



Serving Over 50,000 Members

# Alive! Retirement Ceremony

CLUB BENEFIT

# HONORED TOGETHER

They worked together. Retired together. Lunch together. And now they're honored for their careers together with Club Retirement Plaques.

— SEE PAGE 12



LADWP Water Distribution Retirees and Club Members (top, from left) Kirk Broyard, Joe Powell and Joseph O'Hara; (bottom) Judy Corrales and Ignacio Perez.

**INSIDE:** Meet the Club's Employee Recognition Team, dedicated to celebrating Club Members for their service.



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION TEAM

Alive! photo by Summy Lam. Photo illustration by JLA Associates.



Celebrating the work and lives of public employees.

Employees Club of California  
311 South Spring Street, Suite 1300  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

SERVING PUBLIC EMPLOYEES SINCE 1928

## Be a Tough Mudder ... and Save!

### Save \$80

on admission to mud run challenge in Lake Elsinore thru Club Sports! — SEE PAGE 23





# DISCOUNTED THEME PARK TICKETS!

Club members get amazing discounts on tickets to Disneyland, Universal Studios, and more.

# EXPLORE YOUR SAVINGS

BUY TICKETS

EmployeesClub.com



# Your Career, in Your Hands

## ROBERT'S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



Robert Larios (right) with five Retirees from the LADWP Water Distribution Division who received their Club Retirees Plaque together, from left: Ignacio Perez, Joseph O'Hara, Judy Corrales, Joe Powell and Kirk Broyard.

Honoring you is why the Club exists. And celebrating the entire span of your career is the highest benefit Club Membership can bestow upon you.

In today's busy world, it's crucial to take a moment to celebrate the immense contributions of dedicated individuals. Has your career been honored in a way that truly reflects your incredible service? At the Club, we believe every Member deserves recognition that transcends the ordinary, encapsulating your years of commitment to the City of Los Angeles,

the County of Los Angeles, and the State of California.

Enter the Club Retirement Plaque—a distinguished symbol of appreciation that acknowledges your invaluable contributions.

Having attended numerous Retiree ceremonies, I can vouch for the proud, emotional moments they spark. Picture being surrounded by family and friends, reflecting on your



impact and achievements: The past blends with the present, filling the room with fulfillment and pride.

This exclusive benefit, reserved for long-term Club Members, exemplifies the significant ways we celebrate our Retirees. It's not just a plaque; it's a heartfelt tribute to your extraordinary journey. While non-Club Members have shown interest, the Retirement Plaque remains a special reward for those whose loyalty spans years.

Club Retirees, we are here to honor, thank, and celebrate you. If you're eligible, we encourage you to sign up for your Retirement Plaque. Let it be a beacon of your achievements, a reminder of the incredible journey you've taken. We are proud to be part of your career story. *Congratulations!*



Eric Robles, General Services, Club Member, celebrates El Grito with Robert Larios near City Hall in 2022.

### Hispanic Heritage

How did you celebrate the recent Latino Heritage Month? The City sure did. The Alive! editorial team pulled together some of the City's highlights, shown on page 8 in this issue.

Hispanic pride is woven deeply and richly into the fabric of the Employees Club, and always has been. As a Mexican immigrant who became an American CEO, I proudly bring you this month's story. We celebrate together.

### Leadership Insights

Club Membership includes many public employees in leadership roles or aspiring to be. To those, and to all, I offer leadership thoughts and inspiration to assist you in your career path and in your lives. Topics I cover include personal development, growth mindsets, success, fulfillment and integrity ... plus a reminder or two to appreciate your own value and worth. Follow me; I would love to hear your thoughts, too:

[www.linkedin.com/in/robertlarios](https://www.linkedin.com/in/robertlarios)

I wish everyone a beautiful Thanksgiving of gracious gratitude.

*¡Gracias por leer!*

*Robert Larios*  
CEO

At a recent Mobile Team site visit.



# Raise employee morale! Schedule a Club Mobile visit!

The Club Mobile Team will bring benefits experts and Club legendary apparel for purchase at low prices (hats custom-made on site). It's one of the best ways for staff to feel appreciated. Your employees will be grateful!



**To schedule a Club Mobile visit:**

Scan the Code to Schedule a Visit

Or contact Lupe Lira, Retail Operations Manager:  
(213) 819-0350, or [mobile@employeesclub.com](mailto:mobile@employeesclub.com)

### Monthly Anchors

#### North Central Sanitation

452 N. San Fernando Rd., 6 - 11 a.m.

The first Monday of every month:

**Mon., Nov. 4 and Dec. 2**

#### Van Nuys City Hall

6262 Van Nuys Blvd., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The first Tuesday of every month:

**Tues., Nov. 5 and Dec. 3**

#### Harbor

100 W. Fifth St., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The first Wednesday of every month:

**Wed., Nov. 6 and Dec. 4**

#### West Valley StreetsLA

9324 Topanga Canyon Blvd., 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The first Thursday of every month:

**Thurs., Dec. 7**

### Additional Visits

#### General Services, Seventh Street

2310 E. 7th St.,

10 a.m. - noon

**Wed., Nov. 13**

#### City Hall Farmers' Market

201 N Main St.,

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Thurs., Nov. 14**

#### Harbor Animal Shelter

957 N. Gaffey St.,

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Thurs., Nov. 14**

**ATTENTION** Raise employee morale!  
**SUPERVISORS:** Bring the Club to your worksite!

**Club Mobile is cashless!**  
For your convenience, now accepting major credit cards.



Follow Club social media for other days, times and locations as they are scheduled:

 @EmployeesClub

 Employees Club of California

 @theClubofCA

Alive! photo by Sammy Lam. Photo illustration by JLLA Associates.



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## Honored Together ..... 12-15

This group of LADWP Retiree friends have now all received their Club Retirement Plaque, a great Club benefit. You should, too!

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# CLUBDEALS

FROM THE CLUB DEAL DESK

*Another great Club benefit!*

[EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM](http://EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM)



## Coloring With The Club Contest

Color it and **WIN**  
 4 free tickets to the  
**SAN DIEGO ZOO**

**CONTEST DEADLINE: Nov. 8**



Coloring art and rules online at:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest](http://alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest)



The Club Is Here to Help

Contact the Club

if you have an event you want covered in *Alive!* or if you have questions about insurance.

help@employeesclub.com  
(800) 464-0452

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In addition, the Club strives to publish only those elements that are produced by the Club itself, are in the public domain, or whose rights have been negotiated.

Club Members who have questions on these points may write to: alive@employeesclub.com

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The Club Honors Our Members

# Yay, LA 35!

LA CITYVIEW CHANNEL 35 NABS 3 FIRST-PLACE HONORS.

**ITA:** The awards poured in for the much-honored LA CityView Channel 35 during a recent independent association presentation. SCAN-NATO – the Southern California and Nevada chapter of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and

Advisers – awarded three first-place Star Awards at a ceremony held Sept. 26 on the Queen Mary in Long Beach.

Channel 35 earned top honors in the following categories:

- Community Event Coverage: *LA Current: Hollywood Pride Parade*
- Magazine Format: *LA This Week #1295*, and
- Profile of a City Employee: *LAPD Women's History Month 2024*.

In addition, Channel 35 took home seven more awards, placing second, third and fourth across various categories.

The Star Awards, organized by SCAN-NATO, recognize excellence in government video programming across California and Nevada.

Congrats to the entire Channel 35 team! ●

LA CityView Channel 35's award-winning episode of *LA This Week* featured President Joe Biden's local announcement of his student debt relief plan from earlier this year. The episode was hosted by Natalia Bilbao.



Accepting the Star Awards on behalf of the entire Channel 35 team were (from left) Dawn Poomee, Souheil Helou, Michael Hernandez, Mariana Ferraro, James Morris and Jayson Joseph.

## CLUB MEMBER EXCLUSIVE



WE'LL COVER YOUR DISNEYLAND PARKING THIS NOVEMBER!

NOVEMBER 1 - 30, 2024

WE'RE THANKFUL FOR MEMBERS LIKE YOU!

As a loyal Employees Club member, we truly appreciate the hard work and dedication you bring as a public employee. To show our gratitude for your service and commitment, we're covering your Disneyland parking fee for the entire month of November!



**HOW IT WORKS:**

The first 1,000 qualified members who submit their parking receipt for Disneyland between November 1-30, 2024, will be reimbursed for their parking fee! (1 refund per member, up to \$35.)

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Visit Disneyland anytime from November 1-30, 2024.
2. Keep your parking receipt, which must clearly show the parking fee.
3. Submit a photo of your receipt via <https://join.employeesclub.com/FeesBack>.
4. Members eligible for refunds will receive them via Zelle, whereas those who have not arranged for Zelle payments will receive a check by mail.
5. Enjoy your day at Disneyland!

\* Valid for Disneyland parking receipts dated November 1-30, 2024. Limit (1) refund per Club member in good standing who has paid dues and been active since at least October 1, 2024. Maximum refund value of \$35. Receipt must be submitted through online link.



EmployeesClub.com



# Nominate a Club Member as Employee of the Year!



**Arlene Herrero**  
VP of Business Development

## Calling Excellent Employees!

Club Members are bold ... fun ... hard-working ... humble ... and generally awesome. You know Club Members who fit that description. It's time to nominate them.

In a new program, the Club will honor awesome public service employees:

- City of Los Angeles Employee of the Year and Retiree of the Year
- LADWP Employee of the Year and Retiree of the Year
- County of Los Angeles Employee of the Year and Retiree of the Year
- LAUSD Employee of the Year and Retiree of the Year
- State of California Employee of the Year and Retiree of the Year

We'll honor the absolute best in public service employees at the Club's annual luncheon, set for Wed., Jan. 8 at the California Endowment Center in downtown Los Angeles.



**DeAngelo Thompson**  
Mobile Operations Representative

**Successful honorees must be Club Members, but you, the nominator, do not need to be a Club Member.**

Final selections from those nominated will be made by Club staff.

**Your role: We need nominees!**

Nominate your colleagues, bosses, direct reports, family members, and so forth, who are current Club Members. Your identity as the one making the nominations will not be disclosed. ●

*Thank you for reflecting excellence in Club Membership!*

*For questions, email [help@employeesclub.com](mailto:help@employeesclub.com)*



## Employee of the Year!

**NOMINATION DEADLINE:**  
Dec. 1, 2024

**AWARD PRESENTATION:**  
Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025  
The Club's Annual Luncheon at the California Endowment Center, Downtown Los Angeles



Submit your nominations online at: [aliveemployeesclub.com](http://aliveemployeesclub.com)

## DISCOVER MORE

# MEMBER SAVINGS WITH CLUB DISCOUNTS



### SAVE ON WATER PARKS

Dive into fun without diving into your wallet!



### SAVE ON ATTRACTIONS

Enjoy endless adventures at Club Member prices!



### SAVE ON MOVIE TICKETS

Catch the latest blockbusters without breaking the bank!



### SAVE ON THEME PARKS

Experience thrills and chills at unbeatable prices!



EXPLORE MORE SAVINGS ONLINE

[www.EmployeesClub.com](http://www.EmployeesClub.com)

## Retirement Prep: Get Ready. Get Happy!

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT



# THE CLUB INSURANCE CORNER

by Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales



CA LICENSE NO: 0H45598

## NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHT

# Life Insurance: You'd Be Surprised!

### NOELLE'S INSURANCE INSIGHTS

Understanding life insurance is crucial for effective financial planning, yet many people fall prey to common life insurance misconceptions. Let's debunk some myths to help you recognize the true benefits of life insurance.

**1. 'Life Insurance Is Only for Older People'**

**THE REALITY:** Contrary to popular belief, life insurance is advantageous for young adults, not just older individuals or those with dependents. Many young adults carry financial burdens like student loans or mortgages that could impose a burden on loved ones if left unpaid. Opting for life insurance at a younger age can lock in lower premiums and easier approval due to fewer health concerns, positioning it as a smart choice for those thinking ahead.

**2. 'I Don't Need Life Insurance If I'm Single'**

**THE REALITY:** Single individuals can indeed benefit from life insurance, even without direct dependents. It covers funeral expenses, pays off debts, and can provide financial support to aging parents or siblings. Additionally, it can be a way to contribute to a cause you care about or leave a meaningful legacy.

**3. 'My Employer's Life Insurance Is Enough'**

**THE REALITY:** Employer-sponsored life insurance often offers limited coverage, typically only a multiple of your salary, which might not cover all financial needs. Moreover, this insurance is generally not portable, meaning you lose it if you change jobs. Evaluating your personal life insurance needs and considering supplemental coverage is vital for comprehensive financial security.

**4. 'I Don't Need Life Insurance If I Have Savings'**

**THE REALITY:** While savings are essential, they may not fully cover all expenses like mortgage payments, education costs and funeral expenses after a person's death. Life insurance provides a financial safety net, delivering immediate support that savings might not offer in terms of timing and liquidity, ensuring your dependents are financially secure.

**5. 'I'm Healthy, So I Don't Need Life Insurance'**

**THE REALITY:** Many healthy individuals postpone purchasing life insurance, assuming they can do so later without issue. However, unexpected health changes can lead to higher premiums or even disqualification. Securing life insurance while in good health ensures lower rates and peace of mind against future uncertainties.

**6. 'I Don't Need Life Insurance If I'm Not the Primary Earner'**

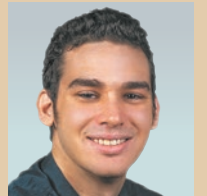
**THE REALITY:** Non-earning partners contribute significantly through homemaking or caregiving, holding substantial economic value. Life insurance can help cover the cost of replacing these contributions, such as hiring childcare or household management assistance, ensuring surviving family members remain financially stable.



## Meet Your Club Counselors



**Dalila Vielma**  
Member Services  
Counselor



**Dylan Noel**  
Member Services  
Counselor



**Cynthia Ha**  
Member Services  
Counselor



**Cheryl Martin**  
Member Services  
Counselor

Update your benefits and get all of your questions answered by booking a one on one or group presentation appointment with your colleagues at your job site.

**Email [help@employeesclub.com](mailto:help@employeesclub.com) to request a Counselor visit today!**

By addressing these life insurance misconceptions, individuals can better understand the benefits of life insurance and its vital role in financial planning. This proactive approach provides financial security and peace of mind for both you and your loved ones.

**To explore life insurance options, interested individuals can contact [help@employeesclub.com](mailto:help@employeesclub.com) or call (800) 464-0452 Ext. 4.**

## FOR RETIREES OR THOSE ABOUT TO RETIRE

# The Club is here to guide you through the retirement planning process every step of the way!

If you plan to retire soon or are newly Retired, you have access to attend a retirement planning party with Club Retiree Specialist Counselors that will set you up for success in retirement.

We will be reviewing topics including pension deduction, Retiree Life Insurance, Retiree Legal Insurance, the Club's Retiree Mentorship Program, our Retiree Recognition Awards, and other valuable Club benefits.

The Club strives to make your transfer from active to Retired as easy as possible by guiding you through the processes; educating you on new, important topics; and welcoming you to our Club Retiree Community.

### Attend a Retirement Planning Party!

**Date:** Last Thursday of each month  
(Choose one: Nov. 21, or Dec. 19, Jan. 23)

**Time:** 1 – 2 p.m.

**Location:** Club Headquarters  
311 S. Spring St., Suite 1300  
Downtown Los Angeles

**Parking:** Validated parking provided.

### RSVP today!

To reserve a spot at an upcoming Club Retirement Planning Party:

- Call us at (800) 464-0452, option 4, or
- Email us at [info@employeesclub.com](mailto:info@employeesclub.com)



**Questions?** Don't hesitate to contact our Retiree specialists at [info@employeesclub.com](mailto:info@employeesclub.com) • or (800) 464-0452

## Contact Information

### Club Retirees Dedicated Helpline:

Club contact:  
[help@employeesclub.com](mailto:help@employeesclub.com)

### LA City Employees Retirement System (LACERS) (City Dept.)

(800) 779-8328  
[lacers.services@lacers.org](mailto:lacers.services@lacers.org)

### LADWP Retirees Association

(949) 388-1206

### Fire and Police Pensions (City Dept.)

(844) 885-2377  
[pensions@lafpp.com](mailto:pensions@lafpp.com)

### LA Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)

(888) 288-5073  
[membership@larfpa.org](mailto:membership@larfpa.org)

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

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More than  
**\$130 MILLION**  
 in insurance  
 benefits paid!

## Your Insurance at Work

When Members purchase insurance through the Club, they trust the insurance will help them in times of need.

Below are the monthly amounts of claims paid back to Members. Club insurance plans will be there when you need them.

INSURANCE PLAN	SEPT.	TOTAL SINCE 1992
Life/Accidental Death and Dismemberment	\$105,128.33	\$75,126,568
Disability Insurance	\$142,805.86	\$36,510,244
Long-Term Care Insurance	\$210,753	\$14,678,053
Cancer/Critical Care Insurance	\$30,350	\$5,165,600
Accident Plan	\$1,760	\$143,597
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$490,797</b>	<b>\$131,624,062</b>

### CLUB MEMBERS' PRAISE

The Club's claims service was "excellent. Everyone was very kind and compassionate about my mother's death."

— Michelle Nevins, February 2023



**Dulce Lopez**  
 Claims Administrator



**Mikayla Sprague**  
 Claims Administrator

Trust the Club's insurance and claims services when you need them the most. Contact a Claims Administrator today:

**(800) 464-0452**



**Be Celebrated.  
 Be Honored.  
 Be Thanked.**

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING from Chef Larios

It's me, Chef Larios, coming to you from my favorite place: my kitchen.

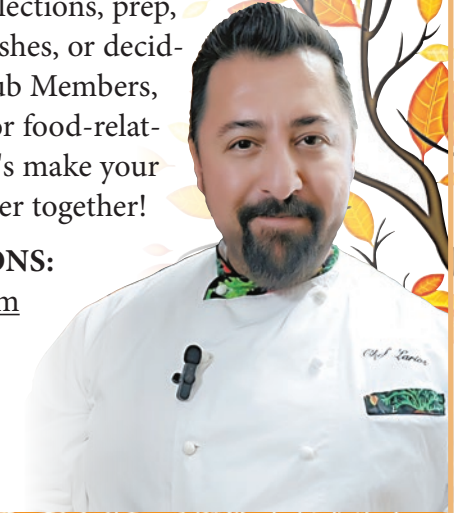
Thanksgiving is the culinary high point of the year for me. What are you preparing this year? I would love to know! I'll be working on a delectable feast of my own, of course.

Have food questions about selections, prep, or seasoning? Timing your dishes, or deciding on sides and desserts? Club Members, I'm here to help! Reach out for food-related tips and expert advice. Let's make your culinary experience even better together!

**SEND ME YOUR QUESTIONS:**  
[cheflarios@employeesclub.com](mailto:cheflarios@employeesclub.com)

I wish you holiday memories to last a lifetime.

*Chef Larios*



## Chief Jim

*Photos courtesy Mayor's Office, Club staff*

JIM MCDONNELL, LONGTIME POLICE LEADER AND CLUB MEMBER, NOMINATED FOR LAPD'S TOP JOB.

**LAPD:** Jim McDonnell, former First Assistant Chief of the LAPD and Sheriff of Los Angeles County, was nominated by Mayor Karen Bass Oct. 4 to become the LAPD's 59th Chief of Police.

He has spent more than 40 years in policing and is a longtime Club Member.

His nomination now must be approved by the City Council.

"Jim McDonnell's nomination as LAPD Chief is a testament to his outstanding leadership and steadfast dedication," said Club President and CEO Robert Larios. "With a 40-year legacy in law enforcement, Jim's commitment to community service and innovation have consistently inspired those around him. His leadership promises a brighter future for the LAPD, enhancing public safety and fostering community trust. Congratulations, Jim, on this well-earned recognition. We stand ready to support you in your mission."

"How wonderful it is to have Jim McDonnell back home as City of Los Angeles Chief of Police," said Rita Robinson, Retired General Manager of LADOT; Retired Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Public Works, Los Angeles County; and current Board Member of the Los Angeles City Insurance Services (The Club). "Throughout my leadership appointments in the City and County, Jim played an important role as teacher, mentor, motivator and friend. He always had a listening ear, sound counsel and a wink and smile of assurance. With so much the City has to deal with and so much to prepare for, I know Chief McDonnell will effectively lead and the police force and citizens will follow. Congratulations and Godspeed, my friend!"

"Congratulations, Chief Jim McDonnell, on your appointment as the new LAPD Chief!" said Arlene Herrero, the Club's Vice President of Business Development. "Your leadership, dedication and commitment to service have always been an inspiration. I'm confident that under your guidance, the LAPD will continue to thrive and strengthen its bond with the community."

"Wishing you great success in this important role, and I look forward to our continuing friendship and collaboration in the years to come."

"Chief McDonnell is a leader, an innovator, and a change maker, and I am looking forward to working with him to grow and strengthen LAPD, deepen relationships with communities across the city, and make sure that Los Angeles is vigilant and prepared for anything that comes our way," said Mayor Bass in her nomination remarks.

"I began the LAPD Academy 43 years ago," Chief McDonnell said. "I love this City – and I understand the modern-day challenges our Officers face in working to protect it. It is a tremendous honor to lead the men and women of the LAPD. I will work hard to make sure their work to keep Angelenos safe is supported. Mayor Bass's efforts on public safety reflect thoughtful, compassionate, and solution-oriented approaches to policing. I greatly appreciate her confidence in me and I look forward to working closely with her to make Los Angeles a safer city."

Chief McDonnell is set to replace Chief Michel Moore, who retired earlier this year; and Dominic Choi, who served on an interim basis since then.



Mayor Karen Bass introduces Chief Jim McDonnell as her nominee for the next LAPD Chief.



Chief Jim McDonnell during his introductory press conference.



The Club's Arlene Herrero with Jim McDonnell, Club Member, in an undated photo.

# Latino Heritage Month

Photos courtesy the departments

## A Month of Culture, Pride and Celebration

CITY DEPARTMENTS CELEBRATE LATINO HERITAGE MONTH: SEPT. 15–OCT. 15

**CITYWIDE:** From Sept. 15 – the anniversary of Mexican independence – to Oct. 15, the City of Los Angeles celebrated Latino Heritage Month. It was a time for culture, celebration and recognition of significant achievement.

The annual celebration is part of Latino Heritage Month, observed nationally. On Sept. 10, Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez, Cultural Affairs and com-

munity members gathered at City Hall to highlight the array of events taking place for Latino Heritage Month. Mariachi Divas de Cindy Shea was honored. Many Councilmembers were in attendance.

Below are some of the events journaled by *Alive!* (Feel free to send in photos of your own department celebrations.)

### Cultural Affairs

Cultural Affairs produced a comprehensive and beautiful cultural guide to the many events and happenings for this year's Latino Heritage Festival.

In addition, Cultural Affairs curated the Fiesta del Pueblo art exhibit at City Hall's Henry P. Rio Bridge Gallery. The exhibit featured artwork from Latino and Chicano artists in the Los Angeles area and curated with help from the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture. This year's theme and celebration highlighted the working people, indigenous peoples, women, and organizers who have been such an integral part of the revolutionary spirit of Latinx culture and history – both in LA and around the world.

Works from the Fiesta del Pueblo art exhibit at City Hall's Henry P. Rio Bridge Gallery.



Cultural Affairs' cultural guide to this year's Latino Heritage Month.

### Mayor's Office

On Oct. 10, the Mayor's Office celebrated Latino Heritage Month at City Hall. The mayor honored several dignitaries, including actor/businessman Danny Trejo; Jocelyn Duarte, Executive Director of the Salvadoran American Leadership Education Fund (SALEF); and Eduard Atuesta, Colombian professional soccer player and midfielder for the Los Angeles Football Club (FC). The event was co-hosted by KTLA's Megan Telles.



Mayor Karen Bass with (from left) Danny Trejo, Jocelyn Duarte and Eduard Atuesta.



At the Mayor's official Latino Heritage Month event at City Hall.

### Library

The Los Angeles Public Library hosted the Los Angeles Libros Festival Sept. 28 at Central Library. The sixth annual festival offered a full day of entertainment featuring Spanish-language and bilingual storytelling, musical performances, authors, workshops, books, and community.



At the Libros Festival.

At the Libros Festival.

At the Libros Festival.

### Airports

Airports hosted its first Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at LAX Oct. 9. Eduardo Garcia, Manager, HR Strategy, Technology and Performance, hosted. He introduced Airports CEO John Ackerman and the Board of Airport Commissioners.

Also, Airports programmed entertainment for the festive month inside the terminals, including LA-based DJ Xica Soul.



At the Airports celebration event.



Airports CEO John Ackerman was introduced by host Eduardo Garcia.

### LAFD

In honor of Latino Heritage Month, LAFD Firefighter David Ortiz shared his personal story: from growing up in East LA, to his career in the Fire Department. He spoke to ITA's Channel 35.



Firefighter David Ortiz (left), in an earlier photo with then-Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas.

### LADWP

The LADWP highlighted the recent appointment of CEO and General Manager Janisse Quiñones. She is the first Hispanic woman to lead the utility.



Janisse Quiñones

### LAPD

As part of Latino Heritage Month, the LAPD honored Officer Mariel Melkonian. Melkonian reflected on growing up in Simi Valley, having her mom as her inspiration, and helping other women consider working in law enforcement.



LAPD Officer Mariel Melkonian.

### Citywide: El Grito

In collaboration with the City of Los Angeles, Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez served as the Chair and "Padrino" (Godfather) of this year's Latino Heritage Month and host of El Grito, the block party celebrating Mexican Independence Day Sept. 15. The free event featured live music, drinks, food and family activities at Gloria Molina Grand Park in front of City Hall.

This year's theme for El Grito was "La Fiesta del Pueblo" (The People's Festival) - a celebration of the working people, indigenous communities, women, and organizers who are such an integral part of the cultural identity of Los Angeles, and of the revolutionary history of the Mexican people.



At this year's El Grito celebration.

### Airport Police

Airport Police highlighted the mural *Into the Blue*, affixed outside its headquarters building. The mural was created by Chilean-American artist Francisco Letelier and Marybeth Fama.



The mural *Into the Blue* on the exterior of the Airport Police headquarters.

### Zoo

For the fourth consecutive year, the LA Zoo created its Beloved Pets *Ofrenda* in observance of National Hispanic Month and Día de Los Muertos.

The *ofrenda* was co-presented with Plaza de la Raza Cultural Center for Arts and Education.

The *ofrenda*, which means "offering"

in Spanish, was designed to honor the memory of cherished animal companions that have passed away. Zoo guests were welcome to print photos or draw pictures of their pets and place their images and mementos on the *ofrenda* - located at the Zoo's Front Entrance Plaza near Sea Life Cliffs through early November.



The Beloved Pets Ofrenda.



Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez hosted this year's El Grito. Pictured are (from left) Councilmember Monica Rodriguez; City Attorney Hydee Feldstein-Soto; and Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson.





FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

## Open Enrollment Now Thru Nov. 18

There is still time to make changes to your LACERS coverage for next year! LACERS' Annual Open Enrollment period ends Nov. 18. It is your annual opportunity to enroll in a health or dental plan, change plans, or add dependents, with changes becoming effective on Jan. 1, 2025. Materials are available online at [lacers.org/health-benefits](http://lacers.org/health-benefits).

- **For Members under age 65 and non-Medicare,** your packet will include a Health Plan Statement, Open Enrollment Overview, and instructions to access the 2025 Health Benefits Guide online.
- **For Members aged 65 and older with Medicare,** your packet will include a Health Plan Statement, Open Enrollment Overview, and 2025 Health Benefits Guide. If you do not receive your packet by the end of October, please visit [LACERS.org](http://LACERS.org) for the Open Enrollment materials.

Remaining meeting dates and locations are posted below. If you are considering changing your medical or dental plan, LACERS encourages you to attend one of these meetings to learn more about our health plan benefit offerings and ask questions directly to the health plan carrier representatives. These meetings are also great opportunities to become more acquainted with your LACERS' health benefits.

You may register to attend through your MyLACERS account or by contacting LACERS at (800) 779-8328. Space is limited, so register now!

### REMAINING IN-PERSON MEETING SCHEDULE

#### LA Metro Area:

Mon., Nov. 4,  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.,  
California Endowment Center,  
1000 N. Alameda St. downtown

#### Inland Empire:

Tues., Nov. 5,  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.,  
DoubleTree Hotel,  
222 N. Vineyard Ave., Ontario

#### Southern LA County:

Thurs., Nov. 7,  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.,  
The Centre in Lakewood,  
5000 Clark Ave., Lakewood

# Share Your Party Photos!



**Is your dept. celebrating the holidays?  
Let the Club publish your photos!**

The Club Holiday tradition continues – have photos from your department's holiday party printed in *Alive!*, in our special holiday section, online and in print. It's an *Alive!* tradition!

#### Here's how to have your holiday photos published::

1. If you're having your party in person, take your own photos and submit to the Club at the address below. (This is best.)
2. Or, invite the Club to attend your holiday party. We'll assign your Club Counselor or other Club employee, and we'll join your party just to take some photos. Send us your details. We'll do our best to get to as many parties as we can, but we can't guarantee it.



To upload your digital holiday party photos, or ask that we attend, go to:  
[www.alive.employeesclub.com/holidayparty](http://www.alive.employeesclub.com/holidayparty)



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– Sarah P.

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– Alison R.



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**Buy Tickets Now at [EmployeesClub.com](http://EmployeesClub.com)**

# Salute to Veterans

The Club honors our Veterans.

We are honored once again to salute our Club Member Veterans in honor of Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

To all Club Veterans, thank you for your service!

## SEND IN YOUR TRIBUTES:



We're still accepting submissions for publishing on the online *Alive!*. Submit to: [alive-employeesclub.com/veterans](http://alive-employeesclub.com/veterans)

DEADLINE: Wednesday, Nov. 6

PUBLISHED ONLINE: Friday, Nov. 8



**For Corporal Seth Gerhardstein:**

**United States Marine Corps Installation Trial Organization, Pacific, 2020-23**

"We are so proud of your dedication and service. We all love you so much."

**Robert Gerhardstein, General Services**



**United States Navy Chief Petty Officer, E7, 1962-82. Vietnam War and Cuban Crisis.**

"Serving for 20 years in the U.S. Navy was the best time of my life. I have the great honor of serving and protecting our country and her citizens against all enemies at home and abroad."

**Delio Jacildo, Building and Safety**



Andrew Virzi Sr. with great-grandson Aiden Virzi at Veterans Plaza in Simi Valley.

**For Andrew Virzi Sr.:**

**United States Marine Corps 1st Lieutenant, First Marine Division, Korea.**

"For Dad, Grandpa and Great Grandpa Andrew Virzi Sr.: He is the late father of LACEA Insurance Services (The Club) Board Director Andrew Virzi Jr. and the grandfather of LACEA (Association) Board Chair Andrew Virzi III. Andrew Sr. passed away in July at 96.

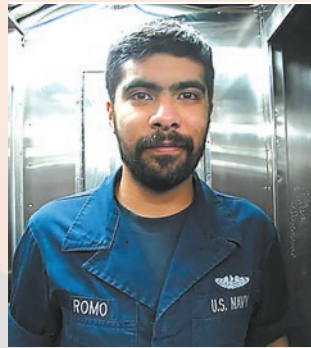
"He served heroically in Korea as part of the First Marine Division, which fought in one of the most historic battles at the Chosin Reservoir. Many strategists on both sides counted them as lost in the early days. However, they defied all odds and decimated the opposing forces on their march south. To this day, this still stands out as one of the fiercest battles in our history.

"Dad/Grandpa/Great Grandpa, thank you for serving our Great Country. We love you and miss you."

**The Virzi Family**



**United States Army SFC E-7, June 1989-September 2009, Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraq. Manuel Flores, CDCR, State of California**



**United States Navy Submarine service, 2010-15 aboard the USS Greenville (ssn 772) for two deployments in the western Pacific. Electronics Technician, navigation, 2nd class submarine qualified.**

"Born and raised in Pacoima, I was always curious about learning

more about cool machines and fixing them, so I signed up to learn about submarines and how to fix them while underwater. This experience has been very beneficial to being successful working for the people of Los Angeles as an electrical mechanic."

**Alejandro Romo, LADWP**



**United States Marine Corps**

"Stay motivated."

**Officer Alexis Solares, LAPD**



**United States Army 11 Bravo Infantry Specialist, E-4 1998-2001. Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.**

"The most amazing warrior I know has an amazing wife, four kids and three grandkids, and is always willing to sacrifice for the team."

**Ruben Lucero, LADWP**



**For Clifton Trute:**

**United States Army Private E-1, Honorably Discharged as Staff Sergeant. Vietnam War. National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Bronze Star, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal.**

"Dad, you were a man of few words, but you were greatly admired by many. And I know the sacrifices you made for your country and family. You will always be my hero, and even though you are in heaven now, your picture, medals and flag hang honorably on my wall so your grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other family and friends, and I will know how honorable a man you always were in life and in heaven. Love you forever, Daddy."

**Victoria Acosta, CHP, State of California**



**United States Marine Corps Corporal, 0811 Field Artillery Cannon Crewman for the 5th Battalion, 14th Marines, 2006-12.**

"For my younger self in the photo, thanks for the memories. I will never forget them."

**Robert Garcia, Public Works/StreetsLA**



**United States Air Force Staff Sergeant, Weapons Mechanic, 1969-73, Tuy Hoa and Da Nang Vietnam.**

"I was doing my job to make sure that when we were called to support the troops fighting in different areas, I was able to make sure that they had a chance to come home and see their families and friends. Welcome home to my brothers and sisters who made it home."

**James Dixon, Retired, LADWP/Public Works**



**United States Marine Corps E-5, Sergeant. 6174-UH-1N Helicopter Crew Chief (Door Gunner); 6177 Weapons and Tactics Crew Chief Instructor. 2003-08. Combat Service: Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2005.**

"Having the ability to serve our country, especially during wartime, has been an absolute honor. The lessons I have learned, the friendships made, and the life that I now have would never have happened without my time in the Marine Corps. I would like to thank anyone who raised their hand and took an oath to defend this amazing country. Past, present and future, it is truly because of you and your selfless sacrifice that we are able to enjoy these freedoms. God bless you and God Bless America."

**K. Layne McGowan, LADWP**



**United States Navy E-5 (EM - Shipboard Elevator Electronics/Electrical System Maintenance Technician), 1992-99. Southwest Asia Service/Gulf War.**

"My Boot Camp photo at age 17. Proudly served from 1992-99, forward deployed on the U.S.S. Independence (CV-62) and U.S.S. Mobile Bay (CG-53)."

**Eric Yoshida, LADWP**



**For Koichi Honbo:**

**United States Air Force Sgt. 1966-69, Vietnam.**

"Koichi, thank you for your service and your contributions to making our nation a safer place!"

**Officer Kevin Ishida, LAPD**



**For Mose :**  
**United States Navy**  
**E3, Boiler Operator, 1968-74, Vietnam.**

"My Daddy, Rev. Mose Tyler, served in the Vietnam War aboard the USS Bennington (CVS-20). He married the love of his life, Hortense Stanley-Tyler in 1971. They had two children - Monique (1971) and Keisha (1976). In 1985, he began working for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture as a CSI (Consumer Safety Inspector) GS 10/10. He Retired in 2012. He was called to preach the gospel in 2012. He continues to work in the ministry teaching and preaching gospel. My father means the world to me. I commend him for serving his county and continuously providing and nurturing his family. I salute you and I love you! Thank you for your service to our country and your family."

county and continuously providing and nurturing his family. I salute you and I love you! Thank you for your service to our country and your family."

**Keisha Tyler, General Services**



**For Jarvis Parker:**  
**United States Army National Guard**  
**CW3 Geospatial Engineering Technician,**  
**2003-present. Afghanistan, 2008-09, Iraq/Kuwait**  
**2014-15, Kuwait 2023.**

"Jarvis AKA Superman! You're an incredible human being but also an amazing son, brother, uncle, father and partner! You have been serving our country since 2003 with pride, dedication, devotion, integrity, honesty and effortlessly. You take pride in being an amazing soldier and leader. You always put others first and have a heart of pure gold! You are absolutely the world to me and our children, and I want to let you know that we Love you, we cherish you, and we will continue to support you no matter what."

"Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." ~ Joshua 1:9

"Please keep fighting for our country and wearing that uniform with dignity and honor. I love you, Superman. From Erica, Zamari, Morgan, Jarvis Jr. and Da'mon Jr."

**Erica Meadows, Probation, LA County**



**For Doyle Stevens Brown:**  
**United States Air Force**  
**Chief Master Sergeant,**  
**1972-78, Juvat (80th**  
**Fighter) Squadron.**

"Steve, as a young boy, Mom called you chief. Fast forward 30 years, you earned the title of Chief Master Sergeant while in the Air Force! We are proud of you and humbly thank you for your service; you have been a positive influence in my life."

**Valerie Brown-McCain,**  
**Airports**



**For Art Garcia:**  
**United States**  
**Air Force**  
**Sgt. E4, 1969-**  
**72, Vietnam.**

"To Art, thank you for your service and dedication to our nation!"

**Officer Kevin**  
**Ishida, LAPD**



**For Keith**  
**Wilson:**

"Keith passed away Dec. 28, 2021. He Retired from the City after 28 years in 2009. We were married 49 years. He was the love of my life. I miss him every day."

**Mary Jane Wilson, widow of Keith Wilson,**  
**Retired, General Services**



**For Tony Gonzales, LA County:**  
**United States Marine Corps 1961-65.**  
**Good Conduct Medal (First Award), Rifle Markman**  
**Badge, Special Comm. Operator. Honorable Discharge -**  
**recommended for reenlistment.**

"Tony, known as Pop Pop to his family, joined the Marine Corps and served his country from 1961 to 1965.

"After service, Pop Pop, his wife and three children moved to sunny Southern California with excitement and hope. Using the GI Bill, he attended UCLA, receiving an MBA. He began his career with the aerospace program and then joined the Harbor as Treasurer and Controller, where he served for 25 years.

"Unfortunately, as Pop Pop looked forward to his golden years, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's. The diagnosis was life-changing for him, his wife, Debbie of 60-plus years, and his family. However, Pop Pop found strength through community. He joined the Pep4U Exercising Program of Orange County, and attended their exercise classes daily. Through this fantastic resource, Pop Pop connected with new friends, attended social gatherings, and even served on the PAOC Board.

"The family is deeply grateful to Pop Pop for his unwavering love and joy that he continues to spread, even in the face of Parkinson's. His dedication as a husband, father and grandfather is a testament to his character. He is not just an inspiration, hero and role model, but a beloved part of our lives.

"We love you so much, Pop Pop! Thank you for your dedication to this family and to your Country."

**William A. Gonzales, Harbor**

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*Alive! Feature*

**CLUB BENEFIT: The Club Retirement Plaque**



# HONORED TO

**They worked together. Retired together. Lunch together. And now they're honored for their careers together with Club Retirement Plaques.**



The Retired LADWP lunch group, bottom row, from left: Jaime Castellon, 37 years of City service; Ignacio Perez, 34 years; Ben Cook; Judy Corrales, 35 years; Mark Lucero, 34 years; Lorenzo Campos, 36 years; Danny Arriaga, 37 years; and Doug Land, 37 years. Top: Joseph O'Hara, 36 years; Noe Pimentel, 35 years; Kirk Broyard, 34 years; and Joe Powell, 30 years. All now have received their Club Retirement Plaque.



## Retirement PLAQUE Ceremony

Oct. 16, 2024 • California Endowment, Downtown



LACERS representatives Tiffany Obembe (left) and Heather Rodriguez, Club Members, congratulated the honorees and explained how LACERS can assist Retired City Employees.



Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales, began the plaque-awarding portion of the day.



Guadalupe Lira, part of the Club's Employee Recognition Team, hosted the plaque ceremony.



RLACEI's Beverly Clark, First Vice President and Publicity Director, and Board Director Mark Blunk presented the benefits of joining the RLACEI retirees association to those in attendance.



All recipients of Club Retirement Plaques at the October 16 ceremony, bottom row, from left: Mariolu Talbutt, Judy Corrales, Ignacio Perez, Officer Maria G. Hernandez, Evangelina Masud, Vivian McGrew and Ronald Derrigorian. Top: Antonio Byrd, Joe Powell, Kirk Broyard, Jose Colon, Sherman Simon and Joe O'Hara.



Special guest speaker (and *Alive!* columnist) Arlene Travis gave an excellent presentation on finding your purpose, for anyone but especially those entering retirement.



Club President and CEO Robert Larios sent video greetings and deep congratulations to the newest Club Retirement Plaque recipients.



Along to celebrate: Judy Corrales' husband, Peter (left), and Mark Lucero, a member of the lunch group who already received his plaque (third from left), attended to help the friends celebrate. Kirk Broyard's son, Kohl (not pictured) attended, too. They're pictured with the Club's Noelle Kauffman, Director of Sales.

# GETHER

A group of LADWP Retirees has been doing a lot of things together, for a very long time.

First, they're all Club Members and have been for a long time. Second, they spent their careers in the LADWP's Water Distribution Division working with each other off and on as promotions sent them apart, then back again. They became friends, vacationed together, babysat each other's children, and so many other things that friends do.

They all reunited in retirement, and they go to lunch every month.

But when Joe Powell, Joseph O'Hara, Judy Corrales and Ignacio Perez heard that the others – Kirk Broyard, Noe Pimentel, Jaime Castellon, Douglas Land, Lorenzo Campos, Mark Lucero and Ben Cook – had already received their valuable Club Retirement Plaques, the four hold-outs signed up immediately. Joe, Joseph, Judy and Ignacio received their Retirement Plaques at the most recent plaque ceremony, including lunch, and insurance seminar and a wellness speech, held Wed., Oct. 18 at the California Endowment in downtown LA.

The group is balanced once more!



The friends picked Guisados on Sunset Boulevard for their October gathering.

The unique honor is reserved exclusively for Retired Club Members in good standing with at least five consecutive years of Club Membership. The handsome plaque itself, valued at \$500, is free with Club Membership.

Do you qualify? See the Registration information in this story. And register. You deserve it!

## Lifelong Reward

"The plaque represents accomplishments and years serving residents of the City of Los Angeles," said group member Joe Powell.

"Receiving my plaque is a life-long acknowledgement of my accomplishment of helping the citizens of Los Angeles," said group member Judy Corrales. "I am so proud of working for the City."

Be rewarded. Be honored and celebrated for your lifelong achievement. Register for your Club Retirement Plaque. ●

## Retirement Plaques: Among the Best Club Benefits

The Club Retirement Plaque is one of the most valuable, treasured and respected honors City employees can receive in their retirement. It says their many years of dedicated City service is celebrated, and the recipient is appreciated and thanked.

**'The [retirement] plaque represents accomplishments and years serving residents of the City of Los Angeles.'**

— Joe Powell



Members of the Retired LADWP Water Distribution group who received their plaques together Oct. 16 are (front row, from left) Judy Corrales and Ignacio Perez. Top: Kirk Broyard, Joe Powell and Joseph O'Hara.

## THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW



## MEET YOUR Employee Recognition Team

The Club's new Employee Recognition Team focuses on honoring, thanking and celebrating Club Members for your dedication and service to public service. They go the extra mile to make sure you know you are valued. ● The interview included Dulce Lopez, Claims Administrator, 1 year of Club service; Rebecca DeBolt, Customer Service Rep, 9 years; Guadalupe Lira, Club Retail Manager, 10 years; and Cesilee Castillo, Customer Service Rep, 7 years.

**Welcome, Recognition Team! *Alive!* is excited to talk to you about your focus and mission of honoring Club Members.**

### Recognition Programs

**Do you focus on Retirees recognition, or is it all Club Members?**

**Rebecca:** It started with Retirees. But our focus is just getting started. I expect it to grow into something bigger.

**Guadalupe:** We are growing. The Recognition Team started because we wanted to more directly thank and honor Retirees for their service. Some of them receive service pins from their department at service year milestones. That will be our next level, where we are introducing Club loyalty pins for our Members. We are in the development stage right now for the Club service pin program; we are working on the artwork and getting samples, so that's to come in 2025.

What stands behind the recognition pin program, again, is a thank you, so that Club Members feel appreciated and honored, and they see that we care for them. It's about building a sense of purpose, of pride.

The recognition program is creating more accessibility for Retirees, because we have so many employees who get stuck in a limbo once they retire, like "What's next?" For them we are developing the Retirement Society, a social group with social benefits for these Retirees, or even for employees looking to network with people of their same interests, their same surroundings. So the Recognition Team and the programs we're managing are growing. Slowly, but we're growing from Retirement Plaques to Member service pins and the Retirement Society.



Guadalupe Lira

**Guadalupe Lira:** We are, too!

**Excellent. What is the Employee Recognition Team all about? What is its mission?**

**Rebecca DeBolt:** The Club's Employee Recognition Team is to recognize all the hard work that our Members have done throughout their years of service, as well as honoring them. We do a lot of work to manage the Retirees Plaque program. It's so important. It makes recipients feel honored. Just today, a Member called in to register for a plaque; he wanted the plaque so his kids could remember the service he did. He was with the LAPD.



Rebecca DeBolt



Dulce Lopez

**Dulce Lopez:** So the Employee Recognition Team is about celebrating, recognizing and acknowledging the employees and all of their hard work and dedication that they've done for the State, for the City, and for the County.

It's about our gratitude for them.

**Guadalupe:** It's about recognizing their hard work and celebrating it. But most importantly, it's about thanking them for their service. Many times we've had recipients cry and get emotional during these Retirees Plaque presentations. These are lifetimes that they're giving to these government agencies, so a simple thank you goes a very long way. That's the highlight for me – celebrating them, and then expressing our gratitude for doing what they do for our communities.



Cesilee Castillo

**Cesilee Castillo:** I see us as a taskforce to put our respect and love for our Members into action. We all have Club titles; I'm a Customer Service Rep. Yet the Team gives us the opportunity to explore ways to celebrate members outside of those roles. It is exciting to me to work on projects that honor hard-working people who I believe cannot be recognized enough. I don't just work with these Members; I also see them in my community every day!

**The Team really brings that sense of celebrating them into focus.**

**Guadalupe:** I agree with that. That's really what we're here for. We're celebrating and showing thanks for their hard work and their dedication for their careers.

**Tell me a little more about the Retirement Society.**

**Guadalupe:** It's in development right now, and Members will hear more about that, and the service pin program, in 2025.

The Retirement Society will be a way for the Club to connect with Retirees who need connection. Maybe they need someone to check on them periodically. But also it will be about creating social opportunities for them where they can meet and mingle with other Retirees. We're looking to build resources for them, whether it's a life coach or a career coach to help them find their purpose. But like I said, it's a developing program. More information will come from the Employee Recognition Team next year.

**Dulce:** Right now the Recognition Team is brainstorming on how we can enhance the quality of their lives. For many years, the Retirees have focused mainly on their career, but after they retired, they might be asking, "Okay, what's next?" We're looking to see what we can create to enhance their well-being and the quality of their lives, and also build connection.

Meanwhile, of course, recognition happens every day. For myself, working in the claims department, we're constantly thanking Members and making things easier for them. It's our job to recognize them for doing a public service. It's an everyday part of what I do, and what everyone at the Club does.

— CONTINUES PAGE 14

*Alive! Feature*



**THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW** – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

**Included in Membership**

**And everything that you're doing is included in Membership – unique and exceptional services and programs that come with Membership.**

**Rebecca:** Right. I've talked to people not wanting to request the Retirement Plaque because they think it costs them extra money. It doesn't. It comes as part of Club Membership. It's nice to know that we are giving them something that they desire with their membership that I don't think anybody has ever done.

**The 'Why'**

**The Retirement Plaques are beautiful, by the way.**

**Guadalupe:** They are. Becky, earlier you mentioned the Member from LAPD who wanted to leave something behind. These plaques are becoming heirlooms where members are passing it on to their family members. I've even had someone request a plaque for their father's funeral. This is becoming more common. Employees are dedicating their entire lives to the City, the State, the County, and they spend more time at work than they do at home. These plaques become a part of the family. For example, the wife helped the husband get through his employment challenges, going to meetings and helping them get past the challenges and overseeing all of that. The plaque reminds the whole family of their contributions to what the City of LA is now, or what the state of California is now, because of their contributions.

**Dulce:** At some of the plaque ceremonies that I've attended, you can see Members get teary-eyed. Many of them have worked hard. When you actually stop them, shake their hand and say "Thank you," you can just see them break down. It's truly impactful for them.

**Guadalupe:** To build a connection.

**Cesilee:** The Team's goal is to put words into action. We work for these public employees; they hold a special place in our hearts because they are the motor to our infrastructure in California really. I remember growing up and seeing Crossing Guards ensuring our safety after school; Librarians providing us resources for school work; LADWP employees working in tough conditions to keep our City running ... we really are not a working society without them, and that should be honored forever. We want to take time from our busy schedules to add this sweetness and sugar in their life and remind them their work does not go unnoticed.

**Rebecca:** What about the Custodian who washed floors for all these years and just Retired? It's nice when they come to the Club, and we're able to fulfill that desire of them wanting to be recognized, or make them feel special.

**Guadalupe:** One of the last presentations that we had at Club headquarters, he was a custodian. When he heard his name, he got teary-eyed. I got teary-eyed, too. I said, "Oh my God, don't cry. I'm going to cry. Don't cry!" His daughter was there too; we were all trying to brace ourselves. His family shared that, in his 30 years of working for the City of LA, nobody thanked him. He showed up for work day in, day out.

**Cesilee:** I love honoring and celebrating hard-working people whom I believe do not receive enough recognition everywhere. These employees are full of stories; their trajectories do not stop at retirement! I speak with a lot of Retirees all day, and many of them share stories and even advice that have helped me. They ask nothing in return really, and for me this is a way to give back to that community.

**Dulce:** Yes the plaque is beautiful, but I think it's more what it symbolizes – that's what touches them. They feel seen. They matter.

**Cesilee:** It is so fulfilling to see members happy to receive their plaques and react with so much enthusiasm. Whether it be tears, laughter or a firm handshake, I can see that the whole experience is rewarding to them – and to me too, really, which is just a plus!

**Guadalupe:** With our Retirees, I've been blessed to build

**'The [retirement] plaque is beautiful, but I think it's more what it symbolizes – that's what touches Members. They feel seen. They matter.'**

– Dulce Lopez

these relationships with them. This is the smallest thing that I can do to definitely make their day. Paying attention to them makes me feel good.

**A Passion for Connection**

**What do you love about what you do?**

**Rebecca:** I love that I'm able to help members, and they're satisfied with the attention that we give them. I love that we're able to build connections with our Members individually, and offer them any type of support that they may need. So that's what I love.

**Cesilee:** I like being able to add a touch of myself to this work. I am not confined by robotic answers; I can be myself and I love people, so that helps!

**Dulce:** In the claims department, we get a lot of members who are dealing with a lot of tough situations in their lives. What drives me – I love just being able to make things easier for them. If someone's dealing with a disability, with the death of a family member, whatever it is, I will do everything I can to make their life easier. I get a lot of thank you's in return, and that's just so fulfilling for me. I will do anything in my power to make their life easier.

**Your advocacy of their situation is important.**

**Dulce:** One hundred percent. Especially during uncertain times in their life that are challenging – sometimes it's hard to think straight. So just having somebody there who's going to hold your hand and guide you and make it easier for you. The policies can be complicated in the wording. It's my job to be able to simplify it for them. At the end of the day, they're making decisions, but I want to make things easier for them.

**Guadalupe:** It's the personal connections. I've worked at the Club for 10 years. Starting at the old Club Store, and going onto the field with Mobile Team, I've had an opportunity to connect with all kinds of City employees, and build those relationships. A perfect example: Last week I was at City Hall with Mobile Team. Many of our regulars were there, and I was glad to see them again. I began to think, if some of these people pass away, I won't know until I read it in *Alive!* I've learned about their families, their favorite tickets, what trips they're planning, and I take that to heart. We're lucky to be the Employees Club – we're known for the positivity that we give to City employees and our celebration of them, whether through insurance, claims, tickets. We're building a society for public employees. To be able to be a part of that in so many different aspects, I love it. I love my job because of that.

**Thanks for the great things you're doing. Good catching up with you.**

**Dulce:** Thanks!

**Guadalupe:** You too.

**Cesilee:** Let us know how we're doing. Feedback is always appreciated!

**Rebecca:** Bye! ●

**A BUNCH FOR LUNCH**

This group of LADWP Retirees from the Water Distribution Group and Club Members has been meeting for lunch monthly for several years.

"Our lunch group is like a second family," said group member Joe Powell. "It's always supportive."



"What I love about our lunch group is that no matter how far we live or we don't see each other for a while, I know that I can count on them for their help," said group member Judy Corrales.



**Are you in a Retired lunch group? Tell us about it! [help@employeesclub.com](mailto:help@employeesclub.com)**

**Another LADWP Retirees Group**

In March earlier this year, *Alive!* ran a story on another longtime group of LADWP Retirees – this one traveled the world. Check out that fun story at the *Alive!* archives at [alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com).



**CLUB BENEFIT: The Club Retirement Plaque**

# Apply for a Club Retirement Plaque

SIGN UP FOR ONE OF THE CLUB'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS BENEFITS. (IT'S FREE.)

If you're Retired or about to, here's all the information you need to apply to be recognized, honored and thanked for your long City career.

### Requirements

- A plaque recipient must be a member of the Employees Club of California in good standing with at least five years of consecutive Club Membership.
- A plaque recipient must be a Club Member retiring from Los Angeles City, LADWP or California State employment within the next three months, or is already Retired.
- A plaque recipient agrees to have their picture taken for publication in *Alive!* and online (including social media).
- It is at the Club's discretion whether or not to award a Club Retirement Plaque.

### Receiving Your Plaque

- In person: Club Retirement Plaques are distributed in person at a beautiful ceremony approximately once or twice every quarter. The location and times vary. Your family, friends and former coworkers are invited to attend.
- By mail: If you are unable to attend in person, the Club will arrange to ship your plaque to you anywhere in the free world.
- In limited situations the Club might be able to present your Club Retirement Plaque in person at a City-managed or private retirement party. This must be arranged in advance. Contact the Club

Employee Recognition Team for more information.

- Club Retirement Plaques feature the highest-quality construction. Therefore, please plan on at least six weeks after approval for your plaque to be ready for distribution or shipping.

### Cost: FREE! \*

Receiving the Club Retirement Plaque is free of charge to you, with the Club's deepest gratitude for your career of dedicated service.

**\*a \$499 value!**



**REQUEST YOUR FREE, PERSONALIZED RETIREMENT PLAQUE TODAY!**

Use this link to apply for your Club Retirement Plaque or go to [alivemployeesclub.com/retirement-plaque](https://alivemployeesclub.com/retirement-plaque)

**QUESTIONS?** Contact the Club Employee Recognition Team at [help@employeesclub.com](mailto:help@employeesclub.com)



## We Honor Your Service!

At the Retirement Plaque Ceremony Oct. 16 held at California Endowment downtown, 13 Retirees were honored with plaques, presented by Club Director of Sales Noelle Kauffman. You could be next; register today!

### The honorees were:

#### The LADWP friends:



**Judy Corrales**  
LADWP, Retired after 35 years of City service



**Joe Powell**  
LADWP, Retired after 30 years of City service



**Joseph O'Hara**  
LADWP, Retired after 36 years of City service



**Ignacio Perez**  
LADWP, Retired after 34 years of City service



**Kirk Broyard**  
LADWP, Retired after 34 years of City service



**Sherman Simon**  
LADWP, Retired after 33 years of City service



**Officer Maria G. Hernandez**  
Harbor, Retired after 41 years of City service



**Vivian McGrew**  
Personnel, Retired after 34 years of City service



**Evangelina Masud**  
Fire and Police Pensions, Retired after 33 years of City service



**Marilou Talbutt**  
LAUSD, Retired after 8 years of School service



**Antonio Byrd**  
General Services, Retired after 20 years of City service



**Ronald Dergrigorian**  
LADWP, Retired after 36 years of City service



**Jose Colon**  
Building and Safety, Retired after 30 years of City service





Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

# RLACEI

**For Retired  
Club Members**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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



Ruth B. Perry

Ruth B. Perry, President  
Terminal Annex  
P.O. Box 86264  
Los Angeles, CA 90086  
**PHONE:** (800) 678-4145, ext. 717  
**EMAIL:** Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org  
**ON THE WEB:** www.RLACEI.org

**2023 Executive Board of Directors**

- Ruth B. Perry, *President*
- Beverly J. Clark, *First Vice President*
- Mark Blunk, *Second Vice President*
- Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, *Treasurer*
- Nancy Hammoudian, *Secretary*

**RLACEI DIRECTORS**

**Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension**

- Beverly Anderson, *Nominations Chair* Ext. 702
- Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, *Treasurer* Ext. 718
- Mark Blunk, *Audit Chair* Ext. 704
- Beverly J. Clark, *Publicity Director* Ext. 716
- Nancy Hammoudian, *Secretary* Ext. 705
- Vicki Keoseian, *Entertainment Chair* Ext. 719
- Ruth B. Perry, *President* Ext. 717
- Joe Quan, *Technology Director* Ext. 703
- Ann Seales, *Membership Director* Ext. 706
- Leonard Torres, *Director* Ext. 707

**RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:**

**(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0**

For retirement assistance, call the Retiree Hotline and leave a message. A Director of RLACEI will return your call and assist you with your concerns.

**RLACEI WEBSITE**

Visit the RLACEI website [www.RLACEI.org](http://www.RLACEI.org) to find the latest news.  
Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 0 to make suggestions.  
**EMAIL:** [Contact@RLACEI.org](mailto:Contact@RLACEI.org)

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.  
Terminal Annex  
P.O. Box 86264  
Los Angeles, CA 90086

**Change of Address?**

Please notify Ann Seales, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 706 or [Ann.Seales@RLACEI.org](mailto:Ann.Seales@RLACEI.org) for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFCU as applicable.



Beverly J. Clark

**Send in your  
Interesting  
News  
Contributions!**

Contact: **Beverly J. Clark**, Publicity Director  
Email: [Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org](mailto:Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org) or  
Phone: (800) 678-4145 ext 716

**RETIREE EVENTS**

**Dec. 12, Holiday Party  
2024** Friendship Auditorium  
3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles  
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**RLACEI EVENTS  
RESERVATION LINE**

Call: (800) 678-4145, ext. 701  
or Email: [contact@rlacei.org](mailto:contact@rlacei.org)

*Due to staffing, telephone confirmation cannot be provided.*

**A Note From the RLACEI President**



Dear RLACEI Members,

In the past few days, you may have received a letter and/or invoice from the Employees Club (also known as LACEA) stating that its partnership with the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) has ended, and the Club will be resuming its monthly membership dues. Sadly, this is correct; our agreement expired Dec. 31, 2023, and now the Employees Club has taken action to renew their dues directly.

Prior to 2018, our partnership was forged on a simple "handshake" agreement beginning in 2001. In 2018, we entered into a formal written five-year agreement which afforded RLACEI members free membership to the Employees Club, a savings of \$48 per year for five years. After analyzing the current agreement, and the rising costs of printing, publication, staffing, mailing, etc., it was determined that it was cost prohibitive to continue the agreement as it was implemented in 2018. It was necessary for both organizations to explore a new direction while maintaining financial security and keeping the best interests of Retirees at the forefront. RLACEI and the Employees Club will be pursuing a long-term agreement which includes a true collaboration, but no longer free membership to our members. Retiree membership dues to the Employees Club will remain at \$4 per month, if you sign up for payroll deduction. RLACEI membership dues will remain at \$3 per month.

RLACEI is a nonprofit organization with a current membership of approximately 5,900 members. We advocate on behalf of our members including public comments to the LACERS Board and City Council regarding Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs); premiums and subsidies for our health benefits; potential Medicare reimbursement for all retirees, not just those with 40 quarters; potential reimbursement for IRMAAs; and many more matters that may impact Retiree pensions and benefits. In addition, we host three to four events a year for our members at no cost to them. We enjoy providing a festive atmosphere with entertainment, food, giveaways and prizes, where our members can interact with their fellow Retirees. If you attend even one event with a guest and perhaps win a prize, you've received more than your membership money's worth in return! Not to mention the advocacy and protection of benefits that is RLACEI's foremost reason for existing. We hope that our advocacy remains important enough so that our members inform their fellow Retirees to seek us out and become a member – or better yet – become a board member! We are the only organization whose board members are all City of Los Angeles Retirees.

The new collaboration/partnership between the Employees Club and RLACEI would include a sponsorship of Recognition Awards for Retirees, expanding the program the Employees Club currently has in place. We look forward to including more joint events for both Retirees and active employees, such as Medieval Times, Dodger Nights, City Department visits, casino bus excursions, seminars to prepare potential Retirees for transition to retirement, and much more.

RLACEI is also in the process of developing a more interactive website, where we may be posting our two featured pages from the Employee Club's *Alive!* publication. We also have an RLACEI Facebook page with updated information regarding our works in action, public comments, and events. We have recently started sending email blasts to our members. Please send your current email to us at [Contact@RLACEI.org](mailto:Contact@RLACEI.org) should you like to be included.

We apologize if the letter from the Employees Club caused any confusion. We hope to resolve any issues and answer all questions, calls and emails as quickly as possible.

We assure you that the relationship between RLACEI and the Employees Club is healthy and robust and will continue to serve our mutual members for as long as you allow us to. We have been and continue to be here to serve our Retirees.



We thank you again for all your support, understanding and membership.

Ruth B. Perry  
*President*

**RLACEI Board  
Vacancy**

**Qualifications:**

- Retired City Employee
- Enjoy working to improve and maintain City Benefits
- Want to make a difference
- Enjoy being involved

**Contact :**

**Beverly Anderson**  
At [Beverly.Anderson@RLACEI.org](mailto:Beverly.Anderson@RLACEI.org)  
or leave a message at (800) 678-4145 ext. 702

**Become  
an RLACEI  
Member!**



RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. enjoy all RLACEI events such as, member picnics and holiday party.

*"Protecting Retirement Benefits since 1973"*

Call (800) 678-4145 x706 or visit our website at [RLACEI.ORG](http://RLACEI.ORG) and join today!



## For Retired Club Members



### GET HAPPY SERIES

By Arnette Travis  
Author/Activist/Advocate, RLACEI Contributing Author

## Attitude

The Oxford Dictionary defines attitude as a “settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically one that is reflected in a person’s behavior.”

Initially, beliefs, feelings and behaviors are formed and limited to what we experience within our families during childhood and adolescence. As we grow and engage with people outside the family circle, we are exposed to new belief systems and experiences that can influence and change our attitude.

If, as an adult, you blame or hold others responsible for the way you think, feel, act or react, you are mistaken. The sole responsibility for your attitude and behavior

sits squarely on your shoulders. By adopting the adage, “When you know better, you do better,” you can change your attitude to one that is positive and beneficial to you and the world around you.

Norman Vincent Peale’s 1952 book, *The Power of Positive Thinking* remains one of the best-selling nonfiction books of all time. In it, Peale states, “Our happiness depends on the habit of mind we cultivate.” In other words, our attitude.

The benefits of a positive attitude are endless. A positive mindset is not only beneficial to you, but it also benefits those close to you and society as a whole. Your positive thinking is what psychologists refer to as a

“broaden and build theory,” where you create an open-minded mentality that can lead you to learn something new, develop a new skill or cultivate a new friendship.

People who practice positive thinking tend to live healthier lifestyles. They tend to get more exercise, eat a healthy diet, and get enough sleep.

Positive thinking can impact your stress level. Prolonged stress can have a harmful effect on the body; reducing stress can lead to better overall health.

The practice of an attitude of gratitude is the best boost we can give ourselves. It enables us to focus on the good in our lives, and a positive mindset leads to positive

behaviors.

Develop your positive thinking practice by writing down positive affirmations and post them where you see them when you awake in the morning. Daily repetition of these affirmations will reinforce your positive attitude.

### Flip the switch!

You can’t change what happens; but you can control how you think, feel and react to what happens; which leads to your control of the outcome.

Happily yours,  
*Arnette Travis*



# RLACEI 2024 ANNUAL MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024  
11:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

## FRIENDSHIP AUDITORIUM 3201 RIVERSIDE DRIVE LOS ANGELES, CA 90027

**Open to all Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. members!**



RSVP to (800) 678-4145  
Ext 701  
Please RSVP no later than  
December 5, 2024.



**RLACEI member plus one (1) guest limit at no cost.**

To join RLACEI, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 706.

### RLACEI 2024 Holiday Party Reservation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_ (Limit 2)

Email to [Contact@RLACEI.org](mailto:Contact@RLACEI.org) or mail to RLACEI, P.O. Box 86264, Los Angeles, CA 90086

**\*\*Only RLACEI members will be eligible to win prizes.\*\***

### LACERS BOARD UPDATE

by Michael R. Wilkinson, LACERS  
Commissioner [MikeWilkinson4LACERS@gmail.com](mailto:MikeWilkinson4LACERS@gmail.com)

## LACERS Sets Assumptions For Long-term Health Costs



Michael R. Wilkinson

How does LACERS plan to ensure that funds are available for your healthcare now as well as many years into the future? Hats off to all of you who said that we use actuaries. By making predictions using actuarial models LACERS sets aside money today that will be used far in the future to provide affordable health care.

The use of actuarial models and decades of “prefunding” puts LACERS far ahead of most other pension plans and makes our retiree health system 107.1 percent funded, meaning it has more than needed to fully fund our health plans. The models are provided by our actuary, Segal.

To keep the plan well-funded, LACERS must be able to make assumptions about future health care premium costs. The trend rate for the following year’s non-Medicare premium starts at 7.50 percent in 2024 (for setting 2026 rates) and decreases .25 percent each year until it hits 4.50 percent after 10 years and stays at that amount for following years.

The first-year medical trend rate for Medicare premiums is .50 percent, and then goes to 7.00 percent for the following year, then decreases by .25 percent each year until it hits 4.50 percent in 2035 and stays at that amount for the future years.

The dental trend assumption is set at 3.0 percent and the Medicare Part B premium assumption is set at 6.20 percent for calendar years 2025 through 2033, followed by 5.75 percent, then grading down by .25 percent for five years until hitting 4.50 percent and then remaining at that amount.

Segal states in a report that the non-Medicare rates need the adjustment to set the non-Medicare rates to pre-pandemic levels and to reflect high prescription prices. During the pandemic, people stayed away from doctors’ offices and hospitals and usage plummeted.

Finally, for all of us the key question is what will my health care costs be after the medical subsidy? Segal recommends that we assume the medical subsidy will increase at the same rate as the medical trend rate. This means much of these projected increases will be covered by increased subsidies.

Finally, to bring it up to date, the average medical premium increase for all the LACERS health, dental and vision carriers for the 2025 plan year is 6.38 percent over the previous year. ●

**For Retired Club Members**

*In Memoriam*



**Richard Perry**  
RLACEI Volunteer

The RLACEI board regrets to announce the passing of Richard Perry Oct. 9. Richard, husband of RLACEI Board President Ruth Perry, volunteered his time and talents to enhance and streamline the smooth operation of the Board.

Some of his many talents included capturing memorable moments at board events through his photography; revamping the RLACEI webpage; improving the email system for board members; and serving as golf adviser for the annual RLACEI golf tournaments.

He was a loved member of the community and an active business owner supporting homeowner associations. His legacy of contributions and cherished memories will endure.

The Board extends its heartfelt condolences to Ruth and the Perry family.



**Cliff Cannon**  
1941-2024  
RLACEI Board Member, 2012-19  
32 Years of City service

The RLACEI Board sends its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of former Board Director Cliff Cannon, who passed away Sept. 9.

Cliff served on the RLACEI Board for many years and was appointed to various positions during his tenure. Cliff became a member of RLACEI in January 2012 and retired from the Board in 2019. His vision was to make RLACEI an organization truly interactive with its members.

A visitation for Clifford was held Oct. 3. A funeral service was held Oct. 4 at Holman United Methodist Church in the West Adams district.

Cliff retired from the City after 32 years, the first 12 years were with the then Data Service Bureau as a Sr. DP Analyst. During the last 12 years he worked in the Controller's Office as a Fiscal Systems Specialist II, responsible for managing the citywide payroll system.

Cliff was a four-year Air Force veteran with special assignments to NATO. He was a native of New Orleans, Louisiana., was married to his wife, Juanita for more than 55 years, and had two children, three grandchildren and one daughter-in-law.

Cliff was a founding member of the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel (LAABP), the first ethnic organization recognized by the City under then-Mayor Tom Bradley.

He served on the Board of the Los Angeles Federal Credit Union, serving in all executive positions including Board Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

Cliff served on the City's Board of Deferred Compensation Administration and chaired the Finance Committee as a Board of Director of Cal State University Dominguez Hills Foundation. After his term, the Board appointed him Director Emeritus by the Foundation.

Cliff was honored to have served a remarkable 20-year tenure on the City of Carson's Planning Commission, earning him the distinction of the longest-serving member. In recognition of his dedicated service, the Carson City Council awarded him the key to the city. Additionally, Cliff was a founding board member of the Holman United Methodist Church Permanent Endowment Committee, one of the largest United Methodist churches in Los Angeles.

The RLACEI Board expresses its gratitude to Cliff for his time and energy serving on the Board and contributing his talents to City of Los Angeles Retirees. He was a man who found a need to help others and got involved.

**You Glow, Girls**

*Photos by Stephanie Chitica/Rec and Parks*

**SUCCESSFUL PRETTY IN PINK PROGRAM CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY.**

**REC AND PARKS:** It's ten years and counting for Rec and Parks' innovative and life-changing Pretty in Pink empowerment program for young girls.

Founders Reneshia White, formerly with Rec and Parks, Club Member, and Yessica Famoso, Facility Director, Club Member, were on hand to celebrate the milestone.

The celebration was held Sept. 14 at EXPO Center.

Pretty in Pink is a youth conference created to empower young girls in the urban community. Pretty in Pink provides a safe space for them to be open and discuss daily life challenges among women who truly care for them. The girls get opportunities to socialize with young girls from other parks/communities. The conference is designed to encourage and empower the girls to achieve their goals and aspirations. They leave the conference knowing that they are not alone with issues that may be occurring in their lives and that they have people that care about them.

Reneshia White, who grew up hanging out at LA Parks facilities, started the program at South Park Rec Center in 2012 under the department's CLASS Parks program (the program paused during the pandemic). The 10 girls from the club wanted to have a party. They decide to have party, which included "girl talk" sessions. They ate food, listened to music, and made crafts. The girls enjoyed it so much that Reneshia and Yessica Famoso, Facilities Director who came aboard the project the following year, decided to make it an annual event in a conference format. Over the years the numbers have expanded from 10 to 30 to 100 to 200, to 300 and well more than that now. Not only have the numbers expanded, but the program also receives support from the Department, the Neighborhood Council, Council offices, the LAPD, and other outside agencies.

Reneshia has transferred to a different City department but returned to celebrate the milestone.

Yessica mentioned at the event that several employees helping to manage Pretty in Pink started as young girl participants in early conferences.

**Congratulations to Reneshia, Yessica and all associated with producing Pretty in Pink each year. The Club honors you!**



*Alive!* first covered Pretty in Pink in April 2019.



From left: Pretty in Pink founder Reneshia White and longtime program co-manager Yessica Famosa show their certificates of appreciation from the City of Los Angeles.



Participants learn CPR.



A Pretty in Pink session.



Pretty in Pink celebrated its 10th anniversary at EXPO Center.

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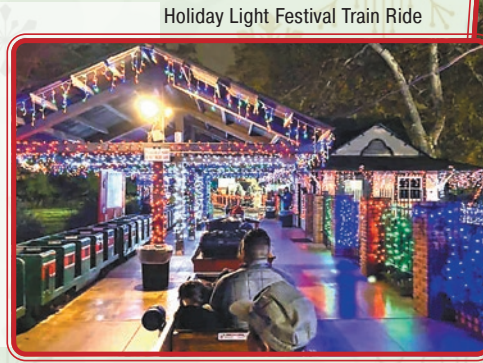
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# Holiday Events for 2024

City-sponsored holiday events return for 2024. Every year, the City produces and sponsors a variety of events to celebrate the holidays. Here is *Alive!*'s early guide for 2024; check back next month for updated information.

We appreciate the City departments for sponsoring civic holiday traditions for everyone's enjoyment.



## Hollywood Christmas Parade

**When:** 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1  
**Where:** Starting at Hollywood Boulevard and Orange Streets.  
**Cost:** Free; grandstand reserved seating is on sale at press time.  
**City sponsor:** City Council  
**Information:** (866) PARADE-1, or [www.thehollywoodchristmasparade.com](http://www.thehollywoodchristmasparade.com)

Hollywood's long-running Christmas Parade, sponsored by the City, returns this year at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1, in Hollywood. Grand marshal for 2024 has not been announced at *Alive!* press time.

The parade, in its 92nd year, is held traditionally the Sunday after Thanksgiving and telecast locally and throughout the nation during December.

Take the Metro/Red Line to the Hollywood and Highland station, or park in the center's garage (fee).

## Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square

**When:** various times, Nov. 21-Jan. 12.  
**Where:** Pershing Square downtown, 532 S. Olive St. Take Metro Red/Purple Line to Pershing Square, or park in nearby facilities (fee).  
**Cost:** Starting at \$20. Skate rental included.  
**City sponsor:** Rec and Parks.  
**Information:** (213) 624.4289; [holidayicerinkdowntownla.com](http://holidayicerinkdowntownla.com)

One of the City's largest outdoor ice rink returns for the 2024 holiday season on Nov. 21. Suitable for experienced and novice skaters. Holiday hours limited. Lockers available for rent. Sessions last one hour. Special events planned, including DJ nights every week and Learn to Curl sessions.

## LA Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow

**When:** 6-10 p.m. nightly, Nov. 15 – Jan. 5 (closed most Mondays and Tuesdays, plus Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas).  
**Where:** LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Griffith Park, 5355 Zoo Dr. Free parking.  
**Cost:** \$29-\$35 (daytime Zoo admission extra; Zoo members receive discounts).  
**Value nights:** Some nights are lower cost; some are premium cost. Check the Website.  
**City sponsor:** LA Zoo.  
**Information:** (323) 644-6042 or [www.LAZoolights.org](http://www.LAZoolights.org)

The after-hours attraction, which requires a separate ticket from the Zoo's regular day hours, is a self-guided 90-minute walking tour of tens of thousands of LED lights, flurries of illuminated snowflakes, 3-D animated projections, a musical light-and-water show and glittering light tunnels. Animal characters brought to "life" include mischievous animated monkeys, a gigantic glowing snake coiled on a roof, animated elephants and much more.

This year, LA Zoo Lights offers special VIP event nights – Holiday Happy Hours Dec. 5 and 19; and Family New Year's Eve Dec. 31, which include special features for additional fees. Two special nights are also planned: a Sensory-Inclusive Night (Dec. 3), with reduced sensory exposure; and Pride Night (LGBTQ+), Dec. 11.

## Victorian Christmas

**When:** noon – 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 7  
**Where:** Banning Museum, 401 E Main St., Wilmington.  
**Cost:** Free admission.  
**City sponsor:** Rec and Parks, Harbor  
**Information:** (310) 548-2005 or [www.thebanningmuseum.org](http://www.thebanningmuseum.org)

This free event is one day for visitors to enjoy period entertainment, tours of the residence museum decorated in holiday splendor, refreshments, a children's craft area, carolers, and a horse-drawn trolley ride between the museum and the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum nearby.

## Holiday Light Festival Train Ride

**When:** 5-8 p.m. weeknights; 5-9 p.m. Fri-Sun. Nov. 29 – Jan. 3 (closed Christmas Eve, Christmas and New Year's Eve)  
**Where:** 4400 Crystal Springs Dr., Griffith Park  
**Cost:** TBD (last year was \$7; 18 months and under ride free)  
**City sponsor:** Rec and Parks  
**Information:** (323) 662-9678, [www.griffithparktrainrides.com](http://www.griffithparktrainrides.com)

Guests can take an evening 10-minute train ride around the festively decorated mile-long track. Magical scenes and tens of thousands of lights are set to captivate families and set the mood for a wonderful holiday season.

The attraction includes three open-air photo areas, plus a gift kiosk.

The trains operate every night until Dec. 23, then resumes Dec. 26-Jan. 3 except New Year's Eve. The trains do not operate in the rain.

## Las Posadas on Olvera Street

**When:** 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Dec. 16-24.  
**Where:** Olvera Street, 125 Paseo de la Plaza downtown.  
**Cost:** Free admission.  
**City sponsor:** El Pueblo Historical Monument.  
**Information:** [www.elpueblo.lacity.org](http://www.elpueblo.lacity.org)

*Las Posadas*, a Mexican tradition that's one of the City's oldest Christmas events, commemorates what Christians believe was the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their search for shelter in preparation for Jesus' birth.

On Olvera Street, the event will feature a candlelight procession starting at the historic Avila Adobe at approximately 7 p.m. The leaders of the march, usually children, will be dressed as shepherds, angels, and Mary and Joseph. They will be followed by dozens of other worshippers. The public is invited to join in or merely observe.

# Arlene on the Scene

*Alive!* follows Arlene Herrero as she meets Club Members.

by **Arlene Herrero**  
 Vice President of Business Development



## August 28 Celebrating LA County Internal Services Dept.!

On Aug. 28, Arlene stopped by LA County Internal Services Dept.'s week of celebrating its employees, held at their Downey facility.



New Club Member Raymond Campoy with some excellent Club merch.



New Club Member Laverne Gavilan won herself a cool attendance prize.



David Bell, Member since 2023, rocks his hat in front of the event signage.



Club Members (from left) Joely Simpson and Josephine Arambula with awesome Club hats.

Family Deals: Raise Your Family. Save Money.

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT



Stories and photos courtesy Los Angeles Police Foundation

**This Year's Honorees**

**Purple Heart**

- Sgt. Calvin Drake
- Sgt. Edward Williams
- Officer Richard Wuerfel
- Officer Matthew Whitelaw
- Officer James Sagbigals
- Officer Erik Cifuentes
- Officer Armando Medina
- Officer Rigoberto Vazquez (also Medal of Valor)

**Medal of Valor**

- Officer Rigoberto Vazquez (also Purple Heart)
- Officer Miguel Ruano
- Officer Thomas Redshaw
- Officer Bruce Adam
- Officer Enrique Anzaldo
- Officer Royce Burroughs
- Officer Guy Dobine
- Officer Joseph Dominguez
- Officer Steve Hernandez
- Officer Jose Martinez
- Officer Howard Ng
- Officer Phillip Peery
- Officer Jonathan Pultz
- Officer Eddie Roca
- Officer Luis Valle

**Preservation of Life**

- Officer Saul Carillo
- Sgt. Jose Contreras
- Officer Angel Guerra
- Officer Adell Hodge
- Officer Adrian Martinez
- Det. Steve Reyes
- Officer Daniel Rodriguez

# Above and Beyond

Police Dept.'s annual event honors 29 heroes with Purple Heart, Medal of Valor and Preservation of Life honors.

**LAPD:** On Sept. 5 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel downtown, the LAPD hosted its annual "Above and Beyond" ceremony, hosted by entertainer Howie Mandel. This year's event honored 29 Officers who demonstrated the highest level of courage and bravery in protecting the City.

This year's event continued the awarding of Purple Heart, Medals of Valor and Preservation of Life honors. Purple Hearts have been distributed only 12 times in the history of the event. This year, 8 LAPD Officers were honored with the Purple Heart; 15 with the Medal of Valor; and seven with the Preservation of Life. (One Officer was awarded with both the Purple Heart and the Medal of Valor.)

The Preservation of Life medal is a recognition of efforts at de-escalation of public safety situations by avoiding the use of deadly force during dangerous encounters.

The medals are awarded by the Board of Police Commissioners and presented by the Chief of Police in the name of the Department at the annual ceremony.

**It is *Alive!*'s great honor to publish every year the names and stories of those honored.**



**Read all the Riveting Stories of Heroism**

The full stories of their bravery are published on the *Alive!* Website.

CONTINUED ONLINE

## SWAT Search Warrant



Sgt. Calvin Drake

On Dec. 8, 1969, members of the all-volunteer Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit were tasked with serving a search warrant on South Central Avenue in Los Angeles. The business located at this address was known as a gathering place for the Black Panther Party, and a member of the LAPD had been assaulted with a handgun a few days earlier when attempting to contact its occupants.

Officers deployed in various positions near the location to perform the search authorized in the warrant. Sgts. Calvin Drake and Edward Williams, ...

CONTINUED ONLINE

## Wall Shooting



Officer Matthew Whitelaw

On the morning of Feb. 10, 2014, West Valley Division Officer Matthew Whitelaw and his partners responded to a radio call of an Assault with a Deadly Weapon (ADW). Officers were told the suspect was currently at the location and was armed with a weapon. On the way to the call, the Officers were notified that the suspect had a pit bull, and shots had been fired at the location.

When Officers arrived at the scene, a witness told them the suspect had fled north. As they turned in that direction, the suspect emerged from behind ...

CONTINUED ONLINE

## Gang Foot Pursuit



Officer Rigoberto Vazquez

On the evening of May 13, 2016, Hollenbeck Area Gang Enforcement Detail Officers Miguel Ruano and Rigoberto Vazquez were conducting patrol in a neighborhood plagued by gang violence. As they drove through the neighborhood, they recognized a dangerous gang member with an outstanding arrest warrant standing on the sidewalk with a group of individuals. The two Officers approached the suspect, stopped their vehicle, and deployed to make an arrest. When the suspect noticed the Officers, he ran while holding onto his waistband, ...

CONTINUED ONLINE

## Attempted Suicide Prevented



Officer Thomas Redshaw

On June 19, 1997, Van Nuys Police Officer Thomas Redshaw and his partner were assigned to the Van Nuys gang unit formerly known as Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums (CRASH). They monitored a radio call of a possible victim attempting to commit suicide on the roof of an office building on Sepulveda Boulevard and quickly made their way to the top of the six-story building. Officer Redshaw immediately established contact with the distraught woman, who was contemplating jumping from the roof. Officer Redshaw...

CONTINUED ONLINE

## Downtown Shootout With Hostage



Officer Howard Ng

On the evening of Oct. 8, 2021, a male suspect shot at three different people in Downtown Los Angeles, striking one. He attempted to carjack someone else, steal another's bike, and placed the barrel of his gun against a victim's cheek and pressed the trigger. Fortunately, the gun failed to fire.

Central Area Patrol Officers located the suspect and chased him into an apartment building, where he ran out of their view. It was not known where in the building he was for some time. Video showed him grabbing...

**THANK YOU!**

*The Club is humbled and deeply grateful for the heroism and service provided by those honored at the Above and Beyond ceremony, and all in law enforcement. We appreciate you, thank you, celebrate you.*

## Read All About It: *It's Thanksgiving!*

**These LAPL recommendations can help your family celebrate Thanksgiving.**

**LIBRARY:** As the holidays return, *Alive!* publishes recommendations from our favorite Library – Los Angeles Public Library – for your seasonal reading pleasure and to remember the point of the holiday, gratitude.

These suggestions are available through

the LAPL, either as hard-cover loans or digital downloads. Go to: [www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org)

Thanks to the LAPL Librarians who took the time to make these recommendations to Club Members.

Look for a Christmas/Hanukkah/winter holiday installment next month.

**Recommendations by:**  
**Literature and Fiction Dept.,** Los Angeles Public Library  
**Teen *Scape*,** Los Angeles Public Library  
**Children's Literature Dept.,** Los Angeles Public Library  
**Compiled by: Susan Lendroth,** Los Angeles Public Library

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### For Adult Readers

**Start Without Me,** Josh Feldman



Adam is a recovering alcoholic who is decidedly not looking forward to his first Thanksgiving home in years. Marissa is a flight attendant in a rocky marriage worried about Thanksgiving with her in-laws. When these two anxious flyers meet in an airport restaurant on Thanksgiving morning, they form a bond over their family drama, their not-so-rosy pasts and their tenuous futures.

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**Thanksgiving Night,** Richard Bausch



Feuding elderly roommates; a priest considering leaving the Church; partners in a fragile marriage; and new members of the community all make up the cast of characters in this celebration of family set during the Thanksgiving season.

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**Thanksgiving in Cherry Hills,** Paige Sleuth



When good Samaritan Sylvia Garcia is robbed of her Thanksgiving groceries intended for the local homeless shelter, amateur detective Kat Harper is on the case. Will Kat and her two cat helpers be able to find the thief and save Thanksgiving?

---

**Nothing Much Happens: Cozy and Calming Stories to Soothe Your Mind and Help You Sleep,** Kathryn Nicolai

Culled from the popular podcast of the same name, this gem of a collection features soothing stories in which very little happens, but which leave the reader feeling comforted and relaxed. The stories follow the seasons, so several are set in the fall, including one entitled *The Day After Thanksgiving*. Highly recommended for those days (and bedtimes) when you need to shift into a gentler gear and enjoy a short comfort read, which seems especially apropos as we head into the holiday season.

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**Still life,** Louise Penny

This is the first book in the popular and highly acclaimed Chief Inspector Gamache mystery series penned by award-winning Canadian author Louise Penny. This particular story centers (appropriately enough) around the corpse of a woman that has been found in a remote wooded area on Thanksgiving morning. The locals are sure it's just a tragic hunting accident, but Gamache cries foul, and an expertly crafted puzzle plot ensues.

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### For Teen/Young Adult Readers

**The Upside of Unrequited,** Becky Albertalli



From the award-winning author of *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* comes a funny, authentic novel about sisterhood, love and identity. Seventeen-year-old Molly Peskin-Suso knows all about unrequited love. No matter how many times her twin sister, Cassie, tells her to woman up, Molly can't stomach the idea of rejection. Scenes from a Thanksgiving family get-together are included in this book, which emphasizes themes of love and acceptance in familial bonds.

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**Turtles All the Way Down,** John Green

Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there's a \$100,000 reward at stake, and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett's son, Davis. Aza is trying: She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts. This moving book explores mental health concerns and uses Thanksgiving family get-togethers as a setting for character growth.

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**The Best Kind of Magic,** Crystal Cestari

Amber Sand has the magical ability to envision anyone's soulmate, but when Charlie Blitzman, the Chicago mayor's son and most-desired boy in school, comes to Amber for help in finding his father's missing girlfriend, Amber sadly sees that Charlie is not destined for her. This novel, which takes place in a magically reimagined world where magic and reality collide, has a Thanksgiving feast that emphasizes friendship and family ties.




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**This Day Changes Everything,** Edward Underhill

Abby Akerman believes in the Universe. After all, her Midwest high school marching band is about to perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City – if that's not proof that magical things can happen, what is? New York also happens to be the setting of her favorite romance novel, making it the perfect place for Abby to finally tell her best friend Kat that she's in love with her (and, um, gay). She's carefully annotated a copy of the book as a gift for Kat, and she's counting on the Universe to provide an Epic Scene worthy of her own rom-com.

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### For Young Readers

**Elmo Gives Thanks,** Erin Guendelsberger

The Sesame Street gang shares the things that they are thankful for, encouraging little kids to do the same.

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**The Pie That Molly Grew,** Sue Heavenrich



A cumulative rhyme tells the life cycle of a pumpkin, from seed to pie to harvest feast! Includes a recipe for making pumpkin pie from scratch.

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**It's Fall!,** Renée Kurilla

Told in rhyming text, this book celebrates all the delightful things fall has to offer: cozy clothing, doughnuts and cider, trick-or-treating and Thanksgiving feasts – a special season indeed.

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**Bless Our Pets: Poems of Gratitude for Our Animal Friends,** Various; illustrated by Lita Judge

The estimable Lee Bennett Hopkins has produced another worthy anthology with contributions from Lois Lowry, Rebecca Kai Dotlich, Ann Whitford Paul, Joan Bransfield Graham and many others, celebrating the joys reaped from our relationships with domestic critters of all sizes. Though not specific to the holiday, this book captures the spirit of gratitude, and is enhanced by charming illustrations.

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**Simple Thanks,** Deborah Wiles; illustrated by Bao Luu

*Simple Thanks* is a sweet rhyme of appreciation for the gifts of nature and the connection of love that binds us. Endearing illustrations depict children of varying ethnicities and abilities enjoying the world outside and the comforts of home. A non-religious prayer of gratitude.



# Noelle's Picture Perfect Contest

Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales



This month's theme was: **The Bounty of the Earth**



"Thanksgiving turkey!"

– **Dennis Eigel, Retired, Public Works/Sanitation**  
**Noelle's comment:** Ah, this is what it's all about, Dennis, isn't it? A Thanksgiving bounty! You've put me in a good festive mood with this photo and the official colors of fall – brown, tan, and so forth. The earth provides for us, and we're grateful. Happy Thanksgiving!



"Yosemite National Park, Sept. 24, 2024. After a long and winding drive, we got our reward ... a spectacular view of the park. This one was taken at the Valley."

– **Leonides Samaniego, Retired, LAPD**

**Noelle's comment:** Sometimes the best way to highlight a feature is by setting it against something else. Here, the bounty of vegetation at the bottom is made all the more lush by the craggy rocks and deep-blue sky. Beautifully composed, Leonides, with an stunning deep focus.



"The bounty of the earth may mean different things to different people. In Greece, where this photo was taken, it is closely associated with a good olive harvest in groves that stun with their natural, albeit sometimes symmetrical beauty."

– **Officer Yves Didier, Airport Police**

**Noelle's comment:** I doubt I would have noticed the symmetry, Yves, if you hadn't raised the camera angle. Was this shot with a drone? In any event, the lines of symmetry were the first things I noticed. But the more I gazed, the more I could see subtle variations in the colors of the olive trees. Gorgeous, calming and rich. Thanks!



"Our recent trip this past summer to Alberta, Canada (Banff area) was just a wonder to behold and made me think about the theme of the bounty of the earth. Hope you enjoy them. The turquoise waters are really that color – no photo enhancing done!"

– **John Otoshi, Retired, LADWP**

**Noelle's comment:** You've captured the immense beauty of Banff and the Canadian Rockies incredibly well, John. Even at high altitudes, the earth still reminds us that it can provide and nurture abundant life. Thanks!



"Joshua Tree Park, California. Taken Sept. 3. Milky Way Night is a bounty for your eyes and spirit."

– **Alex Andrews, Building and Safety**

**Noelle's comment:** A visual bounty indeed, Alex, with an incredible (slow?) exposure. The earth can give us much, if we only slow down and look. Thanks for submitting!

The next photo contest theme:

## Holiday Lights

DEADLINE: **November 15**

**Submit your best photos, and be in the running for a prize.**

The Club's online photo contest, organized by Director of Sales Noelle Kauffman, has a monthly theme. For the next contest, the theme is "holiday lights" – let's see your photo creativity!

Submit your best photos online at [alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect/](http://alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect/) Club Members only. Good luck!



The Munoz family.



The John Nguyen family.



Pirates: The Zuliani family.



The self-described Ken group!

Maria and young Sophie.



## Planks for Coming

FAMILIES FLOCK TO MEMBER-EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE PARTY AT PIRATES DINNER ADVENTURE.

**CLUB BENEFIT:** On Oct. 13, more than 750 Club Members and their families took advantage of one of the Club's best family benefits – private parties – and attended the Club-exclusive Pirates Dinner Adventure.

The Club brings these discounted events exclusively to you as a benefit of Membership.

Delicious food for the whole family ... skullduggery, music, laughs and trapeze artistry from the performers ... and raffles and Halloween costume contests: Pirates Dinner Adventure had it all!

Private events are just one part of what Club Membership offers – ticket discounts including Fees Back and Events Anywhere; group-rated insurance; quality City-themed merchandise and gifts at incredible Member prices; Alive! in print and online, with its unique public employee content; and so much more.

Be on the lookout for more private parties in the future. The Club plans and offers them to Members to honor and celebrate you!



Club Members enjoyed the recent Pirates Dinner Adventure family benefit.



The Club benefits team that produced the Pirates Dinner Adventure private party event for you, front row, from left: Rebecca DeBolt, Genesis Cabrera, Natalia Guevara, Mariana Guevara and Cesilee Castillo. Back row: DeAngelo Thompson, Eddie Escalona and Guadalupe Lira.



Lydia Marquez, General Services, with Oliver (the skeleton) and Mason (the pumpkin).



Vivian Jaraszcz, Dept. of Public Social Services, State of California, with Richard and Brooklyn.



The Luke Jacobsen family.



# Life's Important Moments



Share your news... and send in a photo!

Have you gotten married? Had a baby? Graduated? Is a family member in the military? Send in a photo and a paragraph, telling us the details. We love to share your good news.

Send your photos and text online:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/lifemoments](http://alive.employeesclub.com/lifemoments)



- Births**
- Weddings**
- Graduations**
- Special Achievements**
- Military Service**
- Tell Their Story**

## Retirements\*

We honor the people who have spent their working lives building, managing and imagining a better LA, and are now Retired. We thank and appreciate all you have done!

Below is a listing of those who Retired from the City. To all we say, welcome to the best years!

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Aguilera, Renato	Sr. Accountant	Public Works	23	Heap, Galen E.	Wastewater Treat. Oper.	Public Works	34	Nguyen, Van N.	Water Engineering	LADWP	–
Borgwardt, Javen C.	Mechanical Repairer	LAPD	25	Hidalgo, Leticia	Crossing Guard	LADOT	26	Quezada, Jose	Labor Relations	LADWP	–
Cash, Curtis L.	Sr. Water Biologist	Public Works	19	Hoag, Grant E.	Utility Rates/Policy Spec.	Public Acct.	10	Recchio, Ian M.	Curator of Reptiles	Zoo	28
Castro, Danny	Refuse Coll. Truck Op II	Public Works	41	Hsyu, Por D.	Librarian	Library	7	Rizo, Irma	Administrative Clerk	Public Works	23
Charles, Efrem K.	Security Officer	Airports	25	Irish, Gregory P.	Mayoral Aide	Mayor's Office	34	Roberts, Clint T.	Security Services	LADWP	–
Clark, James T.	Wastewater Treat. Op II	Public Works	43	Jackson, Sandy	Crossing Guard	LADOT	8	Robinson, Anna P.	Street Services Invest.	Public Works	35
Corrales, Donna A.	Exe. Admin. Asst. II	LAPD	39	Jamison, James A.	Traffic Officer	LADOT	29	Rodrigues, Maria P.	Librarian	Library	4
Crockett, Albert B.	Machinist Supervisor	Public Works	11	Jew, Kenneth T.	Supply Chain	LADWP	–	Sanchez, Edwin	Carpenter	Gen. Services	22
Cruse, Rory A.	Metering Services	LADWP	–	Jordan, Lisa M.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	33	Sanford, Kimberly	Admin. Coordinator III	City Attorney	31
Davidson, Philip E.	Metering Services	LADWP	–	Kindig, Edward P.	Equipment Operator	Public Works	31	Simmons, Jacqueline A.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	LAPD	19
Duarte, Salvador	Equipment Operator	Public Works	36	Klee, Analee R.	ITS	LADWP	–	Stenger Jr., Tom	Power C&M	LADWP	–
Esparza, Juan	Power Transmission	LADWP	–	Kuehn, William A.	Bldg. Mech. Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	23	Talley, Chavele I.	Security Officer	Airports	23
Fretheim, Nancy L.	Background Invest.	Personnel	21	Kurt, Jennifer	Water Distribution	LADWP	–	Tilk, Michael E.	Sr. Electrical Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	15
Fuller, Napoleon	Delivery Driver	Gen. Services	21	Kutsch, Donald E.	Welder	Public Works	22	Tobin, Desiree J.	Police Service Rep	LAPD	25
Garcia, Edward V.	Gardener Caretaker	Airports	11	Lopez, Emily D.	Librarian	Library	19	Tom, Richard	Assistant City Attorney	City Attorney	15
Garcia, Rafael R.	Gardener Caretaker	Public Works	12	Louis, Anat	Social Worker	Aging	8	Torres Gil, Nelson E.	Library Assistant	Library	38
Garrison, James D.	Chief Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	27	Lubeley, David N.	Background Invest.	Personnel	18	Tranzow, William K.	Sr. Animal Control Off.	Animal Services	26
Garst, Terri J.	Library Assistant	Library	22	Masud, Evangelina R.	Comm. Exec. Asst. II	Fire/Police Pens.	33	Valencia, Gilbert V.	Water Distribution	LADWP	–
Gibson, Brian A.	Fleet Services	LADWP	–	McGroarty, William J.	Equipment Operator	Public Works	25	White, Kenneth	Bus Operator	Airports	26
Gillespie, James J.	Traffic Officer	LADOT	22	McLurkin, Jane M.	Crime/Intelligence Analyst	LAPD	25	Williams, De Undra	Comm. Info Rep	LADOT	26
Gomez, Leticia	Commission Exec. Asst.	LAFD	36	McMichael, Jerald K.	Security Officer	Airports	9	Yanes, Robert L.	Wastewater Treat. Elec.	Public Works	10
Gonzales, Ann M.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	LAPD	25	Ndjongo, Jean	Instrument Tech	Airports	6				
Guthrie, H. Douglas	General Manager	Housing	18	Ngo, Phong T.	Civil Engin. Assoc.	Harbor	16				

\* NOTE: If you wish to have a listing deleted from our online posting of Retirement notices, please email us at [admin@aliveemployeesclub.com](mailto:admin@aliveemployeesclub.com), stating the name and department of the Retired person. The request must come from the actual Retired person. We derive our lists from official public records provided by the City and LADWP.

**FREE!\* CLUB RETIREMENT PLAQUE**

**Retired or Retiring Soon?**

Receive your own personalized Club Retirement Plaque, free! (You must be a Club Member for at least five consecutive years.)

**\*a \$499 value!**

Get started here:

## In Memoriam

We honor those who have passed away and recognize their lifelong service to the City of Los Angeles. Their lives mattered to our City and our region. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the following current and Retired City employees who were reported to have passed away.

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
<b>ACTIVE</b>					
Cisneros, Isauro	General Services 19	Danganan, Benjamin	–	O'Connor, Charles S.	LADWP 30
Gomez, Juan J.	LADWP 21	Davis, William P.	LADWP 33	Oschin, Francine	Council 14
Halena, Carol A.	LADOT 4	Fox, William E.	LADWP 35	Peabody, Donald E.	Controller's Off. 27
Lopez, Ricardo	LADOT 17	Gustafson, George E.	LADWP 21	Piedra, Carlos R.	Airports 19
Martin, Hubbard	LADOT 4	Henning, Roberta A.	–	Pinch, Mary L.	Rec and Parks 32
McCarthy, Alexander	LADWP 38	Herman, George D.	LAPD 30	Portillo, Francisco	Airports 26
Merideth, Gregory J.	Public Works 38	Hopper, Marjory J.	Library 47	Reddie, David A.	LADWP 38
Piepers, Nicole U.	Zoo 21	Hoy, Ruth M.	–	Reed, Milton P.	–
Strong, Maria F.	LADWP 35	Huerta, Cesar H.	Gen. Serv./LADWP 24/8	Rice, Joseph M.	–
<b>RETIRED</b>					
Abeyta, Raymond D.	LADWP 29	Khoo, John K.	LADWP 22	Snyder, Harriett A.	Library 28
Baker, Roscoe	–	Jain, Kulbir S.	Bldg & Safety 25	Soo Hoo, Edmund	Rec and Parks 14
Beelow, William A.	Public Works 29	Jones, Cheryl	LADOT 22	Spires, Teresa L.	LAPD 37
Blossingham, Gary A.	LADWP 15	Kantz, John H.	Airports 21	Starks, Cynthia A.	LAPD 37
Briones, Faustino	LADWP 16	La Pinta, John P.	LADWP 31	Tang, Sylvia J.	LADWP 37
Cannon, Clifford	–	Lavado, Maria L.	Airports 17	Valera, Nelia	LADWP 16
Carl, Roger A.	–	Lavature, Edward J.	Public Works 22	Vazagov, Joseph J.	LADWP 22
Chang, Paul W.	LADWP 24	Lawson, Charles	Airports 17	Wagoner, Steven J.	Airports 34
Clark, Timothy J.	LADWP 29	Lee, Roselynn H.K.	Library 32	Wallace, Joy C.	LADWP 22
Cooper, Gretchen B.	LAPD 20	McCampbell, Jo V.	LADWP 37	Weber, Diane M.	LAPD 40
Curry, Donnie L.	Airports 13	Moore, Robert H.	LADWP 31	Wong, Ben S.	LADWP 37
		N Tuen, Asukwo	Housing 22	Yancey, Stephen F.	LADWP 30
		Nakamura, Mataro	LADWP 29	Yeghyazarians, Gourgen	Public Works 24
		Noija, Flip J.	Airports 20		

## Graduations



**Sherridan Aparicio** graduated from the University of California, Irvine. She's now taking a gap year and plans to apply to graduate school this fall to pursue a doctoral degree in humanities. She's the child of Linda Aparicio, LACERS.

**Noelle Kauffman,**  
Club Sports  
Commissioner



# CLUB SPORTS

by Noelle Kauffman,  
Club Sports Commissioner

## Sign Up!

If you or your colleagues are interested in participating in any of the events, please contact the Club Sports Director, Noelle, at [nkauffman@employeesclub.com](mailto:nkauffman@employeesclub.com).

Now is the time to BE CLUB!

## Calling All Current and Future Club Members

Club Sports is expanding – offering events and activities that bring public employees together.

This fall, the Club is thrilled to offer new and exciting additions to the Club Sports Program at an affordable price for Club Members.

Don't miss out! Slots are filling up fast. Secure your spot today and be part of the action!

## Club Sports: Where You Belong!

New sports ... Club sponsorships ... LA and Sacramento ... and more. Great fun for awesome and casual athletes alike!

### Tough Mudder Dec. 7 Lake Elsinore

The Club's first sponsored mudder race, where you'll overcome an intense obstacle course, designed to test physical strength, mental grit and aptitude for camaraderie.

Join the muddy fun and save big by signing up!

Friends, family and colleagues encouraged to participate!

**Club Member price: \$59.99**  
**Non-Member price: \$99.99** (Regular price: \$140)



### Spectators Wanted!

## Club Sponsored Basketball Tournament

Nov. 10 EXPO Center

Be a superfan and cheer on your favorite teams! (Player rosters are full and no longer accepting participants.)



## Sign Up!

To participate in any of these events, please contact the Club Sports Director, Noelle, at [nkauffman@employeesclub.com](mailto:nkauffman@employeesclub.com).



## Turkey Trot 5-K

Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving morning)  
Downtown Los Angeles

Run off your holiday meal in advance by participating in a friendly 5-K run or walk!

Friends, family and colleagues are encouraged to participate or spectate!

**Club Member price: \$19.95 per runner**

**Non-Member price: \$29.99**  
(Regular price: \$44.12)

## Gobble Wobble Turkey Trot 5-K

Nov. 30  
Downtown Sacramento

Keep the holiday pounds away by joining other State Club Members at this 5-K Turkey Trot!

Friends, family and colleagues are encouraged to participate or spectate!

**Club Member price: \$19.95**

**Non-Member price: \$29.99**  
(Regular price: \$40.22)

# Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

## Europe



**Pablo Ninofranco, Retired, Harbor,** and his wife, Josie, visited Lourdes, France; and Olympia, Greece.

## Italy



**Elizabeth Lee, Retired, Finance,** and her husband Tony traveled to Venice, Italy for the second time. "The only difference between now and then is a lot more tourists."

## Letter From Arlington National Cemetery

For Veterans Day



Marine monument at entrance to Arlington Cemetery.

Since the end of World War I in 1918, at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, around the world, people hold a moment of silence and traditionally wear a red poppy to honor all military personnel who have died in the line of duty for their country. The United States remembers Veterans Day by laying a wreath on the Grave of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, located on the rolling hills overlooking Washington, DC.

Arlington National Cemetery was established during the Civil War on an estate confiscated from Confederate General Robert E. Lee. To ensure that Lee could never return to his house, Union soldiers were buried in his wife's rose garden. In 1864, Private William Christman, a member of the 67th Pennsylvania Infantry, was the first military person to be interred here. To be buried there, one must die while on active duty, receive the Purple Heart or Silver Star, be a retired veteran receiving retired pay or be an honorably discharged Prisoner of War who died after Nov. 30, 1993.

Only 60 non-US citizens from 11 nations are buried at Arlington, and two equestrian statues pay homage to British



## Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor

Field Marshal Sir John Dill, a British Military Liaison Officer to American Forces during World War II. He was a close friend of Gen. George C. Marshall, who is buried just a few hundred yards from him. The second statue is Maj. General Philip Kearny, who with only one arm, served in the Mexican American War, and the conquest of California.

The cemetery requires that the bodies be buried six feet deep to prevent body snatchers and predators from gaining access to the buried remains and the spread of disease. Approximately 30 times a day, a solitary trumpet playing "Taps" announces to the fallen service member that their watch is over, and they can rest peacefully. Three rifle volleys are fired to represent duty, honor and country.

The National flag is folded 13 times to represent the original 13 colonies and to resemble the tri-cornered hat worn by the patriots of the American Revolution. When folded, no red or white stripe is visible, leaving only the blue field with stars. It is presented to the next of kin as a token of gratitude for that person's service. The flag detail often slips three shell casings into the folded flag before presenting the flag to the family. Each casing represents one volley.

There is excellent Hop-On Hop-Off bus transport around the cemetery, stopping at all the

— CONTINUED ON WEB ALIVE!

More pictures on Web Alive!



Send in a travel picture holding Alive!

- Snap a high resolution photo of you holding *Alive!*
  - Go to: [alive.employeesclub.com/alivearoundtheworld](http://alive.employeesclub.com/alivearoundtheworld)
- You'll find a convenient online form to send your text and pics for publication.



# Club Retiree Plaque: Be Honored for Your Career!

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT

## CLUB BENEFIT

### Club Mobile Expands its Reach

THE CLUB TRUCK, A MAJOR CLUB BENEFIT, REACHES MORE MEMBERS WITH MILESTONE VISITS IN SAN JOSE, HENDERSON.

**CLUB MOBILE BENEFIT:** The Club Mobile Team experience, one of the primary Club benefits, continues to expand its reach – most recently breaking new ground in the Bay Area and southern Nevada.

In late September, the Mobile Team ventured to the Caltrans yard in San Jose, meeting Club Members and signing up new ones while offering awesome Club merchandise. The visit in response to a special invitation from Juan Ibarra, Caltrans Central Landscape Maintenance Supervisor, to join the department’s annual safety meeting. More than 225 State employees attended, and the Mobile Team loved meeting many – if not most – of them.

Then, in early October, the Mobile Team hit the road again to serve Members and non-Members alike at the First Responders Relay at Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, Nevada. The Club is the bib sponsor for the footrace, which draws participants from public safety organizations from throughout California as well as Nevada.

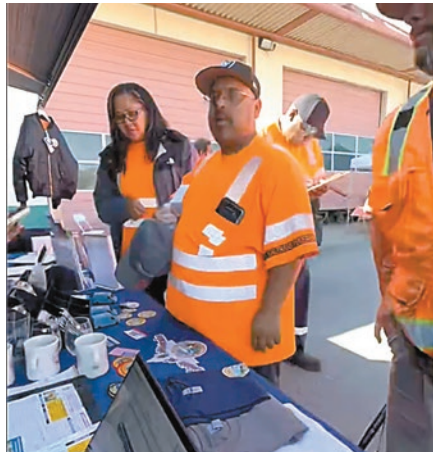
These two visits represent the Mobile Team’s continued progress toward meeting more and more Members where you are – at yards, offices, public events and more. We love to enrich your lives: Our City- and State-themed apparel and gifts are far more than clothing – they emphasize the pride you have in your careers. We want to help you celebrate that.

These double engagements signify a dramatic expansion of our outreach and an ongoing commitment to honoring and celebrating public employees for your dedication and service.

Supervisors: We have an awesome Club Truck and can’t wait to bring it to you. Where would you like the Club Mobile Team to visit? Reach out and we’ll get back to you! [help@employeesclub.com](mailto:help@employeesclub.com)



At the Mobile Team’s visit to the First Responders Relay in Henderson, Nevada.



At the Club’s recent visit to the Caltrans yard in San Jose.





## SALUTE TO VETERANS

# Honor the Veteran in your life – family, friend or yourself – for Veterans Day!

In our November issue, we plan to post your photos and messages of the person in your life who has served our country (in uniform, if possible), to honor them for their service. We’ll publish in print and online for Veterans Day, Mon., Nov. 11, 2024.

**DEADLINE:**  
**Online only: Wed., Nov. 6**  
 The deadline to appear in print has passed.

Send in your images and messages at:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/veterans/](http://alive.employeesclub.com/veterans/)

*Thank you for your service!*

# Put a bow on your new car

**Finance a car with WPCCU and enjoy perks:**

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- Buying a used car? We have rates for those, too
- Planning to buy out your lease? We can help! Click [wpccu.org/lease-buyout](http://wpccu.org/lease-buyout) for details

**Ask us for details**  
 Call our special hotline at 213-451-4738 or click <https://info.wpccu.org/alive1124> for current rates.




\* All loans are subject to credit approval. Restrictions apply. For additional loan details and 90-day deferment, contact WPCCU. WPCCU membership required.