but it was very uncomfortable. We finally made it back to the shuttle stop. The shuttle was just loading, and we found Don and Myrna already aboard. In the end, I gave the guy a couple of dollars. As I was getting on the shuttle, through the crowd of sellers I could feel someone trying to get into my pocket and I slapped the hand away. We were told by the local guide on boarding the shuttle from the ship to be careful because there would be pickpockets around the shuttle stop. We never felt afraid in any of our stops, and we were not afraid here.

We had dinner in the buffet with a couple from the cabin next door to us. They were about 10 years younger than us and



Hal at the slave house.

were very well traveled.

We took on 200 tons of fuel and were still at the fueling dock at midnight.

The next day we headed to the Cape Verde Islands and the city of Mindelo; the seas were a little rougher. The ship rocked a little more than usual. We turned back the clock an hour the night before and we were only six hours ahead of Los Angeles.

There was a shuttle from the ship to the town center, and for this one there was a \$16 roundtrip fee per person. We had an afternoon tour, so I didn't think we would need the shuttle. This was the first time *Princess* charged for the shuttle. I asked the tour desk about the shuttle charge and was told that if the town were within walking distance (and with no obstacles), there would be a charge for shuttle. If you can't walk, there was no charge.

We finished up our bridge lesson and waited for trivia to begin. The Cruise Critic group met for lunch that day, and Evelyn and I went. We skipped bridge that afternoon because we wanted to meet with the future cruise desk to plan our next cruise. If we booked on the ship, we received a lower deposit and a room credit. No matter what, you can always cancel up to 90 days prior to departure without penalty. Also the weather was very nice – not too hot or humid – and I wanted to lie out by the pool.

Evelyn and I enjoyed the Cruise Critic lunch; we sat with two ladies from Australia and an Indian couple from San Francisco. All of these people have cruise knowledge, which they were willing to share, and you can learn a lot. It gave me a chance to meet people with common interests. It was like going to Friday night services to meet all the Jewish passengers.

We talked to the representatives at the future cruise desk, and we looked at a couple of cruises for next year.

We ate in the dining room. It seemed that on sea days we ate in the dining room, but on port days at the buffet. The next day we were in Mindelo, Cape Verde Islands. The next two days we were at sea and then in the Canary Islands. The first sea day meant a formal night, so we would eat in the dining room, and the next night we had a reservation in Sabatini's, the upscale Italian restaurant.

That night was the second concert of Hyperion Knight, and he was excellent. While the playing was good, his explanation of each piece and information about the composer made the evening enjoyable.

More next month!



Evelyn with our bus guide.



RETIREES:

# Enjoy These Great Member Benefits

## For Retired Club Members

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
- Group-rated insurance products for purchase
- 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

# 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
Abu-Khalil, Siham	-	DWP	-
Algorri, Raymond	-	DWP	-
Andrade, Robert L.	Chief Admin. Analyst	CAO	24
Boughourian, Charles	-	DWP	-
Brand, Gary	-	DWP	-
Brown, Vincent	Ref. Coll. Trk. Op. II	Public Works	25
Burkin, Alan J.	Librarian II	Library	3
Burnett, Henry	-	DWP	-
Campanella, Robert J.	Painter II	Rec and Parks	28
Campos, Marta H.	Custodian	Airports	7
Cap, Daniel	-	DWP	-
Carey, Dorsan	Sr. Detention Officer	LAPD	28
Chen, Sun Q.	Systems Progr. II	ITA	27
Christie, Karin R.	Envir. Affairs Officer	Airports	26
Chung, Woo	-	DWP	-
Cisneros, Roberto	-	DWP	-
Clark, John	-	DWP	-
Clark, Robert E.	Photographer III	LAPD	15
Coffin, Cynthia	-	DWP	-
Cook, Mammie	-	DWP	-
Cover, Cathy L.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	26
Crissman, Robert	-	DWP	-
Dashti, Guiti	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst II	CDD	21
De Vela, Josefa	-	DWP	-
De Young, William S.	Ch. Pers. Analyst	Personnel	25
Del Toro, Robert	-	DWP	-
Delgado, Manuel	-	DWP	-
Donerson, Lomant R.	Hvy. Dty. Eq. Mch.	General Services	26
Droz, Manuel	Sr. Rec. Director II	Rec and Parks	29
Duke, Elma W.	Fore. Prnt. Spec. III	LAPD	22
Emory, John	-	DWP	-
Espineda, Jr., Oscar	Wast. Trmt. Oper. III	Public Works	27
Estrada, Carlos R.	Signal Sys. Elect.	Transportation	32
Gallentine, Kenneth	-	DWP	-
Gates, Carol A.	Management Asst.	Personnel	7
Gates, S. Jeametta	Cust. Service Spec.	Finance	20
Gibb, Eugene G.	Sr. Police Ser. Rep II	LAPD	35
Gillard, Delonnie R.	Security Officer	Airports	30
Givens, Betty	Clerk Typist	Public Works	13
Gonzalez, George	-	DWP	-

Gonzalez, Juan M.	Custodian	General Services	22
Gough, Richard B.	Risk Manager III	CAO	10
Gregg, Daniel V.	Sr. Plumber	Public Works	37
Greene, Craig M.	Sign Shop Super.	Transportation	18
Griffin, Rachel	Exec. Adm. Asst. III	Conv. Center	36
Grindle, Gary	-	DWP	-
Fogt, David S.	Survey Party Chief II	Public Works	32
Haynes, Linda	Accounting Clerk II	Harbor	31
Hernandez, Martha	-	DWP	-
Hogan, Timothy	Asst. City Attorney	City Attorney	38
Hollis, Keith	-	DWP	-
Hubbard, Paula	-	DWP	-
Jimenez, Jesus	Refuse Coll. Super.	Public Works	30
Jones, Renee W.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst II	CDD	33
Jorgensen, Mark R.	Plumbing Inspector	Building & Safety	10
Leal, Elida	-	DWP	-
Lewis, Carmen T.	Park Ranger	Rec and Parks	26
Lopez, Louis	-	DWP	-
Lopez, Robert	-	DWP	-
Martinez, Beatrice	Sr. Clerk Typist	Airports	39
McCullough, Moses	Police Officer II	Airports	34
McKaffery, K.	-	DWP	-
Michael, Calvin S.	Equipment Operator	Public Works	32
Mitchell, Pete R.	Welder	General Services	26
Montgomery, Larry J.	Build. Mech. Insp.	Building & Safety	22
Morita, Lani	-	DWP	-
Muller, Kurt	Dep. City Att. III	City Attorney	37
Nobori, Dean	-	DWP	-
Ochoa, Jesus A.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	28
Ogawa, Kenji	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	24
Olivas, Christopher	Equip. Operator	Rec and Parks	38

Palaganas, Charlemagn	Sr. Accountant II	Harbor	23
Pippin, Beverly, R.	Ch. Clerk	LAPD	33
Poland, Peter	-	DWP	-
Ramirez, Deborah R.	Dep. City Attorney III	City Attorney	21
Ramos, Rodolfo	-	DWP	-
Samia, Samee	-	DWP	-
Sawyer, Denise A.	Sr. Pol. Serv. Rep II	LAPD	30
Schrader, Dan	-	DWP	-
Siplon, Jordan P.	Shf. Spt. Was. Trt. II	Public Works	31
Smith, Chris J.	Cons. Maint. Supv. II	Rec and Parks	25
Sorensen, Michael	-	DWP	-
Stone, Johnna	Dep. City Attorney III	City Attorney	16
Taulbee, Steven B.	Auto. Supervisor	LAPD	32
Thaug, Robert	Civil Engr. Assoc. IV	Housing	14
Toeba, John	-	DWP	-
Troglin, Steven	-	DWP	-
Turbin, Sheila M.	Sr. Com. Operator II	ITA	33
Ulloa, Michael	Sr. Painter II	General Services	26
Vargas, Alex V.	City Att. Adm. Crd. III	City Attorney	33
Vasquez, Mario	Finance Spec. V	CAO	25
Vela, Lupe M.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst II	Public Works	28
Villasenor, James A.	Airport Safety Officer	Airports	32
Weiss, Carolyn M.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst II	CDD	32
Welborn, John W.	Painter II	General Services	11
White, Vanessa D.	Pr. Clerk City Att. II	City Attorney	33
Wilson, Albert R.	Maint. Const. Helper	Rec and Parks	22
Yee, Kit K.	Struc. Engr. As. III	Airports	30
Zhang, Xiaoxing	Librarian III	Library	11

### 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.

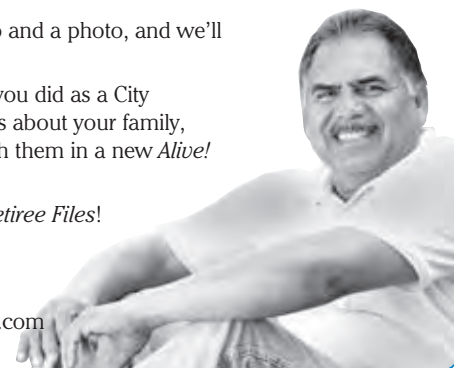
Go ahead... show off a little. Be part of *The Retiree Files!*



**Send them to:**

Subject: *The Retiree Files*

[talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)



## Legislative Update By Ken Spiker

– continued from page 13



Ken Spiker

LACERS launched its new wellness program, LACERS *WELL*, for our retired members. A retiree-only wellness program is a rarity, but staff and our health insurance carriers are committed to providing an accessible, fun and educational program that we can all participate in to whatever degrees we can – whether by using the online resources or participating in one of the workshops, or both.

Staff successfully applied for and received an additional \$2.1 million from the federal government under its Early Retiree Reinsurance Program (ERRP). In addition to the \$3.8 million received in

2011, LACERS received \$5.9 million in funds that otherwise would have been paid by some of our retirees and LACERS.

LACERS' benefits staff is also gearing up to begin administration of a second tier of retirement benefits, Tier 2, enacted by the City Council, for new members hired on or after July 1, 2013. These benefits will require new employees to work longer to earn their retirement benefits, which includes a 75 percent maximum and two percent retirement factor, compared to the 100 percent maximum and 2.16 percent retirement factor applicable to Tier 1 members.

### Audits and Fiscal

In 2012, the Board selected a firm to perform an actuarial audit to provide additional confidence that our annual actuarial valuations are accurate, that the assumptions used in the actuarial valuations are reasonable, and that LACERS is being properly funded to meet its obligations.

We also received an "unqualified" opinion from the CPA firm, Brown Armstrong, regarding our annual financial statements. An "unqualified" opinion is the highest level and, therefore, the most desirable result. And, for the 13th

year running, LACERS was awarded a certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

### Administration

The Board awarded a contract to Levi, Ray & Shoup to replace its then-current Pension Administration System with a more modern and functional system to assist LACERS' staff in providing better customer service and interactivity to our members, both active and retired. Staff happily anticipates kicking off this multi-year project in 2013.



# The Best Years

## RETIREES AROUND THE WORLD



1

### The Philippines



Here's **Leticia Yapana, DWP, Retired**, in the Philippines. "I visited Balisen Private Island, Quezon, Philippines, a destination of unmatched natural beauty off the eastern coast of Luzon. Here I am with my husband, Nelson. We are in front of Fort Santiago, Manila, the Intramuros Walled City."



**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)



## Current Board Members

LACERS

The following is a list of current Officers and Members of the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) Board of Administration for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2012-13 as of May 1, 2013:

Information: Armando Bencomo, Commission Executive Assistant II, (213) 473-7169.

#### Officers:

Rick Rogers, President  
Robert A. Chick, Vice President

#### Members:

Elizabeth L. Greenwood  
Michael F. Keeley\*  
Barker Khorasaneh  
Kenneth M. Simril  
Ken Spiker

\*Michael Keeley's mayoral appointment was confirmed by City Council May 1 to replace the vacancy left by Jeffrey Penichet.



## 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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# The Best Years

## Show Us Your Grandkids!



**Thomas Vercher, Cultural Affairs, Retired**, writes from Florida: "This was the last time we were together before my retirement. We attended a concert at the Hollywood Bowl and hung out on Sunset Boulevard. On my left is my daughter, Lisa Janee Vercher. To my right are my son, Jean-Paul Vercher, and my granddaughter, Alyssa Petterson."



"Here are most of my grandchildren, 11 out of 13, at a family gathering. I have a total of 13 grandkids and two great-grandsons. In the picture, the oldest is 26 (Daniel in back), and the youngest is one (Andrew, crying). My first great-grandson (Brandon, 4) is pictured on left end of the first row. They all like to ride Grandpa's Harley."

– **John Phillips, LAPD, Retired, 31 years of City service**



**Carolyn Alvarez, Personnel**, writes: "Here's a picture of my grandson. His name is Roman Alexander Alvarez, born April 4. His parents are Christopher Alvarez, Rec and Parks/Griffith Observatory, and Mayra Rosales." The grandparents include Isaac Alvarez, Public Works/Street Services; Carolyn Alvarez, Medical Services Division, Personnel; and Gregorio Rosales, Public Works/Sanitation. An aunt is Melissa Alvarez, Personnel/Public Safety, and an uncle is Adrian Alvarez, Convention Center.

**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)

Send Prints To:  
**Grandkids**  
 City Employees  
 Club of Los Angeles  
 120 West 2nd St.  
 Los Angeles, CA  
 90012

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



"It's a capital V-A-N-I-L-L-A!"  
 – Ruth Kong



"Neapolitan ice cream makes me smile."  
 – Frankie Wong, Public Works/Sanitation, 31 years of City service



"On a hot day, I have to have scoops of butter pecan."  
 – Henry Starks, Public Works/Street Services, 38 years of City service, Club member



"Vanilla." "Chocolate."  
 – Varsha and Jawahar Shah, Public Works/Sanitation, 34 years of City service, Club Member.



"Hmmm ... I've got it! Ben & Jerry's Cherry Garcia! Great tasting!"  
 – Mic Bacon, Housing, 31 years of City service, Club Member



"Nothing like chocolate to wake you up in the morning!"  
 – Stephen Frelander, Building and Safety, 26 years of City service



"I've always been fond of maple ice cream."  
 – Fred Kong, Public Works, 32 years of City service, Club Member



"Is it too boring to say that my favorite is vanilla?"  
 – Gilbert Hernandez, Public Works/Street Services, 38 years of City service



"I always have pistachio, and I am now a fan of Ben & Jerry's Cherry Garcia."  
 – Rose Hyland, Controller's Office, 28 years of City service, Club Board Member



"Have you ever had cheese ice cream? My favorite!" "Rocky Road for me."  
 – Imelda and Eliseo Zapata, Public Works/Engineering, 25 years of City service

## Retirees Question of the Month:

# What's your favorite ice cream flavor?