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# Alive!

With Santa are (from left)  
Sgt. Rob Pedregon and  
Officers Paul Mosqueda and  
Nick Van Dragt of Airport  
Police. Playing the young  
traveler is Hank Van Dragt,  
son of Officer Nick.



**AIRPORTS**

## Gifts at the Gate

Airport Police marks five  
years of giving teddy bears  
to traveling children at LAX  
on Christmas morning.



An example of the  
teddy bears that will be given  
away on Christmas morning.

Alive! photo by Summy Lam

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## JOHN'S BLOG

by John Hawkins,  
President and CEO,  
The Club

### Bearing Gifts at Christmas

**Santa** is one popular person this time of year! This is obvious, of course. But we were reminded of that when taking this month's cover photo, shot at LAX in mid-November for our cover story on the Airport Police program that gives out teddy bears to traveling children on Christmas morning. We were interrupted with smiles, laughter and high-fives – from adults as well as children – while taking the photos you see here.

You don't expect to see Santa at LAX in mid-November. But you also don't expect to see him roaming the terminals giving away teddy bears on Christmas morning, either. It's that surprise that proves how awesome their tradition is.

Five years ago we started to see photos of Santa and the program managers

**Sgt. Rob Pedregon** and **Officers Paul Mosqueda** and **Nick Van Dragt** handing out the teddy bears, and children smiling in surprise and complete delight. We told ourselves we wanted to do a story on this tradition, which is growing, sometime. And now is that sometime.

I love the holidays for many reasons, but that's one of them – surprise greetings, unexpected kindnesses, and unexplained awesomeness. That the Officers' families come in and participate, again unexpectedly, makes it even more special. So thanks, Airport Police and Santa, for reminding us what it means to give of yourselves ... and be that surprise for someone.

Moving on ... this marks one year – 12 issues – of *Alive!*'s new plan to create a Website to complement our print product so we can use more photos and video, and better serve the way our Members live their lives today. We're learning all the time. Let us know how we're doing! ... And speaking of moving on, we want to thank **Tara Miller**, former Director of the LACERS *Well* program for Retirees, who's moving on after nearly four years. Tara has helped us immensely as



Tara Miller



With Club COO Robert Larios (right) are Officer Paul Mosqueda, Sgt. Rob Pedregon and Officer Nick Van Dragt, the Airport Police team that created and manages the teddy bear giveaway on Christmas morning.

we refine our outreach to Retirees. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

This issue is packed with stories of people doing good: Airport Police; the Custodian Appreciation Day; the City toy drives; LACERS Guiding Principles; and so on. There are a lot of good things going on in the City, and I'm glad we can tell you about them.

With that, from my wife, **Kelley Hawkins**, and me, and from everyone here at the Club, we wish you a joyful Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. Don't forget those in need, and then enjoy your time with your loved ones. Be the surprise of the season.

**—JOHN**



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**ALIVE!**  
NEW THIS MONTH  
**ONLINE**  
[alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)

## People We See

Meet Shawn Dworkin in our monthly interview series.



## JOHN'S Picture Perfect

Club Members send in their best shots (and you can, too!).



## Cooking with the Club

Learn how to make spinach lasagna with Chef Larios.



## Thanks for Your Service



In our online celebration of Veterans Day, we invited Club Members to submit photos of themselves or family members who are/were Veterans. We inadvertently missed this image of Sue Hill, the mother of Bob Hill, Retired, DWP. Sue served as a WAVE in the US Navy during World War II, working in communications in Philadelphia.

Thanks for submitting, Bob, and we apologize for our oversight.



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### This Month at the Club Store

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The United Agencies reps are appearing at the Club Store on select Thursdays:



**Rosa Calderon**  
Personal Insurance Agent

**Dec. 5:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



**Lulu Cruz**  
Personal Insurance Agent

**Dec. 12:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## The Club: Here to Help

Club staff is dedicated to helping our members receive the maximum benefit from their membership. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions about your Club, our counselors are ready to help.

### Email us at:

help@employeesclub.com

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

Or call us at: (800) 464-0452

### In-house Counselors

#### At Club Headquarters



**MaryAnn Urdiales**  
Member Services Counselor  
Ext. 159



**Cheryl Martin**  
Member Services Counselor  
Ext. 136

#### At the Club Store



**Tiffany Sy**  
Member Services Counselor  
Ext. 202

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# Custodian Appreciation Day

## Thanks, Custodians!

Story and photos by Mary Ann Urdiales, Club Counselor, and Cesilee Castillo

### General Services hosts annual Custodian Appreciation Day.

On Nov. 7, General Services held its 22nd annual Custodian Appreciation Day and Custodial Service Awards downtown.

Custodians, Dept. Directors, elected officials and union representatives gathered on the south lawn of City Hall for the appreciation event.

SEIU Local 721 and LIUNA Local 777 sponsored the event and provided the delicious food and prizes. Many awards were presented, including Custodian of the Year, Sr. Custodian of the Year, Custodian Supervisor of the Year, and pins and certificates.

The City Employees Club proudly supports the City's Custodians and loves covering this event each year. Thank you for all your hard work!

Special thanks go to Loretta M. Quenon, Director; Tony Royster, General Manager; and Valerie Melloff, Assistant General Manager. Other thanks go to Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Council, Controller Ron Galperin, City Attorney Mike Feuer, SEIU Local 721, LIUNA Local 777, and JLMC members.

### 2019 honorees included:

#### Custodian of the Year:

- Outlying Districts: Pablo Ortiz Diaz
- Civic Center: Aida Marban
- PD District: Jaiwon Cubas

#### Sr. Custodian of the Year:

- Civic Center: Leonardo Huizar
- PD District: Claudio Cardenas

#### Custodian Supervisor of the Year:

- PD District: Keisha Tyler



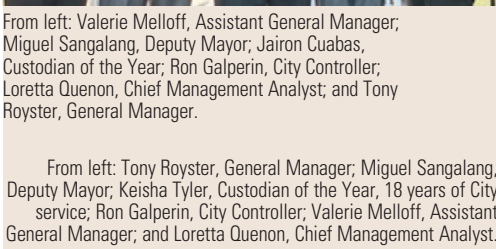
From left: Angela Montes, Sr. Custodian, 20 years of City service; Antelmo Sanchez, Custodian, 22 years; Regina Escobar, Custodian, 10 years; Sandra Melara, Custodian, 22 years; Maria Ward, Custodian, 30 years; Maria A., Custodian, 5 years; Maria Villalvazo, Custodian, 1 year; Santiago, Custodian 2 years; and San Jucha Salas, Sr. Custodian, 12 years.



From left: Tony Royster, General Manager; Miguel Sangalang, Deputy Mayor; Ron Galperin, City Controller; Pablo Ortiz Diaz, Custodian of the Year; Valerie Melloff, Assistant General Manager; and Loretta Quenon, Chief Management Analyst.



From left: Valerie Melloff, Assistant General Manager; Miguel Sangalang, Deputy Mayor; Jaiwon Cubas, Custodian of the Year; Ron Galperin, City Controller; Loretta Quenon, Chief Management Analyst; and Tony Royster, General Manager.



From left: Tony Royster, General Manager; Miguel Sangalang, Deputy Mayor; Keisha Tyler, Custodian of the Year, 18 years of City service; Ron Galperin, City Controller; Valerie Melloff, Assistant General Manager; and Loretta Quenon, Chief Management Analyst.



From left: Tony Royster, General Manager; Valerie Melloff, Assistant General Manager; Aida Marban, Custodian of the Year, 18 years of City service; Ron Galperin, City Controller; Miguel Sangalang, Deputy Mayor; Loretta Quenon, Chief Management Analyst; and Rene Anderson, SEIU.



From left: Tony Royster, General Manager; Miguel Sangalang, Deputy Mayor; Cladio Cardenas, Sr. Custodian of the Year, 16 years of City service; Ron Galperin, City Controller; Valerie Melloff, Assistant General Manager; and Loretta Quenon, Chief Management Analyst.



City Attorney Mike Feuer with three Custodians.

Thank you, Custodians, for everything you do to make our City great!

More pictures on *Web Alive!*  
[alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)



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# Larios in the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Operating Officer



## Congratulations!

Robert Larios, the Club's Chief Operating Officer, honors Club members with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.



**Robert Bruce**  
 DWP, Retired after 31 years of City service.



**Angie M. Whetstone**  
 LAPD, Retired after 30 years of City service.



**Iris Awakuni**  
 Planning, Retired after 33 years of City service with Robert Larios (left), and with her husband, Kit (right).



**Larios in the City is also available on the *Alive!* website for viewing and sharing:**  
[alive.employeesclub.com/lariosinthecity](http://alive.employeesclub.com/lariosinthecity)

## *Alive!* AROUND THE WORLD



### Western Europe

Pablo Ninofranco, Retired, Harbor, went on a Marian pilgrimage tour with his wife and visited Fátima, Portugal; Lourdes, France; Santiago de Compostela, Spain; and Paris from Sept. 25 to Oct. 6.



### The Bahamas

Here's Michael Patterson, Retired, Sr. Security Officer, Port Police, Harbor, in Nassau, the Bahamas.



**Take *Alive!* with you, wherever you go!**

- Bring your recent copy of *Alive!* with you when you travel.
- Snap a high resolution photo of you holding *Alive!*
- Go to: [alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com), click "SEND TO ALIVE!" in the menu. You'll find a convenient online form to send your text and pics for publication.

## Donate to a Toy Drive

Many City departments host holiday toy drives, as does the Club. Here are details on a few of them. Please be generous!

### LAFD Spark of Love

Drop off unwrapped toys or sports equipment to any LAFD Fire Station, and they'll take it from there.

### LAPD Northeast

Bring a new, unwrapped toy for 3-to-12-year-old children to the LAPD's Northeast Station, 3353 N San Fernando Rd.

### West Valley Sanitation

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.

### LACECA

The Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA) has scheduled its annual toy drive for Dec. 5 at Plaza de la Raza, Lincoln Park.

For more information on these or other events, visit: [LACECA.org](http://LACECA.org)

### The Club

This December, we're collecting through the Club on Wheels – the mobile team visits at City yards. Bring an unwrapped toy when the Club visits your yard, and we'll donate to a City toy drive for you.

# Be My Club Valentine

Send your loved one a special Valentine... to be published on web *Alive!* in February.

Send us a favorite photo (high-resolution digital file) 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.

**Deadline: February 7**

To send photos and your message, go to:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/valentines](http://alive.employeesclub.com/valentines)

# CLUB SPORTS

News from Sports Leagues sponsored by the Employees Club of California — December 2019



## SOFTBALL

# It's the Guzzlers, in One for the Ages

### 2019 Softball Teams

**Blue Dragons**  
DEPT: Public Works/Street Lighting  
MANAGER: Roger Martinez

**DOTgers**  
DEPT: Transportation  
MANAGER: Carlos Rodriguez

**Game Time**  
MANAGER: Dominick King

**Guzzlers**  
DEPT: Transportation  
MANAGER: Dennis McCarthy

**It Ain't Over**  
MANAGER: Mike McComas

**Killawatts**  
DEPT: DWP  
MANAGER: Angel Vidales

**Operaiders**  
DEPT: LAPD  
MANAGER: Oscar Berumen

**Notorious D.O.T.**  
DEPT: Transportation  
MANAGERS: Brandon Wong, Eddie Guerrero, Maverick Chengcuenca

**Sewer Rats**  
DEPT: Public Works/Sanitation  
MANAGER: Stacey Karyna

**Transformers**  
DEPT: DWP  
MANAGER: Raul Montenegro

**Water Hammers**  
DEPT: DWP  
MANAGER: Jane Hauptman

### Guzzlers defeat Blue Dragons in extra-inning championship thriller.

The 2019 has come to an end in the only way that it should – with a thrilling extra-inning come-from-behind win by the **Guzzlers** to defeat the **Blue Dragons**, 14-13.

In the first game, the Blue Dragons defeated Game Time 30-5 to earn their right to play in the championship game. The final two games took place Nov. 13 at the Eagle Rock Rec Center.

An all-star game scheduled for Nov. 20 was postponed due to rain.

All of us at the Employees Club extend our warmest appreciation and thanks to each team manager and players for their efforts to make this the best season since starting the softball league in 2009. We look forward to the 2020 season.

In the meantime, the Club's Sports Dude, Robert Larios, wishes everyone a wonderful holiday season.



### WINNER: The Guzzlers



### RUNNER UP: Blue Dragons



**f SOFTBALL PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK!**  
Here are photos of the two contenders. There are a lot more photos on the **Club's Facebook page**, and even a season video on the **Club's YouTube channel**.

**FOLLOW US!**  
The best way to follow Club Softball news and updates is via the Club's social media pages, on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



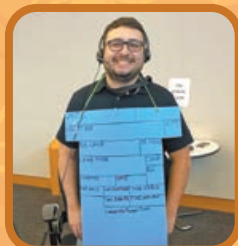
LAPD

# Dressed to the Nines (One One)

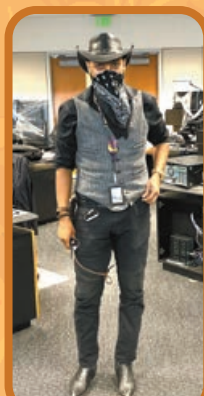
Story and photos courtesy Jean Sarfaty, LAPD Communications, Club Rep

On Oct. 31, the men and women of the LAPD Communications/Valley Emergency Call Center had their annual Halloween fun by dressing up for the holiday. Pictured here are some of the participants (see web *Alive!* for more pics!)

Thanks, LAPD Communications for sharing your fun with the Club!



John DeJesus, PM Watch, Valley (VCDC), as (911 operator) Mode Two ticket.



Jeremy McRae, PM Watch, Valley (VCDC), as a bandit cowboy.



Sal Tilt, PM Watch, Valley (VCDC), as a dinosaur.



Krista Hallenbeck, Valley (VCDC), as a cat.



Stephanie Estrada, Day Watch, Valley (VCDC), as Sally from *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.



**More pics on Web Alive!**  
Go to: [alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)

Make your plans now to visit the Club Store for all your holiday shopping and end-of-year insurance needs!

# Club Store Holiday Schedule

## Club Webstore

The Club Webstore will be open 24/7 online, but fulfillment of some orders will be processed during regular Club Store hours (see below).

Members can order from the Club Webstore at: [www.employeesclub.com](http://www.employeesclub.com)

## Shipping

If you want your Club Webstore order to arrive by Christmas using standard shipping, the Club recommends you order by the close of business Wednesday, Dec. 18. Using priority mail, Friday, Dec. 20. Don't wait!

## Club Store

The Club Store is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with the following exceptions:

- Dec. 18 (Wednesday): closed 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Dec. 24 (Tuesday) closes at noon for Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25-27 (Wednesday-Friday) closed for the Christmas holidays
- Dec. 30 (Monday): open regular hours
- Dec. 31 (Tuesday): closes at noon for New Year's Eve
- Jan. 1 (Wednesday): closed for New Year's Day
- Jan. 2 (Thursday): reopens beginning at noon

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Club Store!



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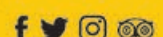
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Discount tickets can be purchased at [CityEmployeesClub.com](http://CityEmployeesClub.com).



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**AIRPORTS**

Go

**Santa handing out joy on Christmas morning at LAX.**



Sgt. Heriberto Gonzalez hands out stuffed toys to a traveling child on Christmas.



The immediate family members who participate in the annual Santa teddy bear event every Christmas morning, from left: Sgt. Rob Pedregon and his wife, Nicole; Santa, who resembles Steve Van Noord, and his wife, Michelle; Jodi, Hank and Officer Nick Van Dragt; and Officer Paul Mosqueda. Steve Van Noord is Officer Van Dragt's uncle; and Hank Van Dragt pretended to be a tourist for this photo shoot.



The Airport Police family with Santa gathers in the United terminal on a recent Christmas morning. Family members participate in this annual event.



On Nov. 13, Club COO Robert Larios and *Alive!* editor interviewed Sgt. Rob Pedregon, Public Information Officer, 11 years of City service, Club Member; Motor Officer Nick Van Dragt, 10 years, Club Member; and Motor Officer Paul Mosqueda, 11 years, Club Member. Stopping by to be a part of the interview was Santa Claus himself, who resembled Steve Van Noord, the uncle of Officer Van Dragt. Steve teaches second grade at Frank Woodruff Elementary School. The interview took place at the headquarters of Airport Police at LAX. This will be the fifth year Steve has resembled Santa at LAX on Christmas Day.



A young traveler tests Santa's true identity.



Hank the Elf (Hank Van Dragt, son of Officer Nick Van Dragt) hands out candy canes.



**Alive! Feature**

*Alive! photos by Summy Lam and John Burnes, and courtesy Airport Police*

# And to All a Good Flight



An example of the teddy bears that will be given away on Christmas morning. The bears wear a T-shirt featuring the Airport Police badge.



## Airport Police marks five years of giving teddy bears to traveling children at LAX on Christmas morning.

What began as a way to give away surplus gifts has become a Christmas Day tradition for the Airport Police family at LAX.

In 2015, the Los Angeles Airport Police in cooperation with Los Angeles School Police, Los Angeles Port Police, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and the cities of Vernon, Bell, El Monte and Alhambra police Departments collected teddy bears donated by Officers and employees with assistance from Kenner Unlimited, Linzy, Imperial, Los Angeles Airport Police Athletic League and Cal Plush, handed out teddy bears to the children of the pediatric unit of LA/USC Medical Center. At the end, they had extra gifts, and decided to walk the terminals of LAX and hand out the surplus.

Thus was born a Christmas tradition that grows every year, and has become a family experience so dear to the Airport Police that no one who participates ever thinks of taking the special day off.

The Officers and employees of Airport Police fund the purchase of the teddy bears, which now surpasses 1,000. LAX also provides funding.

The Airport Police Officers who began the tradition five years ago continue to organize it today. They are Sgt. Rob Pedregon, Public Information Officer; and Motor Officers Paul Mosqueda and Nick Van Dragt. Santa resembles Steve Van Noord, the uncle of Nick Van Dragt.

"Keeping the traveling public safe and secure is our first priority, and many of us can't be with our own children on Christmas morning, but to see the happiness that Santa brings to these children fills that empty space till we can make it home to our families," said Officer Pedregon.

**Read all about the tradition in this month's interview.**



**More story and pics on Web Alive!**  
Go to: [alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)

## The Alive! Interview

# A Labor of Love

**Tell us how this beautiful tradition of handing out teddy bears to children traveling on Christmas morning started.**

**Sgt. Rob Pedregon:** Sure. The first year this started – 2015 – the Motor Unit was supporting a charity cause at Children's Hospital. We all chipped in and bought some teddy bears to give to children there. That was a few days before Christmas. At the end of the event, we had a surplus of teddy bears. I thought, what are we going to do with them? We were all working Christmas Day, and I asked my partner Nick here who's always a team player. I said, "Would you be willing to dress up as Santa Claus and hand out these teddy bears?"

**Ofcr. Nick Van Dragt:** I said I can do one better – I actually know someone that is Santa and I asked my uncle Steve Van Noord if he would be willing to do it and he said ...

**Santa** (resembling Steve Van Noord): Absolutely! When they asked me to do it, I thought, "That sounds kind of interesting to do that." The first time we did it, it was a smaller operation than it is now. It's grown every year. It was so much fun. We did it on Christmas morning, and I was hooked right away. My wife came along with me. My daughter has come a couple of times; my niece Jody has come. I tell you, it's just been great. I love doing it. It's become a family tradition for us as well.

**And the Christmas beard is coming in very nicely.**

**Santa** (resembling Steve Van Noord): It is!

**Sgt. Rob Pedregon:** So the Motor officers all pulled together that first year. Paul was there with us at the original event, too, and he's our sleigh rider – he carries the bears along with us. He follows behind and replenishes our supply.

That first year, it was just overwhelming the number

of bears that we had collected from ourselves and from the School Police and some of the agencies that were also participating in that charity event. We ended up with a surplus that the venue couldn't handle, so they asked us to take them back with us. We had a truck full of bears and headed back to LAX and wondered, "What the heck are we going to do with all these bears?"

**It just evolved into, "Hey, let's try this and do it on Christmas morning."**



Club COO Robert Larios.

**Sgt. Rob Pedregon:** Yes. We were already getting together with the Officers on Christmas morning at LAX. The wives would come in and bake cookies for all the Officers on patrol who had to work that day, and feed everyone who wasn't going to be with their families on that morning. We said, "We'll just head out into the terminal and start handing these out." We thought we'd get Nick to be Santa but he did one better.

## Ambassadors

**What compelled you to take it to the next step and to do it yourself here at LAX?**

**Ofcr. Nick Van Dragt:** I viewed it as a great opportunity to give back to the community that's given me so much. I enjoy hanging out with these guys on Christmas Day, and now I get my family involved, which is even better. I couldn't really pass up that opportunity and it's just fun to see the kids' faces



Sgt. Rob Pedregon and Officer Nick Van Dragt explain the tradition's origins to Club COO Robert Larios.



Officer Paul Mosqueda.

when they receive the teddy bear from Santa. They're just all excited. It takes all the stress of flying away from them, and they're happy to be able to meet Santa that day.

**Santa** (resembling Steve Van Noord): I don't work at the airport, but to come here

and see these kids and their reactions to what was really unexpected is just so special. And it extends to the airport employees and the people who work for the airlines, too. "Can I take my picture with you?" they ask me. They're working on Christmas Day, too, so it's joy for them, too, but it's mostly for the kids. Just to see their faces and enjoy their

reactions to Santa Claus – they see you in an unexpected place and they're like, "Whoa."

**Sgt. Rob Pedregon:** It started off as this goodwill gesture, and it's evolved into something even bigger. It's for all the Officers who work on Christmas morning who aren't with their own children – the joy of going out there and seeing the smiles on all these children's faces, the parents, the employees – it really brings you back home. It's like fulfilling that emotion that you're lacking all morning.

It's larger than that, too, for us especially in law enforcement – we're building partnerships and trust with the community. We're ambassadors. There are people who come from all over the world, and the interactions that they have with us set the tone for all of law enforcement. We're working with more than just our own community, we're working worldwide. For a lot of people who come in contact with Police Officers, it's a negative situation. It's either a traffic citation or they're the victim of a crime. We can take it to a more personal place, show them a human aspect and let them know that we're more than just a uniform. We're people, and we do care.

**Right, right. Santa, do you get special ATC clearance on Christmas morning for the sleigh to come in? You're a busy man on that day!**

**Santa** (resembling Steve Van Noord): Well let's just say it's a busy morning!

The first year we did it, I came in a patrol car with two Motorcycle Officers escorting me like reindeer bringing in a sleigh. Since then we've been doing it a lot of different ways. It's unusual because you walk into the airport and then you walk out of the airport – you're either freezing or super hot, but it's just a joy to do it the whole time. I meet people from all over the world, including people who speak no English, but they know who Santa Claus is.

**Continued on Web Alive!**  
Go to: [alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)



Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.

# RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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



### RLACEI DIRECTORS

Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

Mary Beetz, Director, Ext. 711

Cliff Cannon, Director, Ext. 715

Beverly J. Clark,  
Publicity Director, Ext. 716

Hal Danowitz,  
Secretary/Treasurer, Ext. 707

Dennis Harding,  
Entertainment Director, Ext. 704

Ed Harding,  
President Emeritus, Ext. 703

Michael Karsch,  
Legislative Representative, Ext. 706

Phil Orland, Health Director, Ext. 709

Ruth B. Perry,  
Membership Director, Ext. 717

Neil Ricci,  
Nominations Director, Ext. 714

### RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE: (800) 678-4145, Ext. 0

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

### RLACEI WEBSITE

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

### MAILING ADDRESS:

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

or

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.  
1100 S. Flower Street, Suite 3300  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

### Change of Address?

Please notify Ruth B. Perry, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717 or [Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org](mailto:Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org) for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFUCU as applicable.

## Send in your Interesting



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

## 2019 RETIREE EVENTS

**Dec. 12:** RLACEI annual holiday party and general meeting

### RESERVATION LINE:

RLACEI: (800) 678-4145, Ext. 701

## RLACEI Contributing Columnist

# The Blue Zones of Wellness

by Arnette Travis, Author – Activist – Advocate



Arnette Travis

A National Geographic Explorer named Dan Buettner spent years researching places in the world where people live considerably longer, healthier lives than elsewhere. His research identified five regions and named them Blue Zones. He identified nine practices that the original five regions shared. These are:

- Move naturally
- Purpose
- Down shift
- 80 percent rule
- Plant slant
- Wine @ 5
- Belong
- Loved ones first
- Right tribe

To many people, wellness is a New Age concept that approaches health holistically. Actually, the foundation of wellness as a preventative practice dates back to 500 BC, to the ancient Greek physician Hippocrates, who believed that diet, lifestyle and environmental factors play a starring role in the health of our bodies and minds. Modern science has proven him correct.

As used here, the term “wellness” includes the good health of mind, body and spirit – which, in practice, is preventative. To ignore the health of any one of these is to put the others at risk.

My earliest memory of wellness dates back to the early 1960s. As a small child, I dragged a burlap sack along the rows of my grand-

mother’s vegetable garden as she pulled the weeds that insisted on growing among the food that she would eventually pick and prepare for our family. “You are what you eat.” These five words spoken decades ago by my grandma still echo in my daily life. My grandmother had a high school education but kept a set of medical encyclopedias alongside her *Christian Science Monitor and Readers’ Digest* magazines. And although she ate with health in mind, she eventually developed Alzheimer’s disease in her late 60s. As it turns out, it takes more than diet to maintain mental health.

As I read the Blue Zones’ Power Nine, I identified with the simple, common sense behind each practice. It became clear that by making small lifestyle changes, large positive outcomes could be achieved without excessive energy, thought or cost. In 2010, the community I live in adopted a Blue Zones Project. My community is one of three Beach Cities designated as a Blue Zone and has achieved (among other things) the lowest childhood obesity rate in the United States. A huge boost to my personal health came as a result of quitting a 40-plus-year smoking habit and volunteering in my community.

While your community may not adopt an official Blue Zones Project, most of us would like to live a long time, and of course, enjoy good health. If this is you, visit [www.bluezones.com](http://www.bluezones.com) to learn more. Better yet, take the four-week Blue Zones Life Challenge and create your personal Blue Zone.

## Lunch With Annie

By Beverly Clark, RLACEI Publicity Director

### Asian American Employees Association hosts luncheon for LACERS Commissioner.



LACERS Commissioner Annie Chao speaks at the luncheon.

The Los Angeles City Employees Asian American Association (LACEAAA) hosted a luncheon Oct. 30 to celebrate the election of the newly elected LACERS Commissioner Annie Chao.

The luncheon took place at the City Hall East/City Hall South Courtyard.

RLACEI President Ruth Perry and Vice President Beverly Clark were in attendance as well as Councilmember John Lee and Lita Payne, LACERS Assistant General Manager, who spoke at the celebration, along with LACERS Commission Vice President Michael Wilkinson.

Annie Chao was elected to the Board of Administration of the Los Angeles City Employees’ Retirement System by active LACERS Members in 2016 to complete the unexpired term ending June 30, 2018. She was again elected by the active LACERS Members in

2019 to complete a five-year term ending June 30, 2023.

Ms. Chao is an Investment Officer for Fire and Police Pensions, one of the City’s other pension plans. In her current role, she is the Head of Real Estate and has overseen public equities, bonds, commodities, hedge funds and performance evaluation.

She also represents the Mayor’s Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee serving as the President of the Los Angeles City Employees Asian American Association.

Ms. Chao is a graduate of UCLA, holds a Master of Divinity degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, and completed Portfolio Concepts and Management from the Wharton School of Business.



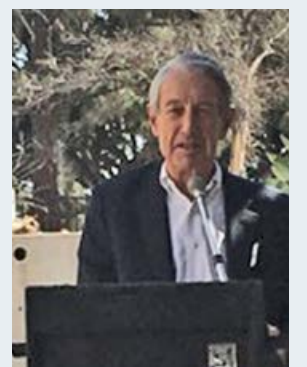
RLACEI President Ruth Perry and LACEAAA Vice President Irene Sae Koo.



From left: RLACEI Vice President Beverly Clark, Councilman John Lee and RLACEI President Ruth Perry.



LACERS Assistant General Manager Lita Payne.



Michael Wilkinson, Vice President, LACERS Commission.

## Membership Dues: An Update

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, RLACEI membership dues are now \$3 per month. This new fee includes free membership to the Employees Club of California for all RLACEI members. RLACEI members who carry insurance products with the Club soon will receive a reduction in their payroll contributions for the Club membership.

LACERS and the Club are working to process the appropriate reduction for all applicable

RLACEI members. RLACEI has been informed that the correct deduction should be reflected on your payroll statement in the next few months. All RLACEI members will be reimbursed for Club dues deducted from January through the effective date of the correct payroll processing.

**Please contact Membership Director Ruth Perry at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717, should you have any questions.**



## LACERS Reviews Health Management Averages

LACERS Board Update By Michael R. Wilkinson



Michael R. Wilkinson

LACERS Benefits Administration Committee (which I chair) recently reviewed a report on our Health Management Dashboards as part of our plan to improve the health of our members and keep our health costs low. The reports reviewed were presented by our health consultant, Keenan and Associates, and cover the period through Dec. 31, 2018.

Starting in 2015, staff and Keenan contacted Kaiser and Anthem to identify the health problems that were most serious for our members based on the premium costs for each diagnostic category. These two plans were selected since they can provide the greatest amount of data based on serving 90 percent of our members.

The top cost categories were: circulatory (cardiovascular disease), musculoskeletal (such as osteoarthritis), neoplasms (cancer), obesity and diabetes. The claims costs for our members are closely tracked to see how we may make changes to improve our members' lives through the LACERS Well program and working with the health providers.

There is not enough space here to go over the whole report, but I am happy to share a few glimpses of the process to show how the system works. For instance, Kaiser reports that LACERS Medicare patients are keeping up with other groups for preventive care except for cervical cancer screening, where it is lower than the benchmark. Here are the numbers to show the Kaiser member Medicare participation rate by category:

- Clinical visit, 94.0 percent;
- Flu shot, 75.1 percent;

- Blood pressure checked, 92.5 percent;
- Blood glucose checked, 91.5 percent;
- Body Mass Index (BMI) checked, 83.9 percent;
- Exercise level checked, 89.8 percent;
- Cholesterol level checked, 89.8 percent;
- Cervical cancer screening, 72.2 percent;
- Breast cancer screening, 89.6 percent;
- Colorectal cancer screening, 90.2 percent.

Here is a quick look at some of the Anthem data. Note that some information cannot be directly compared between Anthem and Kaiser since Kaiser reports on the Medicare members separately and Anthem does not. Anthem reports a slight decrease in the prevalence percentage of lifestyle related chronic conditions, from 81.6 percent to 81.0 percent, and a reduction in high blood pressure from 34.4 percent to 32.0 percent from 2016 to 2018. Diabetes increased slightly from 18.4 percent to 19.3 percent over the same period.

I know that's a lot of numbers, but what does it mean to each of us? We all should be getting regular doctor checkups and following up on our recommended treatments, eating right and getting that fun daily exercise on the bike, in the gym, or just walking your dog around the neighborhood. It need not be complicated, and a lot of help can be found on the LACERS Well Webpage or Facebook page. ■

## Is Cal Supreme Court Opening Doors to More Pension Reform?



Michael Karsch

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:  
Pension Law and Policy,  
By Michael Karsch**

Remember that the California Supreme Court has ruled on one major public pension issue lately, that concerning the use by local governments to allow employees to buy "air time" for additional work time not worked, which usually meant that the contributions were seldom enough for the eventual additional paybacks in pension benefits.

In his 2012 pension reform package, Gov. Jerry Brown had urged eliminating airtime. The court ruled that this benefit could be repealed without affecting the California Rule, which protects public employees who enter their government jobs with an offer for benefits that will follow them throughout their retirement.

Due to rising costs of pensions, many government agencies are forced to increase their support of the pension system at all costs. In many communities, public services are being cut back to pay for pensions, since many investment portfolios are failing to grow as fast as needed. Pensioners are living longer, which extends the support of either investments and/or taxpayer support. In March, the Supreme Court ruled that the purchase of airtime was not a vested right protected by contract law, as explained by CalPensions report on Oct. 28. The Court noted that "we have no occasion in this decision to address, let alone to alter, the continued application of the California Rule." Some had hoped to see a review of the Rule.

Now comes some other appeals to the Supreme Court on the subject of the California Rule and government pensions. As CalPensions explains, there are two appeals that have "very different views of how pensions may be cut." Both are challenges by labor unions to parts of the Gov. Brown reform package, mostly about spikes in final pay before retiring. These appeals are a consolidation of Alameda, Contra Costa and Merced County cases. The Alameda ruling sticks to the general protection of the California Rule. The article noted: "Pension cuts are allowed, without an offsetting comparable new benefit, if there is 'compelling evidence establishing that the required changes bear a material relation to the theory...of a pension system and its successful operation.'"

A ruling in a Marin County case "overturns the California Rule by finding employees only have a vested right to a 'reasonable' pension." The Marin case protects the amounts in a pension already earned. But the Legislature may alter the formula, prior to the employee's retirement, thereby reducing the anticipated pension, so long as the employee is not deprived of a "reasonable" pension. This does not say much to me. What is "reasonable pension"? The Supreme Court also ruled that a San Jose pension reform in 2012 could not require workers to pay more for pensions or earn a smaller pension.

What all of this says is that the State Supreme Court will be considering several pension cases from varying situations in several parts of the state, and the door appears to be open to more than just the California Rule. Almost all of the prior decisions have upheld that Rule and protecting those who have retired on a government pension.

The CalPensions article can be found at [calpensions.com/2019/10/28/second-chance-for-major-ruling/](http://calpensions.com/2019/10/28/second-chance-for-major-ruling/). ■

## Board Has Vacancy, Seeks New Director

The RLACEI Board of Directors is looking for members to serve on the Board. The Board ensures that our retirement benefits are protected.

### Qualifications:

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

Please email Beverly Clark at [Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org](mailto:Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org) or leave a message at (800) 678-4145, ext. 716.

## Are you an RLACEI Member?



Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. are invited to attend all RLACEI events, such as the annual member picnic and holiday party.

Check your pension statement for the "Retired LACEI" \$3 monthly deduction. If it's there, you are an RLACEI member!

If not a member, call (800) 678-4145 x717 or visit our website at [RLACEI.ORG](http://RLACEI.ORG) and join today! Don't miss out on RLACEI events!

## RLACEI 2019 ANNUAL MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

11:00 A.M.— 1:00 P.M.

FRIENDSHIP AUDITORIUM  
3201 RIVERSIDE DRIVE  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90049

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



RSVP to (800) 678-4145 Ext 701

Please RSVP no later than December 2, 2019.



Limit 2 guests per RLACEI member. All other guests \$5 cash at the door.

### RLACEI 2019 Holiday Party Reservation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Life's Important Moments

Share Your Life's Moments

Submit digital photos and text online:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/lifes-important-moments](http://alive.employeesclub.com/lifes-important-moments)

## Retirements

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

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Acuna, Miguel A.	Finance Ofcr.	Econ./Wrkfrce Dev.	32	Lane, Priscilla O.	Admin. Clerk	Rec and Parks	19
Adams Wright, Stacy	Admin. Clerk	LAPD	34	Lopez, David	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D
Allen, Andrew A.	Officer	Airports	31	Mannino, James	Constr. & Maintenance	DWP	N/D
Barberena, Raul	Event Attendant	Gen. Services	8	Martinez, Alejandro	Custodian	Gen. Services	15
Bedikian, Hagop K.	Environmental Spec.	Airports	6	Martinez, Timothy	Power Supply	DWP	N/D
Bishop, Jacquie	Management Analyst	Gen. Services	7	McAuley, William	Security Services	DWP	N/D
Blondeel-Timmerman, John	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Medina, Juanita	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAPD	27
Brown, Aubrey M.	Park Ranger	Rec and Parks	29	Murrow, Ronald	Power Safety & Training	DWP	N/D
Cabrera, Agnes C.	Systems Analyst	Public Works	18	Nine, Michael	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Callaway, Wendell A.	Sergeant	Airports	35	Ortiz, Jaime A.	Parking Attendant	Gen. Services	10
Cammarata, Nancy	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	LAPD	32	Osborn, Gregory	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D
Carter, Carolyn	Customer Service	DWP	N/D	Palmer, Stephen	Asst. Park Ser. Att.	Rec and Parks	4
Castellanos, Robert	Env. Chem Lab	DWP	N/D	Posey, James	Water Eng./Tech.	DWP	N/D
Chavez, Jeanna	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Public Works	15	Ramirez, Carlos A.	Custodian	Gen. Services	27
Cochran, Kenneth J.	Carpenter	Rec and Parks	32	Raphael, Yolanda	Management Analyst	Gen. Services	30
Cruz, Cynthia Salazar	Accounting Clerk	City Attorney	16	Richard, Brenda F.	Admin. Clerk	Controller's Off.	40
De La Cruz Nieto, Rafael	Irrigation Specialist	Rec and Parks	15	Roberson, Connie	Sr. Police Service Rep	LAPD	29
Diaz, Maria S.	Custodian	Airports	13	Saludares, Lourdes	Sr. Auditor	LAPD	44
Diaz, Rafael	Street Services Worker	Public Works	10	Sarmiento, Concepcion	Sr. Accountant	Rec and Parks	31
Dyche, Daniel M.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	36	Schmitter, Susan D.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	30
Eng, Zachary Bryan	Trans. Engineering Ass.	Transportation	31	Scipioni, Vincent Carl	Build. Mech. Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	18
Ferguson, Lonney Ron	Director of Systems	ITA	30	Shanklin, Kenneth B.	Security Officer	Airports	27
Flake, Anthony R.	Custodian	Airports	10	Shaw, James Arthur	Gardener Caretaker	LAPD	20
Fong, Wanda	Library Assistant	Library	47	Sheets, Kathleen	Management Analyst	LAPD	24
Foerstel, Gregory	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Sherrrod, Christy	Customer Service	DWP	N/D
Fox, Gary	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D	Sloan, Helena	Customer Svcs. Bus. Unit	DWP	N/D
Gallegos, Paula	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAPD	35	Smith, Mentha C.	Administrative Clerk	Library	6
Gardner, Keith B.	Painter	Harbor	17	Spillman, Lawrence D.	Welder	Public Works	31
Golfo, Rolando	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Starkjohann, Gregory	Water Operations	DWP	N/D
Gonzalez, Josephine	Sustainability	DWP	N/D	Street, Marshall	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Gordon, Randy T.	Admin. Clerk	Gen. Services	31	Sturdivant, Elaine E.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Airports	20
Hansen, Harold Neal	Polygraph Examiner	LAPD	17	Takaki, Rory Y.	Maintenance Supervisor	Rec and Parks	33
Hernandez, John M.	Sergeant	Airports	29	Tasinga, Isaac	Constr. & Maintenance	DWP	N/D
Hines, Barbara A.	Admin. Clerk	LAPD	20	Torres, Anna Marie C.	Sr. Personnel Analyst	Personnel	31
Hom, Randolph S.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	2	Torres, Oscar	Power Supply Ops.	DWP	N/D
Hughes, Thomas	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Trodahl, Colleen	Admin. Clerk	Rec and Parks	6
Hulse, Gary	Power New Business	DWP	N/D	Tujian, Hagop S.	St. Lighting Engineer	Public Works	33
James, Carolyn M.	Pr. Rec Supervisor	Rec and Parks	35	Vega, Ruben	Special Prog. Assistant	Rec and Parks	5
Kamchamnan, Sompong	Parking Attendant	Gen. Services	13	Viramontes, Jaime J.	Sr. Construction Insp.	Public Works	30
Kelley, Detra Dejuania	Pr. Clerk	LAPD	33	Wilmarth, Miriam W.	Improv. Assessor Supv.	Public Works	44
Kennedy, Margaret A.	Management Analyst	Rec and Parks	30	Wong, Thomas	Admin. Coordinator	City Attorney	25
Kirkwood, Calvin	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Woodbury, John	Video Prod. Coordinator	Rec and Parks	8
Kirkwood, Ruby J.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	El Pueblo Hist. Mon.	21	Woolley, Henry A.	Custodian	Airports	16
Kuo, Steven	Clerical Assistant	Library	3	Zumwalt, Mark	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D

N/D = not disclosed



## Share Your Life's 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.

Submit digital photos and text online:  
 (as high a resolution as you can send)  
[alive.employeesclub.com/lifes-important-moments](http://alive.employeesclub.com/lifes-important-moments)

Graduations

Births

Weddings

Military Service

Special Achievements

## Special Achievement



**Vincent Frias** recently passed the California State Bar exam. He's the son of Frank Frias, Animal Services, and a two-time Joannie Mukai Club Scholarship winner. Congratulations, Vincent!

## Military Service



Here's to America's newest Marine, **Keaton Hawkins**, at his boot camp graduation at US Marine Corps MCRD San Diego. He's pictured with his uncle, Club CEO John Hawkins (US Navy veteran).

## In Memoriam

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the following current and retired City employees who have passed away.

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE		
<b>Active</b>					
Kakudo, Shigekazu	DWP	23	Icenbice, Steven	Public Works	35
Strange, Kirk	DWP	38	Kline, Kent	DWP	24
<b>Retired</b>					
Anderson, Philip	General Services	28	Laliberte, Raymond	N/D	N/D
Arnold, Benny	N/D	N/D	Lewis, Inez	DWP	18
Ausherman, George	N/D	N/D	Lieboff, Richard	LAPD	31
Baruth Lee, Ruth	DWP	31	Lira, Jeannette	DWP	28
Baxter, John	DWP	34	Luisi, Gaetano	DWP	16
Bernard, Christoph	Public Works	28	Martinez, Maria	Rec and Parks	24
Bosak, John	N/D	N/D	McKenna, Dixon	N/D	N/D
Bottoms, Thomas	DWP	28	Mitchell, Henry	N/D	N/D
Bowers, Wendell	Animal Services	35	Morales, Romelia	DWP	17
Byars, James	DWP	31	Nagao, Stanley	General Services	13
Carmona, John	N/D	N/D	Nelson, Kenneth	N/D	N/D
Carr, Kathryn	N/D	N/D	Nelson, Raymond	DWP	31
Chang, Elliott	N/D	N/D	Nguyen, Phuong	Harbor	22
Ciccarelli, Steven	N/D	N/D	Reyes Torkamani, Veronica	City Attorney	10
Cherry, Joseph	DWP	28	Salcido, Edmund	DWP	35
Christie, Howard	DWP	34	Savage, Robert	Library	8
Colvin, John	Transportation	25	Scott, Charles	N/D	N/D
Cowdin, William	N/D	N/D	Sheran, Lester	N/D	N/D
Culling, Keith	Personnel	30	Simon, Jean	N/D	N/D
DeBernardi, Mark	DWP	34	Smith, Alque	DWP	25
De Costo, Caroline	Building and Safety	28	Smith, George	N/D	N/D
Detchmندی, James	Building and Safety	25	Spradley, Paul	Public Works	11
Draper, Gail	ITA	18	Stemnock, Thomas	N/D	N/D
Duffy, Thomas	DWP	26	Story Jr., Benny	DWP	31
Emery, Lloyd	N/D	N/D	Swanson, James	General Services	12
Faulkner, Grover	Public Works	2	Tacheff, Theodora	N/D	N/D
Frias, John	DWP	33	Tedrow, Joe	General Services	12
Gabaldon, Henrietta	DWP	30	Tolmasov, James	N/D	N/D
Grubbs, Otis	N/D	N/D	Tortorice, Connie	Airports	14
Hovanky, Louis	Airports	10	Townsend, Leon	DWP	27
Huerta Arrearan, Delia	Transportation	10	Tran, Dominic	DWP	17
			Warren, Gloria	DWP	13
			Washington, Ronnie	DWP	23
			Wilson, Vernon	N/D	N/D

N/D = not disclosed

# City Holiday Guide

The City produces and sponsors a variety of events to celebrate the holidays. Here's *Alive!*'s annual guide!



## LA Zoo Holiday Lights

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.

**When:** 6-10 p.m. nightly, through Jan. 5 (closed Christmas Eve and Christmas).  
**Where:** LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Griffith Park, 5355 Zoo Dr. Free parking.  
**Cost:** \$12-\$21.95 (daytime Zoo admission extra)  
**City sponsor:** LA Zoo.  
**Information:** (323) 644-6042 or [www.LAZoolights.org](http://www.LAZoolights.org)

## Holiday Ice Rink

**When:** Various times through Jan. 20.  
**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 \$5, more for special times and events. Skate rental extra.  
**City sponsor:** Rec and Parks.  
**Information:** (213) 624.4289; [holidayicerinkdowntownla.com](http://holidayicerinkdowntownla.com)

The City's largest outdoor ice rink features entertainment focused on the musical Frozen every Tuesday; DJ spotlights every Thursday; learn to curl on Saturdays; and a silent skate party Dec. 19.

## Holiday Light Festival Train Ride

**When:** 5-8 p.m. weeknights; 5-9 p.m. Fri-Sun. through Dec. 29.  
**Where:** 4400 Crystal Springs Dr., Griffith Park  
**Cost:** not yet announced for 2019 (was \$5 last year)  
**City sponsor:** Rec and Parks  
**Information:** (323) 662-9678, [www.griffithparktrainrides.com](http://www.griffithparktrainrides.com)

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

The trains operate every night until Dec. 23, then resumes Dec. 26-29. The trains do not operate in the rain.

## Civil War Christmas

**When:** 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 7.  
**Where:** Drum Barracks Civil War Museum, 1052 Banning Blvd., Wilmington.  
**Cost:** Free admission.  
**City sponsor:** Rec and Parks.  
**Information:** (310) 548-7509 or [www.drumbarracks.org](http://www.drumbarracks.org)

Guests can enjoy a trolley (to the Banning Residence Museum), music, a bell ringing and an authentic encampment featuring how Civil War-era soldiers and families celebrated Christmas.

## Hollywood Christmas Parade

**When:** 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1.  
**Where:** Starting at Hollywood Boulevard and Orange Street.  
**Cost:** Free; grandstand reserved seating is available from \$32.50 to \$85 (dynamic pricing).  
**City sponsor:** City Council.  
**Information:** (866) PARADE-1, or [www.thehollywoodchristmasparade.com](http://www.thehollywoodchristmasparade.com)

Hollywood's long-running Christmas Parade, sponsored by the City, is scheduled for 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1, in Hollywood. Grand marshal is TV celebrity Mario Lopez.

The parade, an American tradition for 86 years, is held traditionally the Sunday after Thanksgiving and telecast locally and throughout the nation during December. This year's broadcast partners again are the CW network and the Hallmark Channel. Check local listings. Take the Metro/Red Line to the Hollywood and Highland station, or park in the center's garage (fee).

## Las Posadas on Olvera Street

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

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

## El Pueblo Tree Lighting Ceremony

**When:** 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6  
**Where:** Olvera Street, 125 Paseo de la Plaza downtown.  
**Cost:** Free.  
**City sponsor:** El Pueblo Historical Monument.  
**Information:** [www.elpueblo.lacity.org](http://www.elpueblo.lacity.org)

El Pueblo Historical Monument – Olvera Street – plans to kick off its Christmas season from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Dec. 6 by lighting its public Christmas tree.

The event includes food, mariachi music, dancing, costumes and of course officials throwing the switch to illuminate the tree on Los Angeles' historic district. All the community is invited for this Christmas celebration where L.A. began.

## Victorian Christmas

**When:** 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 7.  
**Where:** Banning Museum, 401 E Main St., Wilmington.  
**Cost:** Free admission.  
**City sponsor:** Rec and Parks.  
**Information:** (310) 548-2005 or [www.thebanningmuseum.org](http://www.thebanningmuseum.org)

This free event is one day for visitors to enjoy period entertainment, tours of the residence museum decorated in holiday splendor, refreshments, a children's craft area and a horse-drawn trolley ride between the museum and the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum nearby. This annual holiday tradition, which has been operation for more than 30 years, is only a single day this year due to the Wilmington parade Dec. 8.

## Wilmington Winter Wonderland

**When:** 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Sat., Dec. 7.  
**Where:** Wilmington Waterfront Park, 1004 W. C St., Wilmington.  
**Cost:** Free.  
**City sponsor:** Harbor  
**Information:** [www.portofla.org](http://www.portofla.org)

You'll believe it can snow in the Port during the Wilmington Winter Wonderland. Bring the family and let the kids play in the snow at Wilmington Waterfront Park.

## Harbor Afloat Parade

**When:** 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7  
**Where:** LA Waterfront; Banning's Landing Community Center, 100 E. Water St., Wilmington.  
**Cost:** Free.  
**City sponsor:** Harbor  
**Information:** [www.portofla.org](http://www.portofla.org)

Join harbor community members for this free and festive boat parade on the LA Waterfront, sponsored by the Port. Enjoy the sparkling spectacular parade of boats and celebrate the nation's busiest international trade gateway. Pre-parade festivities at Banning's Landing Community Center (4 p.m.).

## Pershing Square Winter Holiday Festival

**When:** 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Sat-Sun., Dec. 7-8.  
**Where:** Pershing Square downtown, 532 S. Olive St. Take Metro Red/Purple Line to Pershing Square, or park in nearby facilities (fee).  
**Cost:** Free.  
**City sponsor:** Rec and Parks.  
**Information:** [laparks.org/pershingsquare/winter-holiday-festival](http://laparks.org/pershingsquare/winter-holiday-festival)

Rec and Parks hosts the Winter Holiday Festival with tons of snow for sledding, a trackless train ride, entertainment, food vendors, and a free photo with Santa. (Nearby ice skating is additional cost.)

It's Be a Part of a Club Holiday Tradition

# Party Pix Time

Is your office having a holiday party? Here are two ways to get your holiday office party pictures into the January *Alive!*, in print and/or online:

**Take the photos yourself,** and submit them in as soon as you can (this is the best way). Make sure you give us a description of the party: when it was, where it was, and if something significant happened, let us know that, too.

**...OR**

**Let us know when your holiday party is,** and we'll try to send a Club Counselor. Please note: There are more City holiday parties than we can cover, but we will try. That's why it's best to send in your own photos. If you want us to cover your

party, talk to your Club Rep (Arlene Herrero, Gedina Bergstrom, Dalila Vielma, Jeanette Gadut, Tiffany Sy, Cheryl Martin, Dylan Noel or Noelle Kauffman) or email Robert Larios, Club Chief Operating Officer, at [rlarios@employeesclub.com](mailto:rlarios@employeesclub.com). We'll do our best to get to as many parties as we can, but we can't guarantee it. Let us know.





**Submit your photos online.**  
 It's easy! Submit them at:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/partypix](http://alive.employeesclub.com/partypix)

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# BOOKSHELF

the play

Saturday,  
**February 22, 2020**  
 3pm (Doors open at 2pm)



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**Bristol Civic Auditorium**  
 16600 Center Drive, Bellflower

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 Featuring Georgi McKinney, QueJonné Smith, Gigi Renfro with Deborah McMiller, Charisma Polk, David W. Cross II, Patricia Brown, Bre Heard, and more.

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



# Make the Club Webstore your Holiday Headquarters!

Great gifts. Movie ticket packs. Stocking stuffers. Awesome Club deals on See's Candies and Honeybaked Hams. All of this and more are available at the Club Store this Christmas season for your whole family!

## Movie Ticket Packs!



**A Club holiday hit:** Club Movie Ticket Packs are beautifully wrapped bundles of movie tickets ready to go, at a great Club discount. They make great stocking stuffers, as part of a Secret Santa activity, or as regular gifts. As always, they're the cheapest in the state!

- AMC** ..... \$33  
2 black tickets, 2 small drinks, 1 small popcorn
- Cinemark**..... \$23  
2 unrestricted tickets, 1 concession voucher (1 junior popcorn, 1 small soft drink)
- Harkins**..... \$28.50  
2 unrestricted tickets, 2 small drinks, 1 small popcorn
- Regal**..... \$27  
2 unrestricted tickets, 1 \$10 concession gift card

Limit 10 movie packs per Club Member or 25 individual tickets per 30 days.



City Seal Beer Stein with Embossed City Seal Wallet..... \$17



City Hall Figurine with City Seal Lapel Pin and City Seal Badge Holder ..... \$12



City Seal Diner Mug with City Seal Badge Holder ..... \$10



Embroidered City Seal Messenger Bag ..... \$32  
Avail. in black, green, navy.



Embroidered City Seal Backpack.... \$37  
Avail. in black, green, khaki.



Embroidered City Seal Engineer Bag..... \$35  
Avail. in black, green, khaki.

City Seal Beer Stein (34 oz.)..... \$15



City Seal Diner Mug..... \$8.50



## Gift Certificates!\*

**See's Candies Cert.**  
1 lb. box... \$15.45 (Limit 10)

**Honeybaked Hams**  
Cards ..... \$22.50  
(for \$25 gift card; Limit 4)

**Certificates sell out fast!**

\*Special holiday price

Prices listed are for Club Members. General prices vary.



Lupe Lira,  
Club Store Manager.



## Visit The Club Webstore!

Most of the items available at the Club Store downtown are also available on the Club Webstore! Go online for a great selection of Club tickets, apparel and other gifts.

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

NOTE: For delivery before Christmas, Club Store orders need to be completed by close of business Wednesday, Dec. 18. (Using Priority Mail, Fri., Dec. 20.)

LACERS

Photos by Robert Larios, Club COO, and DeAngelo Thompson, Club Customer Service Representative



# Don't Forget Great Club Apparel



# Guiding Principles Awards

LACERS honors its best employees.

On Aug. 20, LACERS held its sixth annual Guiding Principles event to award employees who best represent the principle categories of character, professionalism, respect, kindness and teamwork.

Employees who were voted and selected for the honor went up on stage to receive their trophy. What a way to congratulate and acknowledge those employees who work hard every day and make sure those they are serving are treated with respect and professionalism.

The event, which carried a Western theme, was held in the Chandler Auditorium of the Los Angeles Times building downtown.

Hosts presented both all those nominated for each award, and then the awardee.

The Club thanks Neil Guglielmo, General Manager, Club Member, and LACERS staff for their assistance.

## Guiding Principles Awards

### Employee of the Year

**Awardee:**  
Patricia Gonzalez

**Other Nominees:**  
Ana Ghoukassian  
Ricky Mulawin  
Wilkin Ly

### Professionalism

**Awardee:**  
Chris Yip  
Joann Peralta  
Tenah Johnson-Taylor  
Gabriel Perez

**Other Nominees:**  
Ani Ghoukassian  
Ann Seales  
Charlena Freeman  
Brian Cha  
Tiffany Obembe  
Bryan Fujita

### Teamwork

**Awardee:**  
Member Service Center:  
• Audrey Dymally  
• Charnaya Blackburn  
• Dominique Brewer  
• Flanzie Thomas  
• Gabriel Perez  
• Heather Ramirez  
• Jennifer Romero  
• Jesus Navarro  
• Nelli Koshkaryan  
• Sandra Ford-James  
• Taneda Larios  
• Tiffany Obembe  
• Wendy Johnson  
• Amoree Aguilar  
• Katrina Flores

**Other Nominees:**  
V3 Systems Operations Support Unit  
iTeam  
Guiding Principle Committee  
Office Hours Change Working Group  
Management and Office Services Section  
115 Trust Team  
Investment Team  
Survivor Benefits Unit  
Pension Administration System Project Team  
Website Redesign Team  
Human Resources Unit

### Kindness and Caring

**Awardee:**  
Lucy Artinian

**Other Nominees:**  
Fon Leidig  
Jamie Roberts  
Nancy Mirano  
Lady Smith  
Aleli Capati  
Ani Ghoukassian  
Barbara Sandoval  
Betty Smith  
Aurora Binder  
Tiffany Obembe  
Patricia  
Maria Salamanca-Martinez  
Virginia Lopez

### Respect

**Awardees:**  
Ani Ghoukassian  
Patricia Gonzalez  
Christopherson Ilano  
Cliff Lim

**Other Nominees:**  
Lady Smith  
Glen Malabuyoc  
Tiffany Obembe  
Michael Clayton

### Innovation

**Awardee:**  
Community Garden Team

**Other Nominees:**  
Systems Help Desk  
Chris Yip  
Chris Llano

Jason Leung  
Laurie Tran  
Alex Virtual Assistant  
Fiscal Databases  
System Help Desk  
Member Service Center

Congratulations to all the awardees, and all employees who uphold LACERS' highest ideals.



Employee of the Year awardee Patricia Gonzalez, Club Member.



Kindness and Caring awardee Lucy Artinian.



Teamwork awardees the Member Service Center Section: Audrey Dymally, Charnaya Blackburn, Dominique Brewer, Flanzie Thomas, Gabriel Perez, Heather Ramirez, Jennifer Romero, Jesus Navarro, Nelli Koshkaryan, Sandra Ford-James, Taneda Larios, Tiffany Obembe and Wendy Johnson. Not pictured: Amoree Aguilar, Katrina Flores.



Professionalism awardees Chris Yip, Joann Peralta, Tenah Johnson-Taylor and Gabriel Perez.



Innovations awardees the Community Garden team.

**More pics on Web Alive!**  
Go to: [alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)

## Picture Perfect

"Here's a wonderful view of Iguazu Falls, with the catwalks on the Brazil side."

— Larry Campita, Controller's Office

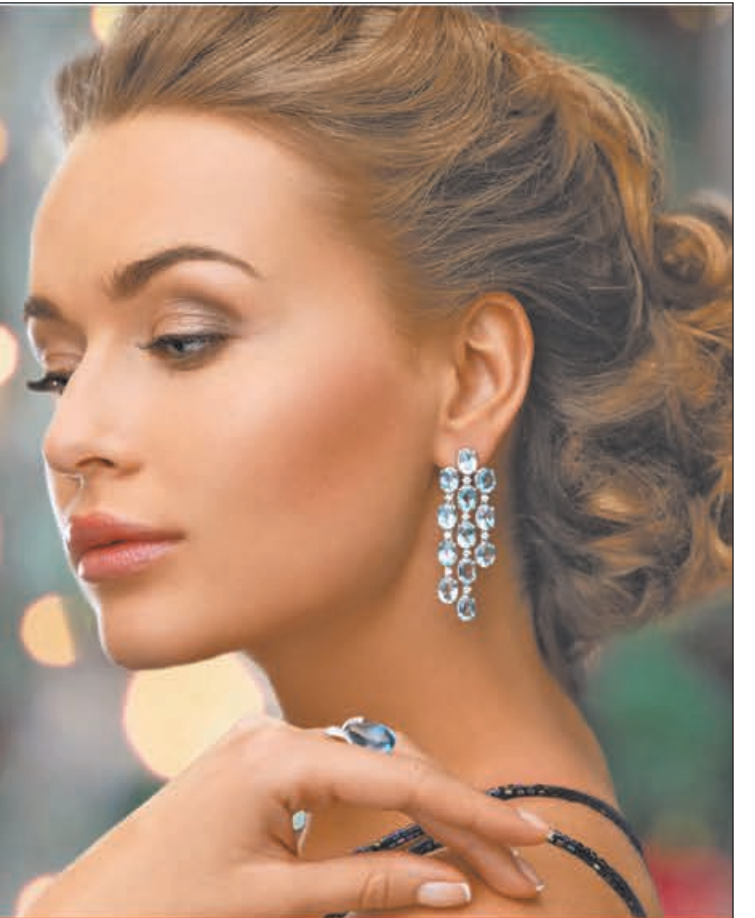
**John's comment:** I love this perspective, Larry – I've seen many photos of the falls, but sometimes it's hard to gain perspective. Just how big are they? It's the same issue with photographing other natural wonders like the Grand Canyon – is it even possible to capture their enormity? The catwalk does that for me. It's exactly the right perspective, without the human element (the catwalk) overwhelming the natural beauty. Great job!

See more great Picture Perfects!  
[aliveemployeesclub.com/category/columns/picture-perfect/](http://aliveemployeesclub.com/category/columns/picture-perfect/)



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