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Alive!

From Our Home to Yours

GO TO PAGE 10



Like all of us, Club CEO John Hawkins and his family are spending this pandemic holiday season at home.

INSIDE: ways to celebrate the holidays safely and affordably at home.

GO TO PAGE 10

Enjoying a friendly board game are Club CEO John Hawkins (center right) and his family, including (from left) daughter Hannah, wife Kelley and son Isaiah.

Alive! photo by Summy Lam

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There's No Place Like Home

JOHN'S BLOG

by John Hawkins, President and CEO, The Club

I've finally achieved my goal – appearing on the cover of *Alive!* in my pajamas!

Well, at least the brand-new ready-for-photograph version of my pajamas.

I hope you're laughing, too, because it was never my goal to appear on the cover, even with my wife, **Kelley**, and children **Isaiah** and **Hannah**, as we are this month. I've always



From left: John and Kelley Hawkins, and designers David and Marie Jamgotchian.

avoided it, actually. *Alive!* is never about us; it's about Club Members and City employees. In fact, in the more than 220 issues we've produced since we recreated *Alive!* in 2002, I've appeared only a few times, and always at the insistence of editor **John Burnes** and designer **David Jamgotchian**. And that's the truth.

But this year is different.

I don't need to tell you that; we have all been through a heck of a time. Some of you have lost income. Some have lost loved ones. The pandemic continues as I write this, but there is hope on the horizon with news of vaccines that are nearing approval.

There has never been a time when "Home for the Holidays" means more than it does right now. Home has always meant safe, but in a year when celebrating with large groups of people could be unhealthy, home is better than ever.

We here at the Club gave a lot of thought to helping you celebrate at home this year. **Mariana Guevara** put together a list of valuable Club offers meant especially for enjoying at home; we have our usual great deals on See's Candies and Honeybaked Hams; **Lupe Lira** put together an awe-

some selection of Club gifts in this month's Club Store insert (the City-seal masks make perfect stocking stuffers); COO **Robert Larios** contributes a delicious slow-cooker recipe; **Summy Lam** took some fantastic photos depicting the warmth of the season; our friends **Christina Rice** and **Susan Lendroth** at the Los Angeles Public Library contributed vintage LA holiday photos and holiday reading suggestions; and of course we include a list of City-sponsored toy drives to help you be generous. That's so important this time of year.

It all boils down, frankly, to family: from my family to yours, and from the Club family to the City family. Staying together means remembering what the holidays are all about.

From my wife, Kelley Hawkins, and me, and from everyone here at the Club, we wish you a meaningful Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. Don't forget those in need. And, then enjoy your time with your loved ones. Be safe, and be joyful.



—JOHN

It's Party Pix Time

Yes, even during COVID!

We'll print screen captures of your event in an upcoming *Alive!*, online and in print.

This holiday season might be like nothing in history, but the Club Holiday tradition continues – have photos from your department's holiday party pictured in *Alive!* It's too important, and too much fun, to skip a year.

Many City departments are planning to have their annual holiday party on Zoom, WebEx, GoToMeetings, or other videoconferencing app. If your department has a holiday party scheduled online, then you can be a part of our special holiday section.

There are two ways to participate:

1. Have someone in your department capture screen images (screen grabs) of your holiday event in progress. (Take several, or many.) Then go to the online form (see below), fill in the details, and upload the images. It's that simple.
2. Or, invite the Club to attend your online holiday party. We'll assign your Club Counselor or other Club employee, and will join your party just to take some screen grabs. We'll handle it from there. **But you must register first:** go to the *Alive!* Website and 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 send in your digital holiday party screen grabs, or to ask that we attend, go to: alive.employeesclub.com/holidayparty

IN THIS ISSUE



COVER STORY:

Home for the Holidays10-13

In this holiday season like no other, the Club offers memories of holidays past while providing offers to celebrate this year.

City of LA Coverage

The Club

Be Club, a year-end recap, debuts at noon Dec. 18 on YouTube..... 13

The City continues its work on the streets during the COVID-19 emergency..... 15

Airports

Aviation Career Day goes online..... 7

AAE LAX announces scholarship winners 8

DWP

Retiree Ben Alirez's fictional short story is included in pandemic anthology..... 7

General Services

Active employees are encouraged to sign up for a retirement planning seminar..... 8

Dept. introduces its new YouTube channel..... 8

Dept. announces holiday plan to emphasize giving..... 8

LACERS

Retirement dept. introduces new logo..... 8

LAPD

911 Operators dress up for Halloween 14

Sr. PSR I Lisa Smock retires after 30 years of City service 15

Special Operations delivers a safe experience during the national elections Nov. 3 19

Public Works

Ed Harding, longtime head of Street Maintenance and Retiree leader, passes away at 99..... 6

Retiree writes technical book on surveying and legal descriptions... 15

Sections & Columns

Alive! Around the World and Home 9

Deaths: In Memoriam 18

Insurance from the Club: Life..... 8

John's Blog: From the CEO..... 2

Lifes Moments..... 18

Retirements 18

Get more *Alive!* news at alive.employeesclub.com

Claims Monthly Web

Classified Ads..... Web

Club Team and Counselors..... Web

Kid's Coloring Contest Winners..... Web

Cooking With the Club Web

Library Top Ten Web

Picture Perfect..... Web

Advertiser's Index

Rosebud Marketing 19

United Agencies 19

Corporate Jewelers..... 20

alive.employeesclub.com

NEW THIS MONTH ONLINE!

Cooking With the Club

Chef Larios prepares delicious slow cooker pot roast for Christmas!



LAPL's Top Ten –

read what Angelenos were reading and downloading in September.



John's Picture Perfect

See the winners from this month's photo contest.



Coloring Contest Winners

Available Online!

GO TO: alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringwinners

Alive! is now its own Website...

GO TO: alive.employeesclub.com

Yes! *Alive!* is now a great new Website ... and a streamlined, more portable version of the paper you've come to know and love, delivered to your door!



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

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Ext. 202

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Alive!

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Club Webstore Holiday Schedule

The Club Webstore remains in operation for all your holiday needs. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, walk-in services at the Club Store and Club offices are not available.

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 Monday, Dec. 14. Don't wait!

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24/7**

Members can order from the Club Webstore at:
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Curbside Pickup: Webstore orders will be processed and available for curbside pick-up during business hours, Monday through Friday except:

Closed for Christmas:

Dec. 24 - Dec. 25
(Thursday – Friday)

Closed for New Years:

Dec. 31 - Jan. 1
(Thursday – Friday)

Need help or have questions?
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**Happy Holidays
from the Club Store!**

LAPD

Lisa's Last Call

**Sr. PSR I Lisa Smock retires after
30 years of City service.**

At Lisa's retirement ceremony.



Congratulations to Sr. PSR I Lisa Smock, LAPD/Communications, Club Member who retired Oct. 22. Lisa worked for the City for more than 30 years.

"Lisa, on behalf of your entire Communication Division family, congratulations on your retirement," Capt. Alex Vargas wrote in a Tweet. "Thank you for your years of dedicated service to the City of Los Angeles and the Officers of the LAPD. You will be greatly missed."

The Club wishes you a great and much-deserved retirement, Lisa! ■

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah FROM THE CLUB

This unprecedented holiday season,
may you be given
All that you wish for
Except one thing to grow on.



*Celebrating the work and lives of
California municipal employees.*

Be My CLUB Valentine

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

Here's how it works:
Send us a favorite photo (high-resolution digital preferred) 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 15 for Print Alive!
February 11 for Web Alive!

To send digital photos
and your message:
Go to: alive.employeesclub.com/valentines



PUBLIC WORKS

Ed Harding, longtime City manager and Retiree leader, passed away Oct. 16 in Simi Valley. He was 99.

Ed was born in 1921 in Tucson, Ariz., and moved to Los Angeles when he was a child. He began his City career in 1946 as a Clerk in the Repair Dept. of what was then Street Maintenance. (His father had also worked for the Street Maintenance Dept.) Ed retired in 1981 as the General Superintendent of Street Maintenance.

He was also prominent in the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc., an association of Retired City employees. He was an RLACEI Board member for more than 30 years, and President for more than 24. While association President in 2012, he began a strategic alliance with the Club for dual membership and increased benefits for Retirees. Ed retired from his duties at RLACEI this past September.

He is survived by his wife, Martha; seven children, three step-children; 13 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

The following is a eulogy written and delivered by Ed's grandson, Tim Harding.

It's impossible to sum up the life of a man who lived nearly a century, to do justice to the mark he left on this Earth, but my dad asked me to try, so I will. He asked that I share the highlights, some of the things my dad would want you all to remember about my Grandpa Ed, as well as my own thoughts on the life he lived.

My grandfather was born on May 1, 1921 in Tucson, Arizona, the only child of Clement and Julia Harding. The family moved to Los Angeles when he was a young child, being raised in the east L.A. area. He attended Roosevelt High School and was in the ROTC. During World War II, he worked in the Chrysler plant and was also in the U.S. Navy. In 1947, he began his career with the City of Los Angeles as a Supplies Clerk. This would mark the beginning of a lifelong career of service to the people of Los Angeles. His first promotion was to Mechanic's Helper, a trade he learned from his father and further developed while an employee for Chrysler. He was promoted regularly in the Bureau of Street Maintenance, first as a Supervisor of Street Paving and ultimately as the General Superintendent in charge of Street Maintenance, Street Resurfacing and Street Cleaning for the entire City. In 1981, the year I was born, with 34 years of City Service, he retired. Now I've seen many people in my own workplace who step on others to elevate themselves. But during Grandpa Ed's career, he was the guy helping others find a way forward. He helped many people, particularly minority employees, whom he helped get promoted by tutoring them, sometimes in his home, outside of work hours. On several occasions, he came to the defense of employees who were being wrongfully terminated.

He was a fine role model to his children in his fair treatment to everyone, regardless of their background. He was very highly respected.

I find it interesting that he spent his career paving roads, because he, more than anyone I know, took full advantage of the sprawling streets of L.A. You see, his greatest passion was in automobiles. He owned a used car lot in the early 1950s, but this was only the beginning. Buy them, fix them, sell them, drive them. He just couldn't get enough. He owned literally hundreds of cars from the 1930s to the 2000s. Like a kid in a toy store, he fell in love with each one. And if he couldn't buy them all at once, he would get them all eventually, falling in love, over and over again. Spend much time with my dad and his siblings and you'll likely hear crazy stories about growing up, most of them about a car my grandpa brought home. There was the car that got hit by a train that any sane person would let rot in a junkyard. Not Grandpa; like something out of a Mickey Mouse cartoon, he went to work rebuilding it. See, only the back half was smashed in, so he found a similar car where only the front half was wrecked and went about cutting the cars in half with a hacksaw, then welding the good parts back together.

I believe my Aunt Claudia was given her first car about a dozen times, each one given and then taken away again before she even started driving. While most of us dread seeing our teenagers behind the wheel, Grandpa saw Claudia as a wonderful excuse to accelerate his wheeling and dealing. And Grandpa was definitely the person you wanted to bring with you to the dealership to haggle with the salesman, as long as you had the stamina to

spend 12 hours there and the strength to walk away if the deal, in Grandpa's eyes, wasn't quite right. I remember his small warehouse of old cars that I'd get to sit in as a kid, a few projects, a few gems, some of them truly one-of-a-kind. But this paled in comparison to the size of his collection in the 1960s when there were always at least 30 vintage cars in his possession. But the most remarkable thing about Grandpa was his complete knowledge of cars; he knew almost everything there was to know about each one of them. Show him a picture of any car made before 1980, and he could tell you the year, make and model of every one, no matter how small the difference from one year to the next. His love for cars was a true and complete kind of love. He saw cars as we might see a sparkling ocean or a beautiful sunset, something magnificent to behold.

He had other interests too. He was active for many years in the Rotary Club, and was a member of the Civic Center Speaker's Club. Grandpa was a member of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees organization for more than 30 years and was president for 24 years. He was instrumental in making it an organization that City Retirees could be assured had their best interests in mind. And he loved baseball ... he was a great fan of the old Pacific Coast League in the 1950s, when the minor league Los Angeles Angels was the only game in town. He then became a big Dodgers fan and would often talk about last night's game. Think of him when the Dodgers finally bring home another title tonight. Grandpa's favorite

baseball player was clearly my cousin, J.R. He spoke in that proud fatherly way about J.R.'s exploits on the diamond, sharing newspaper clippings any chance he got. He loved every minute of it.

Grandpa leaves behind his wife Martha; seven children, Claudia, Dennis, Bill, Betty, Patrick, Laurretta, and Julie; three step-children, Robert, Mario and Richard; 13 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. He was greatly loved by them all and he will be sorely missed.

I've had the honor now of giving a eulogy at both of my grandfathers' funerals. My Opa was an electrician, Grandpa Ed fixed the roads. One made a path and the other lit the way. And that's how I see the legacy left by these great men, not literally in their professional lives, but in their treatment of others, in their kindness and humor, in their care for their families, and in the love they showed as evidenced by the cloud of witnesses here today. They have set a lasting example for me, a well-lit path for me to follow. The book of Matthew says, "For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." I have found it because God blessed me with examples to look up to and with family to turn to. We are saddened at this immense loss today, but more than that, I feel something else.

I, for one, am grateful.

God Bless.

Ed Harding
1921-2020



R.I.P.



FEB. 2019
Ed Harding holds his Lifetime Achievement Award from the Club.



The Club sends its condolences to all of Ed's family and friends, and his former colleagues in the City and the RLACEI.

May he rest in peace.

AIRPORTS

Story and photos courtesy Airports

Aviation Career Day Flies Online

LAX's annual Aviation Career Day goes virtual.

On Oct. 28, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) virtually welcomed more than 500 high school students to LAX Aviation Career Day. Now in its fifth year, the half-day event exposed students from regional high schools to a wide variety of career paths, including presentations from airlines, construction firms, first responders, government agencies and a variety of divisions within Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA). The engaging program included question-and-answer sessions, videos and PowerPoint presentations. The premiere of a virtual LAX airfield tour capped off the day.

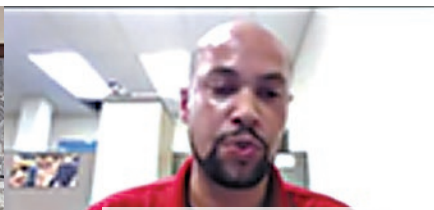
"Tens of thousands of people come together every day at LAX to deliver gold-standard service across a variety of professions, and Aviation Career Day lets high school students learn some of the stories behind the work our people do," said Michelle Schwartz, Chief Corporate Strategy and Affairs Officer, Airports. "With careers in information technology, law enforcement, marketing, engineering, project planning, construction and many other disciplines, aviation is where your career can truly take flight, as so many have at LAX."

Students from 19 Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) high schools, El Segundo High School and Lennox Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy joined the event, representing grades 9 through 12.

Students were able to choose from two different tracks, based on their interests. Participating organizations included: the City of Los Angeles, Clark



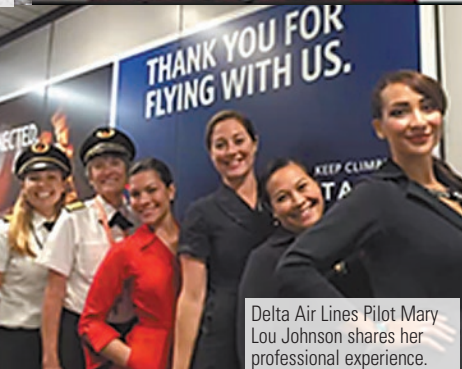
Airports Chief Executive Officer Justin Erbacci welcomes students.



Airport Superintendent of Operations Hiran Fernando details how LAX operations works.



Spartan College Instructor Dale Harrell explains the benefits of being a certified aircraft mechanic.



Delta Air Lines Pilot Mary Lou Johnson shares her professional experience.

Construction, Delta Air Lines, HireLAX Apprenticeship Readiness Program, JetBlue Airways, Los Angeles Airport Police, Mount San Antonio College's Aircraft Maintenance Technology Program, Poole Construction Company Limited (PCL), Signature Flight Support, Sling Pilot Academy, Southwest Airlines, Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology, Touchstone Project Solutions and the Transportation Security Administration. Staff from LAX's Airport Operations, Environmental Programs Group, the LAXceeders student volunteer program and LAX Pets Unstressing Passengers (PUPs) therapy dog program also presented on behalf of Airports. ■



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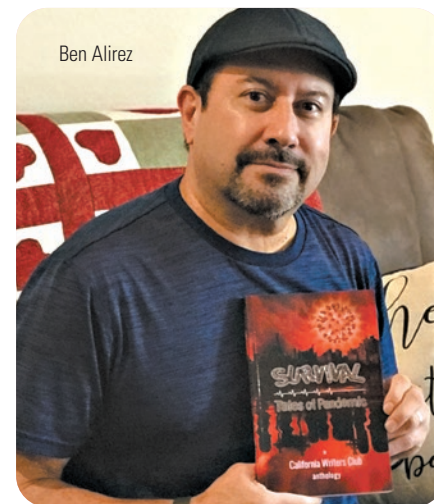
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DWP

A Pandemic Story

Retiree writes short story as part of anthology.



DWP Retiree Ben Alirez's fictional short story based on the pandemic has been selected for an anthology titled *Survival: Tales of Pandemic*.

Ben's short story, titled *Friday the Thirteenth*, centers around three main characters from Southern California who are affected by the school closures and their efforts to graduate in a world turned upside down.

Proceeds from the anthology, the first statewide to be published by the High Desert California Writers Club, go to charities or writing club branches. It is not a fundraiser for the High Desert California Writers Club itself.

"After interviewing several people for inspiration, including a civil service friend with three graduate-age children, I felt I had enough to turn the short story into a novel," Ben says. "I hope to complete it early next year."

We'll be looking for that, Ben! And congratulations on being part of the anthology.

The anthology is available on Amazon.com under its title. ■

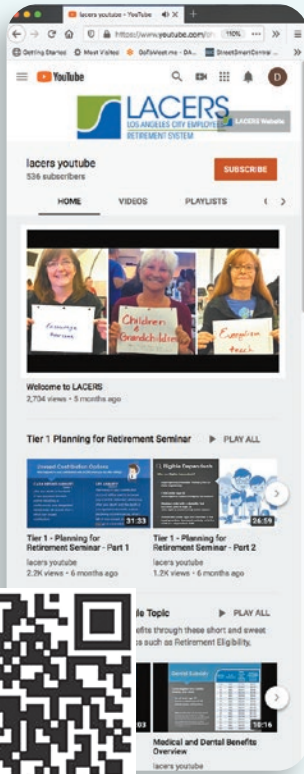


LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

Introducing the LACERS YouTube Channel

To supplement its informational offerings to members, LACERS has added a YouTube channel to promote enhanced learning opportunities. You can find a link to the channel in the bottom right-hand side of the footer on LACERS.org. For quicker access, scan the QR code with the camera on your phone to bring you directly to the channel.

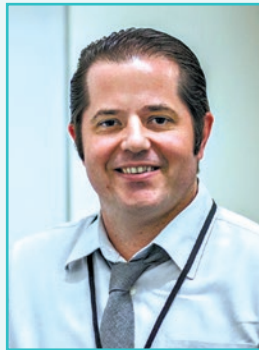
LACERS members are invited to check out the channel and like and subscribe, as new videos are added often!



FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES:

Sign Up for Retirement Planning Webinar

By Vanessa Lopez, LACERS



Nathan Herkelrath
Management Analyst, LACERS

For more information, visit

LACERS.org/attend-seminar. For quicker access, scan the QR code with the camera on your phone to bring you directly to the Website. LACERS looks forward to you joining in on a session!



New Logo, Same Commitment



LACERS

LACERS is proud to announce the launch of its new logo and brand identity as part of the ongoing evolution of the organization. The department has grown and evolved over this past year, and

is refreshing its brand to better reflect its identity. After careful consideration, LACERS has chosen a new logo that is modern with key elements that convey its mission and orientation for growth, while remaining true to its commitment to its members!

Its mission is to grow the plan assets and deliver premiere retirement services to its members—the employees of the City of LA—and to help them realize their goals and aspirations in retirement.

Along with announcing its new brand identity, LACERS has revamped several of its communications—from its Website to its publications. The new Website and brand identity together reflect the bold, energetic and forward-looking culture of the organization. LACERS hopes you like its new look and feel.

INSURANCE FROM THE CLUB

Long-Term Disability Insurance Is the Most Important Product You Can Get at the Club



Get it today. Here's why:

- Protect your monthly income! You never know what might happen to you.
- How would you pay your bills if you couldn't work?
- City and DWP employees have limited sick time or salary continuation and no State Disability Insurance (SDI). The Club's Long-Term Disability Insurance is more than an option - it's vital.

To learn more about your insurance options, schedule a visit with the Club's insurance experts:



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Ext. 136



Tiffany Sy
Member Services Counselor
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Ext. 202



MaryAnn Urdiales
Member Services Counselor
murdiales@employeesclub.com
Ext. 159

Phone and virtual meeting appointments available.



Email: help@employeesclub.com
Or call: (800) 464-0452

LACEA Insurance Services, Inc. ('Employees Club of California') is a licensed insurance agency offering insurance benefits to qualified Club members. The Club's CA DOI Lic. No. is 0B98000.

GENERAL SERVICES

A Holiday of Giving

Dept. retools its holiday plans around giving.

GSD HOLIDAY COMMITTEE
Invites you to continue our tradition of

Giving

General Services, which in normal years hosts a big holiday party, is switching gears during the pandemic to emphasize giving.

"It was important to keep our holiday tradition going," said Eric Robles, Director of Special Services and Club Member. "General Services wanted to continue with celebrating the season, including our annual giving back."

The General Services Holiday Committee has incorporated some of the aspects of its luncheon drawings into donations and giving to others.

The Holiday Plan

General Services employees are invited to give to one of three recognized charities. When you do (make sure you use the link, provided), you'll be entered to participate in the department's gift giveaway.

The charities and the links are (use these links to be eligible):

- **City of Hope** - ourhope.cityofhope.org/cityofla-gsd
- **Operation Underground Railroad** - my.ourrescue.org/fundraisers/general-services-department-city-of-los-angeles
- **Lifeline4Paws** - lifeline4paws.org/LACity/

Donations of \$5 earn participants one ticket to the gift giveaway. Donations of \$20 earn five entries, and one additional entry every \$20.

For additional information, contact Cristina Flores: Cristina.Flores@lacity.org ■

AIRPORTS

Story and photo courtesy AAE

AAE LAX Names Scholarship Winners

Association of Airport Employees announces 2020 scholarship honorees.

On Sept. 20, the Association of Airport Employees (AAE) at Los Angeles World Airports awarded 20 scholarships to dependents of Airports employees for their outstanding academic achievements.

The top four candidates received scholarships of \$2,175 in honor of fallen Airport Police Officer Tommy Scott. The four winners of the Tommy Scott scholarships are:

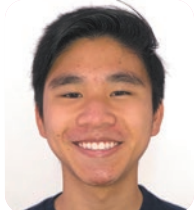
- Vian De La Torre (related to Anthony De La Torre, Facility Maintenance Group);
- D’Ajah Haynes (related to Danita Haynes, Accounting);
- Justin Leung (related to Linda Mach-Leung, IMTG); and
- Dorian Echols (related to Laronda Echols, Commercial Development Group).



AAE top scholarship winner Vian De La Torre.



AAE top scholarship winner D’Ajah Haynes.



AAE top scholarship winner Justin Leung.



AAE top scholarship winner Dorian Echols.

Sixteen general scholarship winners received scholarships in the amount of \$1,000. They are:

- Peyton Adams (related to Paula Adams, Administration)
- Jessica Sample (related to Denise Sample, Commercial Development Group)
- Kennedye Davis (related to Darlene Fuller, Traffic)
- Terrin Holman (related to Lee Holman, Traffic)
- Kalia Thompson (related to Zach Thompson, Public Relations)
- Kendall Washington (related to Kelly Washington, Airport Police)
- Christy Seguitan and Cheryl Seguitan (related to David Seguitan, Facilities Maintenance Group)
- Mahki Backstrom (related to Tina Backstrom, EPD-Sustainable Campus Facilities)
- Francesca Lewis (related to Cynthia Lewis, Planning and Development Group)
- SheriDan Robinson (related to Dan Robinson, Facilities Maintenance Group)
- Ayana Woods (related to Victor Woods, Airport Security)
- Emaya Trahan (related to Ed Trahan, Airport Police)
- Layla McCain (related to Valerie McCain, CEO’s Office)
- Isabella Sarullo (related to Teresa Sarullo, Airport Operations)
- Natalie Greene (related to Pam Pace-Greene, Planning and Development Group)

Congratulations to the honorees, and good luck in your studies!

Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

Santa Barbara

“Scott Dinger, welder at Rec and Parks, and I were in Santa Barbara for my birthday and went whale watching. We saw lots of humpbacks and dolphins and sea lions, but this ‘Painted Cave’ visit was the most breathtaking for its color and texture. Also, the boat captain did an awesome job of getting the catamaran-hulled vessel so close to the coast of Santa Cruz Island.”

— **Christine LaSalle, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment**



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, click “SEND TO ALIVE!” in the menu. You’ll find a convenient online form to send your text and pics for publication.



CLUB MEMBER EXCLUSIVE DEALS!



SAVE UP TO 40% BY REGISTERING YOUR CREDIT CARD.

Only the Club Gets You These Deals at Office Depot!

Club-exclusive contract discount can save you up to 40 percent at Office Depot. It’s huge! (Use your pre-registered credit card, and bam, there’s the discount!) The Club discount is good on all eligible items storewide.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR CREDIT CARD:

1. Call the Club at (800) 464-0452.
2. Speak to Cesilee Castillo (ext. 126) or Genesis Martinez (ext. 226).
3. Wait 72 hours for registration to take effect.
4. You’ll receive the contract price or the sale price, whichever is lower.
5. The deal works in-store or online.



Save on Gear to Work Remotely!

The Club discount is good on all eligible items storewide. Here are some items of note this month:



EMPLOYEES CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

EmployeesClub.com

Office DEPOT. OfficeMax®

From Our Home to Yours

Isaiah



Happy Holidays from the Hawkins family.

Like all of us during the pandemic, the family of Club CEO John Hawkins and his wife, Kelley, are celebrating this special season at home. On the next few pages are some ways they're making it special, and you can, too.

Holiday Deals to enjoy at home.

John and Kelley recommend these Club deals that are perfect for home. Put them to good use, right where you are.

Discounted Gift Certificates!

See's Candies

Gift certificates for one pound of See's Candies \$12.95, Dec. 2 – 18 only, while supplies last. Limit four. (Regular Club pricing after that.)



**40%
OFF**



**10%
OFF**

Honeybaked Hams

\$22.50 for a \$25 gift certificate. Limit four.

Connect with these deals on the Club Webstore: employeesclub.com

- Alpine Swiss:** 15% off anything on the site.
- Apple Products:** 10% off select Apple products.
- Samsung:** up to 30% off select Samsung products.
- Skechers:** 30% off Skechers shoes.
- Gourmet Gift Baskets:** 15% percent off all products online.
- Omaha Steaks:** 10% off online purchases plus free shipping on select combos.
- 1-800-Flowers:** 15% off.
- BULLS Bikes:** 14% off up to 2 bikes.
- Pegasus Bikes:** 14% off up to two bikes.

Discounts powered by entertainment

In addition, Entertainment has many online offers for big brand retailers, including:

- 1-800-PetMeds
- American Eagle
- Outfitters
- Ann Taylor
- Athleta
- Carter's
- Chicago Steak Company
- Clinique
- Dell Outlet
- Fossil
- Kay Jewelers
- Keds
- Lane Bryant
- Macy's
- Michael Kors
- PUMA
- Sephora
- Steve Madden
- Wine.com



Kelley

John

Hannah

This year's holidays are a perfect time for staying at home and enjoying that extra cookie. With Club CEO John Hawkins (middle, right) are (from left) son Isaiah, wife Kelley and daughter Hannah.

Read with love.



A Hawkins Holiday Reading List

What to read while staying safer at home this holiday season? Below (and continuing on alive.employeesclub.com) are some of the Library's most requested winter holiday books, as well as some titles celebrating the season generally. If your holiday isn't represented, feel free to email children@lapl.org, and the Librarians can help. John and Kelley hope these suggestions help bring the season to you and yours and make it merry and bright. (Special thanks to the Librarians and to Susan Lendroth, Public Relations Specialist, for her assistance.)

Scan these codes with your phone's camera to access books.

E-BOOKS



LIBRARY TO GO



Christmas

For children - Younger Readers

Silent Night

illustrated by Lara Hawthorne
Available via Library to Go

This is a beautifully illustrated Christmas story to sing to your little ones. *The Holy Family* is depicted with dark skin, making this title a wonderful addition to diverse Christmas titles.

For children - Older Readers

EllRay Jakes Rocks the Holidays!

Sally Warner
Available via Library To Go, eBook

When EllRay Jakes is encouraged to emcee the winter concert at school, he fears it isn't because of

his charming personality, but instead to show the diversity of the school.

For Adults



Skipping Christmas

John Grisham
Available via Library to Go, Overdrive

With their daughter, Blair, on a year-long Peace Corp assignment in Africa, the Kranks decide to forgo all the buying, baking, caroling and decorating and skip Christmas for a 10-day Caribbean cruise.

Hanukkah

For children - Younger Readers

Happy Hanukkah Lights

Jacqueline Jules (Hechtkopf), illustrated by Michelle Shapiro
Available via Hoopla Ebook

Count from one to eight as candles are lit, latkes are eaten, and the dreidel is spun!

For children - Older Readers



Oskar and the Eight Blessings

Richard Simon, illustrated by Mark Siegel
Available via Library to Go

Arriving in New York on the seventh day of Hanukkah in 1938, Oskar experiences many acts of kindness.

For Adults

The Worlds We Think We Know: Stories

Dalia Rosenfeld
Available via Library to Go, Hoopla

These humorous, secular and religious short stories span several countries and continents: the United States, Israel and European countries.

Kwanzaa

Younger Readers

My First Kwanzaa

Karen Katz
Available via Library To Go

A young girl exuberantly describes how her family celebrates Kwanzaa.

Older Readers

Together for Kwanzaa

Juwanda G. Ford
Available via Library To Go, E-book

A snowstorm threatens to keep Kayla's family from

being together as Kwanzaa begins. Details about the holiday are revealed as the story unfolds.

For Adults

A Kwanzaa Fable

Copage
Available via Library to Go

After losing his father to a sudden heart attack, 13-year-old Jordan is forced to grow up fast when he must take on the responsibility of his younger siblings.

Solstice

For children

The Shortest Day

Susan Cooper, illustrated by Carson Ellis
Available via Library to Go

This illustrated poem describes traditional European solstice celebrations of darkness and light.

Winter Season

For children - Younger Readers



A Big Bed for Little Snow

Grace Lin
Available via Library to Go, E-book

This cozy read-aloud has a whimsical explanation for snowy weather – Little Snow is jumping on his feather bed!

For children - Older Readers

Wait, Rest, Pause: Dormancy in Nature

Marcie Flinchum Atkins
Available via Library to Go, E-book

Beautiful photographs of plants and animals in winter show the cycle of the seasons.

Sign up for FUN activities from the Library

The Library invites *Alive!* readers and their families to join the Library this winter for some fresh, fun activities like working with markers, learning about the Neighborhood Science program, participating in a coding challenge – and reading of course! Register for the Winter Reading Challenge at lapl.org/winter. Complete five activities and be entered into a drawing to win a prize from the Library Store!

Wait! There are more book recommendations, including for grownups, on the Web *Alive!*: alive.employeesclub.com/holidaybooks

From Our Home to Yours *Alive!* Feature, continued



The Hawkins family wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.

Bake from the heart.



Christmas Cooking With the Club

Christmas Pot Roast



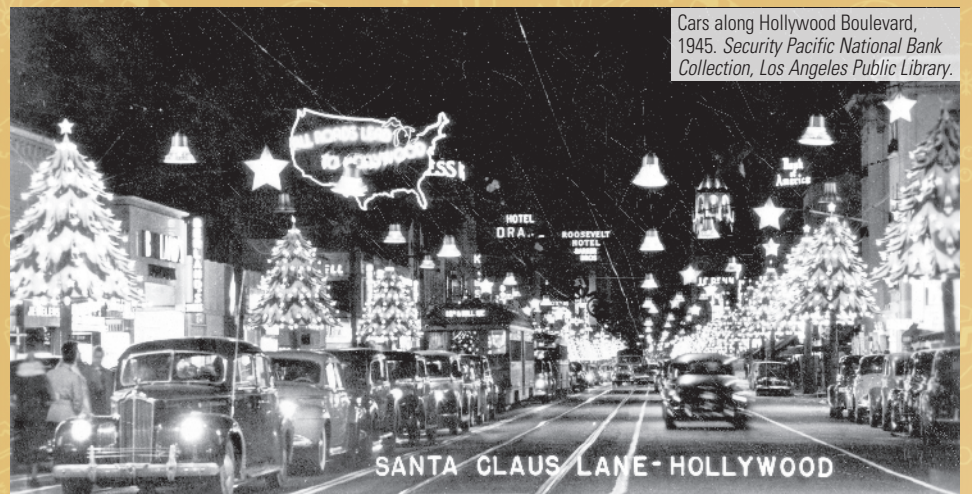
Chef Larios

In many Club Member households this holiday, the scents of the season will delight: pine, holly, cookies, etc. To that you can most definitely add pot roast! Chef Larios gets in on the holiday fun by contributing a fantastic slow-cooker Christmas post roast recipe that's sure to be incredibly delicious and a star of the holiday hearth. Happy cooking!

Find the recipe on the *Alive!* Website here: alive.employeesclub.com/cooking

Holidays of Yesteryear

What has been – the holidays in Los Angeles – will certainly be again in years to come. Here are some vintage photos courtesy of the Los Angeles Public Library. We thank Christina Rice, Sr. Librarian, Photo Collection, Los Angeles Public Library, for her assistance.



Cars along Hollywood Boulevard, 1945. Security Pacific National Bank Collection, Los Angeles Public Library.

SANTA CLAUS LANE - HOLLYWOOD

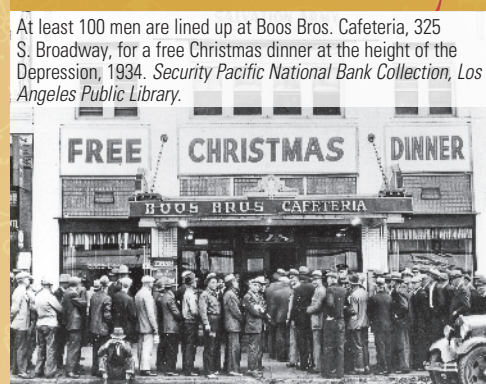


A woman poses as a Christmas tree, 1936. Santa Monica. Security Pacific National Bank Collection, Los Angeles Public Library.



Preparing for Las Posadas at the Lincoln Heights Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library, 1971. Pacific National Bank Collection, Los Angeles Public Library.

Celebrating Hanukkah at the Valley Jewish Community Center, North Hollywood, 1960. Valley Times Collection, Los Angeles Public Library.



At least 100 men are lined up at Boos Bros. Cafeteria, 325 S. Broadway, for a free Christmas dinner at the height of the Depression, 1934. Security Pacific National Bank Collection, Los Angeles Public Library.





Help Others for the Holidays

Please be generous.

Many fellow City employees are hurting due to the pandemic. Can you help make their holiday season brighter?

As the virus pandemic continues into the 2020 holiday season, the hardships faced by some City Employees and their families are even more critical. Club Angels, the charity started by staff members of the Employees Club, invites you to join our efforts to help.

Since the Club Angels appeal began, the charity has provided nearly \$13,500 in grocery assistance to approximately 70 fellow City Employees through your gifts and matching funds from the Club.

"As we enter the Christmas and Hanukkah season and the COVID pandemic continues, people are really hurting," says Arlene Herrero, Club Angels President. "Club Angels is there for Club Members in need during this very special time. Can you help make their holiday season brighter?"

"If you are facing hardship, please reach out to us. Club Angels is here to help."



Thanks to your donations, these groceries were delivered by Club Angels to a City Employee in need.

The Club encourages City Employees and everyone to contribute to the Club Angels fund, accessed on its GoFundMe page. Donations go to City Employees in need; Club Angels and the Employees Club earn nothing from the transaction. Donations might be tax deductible; consult your tax professional.

**To donate, go to:
ClubAngels.org**

Club Angels is a separate charity begun by Club staff.



CITYWIDE

Donate to a Toy Drive!

Many City departments host holiday toy drives in normal years. We've found three who are hosting drives during this pandemic year. To limit contact, and since we're working from home, the Club will not be participating, but we encourage you to be generous by participating in one of these.



Brian Sibert (front) and the toy drive gang at Sanitation's West Valley Yard are ready to accept donations.

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.

LAPD Northeast

LAPD's Northeast Station has given away up to 1,000 toys a 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 by Friday, Dec. 11, 3353 N San Fernando Rd.

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. 16, as West Valley donates the toys to the Guadalupe Center the next day.

Be Club!

THE VIDEO



A CLUB PREMIERE!

Watch on YouTube starting Friday, Dec. 18 @ noon

Search **Employees Club of California** or **Be Club**



The Employees Club Responds to 2020.

Grab a snack as the Club premieres its end-of-the-year recap video on YouTube.

Be Club, the Club's fun but informative recap of 2020 – a year like no other – will have its worldwide debut at noon Friday, Dec. 18 and be available for streaming thereafter. Viewing will be open to everyone.



"The Club has never had a year like 2020," says Club COO Robert Larios, who produced the video. "We wanted to show all the ways the Club was strong for its Members during the pandemic. But we also show how municipal employees gave us hope during this very difficult year. You gave us hope, and the Club gave you hope in return. That's what this is all about."



Be Club was produced during October and November, and safety protocols were practiced. The Club thanks Rose Watson and Robert Baker at Rec and Parks for their assistance in the use of Orcutt Ranch for the outdoor filming.



"This video is for all our Members – in the City of LA, the County of LA, the LAUSD, the State of California, and other jurisdictions. We thank you and we honor you. See you on the 18th!"



LAPD

Dressed to the Nines (One One)



Valley Day Watch



Jessica Loya, Adrian Smith and Valerie Locsin. The top three winners.



Anthony Leymore as Tron.



Emily Zavala as a bingo game.



Sasha Gotelip as Minnie Mouse. This costume won "cutest."



Raphie's bunny suit from A Christmas Story.



Stephanie Estrada as Sarah Sanderson from Hocus Pocus (second-place winner) and Stephanie Burkhart as COVID-19. Stephanie Burkhart won third place.

Lourdes Varas as a unicorn.



Deby Herdrich as Ruth Bader Ginsburg. First-place winner.



Mayra Benitez as Indiana Jones.



Celeste Carteno as a hippie.



Nicole Garza as Inside Job.



Story and photos courtesy Jean Sarfaty, LAPD/Communications, Club Rep, and Stephanie Estrada, LAPD/Communications

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 many of the participants.

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

More pics on Web *Alive!*
alive.employeesclub.com

Valley PM Watch



Gina Narvaez as Princess Jasmine. First-prize winner.



Kim Taylor as a skeleton.



Daniela Ramirez as Wednesday Addams from The Addams Family.



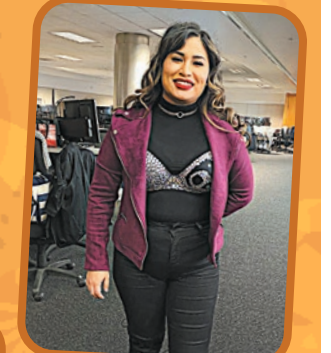
Kathy McMahan as the Queen of Hearts.



Lasharae Session as Catwoman.



Joanna Power as Ariel. Second-place winner.



Anna Figueroa as Selena. Third-place winner.



Jeremy McRae as an outlaw.



Bobby Hernandez as the Grim Reaper.



SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT FOR LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES ASSN WELFARE BENEFIT PLAN

This is a summary of the annual report of the Los Angeles City Employees Assn Welfare Benefit Plan, a life insurance, long-term disability and death benefits plan (Employer Identification Number 95-1667955, Plan Number 501), for the plan year 01/01/2019 through 12/31/2019. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Los Angeles City Employees Assn. has committed itself to pay certain benefit claims incurred under the terms of the plan.

Insurance Information

The plan has insurance contracts with Unum Life Insurance Company of America and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to pay certain LONG TERM CARE, Long-term disability, ADD claims incurred under the terms of the plan. The total premiums paid for the plan year ending 12/31/2019 were \$5,888,141.

Basic Financial Statement

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$619,023 as of the end of plan year, compared to -\$401,434 as of the beginning of the plan year. During the plan year the plan experienced a change in its net assets of \$1,020,457. This change includes unrealized appreciation and depreciation in the value

of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. During the plan year, the plan had total income of \$16,853,620 including employer contributions of \$0, employee contributions of \$11,851,927, gains/(losses) of \$0 from the sale of assets, and earnings from investments of \$51,680. Plan expenses were \$15,833,163. These expenses included \$4,445,124 in administrative expenses, \$11,388,039 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries, and \$0 in other expenses.

Your Rights to Additional Information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. An accountant's report.
2. Financial information and information on payments to service providers.
3. Assets held for investment.
4. Insurance information, including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of Brian G Trent, who is a representative of the plan administrator, at 311 South

Spring Street #1300, Los Angeles, CA 90013-1203 and phone number, 213-620-0388.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan: 311 South Spring Street #1300, Los Angeles, CA 90013-1203, and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: Public Disclosure Room, Room N-1513, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) (PRA), no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid Office of Management and

Budget (OMB) control number. The Department notes that a Federal agency cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA, and displays a currently valid OMB control number, and the public is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3507. Also, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3512.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average less than one minute per notice (approximately 3 hours and 11 minutes per plan). Interested parties are encouraged to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Attention: Departmental Clearance Officer, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room N-1301, Washington, DC 20210 or email DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1210-0040.

OMB Control Number 1210-040 (expires 06/30/2022)

PUBLIC WORKS

It's In the Books

Retiree Ken Wang pens technical book to pass knowledge along.

When Ken Wang worked in Water Distribution Design at the DWP, “two Engineers with more than three decades of service retired at the same time,” Ken explains. “They took their knowledge with them.”

“There were no manuals, and no one I could turn to,” he continues. “I was very frustrated. I made up my mind – someday I will write a book for people who want to learn legal descriptions, and the book will be presented in a logical way for easy learning.”

In retirement from Public Works, Ken has done just that. He wrote and self-published a book called “Legal Descriptions and Beyond.” He says the book is for property owners, surveyors, civil engineers, realtors, contractors, title officers, escrow officers, and right-of-way engineers and agents.

“I have accumulated four decades of knowledge. I realized that legal descriptions could be used to make money, so I incorporated the application of using this knowledge in my book.”

“It’s for professionals. It’s a tool book.”

Ken hopes it will be useful for professionals in the field.

“You can learn to read and write legal descriptions in a very short time,” he says. “So when you see your Grant Deed you’ll understand the easement’s legal description, mineral rights in your property, etc.”

“Also unique about this book is that each chapter stands on its own, so you can learn it and use it without having gone through the whole book.”

“For those who want to know the correctness of the legal description they prepared, just use my retracement technique; instantly, you will find out it is correct or not. It’s a perfect book for self-study.”

The book is available at Amazon.com (link below). Or you can look in the *Alive!* classifieds online, where Ken is offering the book to Club Members at a discount.

“The application of knowledge can earn money; this is what makes learning legal descriptions exciting,” he concludes. “My slogan is, ‘Enrich your coffer with knowledge.’”

Find Ken’s book at Amazon:

Hover your phone’s camera over this code to access Legal Descriptions and Beyond on Amazon

Ken has posted a series of short videos on YouTube that complement the book:

What is ‘Legal Description/Grand Deed?’

youtu.be/-RZ3ALOF1_Y

How to Read and Write Long Format Legal Descriptions

youtu.be/t6EVu-pjOJo

How to Read and Write Short Format Legal Descriptions in Five Minutes

youtu.be/7depDwdCMW4

How to Avoid Property Line Disputes and Build Property Line Walls

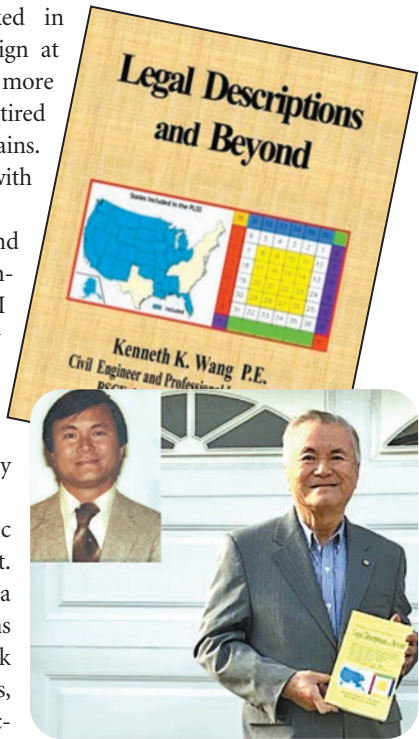
youtu.be/VQDGBHF0vtI

How to Read and Write Legal Descriptions

youtu.be/QOD94xYzoq0tylno

How to Read and Write the Subtitle of a Tract Map

youtu.be/YXqJzYE3JkI



Ken Wang

Amazon Link



Scenes PART 9 From a Pandemic

Alive! continues its documentation of City employees as they take a multitude of measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and keep LA safe. (The first part was in our April 2020 issue.) Here are entries from the Club and the City Twitter feeds about City Employees and Club Members at work during this trying time.

The phrases indicated by a # or an @ are Internet search locators that work as shortcuts to help find desired locations online. We included that text here for completeness; if you want to see those locations, simply retype those phrases into your online browser.

Mayor of LA



“Rapid antigen testing can detect COVID-19 in as little as 15 minutes and at lower costs than other testing. With @CountyofLA and @USC, we are leading the way with a new pilot to explore this technology and help develop standards.”



Oct 27

Culture LA



“We are proud of DCA superheroes like Rebeca Guerrero (c), Jamie Costa (l) & Efrén Landeros (not pictured), joined by staff lead Mr. Incredible, at Glassell Park Rec Cntr. All are helping to run our voting centers. Make your voice heard, #vote!”



Nov. 2

Council/Joe Buscaino



“Today we broke ground on the \$71 million #WilmingtonWaterfront with the @PortofLA, @LADWP and the community! While this has been years in the making, in 28 months, we will finally be able to celebrate together at the grand opening!”



Oct. 29

LAPD HQ



“The LAPD is working in collaboration with our city, county, state and federal partners with one common goal — to ensure Angelenos are safe, and their voting rights are being protected. Tonight, more than ever, we must come together as one — to ensure the safety of all.”



Nov. 2

Port Police



“The Los Angeles Port Police partnered up with LAPD, LASD, LBPD, and HBPD in the first Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) trunk or treat event in Long Beach. We saw several local Special Olympic athletes and area families that joined in on this fun and safe event.

Please stay safe and healthy this Halloween!”



Oct. 29

LAPD Communications



“@911lapd personnel dressed up in their Dodger gear to support the boys in blue while supporting and backing our men and women in blue! Go Dodgers! Go LAPD! @lapd_vargas”



Oct. 27

Alive! is now its own Website...

GO TO: alive.employeesclub.com

Yes! *Alive!* is now a great new Website ... and a streamlined, more portable version of the paper you’ve come to know and love, delivered to your door!





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

2020 Executive Board of Directors

- Ruth B. Perry, President
- Beverly J. Clark, First Vice President
- Phil Orland, Second Vice President
- Harold Danowitz, Treasurer
- Verkin (Vicki) Keoseian, Secretary

RLACEI DIRECTORS

Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

- | | |
|--|----------|
| Beverly J. Clark,
Publicity Director | Ext. 716 |
| Hal Danowitz,
Treasurer | Ext. 707 |
| Dennis Harding,
Entertainment Director | Ext. 704 |
| Tom Moutes,
Health & Legislative Director | Ext. 710 |
| Phil Orland, Golf Director | Ext. 709 |
| Ruth B. Perry,
Membership Director | Ext. 717 |
| Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, Director | Ext. 718 |

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 retirement 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 Ruth B. Perry, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717 or 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
Phone: (800) 678-4145 ext 716

2020 RETIREE EVENTS

All RLACEI Events postponed until 2021

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

Tom Moutes



RETIREES UPDATE

City Budget Issues And LACERS Impact

by Tom Moutes, RLACEI Director

On Oct. 23, the City Administrative Officer (CAO) released the First Financial Status Report for the current fiscal year. As you might imagine, the news was not good. Overall, the City and LACERS have not fared too badly in areas that tend to get pension plans in trouble. But let's look more closely.

The projected shortfall grew from a projected \$200 million to \$400 million, to \$400 million to \$600 million. The CAO's report indicated this shortfall will represent from 6 percent to 9 percent of the 2020-21 budget and "absent increased or new sources of funds, therefore, the City will only be able to address this revenue challenge by aggressively reducing costs and services in the coming months using all available fiscal restraint tools."

What does this budgetary shortfall mean to LACERS retirees like us? The answer is likely not much, but it is too early to tell for sure.

The Good News

The City has always made its full annual contribution to LACERS. The LACERS Board, in conjunction with its actuary, determines the percentage of pay the City needs to provide. That percentage of pay is multiplied by the payroll the City derives through its budget process, and the result of that multiplication provides the contribution amount the City owes LACERS. While there were some discussions during the Great Recession about delaying part of the LACERS contribution, those conversations didn't make it very far. The full City contributions were paid.

Also, there are at least two good reasons for the City to ensure LACERS is well funded:

- The City is legally required to make benefit payments to its Retirees. As we saw with the cities of Stockton and Vallejo, even bankruptcy won't necessarily get the city off the hook for retirement benefit payments. The City would be better off having those payments come from a well-funded pension plan rather than straight out of the City coffers and without the benefit of investment returns.

The City's credit rating likely would take a hit if the City failed to fully fund its pension obligations. If the City's credit rating decreases, it will cost the City more to borrow money, which it does every year.

Why Public Pension Funding Gets Out of Whack

Public pension plans, like LACERS, tend to get into financial difficulty in four ways:

- The plan sponsors (in our case the City) don't make their full annual contributions;
- The plan sponsors raise benefits without properly funding the benefit increases;
- The retirement plan boards manipulate the actuarial assumptions to allow the plan sponsors to pay less in contributions than they should; and/or
- The investment returns don't meet or exceed the assumed returns.

Let's look at how the City and LACERS rate in these four areas:

- As stated earlier in this article, the City always has made its full contribution. While one Councilmember at a recent Budget and Finance Committee meeting brought up the concept of delaying part of the contribution to LACERS next fiscal year, the CAO quickly cautioned against that.
- The City has increased some benefits over the years, such as allowing for Government Service Buybacks and the Early Retirement Incentive Program during the Great Recession but has not raised benefits as much as many other jurisdictions.
- While the LACERS Board twice rejected lowering the assumed annual rate of investment return from 7.25 percent to 7 percent, it recently made that change. In the last ten years, LACERS assumed rate of return has been lowered from 8 percent to 7 percent, a much more reasonable assumption.
- LACERS investment returns over the last five years have averaged approximately 6 percent. This is not too bad but would become problematic if the trend continues.

So, overall, the City and LACERS have not fared too badly in the areas that tend to get pension plans in trouble – especially if the City continues to make its full annual contribution and does not ask LACERS for any funding favors like it did during the Great Recession.

Stay tuned! RLACEI will continue to report on this extremely important issue as the fiscal year progresses. ■

LACERS BOARD UPDATE

2020 LACERS Insurance Plans Have Added Benefits

by Michael R. Wilkinson, LACERS Commissioner



Michael R. Wilkinson

As you may know, LACERS is having an extended period for open enrollments this cycle, which runs through March 31, 2021. I am happy to report that there are several improvements to the LACERS health plans that we were able to negotiate for the 2021 plan year.

The added benefits include:

Kaiser

- **Transportation benefit:** 24 one-way trips per year to medical appointments and pharmacy added to Senior Advantage
- **Fitness program:** Active and Fit gym membership program is added to the HMO plan (under 65) like what is offered for the Senior Advantage plan
- **Online Fitness:** More than 4,000 online fitness classes that include cardio, dance, meditation and bootcamp through ClassPass
- **Calm App:** A meditation app that helps lower stress and encourages mindfulness
- **MyStrength:** This digital app helps members help build emotional wellness by setting goals and plans to become stronger and happier

Anthem Blue Cross

- **Lifetime maximums removed** from PPO and Medicare supplement plans. The \$2 million lifetime cap has been removed and it is now unlimited
- **Increased drug allowance.** The monthly limit for drugs under the Select Generics benefit is increased from a 90-day to a 100-day supply
- **Telehealth visits:** Visual telehealth visits are added on the same terms as office visit for in network non-COVID19 visits
- **Sydney Health App:** The app allows access to your account and includes a link to make a doctor visit using live video

SCAN

- **Prescriptions extended** from three months to 100 days
- **Health Tech.** A technology support line to help using your computer to access medical care
- **Brain HQ:** A brain fitness program that helps improve memory and attention

United Healthcare

- **Transportation benefit:** 30 one-way trips per year for medical appointments and pharmacy
- **Meal delivery program:** Three meals a day for four weeks following discharge from an inpatient hospital or nursing home stay

Note: Information listed here is based on LACERS 2021 Open Enrollment overview. ■

Correction:

In November's LACERS Board Update, the year-to-date investment returns were incorrectly reported as plus 4.47 percent. The correct amount is minus 4.47 percent. Alive! regrets the error.

A Note on COVID-19

To Our RLACEI Retirees:

Another month! Yes, it has now been almost nine months living a new lifestyle. Many of us are coping well and others of us need a little more laughter. As Retirees, we feel that we've seen a lot and know a lot (and we do!).

However, we are now entering uncharted territory. The holidays are here, and we are learning how to be creative and safe in our celebrations with family and friends this year.

Here are a few suggestions to help cope with stress and promote wellbeing:

- Pause. Breathe.
- Take breaks from upsetting content.
- Take care of your body.
- Reach out and stay connected.
- Seek help if you feel overwhelmed or unsafe.

The RLACEI Board wishes everyone a happy, safe and healthy holiday season!

RLACEI



Ira Starks

RETIREES ON THE MOVE

Meet Ira Starks

By Beverly Clark, RLACEI Publicity Chair

California State Disability Dept.

Ira migrated to Los Angeles from Asbury Park, N.J. as a young adult. As a child, she hated the cold winters in New Jersey and fled the snow for sunny Southern California. She left her eight brothers and sisters behind; all have relocated to various parts of the country with one sister living here in the Los Angeles area. "I love California and will never leave!" she says. "Although as a young adult, I once wrote the Italian government requesting to live there!"

When she made up her mind to retire, Ira was already prepared to enjoy this new chapter.

Ira is definitely a Retiree on the Move, as she spends her days with many activities and hobbies. Her motto is "enjoy life." Her most loved activity is thrift-store shopping. She started as a little girl to shops with her mother. Ira says about 90 percent of her wardrobe consists of items she's picked up from thrift stores.

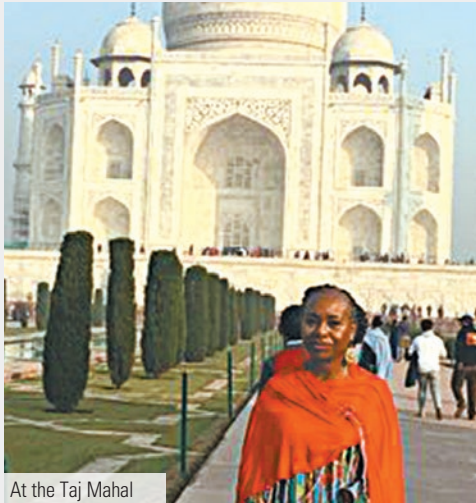
She has found many great deals and treasures at a nominal price. Many of the items she's purchased still had the price tags on them. She says thrift shopping is a good investment, but it takes time to find the exact item you're looking for and patience sorting through things.

She is so good with thrift shopping that friends have given her lists of things to find for them. Being retired has given her more time to enjoy hopping from store to store. An added advantage is when it gets too hot in her home, she can go to a thrift store with air conditioning to cool off! A win-win.

Her second most loved retirement activity is traveling. When friends ask where she has traveled, they quickly reverse

the question to, "Where have you not traveled?" Ira is excited about her planned trip to Dubai and Egypt next year and hopes traveling will be back to normal by then. Ira's list of travels include Thailand, Dubai, India, Rome, Pompei, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil, Paris, the Netherlands, Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas, Cancun, Mazatlán, and Canada. Her goal is to plan and experience a new destination every year.

In retirement, Ira has become active with LACERS Well and RLACEI, and she attends meetings of Local 721. She is a season-ticket holder with the Kirk Douglas Theatre and the Ahmanson Theatre, where she attended plays and concerts regularly before the pandemic. She also has a membership with the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens Center.



At the Taj Mahal

What are your words of wisdom for those about to retire?

"Retirement is the best-kept secret. I always looked forward to retirement." Ira recommends that you "make a list of things you've

always wanted to do but didn't have the time, and do it. My motto is: enjoy life.

"Most ladies seem to fall right into retirement with ease by shopping, enjoying their grandkids and hanging out with other ladies. Men on the other hand call me and ask what do I do in retirement. I tell them to think about what they want to do. There are so many activities available, for instance; fishing, golfing, tennis visiting museums. Go out and enjoy."

What was the smartest thing you did to prepare for retirement?

"I made some not-so-smart mistakes. But I am very pleased to be retired and enjoying life."

What do you miss about your years of service with the City?

"I loved directing traffic and was exceptionally good at it. When officials and dignitaries came to town, I was called to duty and happy. However, I did not enjoy writing tickets. I was horrible. I was so stressed, I would cry. I just couldn't find parking violations like the other Officers!"

If you could change anything about retired life, what would it be?

"A bigger check! Other than that, I am as happy as I can be."

Since the shelter-in-place order during COVID-19, how has life changed for you?

"I try to get out the house and go somewhere every day while social distancing. I have more phone conversations and watch more TV programs. I email and use my computer more. I hate wearing a mask – but I do!

"I used to go to the spa once a month with a group of ladies and had so many more activities that I am unable to do now. I still take walks and have some limited social activities, but I am never bored.

"Enjoy life!"



In Rio de Janeiro



Winner of the LACERS Well Roaring '20s Contest.



On a river boat in Australia

Best Wishes, Neil

Longtime Board member Neil Ricci has retired from the RLACEI Board.



Neil Ricci

Neil served on the Board for many years in various capacities. He joined the Board after retiring from the Data Processing Operations

Section of Public Works/Street Maintenance with 33 years of City service.

Neil has found his tenure serving on the Board to be challenging and rewarding. He says he has thoroughly enjoyed working on the Board, and his only regret is that he is not as "spry" as he once was to continue serving. Neil has been privileged to see many accomplishments for Retirees through his many years as a Board member.

The Board appreciates Neil's contributions and wishes him all the best as he looks forward to spending more time with his four prize-winning Irish Setters.

Annual Membership/Holiday Meeting Postponed

The RLACEI annual general membership meeting and holiday party, which is generally held this month, has been postponed, as we all continue to stay quarantined and limit our activities during the coronavirus pandemic. The new scheduled date is May 6, 2021. Further information will be provided as we get closer to the date. The installation of Board Directors will take place at that time.



Become an RLACEI Member

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. We are over 6,500 strong! Members enjoy all RLACEI events such as the golf tournament, member's picnic, and holiday party. RLACEI membership includes FREE membership in the Employees Club of California with access to all Club group benefits (insurance, discounts, etc.).

Get FREE membership through the end of 2020 for those retiring Aug. 1 through Nov. 30, 2020!

Call (800) 678-4145 x717, or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG and join today!

Sign Up!

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51-100 WIN

\$5 gift card (See's or Starbucks)

101-150 WIN

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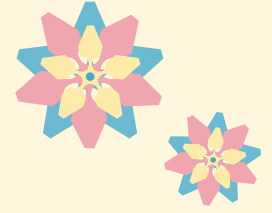


Find us: Log on to Facebook, then search for RLACEI

Join at: RLACEI.org (must be Retired City employee)



Life's 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	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Abdellah, Maria A.	Custodian	Airports	17	Higginson, Theodore	Power Supply	DWP	N/A	Pettigrew, Olivette	Accounting Clerk	Airports	34
Adame, Gerardo	Gardener Caretaker	Rec & Parks	14	Holmes, Arthur Mack	Police Service Rep	LAPD	17	Phillips, Glenn	Sr. Constr. Inspector	Airports	31
Alvarez, Enrique	Custodian	Airports	19	Honda, Stuart T.	Electrician	Airports	21	Phoenix, Annette M.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Bldg. & Safety	32
Alvarino, Magno A.	Bldg. Op. Engineer	Airports	21	Hormaza-Salcedo, Ramon	Electrician	Airports	14	Pugh, Bruce E.	Painter	Airports	17
Anzora, Andres	Custodian	Airports	17	Houser, Ken	Power Supply	DWP	N/A	Reyes, Francisco H.	Transitional Worker	Airports	25
Aparicio, Maria L.	Custodian	Airports	15	Hu, Angie H.	Fiscal Sys. Specialist	Airports	29	Richardson, Charles	Power Reg. Comp.	DWP	N/A
Argueta, Audelino B.	Custodian	Airports	17	Irons, Elaine L.	Airport Guide	Airports	8	Rodriguez, Rene	Constr./Maint. Sup.	Airports	24
Arnold, Elizabeth	Retirement Plan	DWP	N/A	Isahakian, Norma	Dir., Street Lighting	Public Works	32	Rubio, Enedina	Special Programs Asst.	Rec & Parks	7
Ascano, Maria Paja	Criminalist	LAPD	10	Iseri, Christine D.	Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	32	Ruiz, Hugo	Custodian	Airports	22
Avalos, Eufemia	Custodian	Airports	17	Jablonski, Kevin Jay	Ch. Police Psycho.	LAPD	23	Samonas, Chris	Power Transmission	DWP	N/A
Ayson, Jesus F.	Accountant	Airports	13	Jackson, Amalia	Custodian	Airports	22	Santana, Luis C.	St. Services Sup.	Public Works	30
Barroso Diaz, Nabor	Custodian	Airports	15	Jackson, Bettye L.	Sr. Custodian	Airports	20	Sexton, Wyvetta G.	Custodian	Airports	20
Bijou, Sandra Marie	Sr. Person. Analyst	Airports	30	Jackson, David E.	Pr. Constr. Insp.	Airports	34	Shepard-Grimes, Karen	Customer Service	DWP	N/A
Blustein, Daniel	Sustainability	DWP	N/A	Jeffery, Robin	Power Transmission	DWP	N/A	Shirley, Patrice M.	Administrative Clerk	Airports	33
Bock, Eric	Aqueduct	DWP	N/A	Jenkins, Bennie J.	Sr. Custodian	Airports	35	Smith, Chris P.	Gardener Caretaker	Airports	26
Bolivar, Walter G.	Custodian	Airports	15	Jimenez, Steve D.	Cement Finisher Worker	Airports	33	Smith, Darlene	Administrative Clerk	Airports	27
Botros, Atef Y.	Airport Guide	Airports	10	Johnson, Kim	Systems Analyst	Airports	34	Smith, Edward H.	Maint. Laborer	Airports	29
Bravo, Frank B.	Sr. Parking Attend.	Gen. Services	21	Johnson, Michael	Constr./Maint. Supv.	Airports	30	Smith, Sydaris O.	Maint. Laborer	Airports	25
Briones, Santiago	Env. Chem. Lab	DWP	N/A	Jones, Dorothy M.	Custodian Supervisor	Airports	24	Snee, Agnes J.	Accounting Clerk	Airports	33
Brown, Roylan G.	Traffic Officer	Transport.	11	Keenan, Thomas	Power Construction	DWP	N/A	Solano, Evelyn	Municipal Police Off.	LAPD	34
Bustamante Canales, Sonia	Custodial Svcs. Asst.	Airports	10	Krugler, Leonard A.	Environmental Spec.	Airports	22	Soto, Rosa	Police Service Rep	LAPD	34
Calderon, Abel	Supply Chain	DWP	N/A	Kwan, Angus W.	Accountant	Airports	15	Sparks, Christophe	Custodian Supervisor	Airports	34
Cameron, John M.	Boat Captain	Harbor	18	Ladwa, Manji	Construction Insp.	Airports	19	Sparks, Jimmy Ray	Mechanical Helper	Airports	31
Campos, Donato	Custodian	Airports	20	Lara, Paulet	ITS	DWP	N/A	Stanciell, Darryl K.	Sr. Security Officer	Airports	30
Castillo, George	Energy Support	DWP	N/A	Lara, Pedro R.	Financial Manager	Airports	31	Stevens, Michael C.	Painter	Airports	19
Castro Hernandez, Maria	Custodian	Airports	17	Le Blanc, Micaela J.	Info. Systems Mgr.	Airports	33	Stevenson, Paul K.	Security Officer	Airports	17
Cecena, Refugio	Custodian	Airports	17	Lee, Kwong Lun	Sr. Accountant	LACERS	11	Stewart, Brad David	Equip. Repair Sup.	Harbor	19
Cervantes, Lilia	Custodian	Airports	15	Leitch, Bruce Daniel	Electrician	Airports	26	Stewart, Willa C.	Bus Operator	Airports	23
Chacon, Lynda Louise	Airport Guide	Airports	8	Leonard, Michael A.	Sr. Manage. Analyst	Airports	35	Swanton, Todd	Lab Tech	LAPD	25
Chavarria, Graciela	Clerk Steno.	LAFD	7	Lewis, Cynthia B.	Secretary	Airports	34	Tam, Richard	ITS	DWP	N/A
Ching, Pauline Ann	Airport Guide	Airports	6	Lewis, Deborah A.	Sr. Custodian	Airports	20	Taormina, James F.	Tile Setter	Airports	23
Chou, Irving	JFB/Facilities Mgmt.	DWP	N/A	Lillard, Michael David	Sup. of Operations	Airports	11	Thompson, Zachary	Graphics Designer	Airports	34
Cruz, Daniel	Power Transmission	DWP	N/A	Limon, Arthur G.	Sr. Painter	Airports	35	Tomono, Duane T.	Golf Starter	Rec & Parks	14
Cruz, Ray	Solid Resources	Public Works	36	Lingat, Lilibeth G.	Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	32	Valerio, Teodorico	Sr. Gardener	Airports	25
Cruz, Vilma Eduardo	Custodian	Airports	17	Loera, Miguel Angel	Irrigation Specialist	Airports	29	Van Ness, Kathy	Executive Assistant	Airports	30
Cruz Garcia, Blanca L.	Custodian	Airports	17	Logan, Morag A.	Environmental Assoc.	Public Works	5	Vasquez, Bill L.	Sr. Carpenter	Airports	32
Cuellar, Amanda L.	Custodian	Airports	20	Lopez, Esteban S.	Gardener Caretaker	Airports	27	Vasquez, Nephtali	Custodian Supervisor	Airports	39
Curtis, Cumi	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Airports	13	Lucio, Lenore H.	Maint. Supervisor	Airports	22	Verba, Roman	Mech. Eng. Assoc.	Airports	31
Custodio, Isaura Caparaz	Security Officer	Airports	11	Mahaley, Linda Faye	Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	30	Villanueva, Roel I.	Benefits Specialist	FD/PA Pensions	19
D'Oyen, Cheryl	Customer Service	DWP	N/A	Markalande, Agbo	Office Engin. Tech.	Airports	29	Vo, Nguyen V.	Engin. Designer	Airports	34
Dasselaar, Carla	Gardener Caretaker	Public Works	23	Marquez, Arthur	Gardener Caretaker	Airports	35	Walker, Jan	Security Officer	Airports	31
Davis, Bernard	Security Officer	Airports	21	Martin, Clarence	Water Operations	DWP	N/A	Wallace, Gary J.	Painter	Airports	14
Ehlen, Douglas A.	Constr. Inspector	Airports	12	McMahan, Michael A.	Administrative Clerk	Airports	18	Webb, Russell S.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	29
El Masri, Basma A.	Airport Guide	Airports	12	McCombs, David W.	Civil Engin. Assoc.	Airports	32	Wells, Marilyn M.	Custodian	Airports	38
Evans, Kelvin	Power Supply	DWP	N/A	McMullen, Cynthia R.	Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	27	Wesson, Eric V.	Solid Waste Disp. Sup.	Public Works	32
Fernandez, Fidelindo	Programmer/Analyst	Airports	30	Moayed, Mohsen	Emergency Mgmt. Coord.	Public Works	31	White, Mary E.	Maint. Laborer	Public Works	18
Garcia, Abelina	Custodian	Airports	15	Morgan, Rhonda	JFB/Facilities Mgmt.	DWP	N/A	Williams, Deirdre K.	Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	33
Garcia Aguilar, Maria	Custodian	Airports	17	Mouton, Charisma D.	Sr. Custodian	Airports	19	Williams, Ross L.	Maint./Constr. Helper	Airports	24
Gomez, Carlos	JFB/Facilities Mgmt.	DWP	N/A	Mouton, Vincent H.	Traffic Painter Sign Poster	Airports	32	Williams, Walter L.	Security Officer	Airports	19
Gonzalez, Alberto S.	Spec. Programs Asst.	Rec & Parks	6	Mumau, Thomas H.	Sr. Person. Analyst	Airports	30	Woodard, James	Water Executive	DWP	N/A
Gonzalez, Isabel	Police Service Rep	LAPD	35	Nero, Randolph S.	Maint. Supervisor	Airports	32	Yamamoto, Barbara T.	Dir., Airport Ops.	Airports	21
Gonzalez, Norma Horta	Crossing Guard	Transportation	3	Nurinda, Francisco J.	Custodian	Airports	22	Yochim, Paul	Power Supply	DWP	N/A
Guardado, Rebeca	Custodian	Airports	17	O'Connor, Mark	Info Systems Mgr.	Airports	30	Yoder, Linda	Constr. Inspector	Airports	21
Guinto, Heddy B.	Administrative Clerk	Rec & Parks	39	Obilana, Robert A.	Security Officer	Airports	30	Zanders, Maria O.	Custodian	Airports	17
Gunapala, Deegoda	Maint. Laborer	Airports	14	Oliver, Gerald A.	Custodian	Airports	35	Zavala, Pedro	Gardener Caretaker	Airports	16
Haerle II, David	Power Construction	DWP	N/A	Pagan, Jeannett W.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Public Works	30	Zelaya, Juan F.	Custodian	Airports	15
Hanna, Mina H.	Sr. Airport Engineer	Airports	30	Parker, Mary Ellen	Sr. Person. Analyst	Airports	24				
Haro, Theresa Ann	Sr. Admin. Clerk	CAO	25	Pattison, Ethel L.	Airport Info. Specialist	Airports	19				
Heard, Sam	Security Officer	Airports	12	Penn, Reuben	Gardener Caretaker	Airports	27				
Hebert, Robert	Sr. Constr. Inspector	Airports	31	Perez, Ricardo A.	Gardener Caretaker	Airports	26				

N/D = not disclosed

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	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
Active					
Fuerst, Carl	DWP	21	Corvera, Angelo	LAFD	20
Legita, Leos	LAPD	29	Davis, Dave	DWP	35
Mills, Timothy	DWP	40	Dunbar, Clifford	DWP	33
Nguyen, Saranya	LAPD	24	Duncan, Nancy	Harbor	18
Norman, Taji	Public Works	11	Eriksson, Margaret	Library	34
Rocha, Alfredo	Airports	17	Finsten, Maurice	N/D	N/D
			Fu, Wendy	DWP	33
			Funada, Cheryl	Library	43
			Goodlow, Nathaniel	N/D	N/D
			Gregory, Juanita	N/D	N/D
			Hamadany, Mary Ann	N/D	N/D
			Harding, Edward	N/D	N/D
			Henry, David	DWP	31
			Higgins, Martin	Finance	36
			Jones, Hollins	N/D	N/D
			Kuo, Jimmy	Public Works	20
			Kwan, Agnes	N/D	N/D
			Lantry, James	Public Works	33
			Maples, George	Public Works	26
			Montoya, Charles	DWP	31
			O'Shaughnessy, Terence	DWP	38
			Olsen, Wilbur	Airports	17
			Ortiz, Harry	DWP	26
			Pagan, Luis	Gen. Services	36
Retired					
Adams, Ruth	N/D	N/D			
Almanzan, David	DWP	35			
Alonso, Edmund	N/D	N/D			
Boyd, Louise	Airports	22			
Brogdon, Vona	ITA	43			
Bustamante, Evangelina	Bldg & Safety	30			
Button, Eugene	DWP	12			
Cano, Reynaldo	DWP	31			
Carney, Dale	Bldg & Safety	26			
Castillo, Reymundo	N/D	N/D			
Chen, Tsung	N/D	N/D			
Childress, Jim	Public Works	31			
Cole, William	N/D	N/D			
Coleman, Kenneth	DWP	27			

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/lifemoments

- Graduations
- Births
- Weddings
- Military Service
- Special Achievements



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Progressive, Civil Service Employees Insurance, Allied, Safeco, Travelers, Unigard and Encompass.

LAPD

Protecting the Vote



Special Operations Officers at the Dept. Operations Center during the national elections Nov. 3.



Thanks go to everyone at the LAPD who on Nov. 3 protected the most cherished right of all Americans, the right to vote.

"I am extremely proud of the great work by the men and women assigned to the LAPD Dept. Operations Center (DOC) during this election," said Capt. Alex Vargas, Commanding Officer of Special Operations Division, in a Tweet @LAPD_Vargas. "We were able to facilitate the First Amendment rights for peaceful protest while ensuring public safety for all."

Well done! ■



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- Payroll deduct your purchase with zero interest.
- Make equal installments over 12 months.

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