



Alive!

Serving Over
50,000 Members

Employees Club of California | Vol. 23 • No. 12 | December 2024

Be Celebrated. Be Honored. Be Thanked.

The Best Benefit of All

CLUB BENEFITS

The Club staff delivers
huge Member value all year long.

INSIDE: The Club's best achievements for
Member value from 2024. Happy Holidays!

—PAGE 12

*"Club
Staff is
the heart
and soul of
the Member
experience. They
celebrate you in
every way, every day."*

— Club CEO Robert Larios

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



Celebrating the work and lives of public employees.

Employees Club of California
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Los Angeles, CA 90013

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EMPLOYEES
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The Best Club Value

ROBERT'S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



Having fun about serious value at the Club staff photo shoot to end 2024.

Over the last several months, *Alive!* has focused on Club benefits and how they return value to Club Members.

But we saved the best for last: our incredible Club staff! Literally everything they do at the Club is to celebrate, honor and thank public employees for your hard work and dedication.

It is more than a work commitment; it is the Club's passion. You can see that on the faces of every staff member in our feature photos this month. Of course we had fun taking the photos, but that just demonstrates how committed the team is to you, Club Members.

Rededication

This month's staff photo shoot was more than fun – its collective energy created a rededication to our mission of service. Gathering with the whole team together clarified our common mission and purpose – celebrating and honoring Members for their dedicated service. That feeling was palpable in the air, along with the laughs and the early holiday buzz. Telling the story of our collective mission actually strengthened it.



Ken White, Bus Operator, in 2011

Kenny's Last Ride

Our Club Member and good friend **Ken White**, Bus Operator, Airports, retired recently after 26 years of City service. He was instrumental in helping us tell several stories with

employees at LAX, including our cover story in April 2011 that featured the airport's bus driver corps. We loved doing that story, especially his helpful and positive spirit. We wish you all the best, Kenny.

Worth Considering

Here is a reminder to you as we approach a new year. No one is stopping you but yourself. Once you realize this, life becomes a lot better. With that newfound freedom, every challenge turns into an opportunity to grow and thrive. You will embrace each day with renewed energy and confidence, ready to conquer whatever comes your way.

Looking to 2025

The Club is working on new offers and programs for the New Year, including the new Club service pin program; the introduction of the Employee Recognition Team; more private parties (you love them, and so do we); expanded Club Sports; more visit locations from Club Mobile; an exciting new direction in Club video that focuses on you, Club Members; and more. With those innovations, however, comes our steadfast and signature exemplary customer service, which always works to return value to Club Members in California.

I wish each of you peace, joy and kindness for the Holiday Season. *Feliz Navidad.*

¡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

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

Monthly Anchors

North Central Sanitation

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

The first Monday of every month:

Mon., Dec. 2

Van Nuys City Hall

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

The first Tuesday of every month:

Tues., Dec. 3

Harbor

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

The first Wednesday of every month:

Wed., Dec. 4

City Hall Farmers Market

201 N. Main St., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The first Thursday of every month:

Thurs., Dec. 5

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 Summy Lam. Photo illustration by JLLA Associates.



CLUB BENEFITS

The Best Benefit of All

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 Read about all their accomplishments for you during 2024.

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CLUB DEALS

FROM THE CLUB DEAL DESK

HOME DÉCOR FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



Save up to
15%
 sitewide
 on gifts and
 home décor.

See's CANDIES

GIFT CARDS:
\$25
 value for only
\$14.95!

Limit 4 gift cards. Thru Dec. 9 only.

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CORRECTIONS

In our story about the retirement of pioneering K9 Officer Maria G. Hernandez, Port Police, Club Member in September we incorrectly stated that she worked at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium prior to her employment with the Port Police. She worked at Cabrillo Marina. Photos included Maria with both of her dogs, including this image, which was Edo.



Also, in the cover story in the November issue, we misstated the last name of a representative of LACERS at the Club Retirement Plaque ceremony. She is Heather Ramirez, Club Member.

We apologize for these errors.

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.)

***\$499 Value**

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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

Alive!

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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

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



BENEFIT EXTENDED FOR MORE MEMBER PARTICIPATION!



WE’LL COVER YOUR
DISNEYLAND PARKING THIS
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER!

NOV 1 - DEC 31, 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 months of November & December!



HOW IT WORKS:

The first 1,000 qualified members who submit their parking receipt for Disneyland between Nov 1- Dec 31, 2024, will be reimbursed for their parking fee! (1 refund per member, up to \$35.)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Visit Disneyland anytime from November 1 - December 31, 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 - December 31, 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



Fees Back: Your Holidays. We Pay the Fees!

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT

Larios, Club Shine in National Award

CLUB CEO ROBERT LARIOS NAMED THE MICHIGAN ROSS GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE. CLUB'S MISSION IS PROOF OF EXCELLENCE.

THE CLUB: On Sept. 13, the Club's Robert Larios was honored as the University of Michigan Ross School of Business's Graduate of the Decade (G.O.L.D.), an impressive honor.

This recognition highlights Larios's exemplary management of the Club, his innovative approaches, and the exceptional service provided to its members, establishing it as a leading independent association serving U.S. public sector.

The Michigan Ross' G.O.L.D. Alumni Award was created in 2020 to recognize exceptional recent alumni who have enhanced the reputation of Ross by their outstanding professional achievements and/or continued engagement and service to the school/university or community.

Michigan Ross is generally considered one of the top ten graduate business schools in the country.

Robert is the first Latino to receive this nationwide honor. His honor marks his achievements at the top of all Michigan Ross graduates from the 2010s.

ROBERT'S STORY

In his acceptance speech, held on the Michigan campus in Ann Arbor, Robert mentioned gratitude for his influences, including the Club.

"Reflecting on my journey from a Mexican immigrant to CEO of the Employees Club of California, I am ever grateful for the values instilled by my parents, Rafael and Carmen. Their pursuit of the American dream taught me about hard work, resilience and hope. A philosophy of leadership has been my compass, fueling my dedication to public service employees through the Employees Club. Our



Robert Larios accepts the G.O.L.D. honor from Michigan Ross Dean of Business Sharon Matusik (left).

mission to honor public workers mirrors Ross' values of sustainability, social responsibility and community engagement.

"Ross champions teamwork and collaboration, evident in the collective success of our team in California, committed to celebrating public service employees. Together, we transform challenges into opportunities.

"I am deeply grateful to my colleagues, friends and family, including my wife, Patricia, who have journeyed with me. Their support has helped turn aspirations into reality."

In an interview accompanying the award, Robert said: "Receiving the Graduate of the Last Decade Award is both a humbling and affirming recognition of the hard work that has defined my career. This award celebrates not just personal success but also the collective achievements of the community I serve," the Employees Club of California.

Robert Larios delivers his acceptance speech for the G.O.L.D. honor.



'[This honor] is a testament to the Club's commitment to service, excellence and innovation. We can all be incredibly proud of it.'

– Club CEO Robert Larios

CLUB VALUES IN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

The Club's mission of celebrating, honoring and thanking public service employees ... and returning real-world value to them for their monthly Club fees ... was very much a part of the honor.

"After earning my MBA in 2014, I embraced leadership roles that allowed me to honor public service employees. Each position I have taken has taught me invaluable lessons in empathy, resilience, and innovation," he emphasized in his acceptance interview.

"More importantly, Ross instilled in me the value of leadership that makes a real differ-

ence, a philosophy that has guided my commitment to uplifting public service employees and ensuring they are celebrated for their contributions."

"This award shines a light on how special our organization is," he told the Club Board of Directors after learning of the award. "It's a testament to the Club's commitment to service, excellence and innovation. We can all be incredibly proud of it."

"This award is not just a personal accolade; it symbolizes the incredible achievements we've reached together."

Everyone at the Club wishes a hearty congratulations to our CEO, Robert Larios. Well done, and much deserved. ●

Be My Club Valentine

Send your loved one a special Valentine...
in the February Alive!

Here's how it works:

Send us a favorite photo (high-resolution digital) of you and your loved one(s) (could be a romantic partner, a parent or child, etc.) and two or three sentences declaring your special bond. And we'll print as many as we can in the print and Web Alive!

DEADLINES:
January 17 for Print and Web Alive!
February 10 for Web Alive! only.

To send your digital photo and your message, go to:
alive.employeesclub.com/valentines

THE CLUB INSURANCE CORNER

by Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales



CA LICENSE NO: 0H45598

A City Employee's Story: A Wake-Up Call The Importance of Disability Insurance*

Michael's journey is a stark illustration of life's unpredictability and the critical need for preparedness in the face of unforeseen events. As a steadfast public service employee, Michael was dedicated to maintaining the City's infrastructure until an unexpected accident resulted in a permanent back injury. This abrupt change not only ended his career but also plunged his family into financial turmoil.

Despite receiving partial benefits from his employer, these were insufficient to cover the living expenses and growing bills. His wife, Sarah, had to take on additional work to help make ends meet, but the financial burden continued to mount. The stress of unpaid bills and the fear of losing their home took a significant emotional toll, making it even more challenging for Michael to concentrate on his recovery and adjust to his new circumstances.

Michael's situation powerfully highlights the essential need for comprehensive long-term disability insurance. Without adequate coverage, the family's financial future was left in jeopardy, underscoring the importance of a robust safety net in times of crisis. This is where The Club's Long-Term Disability (LTD) Insurance provides a crucial solution, offering a life-line and peace of mind for employees and their families.

- 1. Income Protection During Critical Times:** The Club's LTD plan ensures up to 70 percent of your salary is available when you're unable to work due to injury or illness. This reliable income stream helps families like Michael's avoid depleting their savings or retirement funds, thus protecting their long-term financial health.
- 2. Extensive Coverage:** The Club's LTD insurance addresses a broad spectrum of circumstances, from injuries to chronic illnesses, including partial disabilities. This comprehensive protection gives you confidence that, no matter what happens, your family's financial security is safeguarded.
- 3. Affordable and Simple:** With group-rate premiums and automatic payroll deductions, this coverage is both economical and easy to integrate into your financial planning. Additionally, receiving tax-free benefits adds further value to the plan.
- 4. Ensuring Family Security:** Protecting your family is a priority, and the Club's LTD insurance helps maintain financial stability during challenging times, preventing the emotional and financial distress that families like Michael's experience.

Michael's experience is not just a cautionary tale but a compelling reminder of the harsh realities faced without adequate preparation for a sudden income loss due to disability. The Club's LTD insurance is more than just an expense; it is an investment in your future, offering the security needed to focus on recovery and what truly matters.

Don't wait for the unexpected. Consider the Club's LTD insurance today to protect your financial stability and ensure peace of mind for you and your loved ones.

**Disclaimer: The narrative of Michael's story is a fictional depiction crafted for illustrative purposes only. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or deceased, or actual events is entirely coincidental. This cautionary tale is intended to highlight the importance of comprehensive long-term disability insurance and is not based on any real-life scenarios. Please consult with a licensed insurance professional for advice tailored to your specific circumstances.*

For more information and to apply, reach out to info@employeesclub.com.



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 to request a Counselor visit today!

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: Dec. 19, Jan. 30, or Feb. 27)
- 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



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

Contact Information

Club Retirees Dedicated Helpline:
Club contact:
help@employeesclub.com

LA City Employees Retirement System (LACERS) (City Dept.)
(800) 779-8328
lacers.services@lacers.org

LADWP Retirees Association
(949) 388-1206

Fire and Police Pensions (City Dept.)
(844) 885-2377
pensions@lafpp.com

LA Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)
(888) 288-5073
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	OCTOBER	TOTAL SINCE 1992
Life/Accidental Death and Dismemberment	\$165,507	\$75,292,075
Disability Insurance	\$166,347	\$36,676,592
Long-Term Care Insurance	\$185,444	\$14,863,497
Cancer/Critical Care Insurance	\$105,350	\$5,270,950
Accident Plan	\$1,760	\$143,597
Totals	\$623,833	\$132,248,316

CLUB MEMBERS' PRAISE

The Club's claims service was "Grade A-excellent. Contact was helpful, the service was prompt and the process was uncomplicated; no major obstacles."

— **The Dooner family, 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

Happy Anniversary, PSRs!

DIVISION NOTES ITS 40TH BIRTHDAY.

Photos courtesy LAPD

LAPD: On Oct. 1, the LAPD Communications Division – the critically important 9-1-1 Operators – celebrated its 40th anniversary with a gathering and event in City Council Chambers, organized by Councilmember Tim McOsker.

"We have seen amazing technological advancements since its Oct. 1, 1984 launch in Los Angeles," the division wrote. "Over the years, our Police Services Representatives (PSRs) have done an outstanding job of adapting to all changes and challenges. We truly value the commitment and diligence that each and every one of our talented PSRs puts forth on a daily basis."

To all LAPD PSRs, who perform a monumentally critical role in the daily thriving of Los Angeles, and especially to the dozens who are Club Members – we say thank you. We honor you and celebrate you. ●



9-1-1 Dispatchers gathered for a group photo with Councilmember Tim McOsker outside the City Council Chambers.



"The 40th anniversary was marked by fingers on the dispatch floor."



At the anniversary event Oct. 1 in the City Council Chambers.

New GM in the House

TIENA JOHNSON HALL TAKES LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PIVOTAL DEPT.



Tiena Johnson Hall

HOUSING: On Oct. 18, Tiena Johnson Hall was appointed the new General Manager of the LA Housing Dept. She was appointed by Mayor Karen Bass.

Ms. Johnson Hall will lead and implement the Mayor's vision for the Housing Dept. to cut through bureaucratic red tape, drive innovation for affordable housing development, prevent people from losing their housing, and work urgently to house more Angelenos, according to a statement. Mayor Bass is driving a comprehensive strategy to increase housing production, accelerating more than 25,000 units of affordable housing, preserving thousands of existing affordable units in the City, and helping Angelenos stay housed by securing federal and state resources to increase the affordable housing supply. Ms. Johnson Hall will work closely with Lourdes Castro Ramirez, who will serve as the next President and CEO of the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles.

Currently, Ms. Johnson Hall is the Executive Director of the California Housing Finance Agency in Sacramento where she oversees bond issuance, leverages funding from the private sector and administers funds from the state of California and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to deliver affordable housing for Californians in need. Ms. Johnson Hall was born in Los Angeles and raised her two small children in public affordable housing where issues of public housing quality, preservation and access became personally important for her.

The Mayor also appointed Tricia Keane, Executive Officer of the L.A. Housing Dept., to serve as interim General Manager during the transition. Ms. Keane is responsible for ensuring efficiency in implementation of the Department's programs. She also administers the City's accessible housing program, which is responsible for developing affordable housing that is accessible to persons with disabilities. Joining the Department in 2020, Ms. Keane has helped accelerate affordable housing by cutting timelines through Executive Directive 1 among other significant contributions.

Mayor Bass appointed Tiena Johnson Hall to fill the General Manager position following Ann Sewill's retirement. The appointment will be referred to the Los Angeles City Council for consideration.

Congratulations, Tiena Johnson Hall! Welcome to the City of Los Angeles. ●

Fire Honors Police Rescue

BOARD HONORS 4 OFFICERS, 1 CIVILIAN FOR CAR CRASH BRAVERY.

LAFD: Four Los Angeles Police Officers and a civilian photographer were recognized Oct. 1 by the Los Angeles Board of Fire Commissioners for their display of extraordinary bravery during the daring rescue of two individuals from a burning vehicle in Encino.

Just after midnight on Feb. 20, a vehicle crashed head-on into a traffic light pole at the intersection of Ventura and Balboa Boulevards. The impact caused the car to erupt in flames, prompting immediate action from the responding officers.

As fire engulfed the vehicle, four LAPD Officers sprang into action. They tried to extinguish the flames while pulling the driver and front passenger to safety. Despite intense heat billowing from the car, they continued smashing the windows in desperate attempts to reach a rear passenger trapped inside.

Capturing the harrowing scene was Howard Raishbrook, a photographer from RMG News. He was filming the chaotic rescue when he learned that a third person remained trapped in the car. "I can see a big orange bowl of fire, and I can see LAPD rushing

toward this, smashing out the windows," Raishbrook recounted. "I thought, 'Hopefully, everybody's out.' They were pulling two people out, and I heard one of the victims say, 'There's someone else in the car.' So I ran back, grabbed my fire extinguisher, and tried to help. I mean, I put the fire extinguisher through; it didn't seem to do too much, and luckily, the Fire Station was a block away, so they came and put the fire out. But the heat was intense. I was worried about it exploding. I could hear bangs as I was running up."

Thanks to the swift, determined and heroic actions of the Officers and Raishbrook, two teenage girls in the car were rescued with minor injuries. Sadly, the female teen in the rear seat was beyond their reach and perished in the accident.

Fire Chief Kristin Crowley and Board President Genethia Hudley-Hayes both emphasized the specific actions of the LAPD Officers, noting this is only one of many that happened to be captured on video. "With no protective gear, with no real training

at putting out fires, they did the best they could and saved lives," Hudley-Hayes said.

The Los Angeles Board of Fire Commissioners honored LAPD Officers Yulián Castrillo, Kevin Hernández, Alexander Martínez and Cheyne Underwood and photographer Howard Raishbrook during the ceremony, recognizing their selfless commitment to saving lives under perilous conditions.

Congratulations to Officers Castrillo, Hernandez, Martinez and Underwood, and photographer Raishbrook for their honor. ●



From left: photographer Howard Raishbrook, Officer Cheyne Underwood, Officer Alexander Martínez, Fire Chief Kristin Crowley, Officer Kevin Hernández and Officer Yulián Castrillo.



Holiday Happenings

Donate to a Toy/Clothing Drive!

Many City departments host holiday toy and clothing drives. The Club encourages you to be generous by participating. (As many agencies were finalizing their plans at *Alive!* press time, please check their social media channels for the most current information.)



Bishop Alemany High School contributed toys to the LAPD Devonshire toy drive.



CLUB STORE Holiday Shipping Deadlines



For the 2024 holiday season, the online Club Store accepts orders 24/7 for all your holiday needs!

www.employeesclub.com



Shipping for Christmas?

If you want your online Club Store order to arrive by Christmas using shipping, the Club recommends these deadlines (don't wait!):

- USPS Ground Advantage:** order by Mon., Dec. 16
- USPS Priority Mail:** order by Wed., Dec. 18
- USPS Priority Express:** order by Fri., Dec. 20

Will Call Available

Will Call order pickups are available by appointment only in downtown LA, at the Club's warehouse in Carson, or via scheduled Mobile visits. Call or text (213) 819-0350 for inquiries and appointments.

Happy Holidays from the Club Retail Team!



THE CLUB'S Holiday Hours

Here's a schedule of the Club's operating hours over the holidays.

Note: Customer support teams are standing by 24/7, and the online Club Store accepts orders 24/7; order fulfillment occurs during regular hours.

Thurs., Dec. 12
Offices closed all day for staff holiday event.

Wed.-Thurs., Dec. 25-26
Offices closed for the Christmas holiday.

Fri., Dec. 27
Offices reopen.

Wed-Thurs., Jan. 1-2
Offices closed for the New Year holiday.

Fri., Jan. 3
Offices reopen.

LAPD Devonshire

The Devonshire Division plans its toy drive, which in the past has collected nearly 1,000 toys, for Sat., Dec. 14 at 9 a.m. LAPD Devonshire PALS Youth Center, 8721 Wilbur Ave., Northridge.

LAFD Spark of Love

The LAFD – and many other local fire departments – are collecting for their annual Spark of Love Toy Drive. Drop off unwrapped toys or sports equipment to any LAFD Fire Station, and they'll take it from there.

This annual event is in its 32nd year and includes the major collection event Dec. 6 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, from 4 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

To find your nearest LAFD station: <https://www.lafd.org/fire-stations/station-results>

To donate online: <https://supportlafd.kindful.com/?campaign=1032876>

LAPD Northeast

LAPD's Northeast Station has given away up to 1,000 toys per year to area children living in poverty or other challenging situations. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for 3-to-12-year-old children to the station, 3353 N San Fernando Rd., by Sat., Dec. 7.

LAPD North Hollywood

The North Hollywood Station plans to host its "Winter Wonderland" toy giveaway at Whitsett Park, 6907 Whitsett Ave. Unwrapped toy donations are requested at the Station, 11640 Burbank Blvd., by Sat., Dec. 7.

LAPD Van Nuys

The Station plans its 11th annual toy drive and car show for Sat., Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Address: 6240 Sylmar Ave., Van Nuys.

West Valley Sanitation

Public Works' West Valley Sanitation Yard is once again hosting its annual Holiday Toy Drive. Drop off your unwrapped toys at the yard, 8840 Vanalden Ave., Northridge, by Wednesday, Dec. 11, as West Valley donates the toys to the Guadalupe Center the next day.

Rec and Parks Park Rangers Toys for Tots

Park Rangers are working with the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots to collect unwrapped gifts. Drop offs available at the Griffith Park Ranger Station and Hansen Dam Ranger Stations every day 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.; and the Audubon Center at Ernest Debs Park, Thurs.-Sun., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Rec and Parks Muscle Beach Toy Drive

Rec and Parks sponsors the 17th annual Muscle Beach toy drive from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Venice Beach Recreation Center, 1800 Ocean Front Walk in Venice. A special presentation by Santa and his Elvettes is promised.

Immediately following the drive, LAPD cruisers & SUVs pick up all the donated toys and transport to their station. Donated toys help the kids in Culver City, Venice, Santa Monica, Oakwood, Westchester, & Marina Del Rey communities.

Sanitation Blanket and Sock Drive

Public Works/Sanitation and Environment is hosting its annual blankets and socks drive. Residents, businesses and City employees are encouraged to donate new and gently used – washed and clean – blankets, sleeping bags, quilts and socks at one of six designated collection sites. Through Jan. 3. Drop off at any of Sanitation's drop-off sites in the West Valley, North Central, West LA, Harbor and the Public Works building downtown.

Council District 6 Toy Drive

Council District 6 is now accepting toy donations at both the Sun Valley office (9300 Lauren Canyon Blvd.) and Van Nuys (14410 Slyvan St.), 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Council District 3 Toy Drive

Bob Blumenfield holds an annual holiday event and toy drive, estimated this year to be held Thursday, Dec. 5. Details were unavailable at press time. Information: (818) 774-4330.

Dept. on Aging/Project CARE

Project CARE (Caring Actions Responding to Elders) is an annual holiday campaign that provides support to low-income older adults. The campaign is a collaboration between the Dept. on Aging, LA County Aging and Disabilities Dept., and the LA Foundation on Aging.

The campaign's goal is to spread joy and provide personalized support to older adults in need. Participants can request items including gift cards, clothing, shoes, blankets, walkers, small kitchen appliances, art supplies, and pet food. AD staff then hand-delivers the gift packages to ensure they arrive on time. Information: (213) 202-5639 or (213) 808-2366; projectcare@lacity.org

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.

Holiday Light Festival Train Ride



Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square



LA Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow

When: 6-10 p.m. nightly, nightly through Jan. 5 (closed most Mondays and Tuesdays, plus 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

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

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.

Holidays by the Sea Harbor Holiday Afloat Boat Parade

When: 4 – 8 p.m. Sat., Dec. 7
Where: San Pedro Town Square, 504 S. Harbor Blvd.
Cost: Free admission.
City sponsor: Harbor, Council
Information: (310) 732-3508, lawaterfront.org

Join the Port of Los Angeles, in partnership with Councilmember Tim McOsker and West Harbor, at the San Pedro Town Square to celebrate Holidays by the Sea on the LA Waterfront. This free, festive event will include a holiday market, boat parade, crafts, live entertainment and holiday tree lighting in front of the Los Angeles Maritime Museum.

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

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.

Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square

When: various times, through 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

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.

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

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.

READ ALL ABOUT IT: It's the Holidays!

LIBRARIANS ARE READY TO HELP YOU ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS WITH BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS.

LIBRARY: Below is a selection of books and movies reflecting some of the Library's suggestions for the winter holidays. If your favorite holiday isn't represented, feel free to email children@lapl.org, and the Librarians can help.

Happy Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa to all, and to all a good night!

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

THANK YOU!

The Club sends its thanks to the Librarians as noted below, and to Susan Lendroth, Public Relations Specialist, for her assistance in gathering these suggestions over the last few months.

For Adult Readers

Christmas Crimes at The Mysterious Bookshop

Edited by Otto Penzler

The Mysterious Bookshop is a real store in NYC, and it's also the oldest mystery bookstore in the entire world. For most of its 45-year history, the store has commissioned an original short story from a famous author as a holiday gift for its customers. Written exclusively for the store and never published elsewhere, the best of these stories now appear in this delightful volume. All of the stories share the following three elements: they take place at Christmastime, they involve a crime of some sort, and they are set at least partially in The Mysterious Bookshop.

The Snow Child

Eowyn Ivey

Although technically not a Christmas story, *The Snow Child* is full of enchantment and set in a winter wonderland. It tells the tale of childless couple Jack and Mabel, who move to Alaska in 1920 to try and improve their lives. Their marriage is drifting apart—he is breaking under the weight of hard work, while she is crumbling from loneliness. In a moment of levity, they build a child out of snow. The next morning the snow

child is gone, but they glimpse a young girl running through the trees. She seems to be a child of the woods. The girl hunts with a red fox at her side and somehow survives alone in the Alaskan wilderness. As Jack and Mabel struggle to understand this fairy tale child, they come to love her as their own daughter.



Matzah Ball

Jean Meltzer

When Jewish Christmas romance novelist Rachel is tasked with writing a Hanukkah romance, she decides to find inspiration at the Matzah Ball, a musical celebration of the last night of Hanukkah. There she reconnects

with her childhood nemesis, Jacob Greenberg. Though the animosity between them still runs strong, there seems to be something more fueling their interactions. This Hanukkah, Rachel will discover not only the magic of Hanukkah but the possibility of second chances.

For Young Readers

Winter Solstice Wish

Kate Allen Fox; illustrated by Elisa Paganelli

As we in Southern California know, December doesn't always mean snow! This picture book highlights a beach bonfire celebration of the winter solstice.

The Light from My Menorah: Celebrating Holidays Around the World

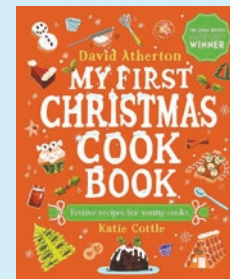
Robin Heald; illustrated by Andrea Blinick

A family celebrating Hanukkah contemplates modern miracles of light. This picture book draws a connection between winter celebrations in various religions and cultures.

The Mexican Dreidel

Linda Elovitz Marshall

Danielito joins with his dreidel in his new friends' trompos game for a Januca adventure. A celebration of Mexico's Jewish diaspora and a tale of friendship.



David Atherton's Christmas Cookbook for Kids

David Atherton

An approachable, festive cookbook full of holiday cheer.

Mr. Santa

Jarvis

When a young child meets Santa one Christmas Eve, she has nonstop questions to ask! A sweet holiday bedtime story.

Santa's First Christmas

Mac Barnett

Finally realizing that Santa never actually gets to experience the joys of Christmas himself, the elves provide a festive day filled with decorations, treats and gifts.

More book suggestions at aliveemployeesclub.com

The Bike People

HYPERION PLANT'S HOLIDAY CHARITY PROJECT MARKS A DECADE OF GIVING.



From 2017: Then-bike drive manager Efrain Gonzalez, Hyperion, who managed the bike drive.

PUBLIC WORKS: Hyperion Sanitation Manager Vince Ruiz, 23 years of City service, Club Member, remembers the challenge.

In 2013, "during the LAFD's Spark of Love Toy Drive, John Baldwin, one of our Wastewater Treatment Mechanics, started a friendly wager with one of our Machinists to see which shop could build and donate the most bicycles," Vince explains. "It started then, and every year it's grown."

That challenge has led to more than 1,000 children's bikes being bought, assembled and donated by a wide range of people associated with Hyperion, including employees, vendors, and others. For the Hyperion Bike People, the informal name of the group, it's a holiday tradition of charity that starts in November. But the bikes, contributed to the LAFD's Spark of Love Toy Drive, are given away throughout the year to families in need after their homes and belongings are destroyed by fire.

"It's nice to see our 150 bikes being loaded onto a couple of Fire Dept. trucks before Christmas."

Vince spearheads the Bike Guys charity program now, which also includes the purchase and donation of bike helmets. He's assisted by Don Jackson, Pipefitter, who buys many of the unassembled bikes on Black Friday, and Charmaine Flores, who organizes the helmet purchases. The Hyperion shops started giving to the Spark of Love campaign around 2002 with the leadership of former employee Nick Terrell, but focused on bikes starting in 2013. *Alive!* ran a brief story

on the project in 2017, talking to Ephrain Gonzalez, who managed the program then. He's since been promoted to another location. Tim Padgett, another Maintenance Manager, took it over for a while, too.

Vince can't say how many employees are involved each year, as the builders often like to remain anonymous. It's just as well.

"It really comes from the heart," Vince says. "We stay away from the competition. It's been just as successful that way."

"These guys aren't looking for credit. At all. It's the joy of giving. It's the season, and they get into it." ●



Right: Bikes heading for Toys for Tots. Below: Vince Ruiz, middle right, manages the Bike People.



Exciting New Coed Softball League Coming Summer 2025!

Get ready to swing into action this summer! The Club is thrilled to announce the launch of a Coed Softball League, kicking off in June 2025. Whether you're an experienced player or a casual enthusiast, this league is a fantastic opportunity to stay active, connect with fellow Club Members, and enjoy some friendly competition.



DATES: JUNE 3 TO AUG. 12TH 2025

GAME NIGHTS: Every Tuesday night

LOCATION: Glassell Park – 3650 Verdugo Rd. Los Angeles, CA. 90065

This exciting new league is open to both full teams and free agents. It's a perfect chance for friends and coworkers to come together, form teams, or join an existing one. Whether you're looking to make new friends or sharpen your skills, there's a place for everyone.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

To participate, players must be Club Members. Not a member yet? No worries—signing up is quick and easy!

Secure your spot today by emailing:

Noelle Kauffman, the Club Sports Commissioner, at nkauffman@employeesclub.com.

Noelle is available to answer any questions and assist with team registrations or individual sign-ups.

WHY PLAY?

The Club Coed Softball League isn't just about the competition—it's about being active and having fun! Whether you're looking to improve your fitness, enjoy a casual evening of sports, or simply meet new people in the Club community, this league offers something for everyone.

So, grab your glove, lace up your cleats, and get ready for some fun.

CLUB SPORTS

by Noelle Kauffman, Club Sports Commissioner

Hoops and Kicks

CLUB-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS CELEBRATE SPORTSMANSHIP.

Over the Veterans Day holiday weekend, the Club sponsored two City-focused sports tournaments – basketball and soccer.

On Sunday, Nov. 10, the third Club-sponsored basketball tournament of the year at EXPO Center featured six teams from LADOT, LADWP, and Rec and Parks. The games were competitive and full of excitement, with the EXPO team from Rec and Parks clinching their second consecutive victory.

And on Veterans Day, a four-team soccer tournament, also sponsored by the Club, featured teams from LADOT – Hollywood Division, Central Division, Southwest Division and Valley Division, which took the crown.

The tournament was held at South Gate Park.



Club Sports Commissioner Noelle Kauffman (left) and tournament organizer Cesar Ponce, LADOT, get the ball rolling.



The team from EXPO Center/Rec and Parks won the tournament.



The action at the basketball tournament was strong, passionate and lively.



In all Club Sports, good sportsmanship is key.



The winning team from LADOT/Valley Division.



The four teams that participated in the Club-sponsored soccer tournament Nov. 11.

Be Active. Be Club.

Jim McDonnell Sworn In

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

Photo courtesy Mayor's Office



Jim McDonnell, Club Member is sworn in as LA's 59th Chief of Police.

LAPD: On Nov. 8, Jim McDonnell, former First Assistant Chief of the LAPD and Sheriff of Los Angeles County, was confirmed by the City Council to serve as the 59th Chief of the LAPD.

He has spent more than 40 years in policing and is a long-time Club Member.

"I want to thank the Mayor, Police Commission and the City Council for their support, and I look forward to their continued partnership as we look to improve public safety throughout Los Angeles," Chief McDonnell said. "Starting today, the real work begins. By focusing on growing the Department and deepening ties to the community, I believe we can make Los Angeles a safer City."

Chief McDonnell said that his goals are to:

Enhance public safety;

- Grow LAPD back to full strength through recruitment and retention;
- Strengthen public trust;
- Further develop community relationships;

- Ensure respectful and constitutional policing practices; and
- Prepare LAPD and our partners for the challenges ahead.

About Chief Jim McDonnell

Chief Jim McDonnell, who began his policing career with the LAPD, has served for more than 40 years in the public safety profession and is the first person to serve in senior executive leadership positions in the three largest policing agencies in Los Angeles County: the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. (LASD), the Los Angeles Police Dept. (LAPD), and the Long Beach Police Dept. (LBPD). During his tenure, all three agencies saw a reduction in crime and improved police-community relations.

McDonnell has served as Vice President of the Major County Sheriffs of America; President of the California Peace Officers' Association; President of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association; a board member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police; a board member of the Peace Officers' Association of Los Angeles County; a member of the Major Cities Chiefs Association; and as a member of the California

Commission on Peace Officers' Standards & Training (POST).

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, McDonnell obtained a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California. He is also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Executive Institute and has completed executive education programs at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Congratulations, Chief! The Club honors you and celebrates you for your dedicated public service. ●



LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS

Appointment-Based Service Is Now in Place at LACERS

LACERS now uses an appointment-based system for all members who need in-person assistance. There are two options for appointments: in person, at our headquarters, and virtually, via Zoom. These new options allow for timely and convenient access to get your questions answered. Visit lacers.org/contact-us to make an appointment online or call (800) 779-8328.

Appointments aren't necessary if you drop off documents Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., and don't need to speak to anyone. Please note that LACERS' operating hours have changed.

In-Person and Virtual Appointment Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday. **Phone Hours:** 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tuesday

Additional online options continue to be available to you. Use the LACERS' Secure Document Upload found at lacers.org/secure-document-upload to submit forms or required documents, visit the LACERS website at [LACERS.org](https://lacers.org) to obtain benefits information; log onto your MyLACERS account at <https://mylacers.lacers.org> to view your account details; and visit the LACERS' YouTube channel at youtube.com/@lacers-official where you can find a wealth of benefits videos. Stay up to date on LACERS announcements by checking the website periodically at [LACERS.org](https://lacers.org), contacting LACERS by email at lacers.services@lacers.org, and by phone at (800) 779-8328.

Please be advised that pre-entry metal detector screening requirements are in place at LACERS' headquarters, and a current government-issued photo identification or City employee badge is required except when attending public meetings of the LACERS Board of Administration. Parking is not available at the building. Paid parking lots, public transit and street parking are available nearby. ●

Winter Holiday Schedule Set

In observance of the 2024 winter holidays, the LACERS front desk will be closed for services and appointments, and the 800 phone number will be offline Dec. 24, 26, 27, 30 and 31.

LACERS will continue to reply to incoming emails via lacers.services@lacers.org and respond to voicemails during this time. LACERS will be closed, and services will be unavailable on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Please plan ahead if you think you will need to contact us during these dates. ●

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

Open Enrollment Changes Become Effective Jan. 1

LACERS' Open Enrollment period ended Nov. 18, and applications for health plan changes for the 2025 plan year are no longer being accepted.

Changes made during the Open Enrollment period become effective Jan. 1, 2025. If you changed your health plan, you will receive your health plan I.D. card in mid-January. New deductions that reflect your health plan changes will appear on your retirement check on Dec. 31, 2024. The next opportunity to change your LACERS benefit plans will be next year during the Open Enrollment period unless you experience a qualifying event. ●

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www.RosebudMarketing.com

LEONARDO DA VINCI

INVENTOR • ARTIST • DREAMER

Special Exhibit



Discover the Genius of Leonardo DaVinci!

Now extended through January 5th, 2025

- 12 Full-Sized Machines Brought to Life!
- 30 Working Models of DaVinci's Groundbreaking Inventions
- Hands-On Fun at Interactive Stations for All Ages



"Highly recommend visiting this traveling exhibit while it's here!"
– Sarah P.

"So many interactive components kept the whole family engaged."
– Alison R.

Club Members Save \$6 with Your Exclusive Promo Code and Fees Back!



We're serious about ZERO FEES! We'll refund any ticket fees you incur.

[▶ MORE INFO ONLINE](#)



Buy Tickets Now at EmployeesClub.com



The Best Benefit of All

CLUB BENEFITS

The Club staff delivers huge Member value all year long, and especially now at the holidays.

For the past few months, *Alive!* has been highlighting the value that the Club gives you, our Members, to live full lives that you can afford; to save money on tickets and merchandise; to take advantage of opportunities all across the United States and Canada; to secure your financial future through strong insurance programs; to be honored for your career through the outstanding Club Retirement Plaque program; with much more to come in 2025.

But now we present the Club benefit that makes all the others possible: The incredible, dedicated and hard-working Club Staff. They are truly the Best Benefit of All.

In these end-of-the-year pages, read about all they have been doing for you this year, and enjoy their holiday greeting to you and your family. They honor you, they celebrate you, they thank you every day.



“I look to the talented and gifted Employees Club of California staff; they deliver incredible value to Members and their families. Our staff is exceptional.”

– Club CEO Robert Larios



CLUB BENEFITS



Club Staff Gave These Gifts to Members All Year Long

As the Club wishes you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Season's Greetings, we present highlights of our service to you from 2024.



Member Services

Strong products, more meet-and-greets, more sports

The Member Services Department is committed to serving public employees by educating and empowering Members to make informed decisions on benefits that protect themselves and their families.

As the year comes to a close, the Member Services Department thanks all of our Club Members for giving us the opportunity to serve them and we look forward to continuing to meet your needs in the coming year.

Value Delivered to Members in 2024:

- Member Services welcomed more than 3,000 new Members to the Club experience of being honored, thanked and celebrated for their public service
- Member Services helped protect the financial wellbeing of 1,346 Members by enrolling them in affordable Life Insurance policies
- Club Counselors expanded their variety of locations to meet Club Members at City yards, offices and worksites
- Club Sports continues to expand after the pandemic by sponsoring three basketball tournaments, one softball tournament, one soccer tournament, a golf tournament, two 5k runs and a Spartan Race ... with more to come in 2025!

Happy Holidays from Member Services:

- Noelle Kauffman, Director of Sales
- Cheryl Martin, Club Counselor
- Dalila Vielma, Club Counselor
- Cynthia Ha, Club Counselor
- Dylan Noel, Club Counselor
- Cesilee Castillo, Customer Service Rep
- Genesis Martinez-Flores, Customer Service Rep
- Marcus Martin, Customer Service Rep



'May your holiday season be filled with joy, peace, and cherished moments with your loved ones.'
 – Member Services



Club Retail

Expansion, more anchor sites, ramping up plaques

Whether navigating the notorious 405 during rush hour or taking scenic routes to reach worksites, Club Retail's mission remains the same: bringing Members joy and expressing the team's heartfelt gratitude for their invaluable civil service.

Thank you for allowing Club Retail the opportunity to serve Members in 2024!

Club Retail looks forward to seeing Members throughout Los Angeles, Los Angeles County and California in 2025!

Value Delivered to Members in 2024:

- In 2024, Club Mobile expanded its reach beyond county lines to serve Members in Sacramento, San Jose, Bishop, San Diego, and even Henderson, Nevada!
- The Mobile Team also grew its presence by increasing the number of anchor locations from one to four, delivering greater dependability and access.
- Mobile Team visits included a wider variety of events this year, including retirement celebrations, safety meetings and employee appreciation events, ensuring that the team supported and uplifted worker groups.
- Club Retail introduced new merchandise, packaged and shipped more than 1,000 online orders, and proudly supported the Retirement Plaque Committee, processing more than 400 plaques to longstanding Club Members to honor them for their careers of service.



'Whatever your plans are, wherever you are going, we wish you a happy, peaceful and safe holiday. Thank you for your work, dedication and loyalty.'
 – Club Retail

Happy Holidays from Club Retail:

- Lupe Lira, Retail Operations Manager
- Rebecca DeBolt, Customer Service Representative
- Eduardo Escalona, Mobile Operations Representative
- Raul Salgado, Customer Service Representative
- DeAngelo Thompson, Mobile Operations Representative

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Alive! Feature

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Information Technology

Innovation delivering higher levels of service

As the year draws to a close, the IT Department takes a moment to thank Members for their continued loyalty and trust. The IT team is grateful for the chance to serve and support Members, enhancing their experience through technology and innovation.

In the new year, we're excited to bring you new initiatives and improvements we've been working on. Our commitment to providing value to our members drives everything we do, and we look forward to making your experience even better in the year to come.

Value Delivered to Members in 2024:

- Successfully transitioned to a modern, feature-rich data management system, empowering our staff to deliver an enhanced member experience.
- Introducing AI to the workplace to drive innovation and keep pace with industry advancements.

Warmest Holiday Wishes from the Club's IT Department:

- Petros Khachatryan, Director of IT
- Citlali Bon, Data Quality Manager
- Edith Bon-Sanchez, Data Processing Coordinator
- Alan Bound, IT Business Analyst
- Ronald Cortez, Assistant Quality Assurance Analyst
- Natalia Guevara, Data Processing Coordinator
- Rey Hernandez, IT Sr. Developer
- Martin Landaeta, Data Processing Coordinator



'We wish you a holiday season filled with joy, laughter, and unforgettable moments.'
— IT Dept.



Accounting

Responsiveness, precision, transparency

The Accounting Dept. – the financial backbone and rock-steady stability of the Club and its service to Members, instituted a number of advancements.



Value Delivered to Members in 2024:

- The Accounting Team played a crucial role in assisting with 1,525 transactions aimed at preventing Members from losing their insurance coverage. Additionally, the team aided 74 Members in transitioning to automatic payments, provides them peace of mind and reduces the risk of unintentional lapses in their coverage during critical times.
- The Team issued checks for 32 Mukai Scholarship winners, supporting educational initiatives within the Club family.
- The Team refunded hundreds of fees through the Club's Fees Back and special promotional refunds, mostly through Zelle but also through paper checks. These refunds are a testament to the Club's dedication to providing tangible benefits to Members.
- The Team spent more than 335 hours assisting members by phone, resolving immediate Member concerns and evaluating whether they required additional support. Similarly, Team members managed nearly 1,000 email consultations. Members were very much heard and listened to.
- Ongoing and meticulous reconciling and auditing of accounts ensured that adjustments to insurance premiums, cancellations and return of premiums were handled precisely, protecting Members from potential errors. This diligence supports the Club's mission of operating with transparency and reliability.
- Recent updates in Accounting's systems, combined with collaboration with the Club's IT Dept., enhanced the convenience of online payments for Members, allowing for easy access to making transactions outside typical business hours.

'Here's to a beautiful holiday season, and cheers to an amazing year ahead.'

— Accounting

Happiness, Joy and Peace From the

- Accounting Team:**
 Leigh Thompson, Controller
 Clara Flores, Sr. Accountant II
 Trinh Pham, Sr. Accountant
 Daniel McAlinden, Sr. Accountant
 Frank Ochoa, IT Accountant



The Club wishes you

Family to love you, Friends to lift you, Challenges to inspire you,
 The stars and heavens to amaze you
 And a big smile knowing that Life is pretty darn good.

This holiday season, may you be given

All that you wish for
 Except one thing to grow on.

Be honored. Be thanked. Be celebrated for your dedicated public service.



Alive! Feature: The Best Benefit of All



Ticket and Benefit Procurement

Expanding options for relaxation, enjoyment, affordability

The Team, responsible for benefit procurement, takes pride in securing a range of discounts and ensuring that inventory remains well-stocked so everyone has access to the best experiences.

The Team believes in celebrating and honoring the hard work of public employees by providing them with diverse, exciting options for relaxation and enjoyment. Whether it's movie theater discounts, theme park discounts, or seasonal events and special attractions, the Team aims to offer an array of choices that enhance quality time with family and friends.

The Ticket and Benefit Procurement Team is grateful for the dedication of public service employees and is honored to support them by continually enhancing the selection of offerings that help create cherished memories with their loved ones. We are committed to continuing these efforts in the coming years.

Value Delivered to Members in 2024:

- This year the Team was delighted to offer several specials that included deeply discounted Honeybaked Ham and See's Gift Cards; special Fees Back refund campaigns;
- discounts to several family events such as Disney on Ice and Monster Jam; and Seasonal discounts such as ski lifts, waterparks, and Halloween events like Dark Harbor.
- The return of private events! The Team was also thrilled to celebrate Members by providing our sold-out, Member-Exclusive events at Medieval Times and Pirates Dinner Adventure.

'Wishing you and those you hold dear a safe, blessed, and joyful holiday season that carries into the New Year.'
 – Ticket and Benefit Procurement

Happy Holidays From the Ticket and Benefit Procurement Team:

- Mariana Guevara, Ticket and Benefit Procurement
- Rebecca DeBolt, Customer Service Representative
- Brian Trent, Club CFO
- Megan Eckert (not pictured), Ticket and Benefit Procurement Associate



Claims Collaboration and invention

The Claims Dept. – the heart and soul of the Club's insurance products – added many positive enhancements to its procedures.

Value Delivered to Members in 2024:

- Claims enhanced its sympathy cards to include cards for Members who have lost pets. It moves Members when they see a card full of staff signatures.
- The department collaborated in the company-wide training program to ensure fellow staff members have foundational knowledge of the claims process for Club insurance products. This helps the entire Club team navigate sensitive calls and situations.
- Staff member Dulce Lopez obtained a Notary Public Commission, adding to our team of Notaries and enhancing our member's benefits!
- Claims communicated and collaborated with peers outside the association for sharing of best practices. Staff member Arlene Herrero established a Long-Term Care Teams Channel to communicate between departments and ensure our staff and our Members were educated on the insurance product.
- Staff member Mikayla Sprague worked diligently with the Club's Long-Term Care vendor to ensure changes accurately reflected Club Members' requests and were handled smoothly and efficiently.



Happy Holidays From the Claims Team:
 Arlene Herrero, Vice President of Business Development
 Dulce Lopez, Claims Administrator
 Mikayla Sprague, Claims Administrator

'May your holiday season be filled with joy, laughter and wonderful memories with loved ones.'
 – Claims



Education and Training

New dept. delivers stellar staff development and top-notch know-how for the long term

The Education and Training Dept. was established Jan. 1, 2024, by Club President Robert Larios to reinforce his vision of cultivating a highly skilled and knowledgeable team, elevating the Club's mission of thanking, honoring and celebrating public employees.

Education and Training started by creating a qualification program for each of the Club's insurance products. This program requires each of the Club's 18 insurance-licensed employees to pass a verbal exam administered by a product expert. In total, Education and Training created 12 different product exams, resulting in more than 200 tests conducted in the first year — an excellent opportunity for the Club's licensed employees to sharpen their knowledge and expertise for maximum Member value.

Value Delivered to Members in 2024:

- Achieved more than 200 individual insurance product qualifications for Club Counselors
- Achieved more than 100 insurance qualifications for Club services departments
- Established regular, purposeful and productive "insurance product parties" for Club staff to develop and share best practices for delivering Member service
- Established regular departmental meetings to develop and sharpen mission and purpose
- Established an internal voluntary book club for staff and Board development to enrich their interactions with Club Members and fellow staff members. The first two books (which featured presentations from corresponding outside guest speakers): *Life on Purpose* by Victor Strecher, and *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl



'A joyous holiday to you and your family.'
 – Education and Training

Happy Holidays From the Club's Education and Training Dept:

- John Hawkins, Dept. Director and Club Founder
- Isaiah Hawkins, Part-Time Coordinator

Looking to the future

In 2025, Education and Training looks to further develop a personal coaching certification program that it can offer as a benefit to active Club Members and Retirees. Also in the New Year, Education and Training aims to double the number of qualifications; to host three Book Clubs from two; and introduce a new qualification called "Leadership," a 10-month course open to staff

members to expand their leadership skills. Club President Robert Larios is on a mission to make the Club the best employee organization on earth, and the Education and Training Department is going above and beyond to contribute to this achievement. Education and Training is deeply grateful to the public employees of California for trusting the Club to meet their needs and help them thrive!



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, <i>Nominations Chair</i>	Ext. 702
Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, <i>Treasurer</i>	Ext. 718
Mark Blunk, <i>Audit Chair</i>	Ext. 704
Beverly J. Clark, <i>Publicity Director</i>	Ext. 716
Nancy Hammoudian, <i>Secretary</i>	Ext. 705
Vicki Keoseian, <i>Entertainment Chair</i>	Ext. 719
Ruth B. Perry, <i>President</i>	Ext. 717
Joe Quan, <i>Technology Director</i>	Ext. 703
Ann Seales, <i>Membership Director</i>	Ext. 706
Leonard Torres, <i>Director</i>	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 to find the latest news.

Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 0 to make suggestions.

EMAIL: 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 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 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.

Look out for RLACEI events in 2025: soon to be announced!

RLACEI EVENTS RESERVATION LINE

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

Due to staffing, telephone confirmation cannot be provided.



The 2023 RLACEI Board of Directors at last year's RLACEI holiday party, from left: Vicki Keoseian, Lucy Artinian, Beverly Anderson, Beverly Clark, Ruth Perry, Nancy Hammoudian, Tom Moutes and Leonard Torres. Bottom row: Joe Quan, Santa, and Ann Seales. Not pictured: Mark Blunk.

Happy Holidays From the RLACEI Board



As the holiday season approaches, we send good cheer to our members and the entire retirement community, and we take this moment to extend our heartfelt wishes to you and your loved ones. May your holidays be full of joy, laughter and treasured moments.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we hope it brings you good health, happiness and prosperity. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support and are dedicated to protecting retirement benefits and advocat-

ing for you in the coming year.

Happy Holidays and a Happy and Peaceful New Year! ●



Call (800) 678-4145 x706 or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG

RLACEI MEMBERS

Not an RLACEI member?

Join and like us on **FACEBOOK**

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 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 and join today!

For Retired Club Members



Arnette Travis

GET HAPPY SERIES

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

Purpose

After spending years of work looking forward to and preparing for retirement, is your life in retirement worth the wait? Are you living a life of meaning? (Does your daily life reflect your purpose?)

Two aspects of retirement that are particularly positive are:

1. You retired from work, not from life, which means –
2. You can stop living at work and start working at living.

Let that sink in as you fill in the blanks to these statements:

I've always wanted to...

Now I have time to...

Since you are no longer trading time for money, finding your purpose in life is essential to any sincere consideration of how to

spend the rest of your life.

The interest and emphasis on finding and living your purpose is not overdone, but it can be daunting. Take into consideration that more than 1.5 billion Google results can give you insight and guidance on the subject. But who has the time to climb that mountain?

Let's start with the fact that what these results lead to is different words and ways that support the higher value and quality of life that knowing your purpose delivers. We get that part. But what if discovering your purpose is as easy as 1-2-3?

The Purpose Path (broken down in the interest of time and relevance.)

Reflection: Identify the source(s) of joy and passion in your life. Go back to

your earliest childhood memories to find the common thread that has run throughout your life. The thread may show up in different ways at different points in your life, but it will be a version of the same thing.

Intention: Be present! Slow down and stop thinking about the "next thing." When we are present, time takes on a new meaning. When we hurry, it indicates a lack of control and incites stress. Slowing down makes you more mindful of your decisions and puts you in control. This makes you more likely to do the things that you want to do, not what others want or expect you to do. People who give up what they love to do and do well lose their purpose in life.

Action: Practice your purpose daily in whatever form is appropriate and available. The Japanese principle of ikigai (purpose)

holds that your passion and talent give meaning to each day by sharing the best of yourself with the world.

If you haven't already begun your purpose journey, the upcoming holiday season is a suitable time to start.

Giving Thanks

Express gratitude for all the blessings you have - big and small. Next, as you make your gift list, consider giving gifts of your time. Whether it's taking a grandchild to the zoo, treating your significant other to a concert, or serving food to people who experience food insecurity, these are memory making gifts that will bring joy to your heart for years to come.

— 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 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

LACERS Considers Asset Allocation



Michael R. Wilkinson

One of the most important decisions coming to the LACERS Board of Administration is how to invest the funds that pay for our pensions and healthcare. This process is called asset allocation, and it is the major factor in how the investments perform, as compared to the decisions on individual investments.

As I write this article, the LACERS Board is considering adjustments to the asset classes with the goal of making a good return while keeping risks such as volatility risk low, the amount that an investment goes up and down over time.

The goal is to produce a long-term rate of return that at least matches our long-term investment return rate assumption of 7 percent per year.

There is not enough space here to go over all the types of investments LACERS uses or considers, but LACERS divides up the investment funds into assets classes such as stocks, bonds, real estate and alternative investments such as private equity.

Each asset class has its own set of characteristics, and there is no perfect asset. We are all looking for that proverbial "free lunch," that is an investment that provides high financial returns without also delivering high risks such as price volatility. There is no investment that delivers high returns with no risk, but by spreading out our investments among different classes we can reduce risk and still aim to meet our investment goals.

While it is most important to look at the return on the investment and the risk of loss, liquidity is also key to pension investments. Liquid investments are those that can be sold quickly and turned into cash. A pension fund needs liquidity to pay pension rolls, pay administrative costs and pay for new and ongoing investments.

If a pension plan ignores the need for liquidity, it could find itself in a bind in which illiquid investments might need to be sold quickly at a loss rather than retained and sold at a higher price later.

Finally, I want to let you know I am always on the lookout to keep LACERS away from trendy "investments of the day" fads that come and go with wild promises, but no proven long term track records. I am opposed to speculative and high-risk investments such as crypto currencies. ●



Amai Baychue, 4

BIRTHDAY: March 4 • BEST FRIEND: Ava • FAVORITE SNACK: Cheetos • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Spider Man" • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE SAN DIEGO ZOO: I have never been there and they have cool animals. • PARENT: Rhonda Baychue, LAPD



Josephine Conley, 6

BIRTHDAY: Sept. 10 • BEST FRIEND: Colton • FAVORITE SNACK: Pickles • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Bluey" • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE SAN DIEGO ZOO: To see the cheetahs, my favorite animal ever! • PARENT: Zachary Hertz, LADWP



Andrea Chaparro, 10

BIRTHDAY: June 10 • BEST FRIENDS: Marilyn and Alanna • FAVORITE SNACK: Dino Huggie! • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "I Carly!" • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE SAN DIEGO ZOO: Because I love animals (they are all so cute). • PARENT: Andey Chaparro, Building and Safety



Leah Vargas, 11

BIRTHDAY: April 15 • BEST FRIEND: Juliana. • FAVORITE SNACKS: ice cream • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Dance Moms" • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE SAN DIEGO ZOO: To see the animals, and learn about their history!. • GRANDPA: Lisa Vargas, Airport Police

Coloring with The Clubs

Compiled by:



Guadalupe Lira
Retail Operations
Manager



DeAngelo Thompson
Mobile Operations
Representative

Congratulations to the

WINNERS!

of our Club Coloring Contest!

Everyone who turned in a design is a winner in our opinion! But our top four participants win

4 tickets to the San Diego Zoo

Look for our next contest in April, in the *Alive!* Newspaper and online at: alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest

Honorable Mention

CHILD	AGE	PARENT/GUARDIAN	DEPT.
Khari Moure	4	Cindy Moure	Sanitation
Callie Hernandez	5	Eduardo Hernandez	Rec & Parks
Erin Cortez	5	Eric Cortez	Rec & Parks
Logan Weaver	5	Shane Weaver	LAFD
Alina Murillo	6	Virginia Higareda	GSD
Eli Baychue	6	Rhonda Baychue	LAPD
Gwendolyn Parada	6	Elmer Parada	DWP
Liam Acevedo	6	Cheryl Gonzalez	Retired
Chris Kanayama	7	Richard Kanayama	DWP
Devynn Smith	7	Dustin Smith	DWP
Olivia Weaver	7	Shane Weaver	LAFD
Arantza de Loera	8	Hector De Loera	DWP
Abigail Diaz	8	Laura Diaz	LAPD
Brooklyn Bran	8	April Clark	Retired
Karter Pietersz	8	Corinne Pietersz	Retired
Sariah Bowen	8	LaTrice Bowen	LAWA
Jahdia Reyes	9	Russ Fransen	DWP
Sophie Medina	9	Bill Medina	DOT
Blossom Clark	10	April Clark	Retired
Daniella Gonzalez	10	Joanna Medina	DWP
Dorothy Parada	10	Elmer Parada	DWP
Kamila Aispuro	10	Jesus Aispuro	LAPD
Larissa de Loera	10	Hector De Loera	DWP
Emma Yepez	10	Claudia Yepez	LAWA
Isabelle Tellez	10	Jesus Tellez	DOT
Jonathan Yonemura	10	Doreen Yonemura	Port of LA
Melanie Benitez	10	Hans Sosa Lanza	DOT
Violet Alvarado	10	Antonio Alvarado	Harbor
Dylan Piedra	11	Duvany Piedra	Street Services
Emma Tiet	11	Than Tiet	DWP
Jc'lon Perkins	11	Passion Perkins	LAFD
Kelsey Cheung	11	KaMan Fan	LAXPD
Paige Curtis	11	David Hadley	LAFD
Melody Gaddi	12	Elizabeth Gaddi	LAPD
Raquel Aispuro	12	Raquel Trujillo	LAPD
Joel Duarte	13	Mario Duarte	GSD

Kid's Coloring Contest Schedule

There are two Kid's Coloring Contests per year:

April (winners published in June)

October (winners published in December)



Club Retiree Plaque: Holiday Gift of a Lifetime!

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT



Noelle's Picture Perfect Contest

Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales

This month's theme was: **Holiday Lights**

ENTER TO WIN \$50 AMAZON E-GIFT CARD



"Table decorations from last year. Happy Holidays."
- Alex Andrews, Building and Safety

Noelle's comment: The very idea of holiday glow, Alex! I want to be in that village.



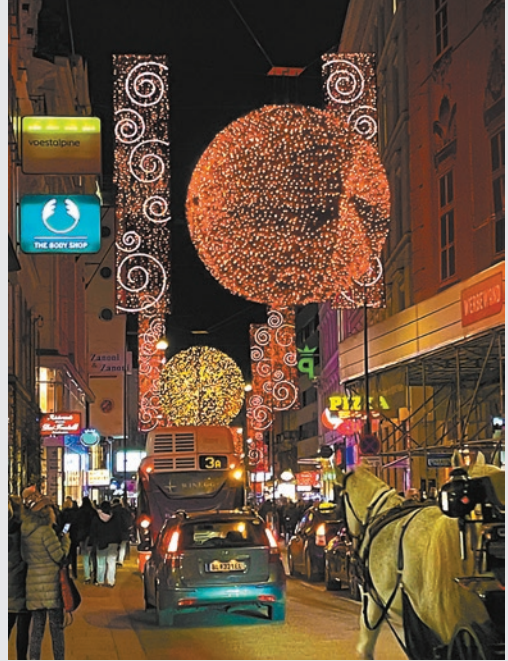
"Our best friend waiting for Santa."
- Dennis Eigel, Retired, LADWP

Noelle's comment: Christmas is for all living things, Dennis! Thanks for this delightful shot. Happy Holidays!

"I love to travel at Christmastime. It's pretty cool to see how other countries celebrate it. This is how Vienna does it."

- Karen Kishita, Retired, Public Works/StreetsLA

Noelle's comment: Holiday lights remind the cars, horses and pedestrians to slow down from all the hustle and bustle and enjoy the season. I like how you included the two moods in one shot. It's a reminder for us all!



"I took this picture last December in New York while visiting my daughter and granddaughter. I loved how she tippy-toed to be able to look at the window display."
- Rose Serrato, LAPD

Noelle's comment: What a bright, merry and completely charming image, Rose! I hope Christmas windows – and wonderful photos like this one – never go away.



"Downtown Los Angeles across from the LA Library, where the buildings are full of color!"
- John Otoshi, Retired, LADWP

Noelle's comment: Beautifully framed image, John, of this elegant downtown holiday scene. I'm generally not a fan of it getting so dark so early at night this time of year, but it's worth it for images like this. Thanks for submitting!

The next photo contest theme:
Open
DEADLINE: **December 16**
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, we've chosen an "open" theme – send in your favorite photos, with any theme.



Submit your best photos online at alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect/ Club Members only. Good luck!

LA Goes Blue

CITY DEPARTMENTS JOINED THE FUN AS THE LA DODGERS WON THE WORLD SERIES.

Mayor Karen Bass at the victory parade.



CITYWIDE: Most, if not all, City departments celebrated the LA Dodgers winning the 2024 World Series by dressing up, showing their spirit – and working hard to make sure the City celebrated safely at the victory parade that followed. Here's a sampling.



ITA - LA CityView 35 carried the victory parade live and interviewed lots of Dodgers fans in the crowd. Here, LA CityView producer Al Magallon (left) interviews a passionate fan.



LADOT - On one of the busiest transit days in recent LA history, the Dept. of Transportation made sure the parade route was clear and usable.
"Parade route set and ready to party with Dodger Nation!"



LAPD 911 - The 9-1-1 Operators at LAPD/Communications showed their Dodger spirit.
"Congratulations to the Los Angeles Dodgers on winning the World Series! Your hard work and dedication have brought pride to our City. LAPD/Communications stands with you and all of LA in celebrating this incredible achievement! Go Dodgers!"



Public Works/StreetsLA - Street Services worked hard in the office, surrounding Dodger Stadium and along the victory parade route to keep things clean and safe.

MORE PICS ON WEB ALIVE!



Library - City Librarian John Szabo scoped out a great view of the Dodgers victory parade outside the Central Library.

Travel Deals: Travel Like Santa ... and Save!

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT



Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

Stockholm



Alive! editor John Burnes continues his tour of Northern European Olympic venues by visiting the stadium in Stockholm. The only Olympic logo on the stadium is affixed to the Swedish Olympic Committee's offices at the back of the facility.

Letter From Europe

The Magic of Europe in December



Ho Ho Ho, Mexico City.

With the end of the year fast approaching, everyone young and old is looking forward to the annual seasonal events, whether it be Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa. With our traditional City departments, holiday lunches in fancy downtown restaurants, early-morning breakfasts in the construction yards, or even pot-lucks, the holiday season is unique to everyone. So why not make this year special? Take a few extra days off between the 22nd and 29th of December and take your

partner somewhere romantic and different. How about Paris, the City of Lights, with its Christmas Nativity scenes in the fully restored Notre Dame Cathedral. Stroll along the River Seine, cross the Port Neuf Bridge, take the steps down behind the statue of Henri IV and enjoy a romantic cruise on the river at night as the city lights twinkle and the colorful lights change on the Eiffel Tower. Wander through Paris's largest Christmas market in the Jardin des Tuileries and enjoy the festive foods and delicacies in French cafes and restaurants, as the incredible Parisian galette served at the French Bastards Bakeries with its decorative topping representing the rose window of Notre Dame!

Or how about Christmas in London's West End department stores, on Oxford and Regent Streets, which offer an unforgettable shopping experience with more than 300,000 LED stars dangling above, lighting your way as you battle for Yuletide gifts. High on the London Eye, the city is laid out at your feet, from Big Ben to the Norwegian spruce Christmas tree from Oslo in Trafalgar Square. The people of



Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor

Norway give it as a gift of gratitude every year for Britain's support of Norway during World War II. Not to be forgotten are the century-old traditional street markets of Petticoat Lane and Portobello Road, with all their hustle and bustle, offering discounted, high-street fashions, seasonal gifts, and chestnuts roasting over an open coal fire. British mince pies are to die for, filled with a sweet mixture of dried fruits, spices and brandy.

For a taste of warm English beer, check out London's most decorated pub, The Churchill Arms, in Kensington. Since 1824, it has covered its exterior with approximately 80 Christmas trees and more than 22,000 twinkle lights.

Winter in Europe is cold and rainy, so carry an umbrella and wrap up warm, as freezing temperatures are common, and snow is not unheard of.

If you seek somewhere warmer and closer to home, rent a rooftop apartment in the gentrified Roma Norte in Mexico City. With its top-class restaurants for romantic dining and great bars to dance the night away, there's no need to rent a car. Uber is cheap and allows for the safe consumption of more ice-cold adult beverages. Visit the artist Frida Kahlo's home or that of her Russian lover, Leon Trotsky, in the same neighborhood. The Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacan has fine dining in the underground cavern called La Gruta, just a few steps away. It's all very safe, affordable and festive.

This year's traditional British Christmas dinner will include roast turkey, prime rib, Yorkshire pudding, crackers and paper hats.

Joyeux Noël, Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad or happy holidays to you, Alive! readers.

— **The Captain**

Family Christmas Dinner with paper hats and Yorkshire pudding.

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 You'll find a convenient online form to send your text and pics for publication.



Put a bow on your new car

Finance a car with WPCCU and enjoy perks:

- Special rates and no payment for 90 days*
- Buying a used car? We have rates for those, too
- Planning to buy out your lease? We can help! Click 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.



800-300-9728

wpccu.org

@wpccu



Water and Power Community Credit Union

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

Story and photos courtesy LASAN

Thanks, Employees!

SANITATION'S HYPERION HOSTS LUNCH TO THANK EMPLOYEES, AWARD SERVICE PINS.

PUBLIC WORKS: On Sept. 26, Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant employees enjoyed a festive lunch celebration in appreciation of their hard work and dedication following a years-long Plant recovery. Participants enjoyed carnival-style food, games and donated prizes. Barbara Romero, Director and General Manager, Sanitation and Environment, was joined by Randall Winston, Deputy Mayor of Infrastructure; Ryan Jackson, Director of Public Works, Mayor Bass' Office; and Councilmember Traci Park (CD 11) at the recognition celebration. Former Board of Public Works Commissioners Teresa Villegas and Susana Reyes were also on hand to recognize the employees for their extraordinary efforts. Simboa Wright, Vice President of SEIU Local 721, attended to share in the heartfelt sentiments.

"I want to express gratitude for your hard work and dedication to the City of LA," Councilmember Park said. Barbara Romero shared that the appreciation event had been years in the making and long overdue. "Thank you for your commitment to this plant day in and day out. Your hard work is the reason that Hyperion is poised to become the recycled water beacon that the world will model.

"Lastly and certainly not least, I sincerely thank the Administration, Clean Water, Hyperion, and Solid Resource Support Divisions and the External Affairs and Engagement Team for their assistance in making the event a success. It was truly a LASAN team effort."

At the event, several employees with 20-plus years of service were awarded service pins. They were:

- Hi-Sang Kim, Acting Hyperion Plant Manager, 39 years of City service;
- James Simon, Wastewater Treatment Electrician I, Hyperion Maintenance, 34 years;
- Manik Mohandas, Environmental Engineer, Water Recycling Implementation, 23 years;
- Sheri Symons, Sr. Environmental Engineer, Hyperion Operations, 35 years; Robert Haskins, Management Analyst, Admin., 28 years; and Dipak P. Patel, Hyperion Operations, 35 years.

During the lunch, Romero noted that interviews for a Hyperion Plant Manager were under way. "With the new appointment, Hyperion is preparing for new leadership that will continue the important work of maintaining and strengthening stakeholder partnerships and continuing the important work of commitment to clean water resources throughout the City of Los Angeles, and managing the necessary initiatives and infrastructure to come," she commented.

The Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant is the largest wastewater treatment facility in the City. Operated by Public Works/Sanitation, it is designed to hold a capacity of 450 million gallons of water per day, and it recycles 27 percent of treated wastewater. This functioning capacity also makes it one of the largest wastewater treatment facilities in the world. The new Hyperion Plant Manager will be responsible for the commitment of clean water resources throughout the City of Los Angeles, and necessary initiatives and infrastructure to come.

Congratulations to those receiving service pins for their dedicated careers, and thanks to all at Hyperion for your hard work. ●



Hyperion employees with more than 20 years of City service received their service pins at the event. Pictured (from left): Hi-Sang Kim, Acting Hyperion Plant Manager, 39 years of City service; James Simon, Wastewater Treatment Electrician I, Hyperion Maintenance, 34 years; Manik Mohandas, Environmental Engineer, Water Recycling Implementation, 23 years; Barbara Romero, Director and General Manager, Sanitation and Environment; Randall Winston, Deputy Mayor of Infrastructure; Sheri Symons, Sr. Environmental Engineer, Hyperion Operations, 35 years; Robert Haskins, Management Analyst, Admin., 28 years; and Dipak P. Patel, Hyperion Operations, 35 years.



Water Recycling Implementation Division staff, from left: Ogechukwu Ogbachie, Engineering Associate I; Debora Leite, Engineering Associate I; Abigail Nguyen, Engineering Associate I; Yoon Lee, Engineering Associate I; Barbara Romero, LASAN Director and General Manager (front); Hi-Sang Kim, Acting Hyperion Plant Manager; Kimia Nader-Tehrani, Environmental Engineer; Mitzi Minamide, Engineering Associate II; Joanna Vasquez, Engineering Associate I; and Huy Nguyen, Engineering Associate I.



The Core Planning Team: Cherie Byers, Management Analyst, Admin.; Hi-Sang Kim, Acting Hyperion Plant Manager; Angela Lagassie, Sr. Admin Clerk, Clean Water Conveyance; Niesha C. Louis, Sr. Management Analyst II, External Affairs and Engagement; Randall Winston, Deputy Mayor of Infrastructure; Edna Hernandez, Sr. Admin Clerk, Clean Water Conveyance; Barbara Romero, LASAN Director and General Manager; Nicole Bernson, LASAN Assistant Director of External Affairs and Engagement; Samantha Perry, Administrative Clerk, Admin.; Ari Anderson, Project Assistant, Admin.; Kenneth Jeong, Sr. Management Analyst I, Admin.; Juan Cardenas, Project Assistant, Admin.; Mark Lansang, Management Analyst, Clean Water Conveyance; and Anthony Conde, Project Assistant - Admin.

LAPD

Halloween Fun



DISPATCHERS DISH OUT THE SPOOKY FUN.

On Oct. 31, the men and women dispatchers of the LAPD Communications/Valley and Metro Call Centers once again showed off their creativity and had their annual Halloween fun by dressing up for the holiday. Celebrating Halloween is a long tradition in LAPD/Communications. Pictured here are some of the participants.

Heaps of Halloween fun on the floor of LAPD/Communications!





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



- 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
Aguilar, Arturo	Power C&M	LADWP	–	Garcia, Edward	Sr. Bldg. Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	30	Perera, Ruchila M.	Accounting Clerk	Finance	18
Aguirre, Gricelda	Administrative Clerk	Public Works	26	Garvey, Susan C.	Crossing Guard	LADOT	22	Phillips, Norivienna M.	Program Specialist	LAFD	28
Aguirre, Rico	Administrative Clerk	Library	28	Gibson, Michael N.	JFB Facilities	LADWP	–	Powell, Lori A.	Police Service Rep III	LAPD	25
Alfonso, Silvia	Water Services	LADWP	–	Gibson, Richard J.	Power New Business	LADWP	–	Provinchain, Brooks A.	Painter	LADOT	17
Altamirano, Jorge A.	Storekeeper	LADOT	22	Graham, Marie A.	Civilian Detention Off.	LAPD	20	Ramos, Alfredo	Facility Director	Rec and Parks	23
Amini, Behrooz	Wastewater Treat. Op.	Public Works	17	Hazuka, Julie A.	Sr. Electrical Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	22	Rizuto, Mark A.	Power C&M	LADWP	–
Arriaga, Gloria	Correctional Nurse	Personnel	18	Hernandez Arceo, Catalina	Crossing Guard	LADOT	5	Roberts, Angelia R.	Supply Chain	LADWP	–
Aubin, Michael E.	Mech Helper	Airports	11	Hill, Darryl	Sr. Security Officer	Airports	6	Romanelli, Eric J.	Database Architect	Housing	35
Azeez, Lasisi	Finance Dev. Officer	Housing	26	James Hollomon, Sasshua	Admin. Clerk	Library	2	Rosen, Betty L.	Bulk Power	LADWP	–
Blumin, Jeffrey S.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	24	Johnson, Bruce E.	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	–	Rustandi, Bintari H.	Power System	LADWP	–
Boags, Martin R.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	19	Johnson, Daphne L.	Legal Secretary	City Attorney	15	Shaw, Kevin A.	Supply Chain	LADWP	–
Brown, Dana H.	General Manager	Personnel	37	Lane, Robert C.	Water Operations	LADWP	–	Simon Rosales, Eruviel	Custodian	Airports	9
Brown, Kenneth L.	Civilian Detention Off.	LAPD	38	Lee, Joanne L.	Database Architect	Public Works	21	Stagnitta, Robert	Sr. Housing Inspector	Housing	25
Campbell, Rhod J.	Power Transmission	LADWP	–	Lewis, William H.	Power Transmission	LADWP	–	Stanard, Patricia A.	City Attorney	LADWP	–
Carnahan, Daniel E.	Power Transmission	LADWP	–	Lindquist, Kenneth V.	Power C&M	LADWP	–	Sutherland, Mark S.	Painter Supervisor	Gen. Services	20
Chun, Willard S.	Power C&M	LADWP	–	Ma, Jinghui	Accountant	Public Works	7	Sweet, Julia M.	Animal Keeper	Zoo	7
Copeland, Joe	Env. Lab	LADWP	–	Madden, Lita B.	Management Analyst	Airports	21	Tanjiri, Wesley K.	Principal Civil Engineer	Public Works	31
Day, Patrick T.	Sr. Building Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	25	Matsumoto, Angelica I.	Chief Mgmt. Analyst	Gen. Services	33	Terry, Sandra P.	Secretary	Housing	12
De La Vega, Jaime T.	General Manager	LADOT	17	Miro, Hector	Fleet Services	LADWP	–	Todd, Chet	Bldg. Mech. Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	22
Donato, Jack	Bldg. Operating Engr.	Public Works	6	Morris, Sheryn L.	Librarian	Library	33	Truscott, Danielle K.	Systems Analyst	LAPD	36
Edquid, Irene S.	Power Executive Office	LADWP	–	Murphy, Deborah L.	Planning Associate	Planning	10	Villorante, Cristine C.	Exec. Admin. Assistant	Convention Ctr.	34
Famili, Azadeh	Police Psychologist	LAPD	21	Musquiz, Richard M.	Municipal Police Capt.	LAPD	26	Washington, Kelly D.	Police Officer	Airports	36
Findon, Eric J.	Buld Power	LADWP	–	Mustelier, Manuel G.	Maintenance Laborer	Airports	18	White, Timothy B.	Power System	LADWP	–
Gallina, Robert J.	Street Services Super.	Public Works	34	Nikon, William P.	Power C&M	LADWP	–				
Garcia, Agustin R.	Energy Generation	LADWP	–	Palestino, John S.	Power Executive Office	LADWP	–				

* NOTE: If you wish to have a listing deleted from our online posting of Retirement notices, please email us at 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.



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***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			
ACTIVE								
		Francis, Marilyn L.	–	Morgan, Patrick C.	–			
Hoppes, Shannon D.	CAO	28	Hinkle, Bertram H.	–				
Ramirez, June E.	Rec and Parks	9	Hugard, Jacques J.	Public Works	33			
Sanguesa, Paul	LADWP	9	Jackson, Carol L.	Airports	8			
		James, Blanche M.	LADWP	39	Netzer, Gary R.	–		
		Jenkins, Paul E.	–			Nikou, Arash	LADWP	13
		Jimenez, Lorenzo	LADWP	30	Noonan, Kevin B.	LAPD	31	
		Jones, Ike	LADWP	27	Obeid, Colleen	LADWP	32	
		Larsen, Terry J.	LADWP	30	Petritsch, Terry J.	LADWP	30	
		Lashley, Lenore C.	City Attorney	15	Pye, Charles E.	Public Works	32	
		Livingston, James L.	–			Rapkin, Bernard	LADWP	15
		Lopez, Robert G.	LADWP	12	Roberts, Janet M.	–		
		Lopez-Salvador, Juan	LADWP	18	Salazar, Mariano C.	Public Works	22	
		Lowe, Billy R.	–			Saldana, Jose A.	Public Works	24
		Lowe, Homer E.	Harbor	41	Schaefer, Robert S.	LADWP	24	
		Lowe, Lura	–			Sikora, Karen S.	Airports	3
		Lubitsch, Richard J.	LADWP	20	Starr, Jerry T.	–		
		Lundin, Chris	Public Works	35	Stevens, Dale E.	Public Works	21	
		Madigan, Jake A.	LADWP	36	Turner, Sam	LADWP	29	
		Martinez, Richard N.	Rec and Parks	39	Thomas, Mike	–		
		Matthys, Emil J.	–			Traylor, Jimmy D.	Public Works	25
		McCowan, Beverly D.	El Pueblo Hist. Park	24	Waters, Donald J.	LADWP	28	
		Merkel, Gordon D.	LADWP	28	Wedding, Mira S.	LADWP	32	
		Miller, Flemon M.	LADWP	40	Yasunaga, Edward Y.	LAFD	26	
						Zilberberg, Betya	–	



Give Club Gifts for the holidays.

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Family Deals: Save Money This Holiday!

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT

Arlene on the Scene

Alive! follows Arlene Herrero as she meets Club Members.

by **Arlene Herrero**

Vice President of Business Development

On Oct. 17 LA Airport Peace Officers' Association Women's Annual Leadership and Empowerment Conference at LAX

On Oct. 17, Arlene and the Club's Rebecca DeBolt stopped by LA Airport Peace Officers' Association Women's Annual Leadership and Empowerment Conference at LAX. The Club was co-sponsor.



Arlene with (from left) Airport Police Officer Sofia Gallegos, 21 years of City service, Club Member; Transportation Security Officer Isabel Pedroza-Rodriguez; and Airport Police Officer Ka Man Fan, Club Member.



Arlene with Airport Police Officer Ashley Cardoza, Club Member.



Airport Police Capt. Karla Rodriguez, 20 years of City service, Club Member.



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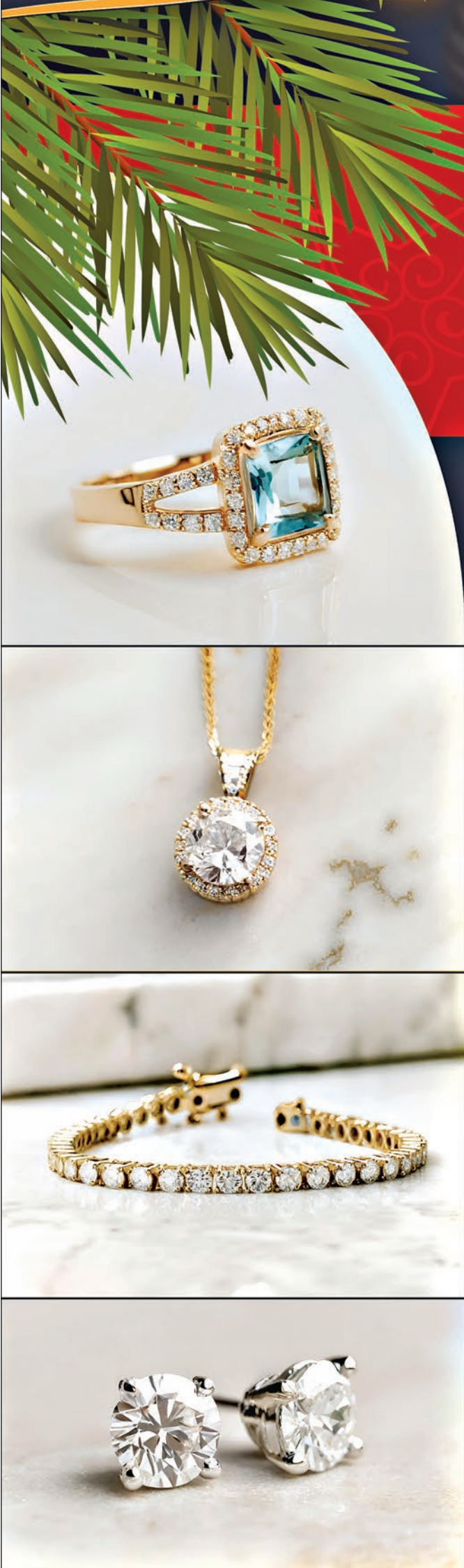
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