

Alive!



Serving over 50,000 City, County and State Employees

9160 Los Angeles Airport Police

Outside the Airport Police's new headquarters are Police Chief Cecil Rhambo Jr. (front) and Club Members (from left) Police Officer III Tarek Azmy and Police Officer III Jacqueline Zambrano.

AIRPORTS

A Place to Call Home

After decades of operating in dozens of locations, Airport Police now has a \$220 million headquarters to call home. Come along on a Club-exclusive tour.

SEE PAGE 10

Alive! photo by Summy Lam

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A Story in Steel and Glass

Sometimes a building is just a building. To my way of looking at it, though, in the case of the impressive new Airport Police headquarters adjacent to the north runways of LAX, it signals much more.

The new building stands as a statement to dedication, growth and commitment. It signals a new era, a stepping up, for the Airport Police. Since the department's founding in the 1940s, the division of Airports has counted dozens of buildings as its "headquarters." As the division stood ready to move into the new building in early December, the Airport Police was scattered in approximately eight different facilities. They are now brought together into one (except for the dispatchers,



From left: Chief Cecil Rhambo Jr. and Club CEO Robert Larios in front of the new Airport Police HQ in Westchester.

who remain separate for technical reasons). This is a significant statement by the division, which grows more important every year.

The Club congratulates **Chief Cecil Rhambo Jr.**, the Airport Police and its many Club Members, on this fine achievement.

End-of-the-Year Laughs

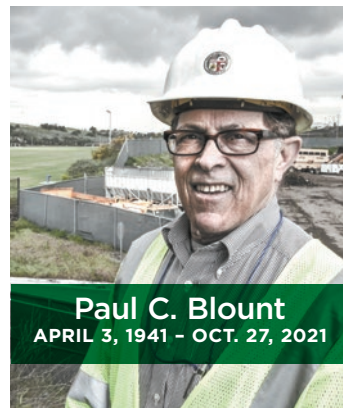
Have you viewed our video, *Say Yes to the Club*, yet? (Find it on YouTube by using the QR code on pages 3 and 13.) Be prepared to enjoy numerous chuckles, but it carries an important message, too: 2021 was another pandemic year for us all, and we will always be there for you, our Members. Enjoy!

My Vision

As I listen to Club Members and learn the joys and suggestions you have for the strong future of the Club, I want to share in this space from time to time some of my vision going forward. It is my honor and privilege to be a part of an extraordinary organization that's been on a 93-year mission celebrating the work and lives of government employees throughout California.

ROBERT'S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



Paul C. Blount
APRIL 3, 1941 - OCT. 27, 2021

My first priority as the Employees Club of California's President and CEO is to continue the expansion for growth so that members and their families get the opportunities to live good lives through our celebration and protection.

Goodbye Paul

As you might have seen on Club social media channels or here in *Alive!*, **Paul Blount**, Retired, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment, passed away in October. He was a recognized expert in mulch and recycling, and he served on our Club Board. He was also a good man – for the City in leading the way; for the country (he served in Special Operations for the U.S. Army during Vietnam), and for the Club.

He was affable, gentle and warm when I met him off-duty, so to speak. We have lost a good one. Rest in peace, Paul, and thank you for your service.

A Toast

I wish Club Members a very Happy New Year. The world has been through two difficult years, and municipal employees have worked tirelessly to keep us moving forward, safely. I wish you prosperity, fun and purpose in the new year to come.

Robert Larios



CLUB MOBILE TEAM Site Visits Are Back!



At a previous Mobile Team site visit in 2019.

Mobile Team Schedule

The Mobile Team is expanding its schedule to bring you the gear you want.

Jan. 5

Harbor Boys and Girls Club, 100 W. Fifth St., San Pedro; 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Jan. 12

LADWP Bishop Yard, Bishop, Calif.

Throughout January: City yard Mobile Team and curbside service; ask your Supervisor.

Follow Club social media for more dates as they are scheduled.



For your continued safety:

- The Mobile Team brings and wears safety gear.
- The Mobile Team is accepting only outdoor set-ups for now.

See you soon!

Club Mobile Team is ready to visit City worksites safely with gear, tickets, insurance, more. Say hi to the Club ... in person again!

The Club never stopped working for its Members during the pandemic. But now that the coast is clearing, so to speak, it's time to revisit our Members and Members-to-Be at sites and yards.

The Mobile Team is ready to visit your worksite Tuesdays through Thursdays. We can't wait to see everybody again!

To schedule a site visit, contact Lupe Lira, Club Store Manager:

(213) 819-0350, or mobile@employeesclub.com



COVER STORY:

A Place Called Home 10-12
 After more than 70 years, the Airport Police steps up in a big way with its new headquarters.

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NEW THIS MONTH
ONLINE!
alive.employeesclub.com

Cooking With the Club

Chef Larios starts the year with casual awesomeness – a recipe for a bacon, lettuce, tomato, avocado and egg sandwich. Mmmm!



John's Picture Perfect

John's Picture Perfect – all the winners from this month's contest on the theme "holiday."



Library Top 10

See what your fellow Angelenos are reading, watching and grooving to.



A Club Premiere!

WATCH ON YOUTUBE



The Club premieres its end-of-the-year recap video on YouTube.





**The Club
Is 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.

Contact the Club

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

help@employeesclub.com
(800) 464-0452

Physical Club Store Hours:

Monday – Friday
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.



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Happy New Year

From the Club!

The Club wishes you health, humor and happiness for 2022 ... and a great continued recovery.



Employees Club of California
Celebrating the Work and Lives of Municipal Employees



Santa was the main focus of the parade.

Photos courtesy Hollywood Christmas Parade.

Hollywood on Parade

89th Hollywood Christmas Parade rumbles down the boulevard with City Council sponsorship.

COUNCIL: TV host Sheryl Underwood was the grand marshal of this year's Hollywood Christmas Parade, held Sunday, Nov. 28 in Hollywood. The parade was also scheduled to be aired on the CW Network Dec. 19 and supported the U.S. Marines' Toys for Tots program.

The annual parade is presented in association with the City. Last year's parade was canceled due to the pandemic.

This year's parade included a long list of performers from TV and popular music.

Dozens of celebrities from film, television and stage and other VIPs could be

seen in the parade. More than a dozen award-winning bands and equestrian teams from around the country were featured. ■



Councilman Kevin de León.



Councilwoman Nithya Raman.



Councilman Mitch O'Farrell.



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 17 for Print Alive!
February 10 for Web Alive!

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



HONOREES

MEDAL OF VALOR

Firefighter III Aaron King

MEDAL OF MERIT

Capt. II Victor Aguirre
Apparatus Operator Ian Soriano

LETTER OF SPECIAL COMMENDATION

Firefighter/Paramedic Jose Carreon
Firefighter III Carlos Cativo
Firefighter III Jacob Gonzalez
Apparatus Operator Garrett Lew
Emergency Incident
Technician Marcus Meza
Firefighter III Ian Moore
Firefighter/Paramedic John Norton
Firefighter/Paramedic Chadwick Qualley
Capt. I Lawrence Salas
Firefighter/Paramedic Sergio Saenz
Firefighter III Daniel Stalie
Firefighter II David Stigger

FIRE CHIEF'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Engineer Scott Brennan
Capt. Ed Barkley
Firefighter Nick Estrada
Firefighter/Paramedic Kenneth Fraser
Firefighter/Paramedic Joseph Giesregen
Firefighter/Paramedic Stephen Osterberg
Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Ramirez
Firefighter/Paramedic Cameron Richards
Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew Tom
Engineer Mark Tostado

DIVISION OF THE YEAR

Metropolitan Fire Communications

Also highlighted were:

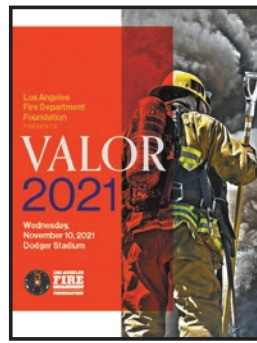
COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Annenberg Foundation

CORPORATE IMPACT AWARD

Caruso

LAFD

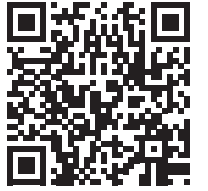


MEDAL OF VALOR

Dept. honors Firefighters for heroic acts.

On Nov. 10, 2021, the LAFD hosted its annual Valor ceremony at Dodger Stadium. The ceremony, sponsored and produced by the LAFD Foundation, honored those who performed over and above the call of duty during 2020-21.

Congratulations to all! Following are abridged narratives of the events for which the Firefighters were honored. Narratives are courtesy the LAFD Foundation.



SOME OF THE HONOREES:

READ ABOUT ALL THE HONOREES ON WEB ALIVE!

Medal of Valor:



Firefighter III Aaron King

Medal of Valor honoree Firefighter III Aaron King

woman flagged down King's car and frantically explained that her young...

In May 2021, Firefighter III Aaron King, his wife, and small child were driving home from a family dinner gathering. As they exited the 101 Freeway, mere blocks from their new house, they encountered a frantic woman on the off-ramp overpass. The woman flagged down King's car and frantically explained that her young...

DIVISION OF THE YEAR:

Metropolitan Fire Communications



Metropolitan Fire Communications, often referred to as "MFC" or "Metro," is the Los Angeles Fire Department's central processing hub for 911 and non-emergency fire department calls. MFC is the nerve center from which all LAFD emergency-related resources are dispatched. Established in 2012, MFC is one of the most technologically advanced dispatch centers in the nation...

MEDAL OF MERIT:

Capt. II Victor Aguirre Apparatus Operator Ian Soriano

On May 16, 2020, at approximately 6:30 p.m., the LAFD responded to a structure fire near the Skid Row area of downtown Los Angeles. The first arriving Firefighters encountered a one-story commercial building with light, intermittent smoke escaping from the top of two closed rolling steel doors...



Medal of Merit honoree Capt. II Victor Aguirre



Medal of Merit honoree Apparatus Operator Ian Soriano

LETTER OF SPECIAL COMMENDATION:

Firefighter/Paramedic Chadwick Qualley Firefighter David Stigger

Near midnight on April 24, 2021, LAFD members from multiple fire stations responded to a severe multi-vehicle traffic incident on the 101 Freeway. Upon arrival, Firefighters encountered a four-car crash that spanned several hundred feet on one of the busiest stretches of freeway in Los Angeles...



Firefighter/Paramedic Chadwick Qualley



Firefighter David Stigger

Community Impact Award: Annenberg Foundation

The Annenberg Foundation is a family foundation focused on addressing critical issues through innovation, community, compassion, and communications for more than 30 years. Since 1989, it has funded programs in education and youth development; civic and community life; equity and social justice; health and human services; animal services and the environment; and arts, culture, and humanities...

ALIVE! AROUND THE WORLD

Letter From England, Pt. 2

Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor, traveled to the land of his birth, England, post-vaccination.



Titanic Memorial

A *Titanic Time in Southampton*: With the lifting of the COVID-19 travel restrictions, we decided it was time to take a long overdue trip to our little corner of that fair and pleasant land across the pond, England.

Season's greetings from Southampton, UK, the busiest cruise turn-around port in northern Europe (second largest container

board, sailed into the port of Southampton.

Years later, on April 10, 1912, the most famous ill-fated voyage, the SS *Titanic*, left port with 920 passengers and 908 crew members on board, 724 of whom were from Southampton. After the ship's final stop in Queenstown (Cobh), Ireland, it continued on its way to New York but hit an iceberg and sank. Tragically, 549 passengers never returned to their homes in Southampton.

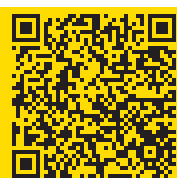
There are a number of memorials around Southampton recognizing the SS *Titanic* crew, with the largest being a bronze and granite memorial in East (Andrews) Park. That particular memorial is dedicated to the engineers who bravely remained at their posts until the very end. There is also the musician's memorial, honoring those who continued to play their instruments on the deck of the *Titanic* as the ship was sinking in an attempt to keep passengers calm.

The Sea City Museum opened to mark the centenary of the *Titanic's* voyage, where a large permanent exhibition is on display in the civic center building that was once home to the magistrates' court and police station. It is very easy to find as there is a clock tower (156 feet tall) nearby, and well worth climbing the 215



Happy Christmas

The adventures of Michael Barnes continue on Web Alive!

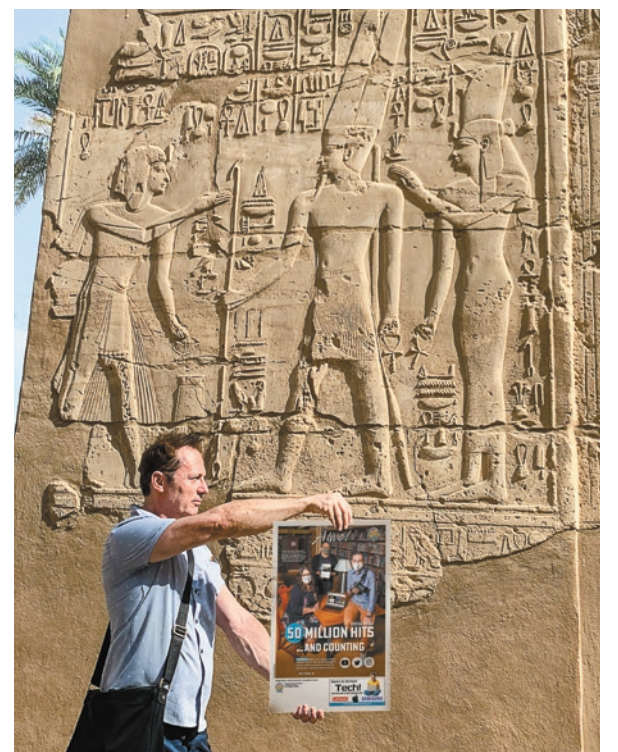


Take *Alive!* with you, wherever you go!

- Snap a high resolution photo of you holding *Alive!*
- Go to: alive.employeesclub.com and click "SEND TO ALIVE!" in the menu. You'll find a convenient online form to send your text and pics for publication.

Egypt

In October 2021, *Alive!* designers David and Marie Jamgotchian traveled to Egypt, and were mesmerized by the archeological wonders. At the Luxor Temple, David does his best Prince of Egypt pose, mimicking the figure at left. How do we know he's a prince? Because he doesn't have a beard. The central figure is a god (gods have curved beards).



port in the UK). It's been a port since the Roman occupation of Britain nearly 2,000 years ago, followed by the Saxons, Vikings and finally the Normans.

In 1620, the Pilgrim Fathers (also known as Pilgrims or English Separatists) departed from Southampton for North America on one of the earliest cruise ships, the *Mayflower*.

The first full-time modern transatlantic cruise ship from North America to Southampton came two years after the end of the Civil War in 1867 when *Quaker City*, a paddle wheeler with Mark Twain on

• A 'PICTURE' OF 2021 •

John's Picture Perfect

Alive! presents some of our favorite winners from 'John's Picture Perfect' contest from last year.



Photos compiled by John Hawkins, LACEA Association CEO

During 2021, when the pandemic eased but still held, our impressive Club Member photographers and their photographic eyes found beauty in the challenging times.

For the John's Picture Perfect contest's 10th anniversary in January 2015, we printed our favorite photos from contest's entire span. Readers liked it so much that we decided to run an annual recap.

In 2021, Club Members submitted hundreds of entries and many dozens of winners. Here are some of them.

So, as we look forward to continued recovery, we republish John Hawkins' favorites from among the winners, along with his original comments.

Keep submitting your great photos, and keep looking up with hope and a grand sense of wonder.



WINNER

"Part of our family – four of five grandkids. Shows each of their personalities! This is what it's all about: them! We've had our turn. Trying to get them all in one picture, as we're still missing one."

— **Lynne Wright, Retired, Airports**

John's comment: Whoa! Yep, those are real kids for sure!

MORE WINNERS

On Web *Alive!*
alive.employeesclub.com



WINNER

"I spent this pandemic exploring and learning this new hobby of mine, riding the Electric Unicycle, EUC for short. This is one mean machine, compact and powerful. I always look forward to riding my EUC up in the mountains and hills of Lakeview Terrace. The feeling and excitement is incredible."

— **Glenn Abellanosa, Retired, LAPD**

John's comment: I love your approach, Glenn. Stay inside and quiet, or attack the pandemic with passion and adventure (and social distancing). Thanks for the inspiration!

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.

Here are some items of note this month:

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 48 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.



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LAPD RETIREMENTS

From left: Capt. Lillian Carranza with Sgt. II Andre Plummer and an unidentified guest. Photo courtesy @lapdcarranza



Three Say Goodbye

Dep. Chief Regina Scott; Capt. III Leland Sands; and Sgt. II Andre Plummer retire.

LAPD: Three LAPD leaders retired before the end of 2021. They are Dep. Chief Regina Scott; Capt. III Leland Sands; and Sgt. II Andre Plummer. More information about their careers is below.

Sgt. II Andre Plummer

Sgt. II Andre Plummer, LAPD 77th Street, retired Dec. 1. He leaves with 25 years of City service.

The Club congratulates Sgt. Plummer on his career and dedication to the City of Los Angeles.



Dep. Chief Regina Scott and Dep. Chief Emada Tingirides. Photo courtesy @LAPDETingirides

Dep. Chief Regina Scott

Dep. Chief Regina Scott, South Bureau, retired Dec. 12. She had 34 years of City service.

Commander Scott was appointed to the LAPD in July 1987. She held numerous positions and worked various assignments within the Department as a Police Officer, Field Training Officer, Sr. Lead Officer and Sergeant. She has also held positions in all advance pay grades of the Detective and Lieutenant ranks.

In April 2006, Commander Scott was promoted to Captain I as the Patrol Captain at Southwest. In May 2007, she was promoted to Captain II at Central Traffic Division and later reassigned to Gang and Operations Support Division.

In March 2009, Commander Scott was promoted to Captain III and assigned to Communications Division, which is the largest division of the Department.

In June 2011, Scott became the first female African American appointed to the rank of Commander in the Department's history. She was assigned as the Assistant Commanding Officer of Information Technology Bureau.

In September 2014, Scott was assigned as the Assistant Commanding Officer of Operations-Valley Bureau, the largest Bureau within the Department. In March 2016, Commander Scott was assigned as the Assistant Commanding Officer of Operations-South Bureau. Due to her technical knowledge and the push for the Department to meet its goals, Commander Scott was assigned as the Assistant Commanding Officer of Information Technology Bureau.

She was also a former president of Los Angeles Women Police Officers Association.

Congratulations on a history-making career, Dep. Chief Scott!



Capt. III Lee Sands accepts a retirement plaque. Photo courtesy @LAPDMetro

Capt. III Leland Sands

Capt. III Leland Sands, Metro Division, retired Dec. 8. He had 36 years of City service.

He joined the LAPD in 1985 and was assigned to Pacific Area. His other assignments as a Police Officer include Southeast Division, Central Division, South Bureau Gangs, Detective Support Division and Tactical Planning Section.

In 1996 Capt. Sands was promoted to Sergeant. As a Sergeant he was assigned to Central Division, Operation-Central Bureau. In 1997, he transferred to 77th Division, where he worked as a Field Supervisor. While at 77th Division, he became the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the Special Enforcement and Complaint unit's. In 2001, he was upgraded to Sergeant II at Internal Affairs Group, Special Operations Division.

In 2006, he was selected as the assistant Officer-in-Charge at Media Relations Sections and was the Department spokesperson domestically and internationally.

In 2008 he was promoted to Lieutenant and returned to 77th Area as a Watch Commander. He later transferred to Harbor Division. In 2009, he was upgraded to Lieutenant II at Gang and Narcotics Division and was selected as the Officer-in-Charge of the City-wide Narcotics Buy Team. While at gang and narcotics he later became the Officer-in-Charge of Fugitive Warrant Section and the Parolee-at-Large Unit.

In 2014, he was selected to lead the elite Cold Case Homicide Special Section out of Robbery-Homicide Division.

Captain Sands is credited with organizing the Department's efforts in addressing Parole Realignment (AB109). He developed protocols and procedures that were adopted and used by other law enforcement entities.

In June 2014, he was promoted to Captain and was appointed as the patrol Commanding Officer at Mission Area. He went on to become the patrol Commanding Officer at Southeast Division and was later promoted to Captain II at South Traffic Division.

In April 2017, he was upgraded to Captain III and assigned to Southwest Division as the Area Commanding Officer.

Congratulations on a great career, Capt. Sands!

PART 22

Scenes From a Pandemic

Alive! continues its documentation of City employees as they take a multitude of measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are entries from the Club and the City Twitter feeds about City Employees and Club Members at work during this trying time.

LAPD Capt. Gisselle Espinoza



"Yesterday was a good day at Dorsey High School, engaging and leading our youths. The hospitality was amazing, and my partners were awesome. #LAPD #LAUSD #dorseyhighschool"

Nov. 11

Library/Street Fleet



"The @LAPLBookBike at @CicLAVia South LA"

Dec. 5

Public Works Sanitation and Environment



"Today, @LeaWermelin, the Minister for the Environment of Denmark, brought a group of leaders from the Danish water sector to Hyperion to share, learn, & optimize environmental solutions. Thanks to Lea Wermelin and the Danish Delegation for an insightful visit to Hyperion!"

Nov. 30

LAPD Central Area



"With the holiday shopping season under way in DTLA, Central Area Officers are walking foot beats and patrolling in vehicles, keeping shoppers and businesses safe! Pay attention to your surroundings and happy shopping! @LAPDCaptMorales @LabradaAl @LAPDCentralArea @LAPDHQ"

Nov. 29

Library Street Fleet



"It's a beautiful day for a parade. We're at the Chatsworth Holiday Parade and Festival. See you along the route!"

Dec. 12

CLUB



Applications for Club's Mukai Scholarship Now Available

Club Scholarship's application process is simplified for eligibility confirmation. Deadline is 11:59 p.m., June 30, 2022.

Fill out your application now for the Joannie Mukai Memorial Club Scholarship on the *Alive!* Website. The 2022 Mukai Club Scholarship Program, which expects to grant 20 awards and is named after the late Club Board Member Joannie Mukai, is now accepting applications. The Club expects to give each recipient a stipend of \$500.

Application and Eligibility

The scholarship program has simplified the application process to be contained in one step. (Previously, eligibility confirmation required a preliminary step; it has been streamlined into one process.) Those eligible include Club Members; their spouses; their children, grandchildren, step-children, and foster children; and nieces/nephews who are in college or will be attending an accredited college or university in Fall 2022. There is no age limit for Member or spouse, but all others must be under 25.

Deadline

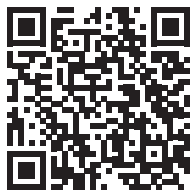
All materials must be completed on the *Alive!* Website and submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. June 30, 2022. Winners will be notified by July 31 before school starts.

Respecting Your Time

"We welcome all Club Members and their close family members to apply for this very important scholarship program,"

said Robert Larios, Club CEO. "It is critical that the Club give back to support the future success of our treasured young people. Simplifying the application process is one way we can make it easier for all to apply, and we encourage all those eligible to do so."

"The scholarship program is about honoring achievement and excellence in our Club Members and their families," said Association CEO John Hawkins. "It's one of the most important ways we celebrate the work and lives of municipal employees. Joannie would be delighted at the level of scholarship and volunteerism applicants show every year."



Apply Today
on the *Alive!* Website:
alive.employeesclub.com/scholarship
DEADLINE
11:59 p.m.,
June 30, 2022

Send questions to the Club Scholarship Committee:
scholarship@employeesclub.com
or call: (213) 873-1843



Cynthia Ozuna, daughter of Correctional Officer Marcos Ozuna, Retired, State of California, received a stipend last year as part of the Mukai Scholarship Program.

ABOUT JOANNIE MUKAI



Joannie Mukai was a pioneer as the LA Port's Director of Construction and Maintenance. A passionate supporter in the Employees Club and longtime Club Insurance Board Member, she died in March 2010. The Club's annual scholarship program was named in her honor. "She believed in education and training, and in preparing for success," Club CEO John Hawkins said. "That's what the Club Scholarship is all about, and we're delighted to name it after her. It's a perfect way to keep her memory alive."

Eligibility requirements:

- All Club Members and their spouses of any age; and children, grandchildren, step-children, foster children and nieces and nephews of Club Members under the age of 25; are eligible to apply. Club Members must be in good standing.
- The successful candidate must attend an accredited four-year college or university full time in the fall semester 2022. Current high school seniors matriculating to a four-year school in Fall 2022 are eligible.
- Candidates will be judged for academic excellence, community service and financial need.
- Scholarships are expected to be awarded in equal amounts of \$500 (each).
- Deadline: Applications must be completed online at the *Alive!* Website and submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. June 30, 2022. All applications must be completed in their entirety and submitted at that time to be eligible. Sorry, but the Club is not responsible for delays in delivery.
- Decisions will be made by Club personnel and will be considered final.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.



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New Mercury Insurance Discounts!

Club insurance partner United Agencies is offering new discounts from Mercury Insurance.

United Agencies, a Club insurance partner, wants Club Members to know that Mercury Insurance, one of the carriers it represents, is offering new group discounts. Below is a list.



California | Private Passenger Auto | September 8, 2021

Mercury Insurance New Group Discounts

Mercury Insurance offers numerous discounts to policyholders, and effective October 10, 2021, Mercury will be implementing four new group discounts to help consumers save even more!

- **AAA Members** - A reduction in BI, PD, UMBI, Medical, Comprehensive and Collision premiums is available if the insured is a member of the American Automobile Association (AAA).
- **Bank of America Employees**- A reduction in BI, PD, UMBI, Medical, Comprehensive and Collision premiums is available if the insured is an employee of Bank of America.
- **Costco/Sam's Club Members** - A reduction in BI, PD, UMBI, Medical, Comprehensive and Collision premiums is available if the insured is a member of Costco or Sam's Club.
- **Pilots** - A reduction in BI, PD, UMBI, Medical, Comprehensive and Collision premiums is available if the insured is a pilot. Must have current airmen certificate issued by the Federal Aviation Administration. All certificate classes apply except student certificates.

Qualifying customers will receive up to an 8% discount in Mercury Insurance Company (MIC) and up to a 6% discount in California Automobile Insurance Company (CAIC).

Existing customers that renew on or after October 10, 2021 are eligible for these new discounts and will be notified of the new discount options in their renewal offer. Agents can submit a change request with the required acceptable proof to add the discount to the policy. Proof of membership or employment in one of these areas may include but is not limited to a copy or image of the named insured or listed driver's membership card, ID badge, business card, redacted pay stub or certificate. An updated copy of the underwriting manual can be found in the Agency Community [here](#).

Thank you for your business and partnership with Mercury. If you have any questions, please contact your marketing representative.

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Outside the Airport Police's new headquarters are Police Chief Cecil Rhambo Jr. (front) and Club Members (from left) Police Officer III Tarek Azmy and Police Officer III Jacqueline Zambrano.



The *Alive!* Interview

On Nov. 18, Club CEO Robert Larios and Alive! editor John Burnes interviewed Chief Cecil Rhambo Jr., head of the LAX Police Dept. and Deputy Executive Director for Public Safety. The Airport Police is a division of the Airports Dept. of the City of Los Angeles. The interview took place online due to pandemic protocols.

AIRPORT POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Tour the new HQ With the Club

- GO TO PAGE 12

More story and pics on Web *Alive!*
Go to: alive.employeesclub.com

Alive! Feature

AIRPORTS

A Place to Call Home

Photos by Summy Lam, Club Director of Marketing

After decades of operating in dozens of locations, Airport Police now has a \$220 million headquarters to call home. Come along on a Club-exclusive tour.

Since its inception with a half-dozen Airport Guards in 1946, the LA Airport Police has been housed in dozens of buildings, spaces and work areas. It has never been consolidated into one home since expanding to a modern police force of more than 1,100 Officers and civilians in the last few decades.

Until now.

The LA Airport Police took ownership of its impressive new headquarters building in November, consolidating most of its workforce working in eight separate locations into one purpose-built facility befitting the nation's second busiest and the world's fourth busiest airport. (Dispatchers remain in a separate



On Dec. 9, Mayor Eric Garcetti cut the ribbon during the opening ceremony for the new Airport Police Facility. From left: Customs and Border Protection LAX Area Port Director Cheryl Davies, Transportation Security Administration Federal Security Director at LAX Keith Jeffries, Airport Police Chief Cecil W. Rhambo Jr., Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners Vice President Valeria Velasco, Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Mayor Eric Garcetti, Airports Chief Executive Officer Justin Erbacci and Hensel Phelps Operations Manager Jeffrey Brunswig.

building.) The sparkling new headquarters signals a police force that has come of age and grown to fulfill its responsibilities.

The New Home

The new LAX Airport Police headquarters on Sepulveda Westway at Loyola Boulevard, purpose built for the force, is 160,000 square feet of state-of-the-art facilities with future proofing in mind. Built to LEED Silver certification and Title XXIV energy use requirements, it is designed to accommodate the operations of critical police functions with the infrastructure to support the next generation of law enforcement technologies and best practices.

The campus was designed by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill at a cost of \$220 million. It became operational in November.

In early December, Airport Police gave *Alive!* an exclusive tour. Come along!

'A Sense of Pride'

***Alive!*: Thank you for taking the time out from your busy schedule.**

Chief Cecil Rhambo Jr.: Sure.

Briefly give us a career snapshot. How did you get to being in the position where you are now?

I started in government service back in mid-1970s as a lowly Parks and Rec lifeguard kid. I became a Deputy [LA County] Sheriff in 1981 and spent 33 years in that position. I worked everything from patrol to custody to undercover narcotics to internal affairs a couple times. I retired as Assistant Sheriff in 2014 and got recruited to do city management. I was Assistant City Manager in City of Carson while we were courting the NFL, and then almost three years later I was recruited to be the City Manager in the City of Compton. I did that for close to three years and retired from those jobs. Then I got a call from the then-CEO here at LAX, Deborah Flint in 2019, and she asked me if I were interested in applying for the Chief's job, and I said, "Sure." I applied for it, and I got here in late 2019. I'm told I haven't worked in the airport under normal circumstances ever. I started at LAX literally the next day after I got hired, and my first day here was like 20 hours because the airport opened the LAX-it ride-sharing lot. And then of course coronavirus hit so that's how it's been.

Opening LAX-it, that must have been quite a first day!

Right, right. So that's just a short version of how I ended up here. It's a very long path.

With all the construction at LAX, you must head out of your office every day, and everything's changed. What a gigantic transformation of LAX going on right now.

When I got here the APM, or the Automated People Mover, was literally just pillars coming up throughout the two-and-a-half mile run. Now it's almost completed. A blessing in disguise of the

coronavirus is how fast we're able to do construction without all that traffic. It would have been a real challenge with all that traffic under normal circumstances.

Yes. Streets L.A. says the same thing about a blessing in disguise and moving assertively on projects because of the lack of traffic. Well, at least in the beginning.

Yes.

Status Check

Before we get to the story of your new headquarters, with everything that's going on, can you give us a brief status check on the Airport Police? How is the department doing through the coronavirus pandemic and through all the construction?

Surprisingly well. The vast majority of the personnel didn't get a chance to take advantage of telecommuting. Some did, but the vast majority of us are first line Emergency Service Workers. We were at work every day during the pandemic, and we lost one Security Officer to the pandemic. We lost another Officer – not sure about the pandemic – but we just lost one recently, and then we lost another Officer to an unfortunate off-duty collision. But in terms of overall public safety, we fared pretty well. We were the first to roll out wearing PPE – protective personal equipment like masks; we still wear masks here in the office. Ninety-nine percent of us are either vaccinated or filing for an exemption here, so we've had a lot of cooperation in the vaccine mandate issues. I certainly encouraged the vaccine because I lost my biological dad who I met when I was 57. He passed last year from COVID after being sick only eight days. We lost some folks in the Separation Incentive Program (SIP) [early retirement]. I think a total of 58 folks. Just to retirement and attrition we're down about 22 Officers, but we've already started rehiring personnel. We're down approximately 15 Security Officers in different ranks.



Cecil Rhambo Jr. Chief of the Airport Police Dept. and Deputy Executive Director of Public Safety, was interviewed via Zoom by *Alive!* editor John Burnes (left) and Club CEO Robert Larios.

Like the rest of us, working every day and staying strong and doing what the people of the City of L.A. have hired you to do, keeping everything safe and moving forward.

Right.

The New Headquarters

We at the Club have watched the development on the corner there of the Westchester Parkway and Loyola Boulevard – your new headquarters. It's an amazing building. Chief, what are your first impressions?

It's impressive. I got here for the groundbreaking with the shovel and the dirt. From that to this is pretty gosh darn amazing, particularly in two short years. It's 160,000 square feet of structure here. We have probably the largest indoor [shooting] range west of the Mississippi at this facility. It's so large you can actually drive vehicles inside the weapons range, so we can do lots of different types of training scenarios.

More story and pics on Web *Alive!*
Go to: alive.employeesclub.com

Alive! Feature, CONTINUED

Tour the new HQ With the Club



Airport Police's Emergency Services Unit has a home in the new headquarters. From left: Officer III Tarek Azmy; Sgt. Steve Balandran, 15 years of City service; Club CEO Robert Larios; and Officer III Jacqueline Zambrano. All three Officers are Club Members.



A long hallway on the second floor (back) connects dozens of offices. From left: Officer III Tarek Azmy, Club Member; Officer III Jacqueline Zambrano, Club Member; and Club CEO Robert Larios.

Airport Police led *Alive!* on a pre-opening tour of the impressive new headquarters. The building, which brings Airport Police personnel together under one roof for the first time in modern Airport Police history, was just starting to be populated by police personnel. Come along!



The building's dining area features large views of LAX (off to the right). Pictured: Club CEO Robert Larios (left) and Officer III Tarek Azmy, Club Member.



Korey Holmes, Storekeeper II, 22 years of City service, Club Member, runs the department's Logistics office. "If I don't have it, you don't need it," he says.



Airport Police Motor Units have plenty of parking when off-duty. Inset: Motor Officer Ray Woods, 20 years of City service, Club Member, with Club CEO Robert Larios.



The Airport Police Bike Unit, consisting of E-bikes (the force has been using them for decades) stores and repairs its cycles in dedicated space. The Bike Unit makes travel through LAX's notoriously traffic-choked horseshoe more feasible and speedy. From left: Officer III Tarek Azmy, Club Member, with Club CEO Robert Larios.



A 75-yard shooting range can accommodate two moving targets and five active shooters simultaneously.

The Shooting Range



An area for weapons cleaning.



The facility can store hundreds of different targets to help train the shooters.

The new Airport Police headquarters features one of the largest and most state-of-the-art weapons ranges in the United States, and is ten times bigger than the department's previous facility. Everything the department needs is in one location, which will fully operational in January. Range Master Officer III Robert Stefanovich, 17 years of City service, Club Member, leads the tour of the range. The range facility includes:

The *Alive!* Interview 'A Sense of Pride'

— Continued from page 11

The facility itself is a LEED gold standard building. It's fairly stoic – it reminds me of a Google or Microsoft campus. It's steel, concrete and glass, so it's very modern when you go in. It's almost more than we deserve – we're used to being in these old buildings. It's like wow, is this really our place? It's certainly the envy of office space for other folks at the airport.

Tell us a little bit about the history of the building.

I've been here only two years, but it sounds like it's been on the drawing board for a number of years. Department personnel were spread out amongst eight or nine structures around the airport. My canines were in another building, my training staff was in another, even currently the emergency services or the SWAT guys were in another building, so now we're all consolidated here in this one building. The only folks who are not housed here in this building are our dispatchers because our communication center is located somewhere else on the airport grounds, and our badging office is a whole standalone service in and of itself – but everybody else is here: emergency services, canines, LAPD bomb detail, Detectives, internal affairs, training. It's just all security. Our security and access control unit folks as well as our traffic folks deployed and were housed in another building, and so for years these officers never really saw the other Police Officers until they came out into the field. So now everybody's here in the same sandbox, so I think it's a positive thing.

Is there an LAPD presence in the building?

The bomb detail is an expertise that we don't have, so the LAPD explosive detail, the bomb guys are here. Half the canine team is LAPD, and then a few LAPD Officers on the detective team – it's actually an LAPD task force that we have people attached to, and they're assigned here too. The regular FSD – the Field Support Division, which is the other uniform portion of LAPD that's on campus, is still housed in the mobile trailers near Terminal 8 over



Club CEO Robert Larios (left) and Airport Police Chief Cecil Rhambo outside the force's new headquarters in Westchester.

means safer areas to store our vehicles – we have some specialized equipment here certainly. We recently just picked up some drones for our SWAT team guys, and they're specialized equipment for their whole operation can be housed much more securely here than was before. The new building allows for easier coordination of resources.

Just makes a lot more sense. Is there any federal presence there? FAA, FBI, Customs and Border Protection, TSA, anything like that?

No they don't have a presence in the building. They have their own locations. The FBI has certain needs, so there are special rooms in special places for them. Same with TSA – federal air marshals have their own space, but there is office space available here if they need to have a common use area. The foresight in building this place is it was built big enough for growth – as the airport grows in physical structure we're going to have to add more personnel.

What's your favorite part of the building so far?

We have a common area, a kind of kitchen area if you will. It looks like a cafeteria or almost like a restaurant or a library or Starbucks.

there on the other side. We plan to try to move them possibly to the old facility.

What does the new building allow the Airport Police to do?

It gives us an easier opportunity to deal with the challenges of coordinating resources. If we have to put together a tactical team in anticipation of demonstrations, we can put our teams all in the same room for briefings and deployment. They're not going to have to come from other places, they'll just come from other parts of the building. It also

That space is very special. It's probably about 5,000 or 6,000 square feet, and it opens up to the community room. If you know people in the community who want to hold town hall meetings, we have a room for them. That's something really unique particularly for the airport here. We never really had that kind of community space, at least not with the Police Dept. Our cafeteria area, our lunch break area, is very, very unique.

Another thing that I think is really unique is the way we house our specialized units. They're all down on the first floor. They have giant equipment bay doors that allow them to deploy out. They can seal down very securely.



In the new Community Room are (from left) Officers III Jacqueline Zambrano and Tarek Azmy with Club CEO Robert Larios.

And then of course the [weapons] range – it's state of the art. There are going to be people clamoring to use the range. You can actually fire a long rifle in this range and drive vehicles into it. There's space to do close quarter combat training in the range, so it's really a state-of-the-art facility.

Another thing – I think the size of the building gives people an idea of the size of the security measures that are put in here at the airport. Prior to this building, people probably had no idea this many people secured the airport. I have the fourth largest police department in L.A. County. A lot of people don't know that. And the fact that we're just across the street from the runway hasn't deterred our deployment times. Those are successes – when you're building a structure you're thinking, what did we overlook? Accessibility to the airfield, accessibility to the airport itself and to the parking structures in the surrounding area has proven to be

– Interview continued page 21 and on *Web Alive!*
alive.employeesclub.com

A Club Premiere!

 WATCH ON YOUTUBE



The Club premieres its end-of-the-year recap video on YouTube.

THE CLUB: *Say Yes to the Club*, a fun but informative video recap of 2021, is now available for general viewing on the Club's YouTube channel.

"2021 was a year when the pandemic still played a major factor, at least through the first half of the year," Club CEO Robert Larios said. "We wanted to show all the ways the Club staff stayed strong for our Members until things started opening up again. We served our Members all the way through, and that's what this is all about. The video tells that story in a really fun way. Be prepared for some good laughs."

Say Yes to the Club was produced during October and November, and once again safety protocols were practiced.

"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." To view the video, go to YouTube and search for the Employees Club of California or "Say Yes to the Club." ■



City Holiday Guide



There are a few events and dates remaining for the list of City holiday activities. They are:



Holiday Light Festival Train Ride

When: 5-8 p.m. weeknights; 5-9 p.m. Fri-Sun. through Jan. 7

Where: 4400 Crystal Springs Dr., Griffith Park

Cost: \$5

City sponsor: Rec and Parks

Information: (323) 662-9678, www.griffithparktrainrides.com

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.

The trains operate every night through Jan. 7. The trains do not operate in the rain.



LA Zoo Holiday Lights

When: 6-10 p.m. nightly through Jan. 9

Where: LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Griffith Park, 5355 Zoo Dr. Free parking.

Cost: \$16-\$24 (daytime Zoo admission extra).

City sponsor: LA Zoo.

Information: (323) 644-6042 or www.LAZoolights.org

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



John's Picture Perfect Contest

The Club's online photo contest, organized by CEO John Hawkins

This month's contest theme:

Open (your choice)

The Club's online photo contest, organized by CEO John Hawkins, has a monthly theme. But for the January contest, we are leaving the theme open – send in your best photos, with any theme you like (or no theme).

We'd love to see your favorite shots.

DEADLINE: Jan. 14

Submit your photos online here:

alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect

Club Members only.
Good luck!



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www.RosebudMarketing.com

Ken Parks Another Honor

Ken Husting honored as Parking Professional of the Year.

LADOT: Ken Husting, Principal Transportation Engineer, was named Parking Professional of the Year by the California Public Parking Association.

The award is given to a parking professional who demonstrated excellence through significant and outstanding achievements in one or more of the following categories: creativity and innovation, contributions to the parking industry, and demonstration of dedication to the parking industry by increasing the visibility and promoting the image of the parking profession.

According to LADOT, Ken's contributions in leading the Bureau of Parking Management over the last year include:

- The transformation of LADOT's parking citations processing program and focusing resources towards adopting socially oriented parking policies and creative payment relief options
- Working directly with various stakeholders, including the Mayor's Office, the City Council, and the Parking Violations Bureau, to deliver a package of COVID-19 parking programs, and
- In response to COVID-19, implementing a Citywide food and retail temporary pickup zone program, and adjudicating demonstrated agility by transitioning to telephone and videoconferencing when conducting administrative hearings for parking citations.



Ken Husting, Principal Transportation Engineer, Parking Management, LADOT.

As bureau head, Ken is responsible for five divisions: Parking Adjudication, Parking Facilities, Parking Meters, Parking Permits, and Parking Operations and Support. He leads a team of engineering, technical and administrative staff charged with managing and maintaining citywide parking operations and infrastructure assets, including 116 parking facilities and 38,000 on- and off-street metered spaces.

A licensed civil engineer, Ken has more than 20 years of experience with LADOT, previously serving as the division manager for the Parking Meters Division, responsible for parking technology and meter operations citywide, and the Highway Program Manager, responsible for delivery of transportation capital projects.

He holds a master's degree in public administration from USC, and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Cal State Long Beach.

Ken's Parking Management Team won a national award in 2020 for innovation for two different programs that assist low-income motorists during the pandemic, namely the Community Assistance Parking Program. That honor came in innovation from the National Parking Association.

Congratulations to Ken for this individual honor. ■

Shirley Lau Is New AD

Principal Civil Engineer Shirley Lau is promoted to Assistant Director of Street Services.



Shirley Lau

PUBLIC WORKS: On Dec. 4, Public Works/Street Services appointed Shirley Lau as its Assistant Director (Chief Technical Officer). Previously, Shirley was the Division Manager for Public Works/Engineering's Bridge Improvement Division.

She will oversee all the Engineers and Landscape Architects at StreetsLA, including the functions of Streetscape Design, Asset Management, Street Furniture, Contracted Construction Management and Metro Plan review.

Her career with the City started in 1993, shortly after earning a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from UCLA. She also holds a master of science degree in civil engineering from UC Irvine.

In her 28 years with the City, Shirley has held positions in several divisions and departments. As head of the Bridge team, she led the design and construction of nearly \$300 million of bridge improvement projects, including the retrofitting, widening or replacing of existing vehicular bridges. Recently, Shirley also worked on multimodal bridges, including the recently completed North Atwater Bridge for horses, pedestrians and cyclists and the Red Car Pedestrian Bridge.

Shirley also led Engineering's Mentorship Program, established to promote and accelerate the learning, growth and development of the Bureau's employees.

The Club congratulates Shirley on her new position. ■

Charge Ahead

With discount on Bulls and Pegasus E-bikes!

- Go to the Club Website for details: employeesclub.com

Larios In the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Executive Officer

Congratulations!

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



Michael M. Otis

Retired from the LADWP after 32 years of City service.



Donna Enfiajian

Retired from the Harbor Dept. after 36 years of City service.



Lita Payne

Retired from LACERS after 33 years of City service.



Raoul McMillan

Retired from the LADWP after 41 years of City service.

Celebrate With Cheryl!

Popular Club Counselor Cheryl Martin is turning 63 next year and celebrating in Greece. Sign up now to join the fun!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Travel dates: Oct. 13-21, 2022 (nine days)
- Starting price: \$4,069, double occupancy, including air and hotel
- Deposit: \$99 down with monthly payment arrangement, or \$500 down per person at the time of reservation.
- Final payment date: Aug. 4, 2022
- Important notes: Travelers must have their passport information at time of booking. First-come, first-served basis. Seats are limited.

Mykonos ... Santorini ... and mainland Greece! Head with Cheryl Martin for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Aegean in October 2022.

"Celebrate my 63rd with me in Greece!"

EMAIL: cmartin@employeesclub.com
PHONE: (213) 819-0794



To register and for more information, go to: www.grouptoursite.com/cherylmartin
Reservation tour number 70295428



MYKONOS

SANTORINI

GREECE



LADWP employees pausing for five minutes during the workday Nov. 18.

A Moment for Mike

Michael Lemestre and his wife, Michelle, pictured at ClubFest in 2006.



Dept. holds moment of silence for the late Mike Lemestre.

LADWP: On Nov. 18, LADWP employees halted work for five minutes to honor their fallen colleague, Michael Lemestre.

Mike Lemestre, Cable Splicer, Club Member, 16 years of City service, died of injuries sustained during an incident while at work Nov. 4, the LADWP announced. The incident occurred in Wilmington. ■

LADWP employees pausing for five minutes during the workday Nov. 18.



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



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Member Services Counselor
(at the Club Store)
tsy@employeesclub.com
Ext. 202



Cheryl Martin
Member Services Counselor
cmartin@employeesclub.com
Ext. 136



Phone and virtual meeting appointments available.

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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.

The City Parties!

It's Party Pix Time

Did your department host a holiday party in person or virtually in November or December of last year?

Send in some pics or screen grabs, and we'll publish them!

We here at *Alive!* want to honor your amazing efforts to create some much-needed holiday cheer. Starting this month, we'll run photos or screen grabs from your party. And we'll continue in the next months as the images come in.

Submit your photos online. You can still submit a screen grab from your department holiday party here: alive.employeesclub.com/holidayparty



LACERS

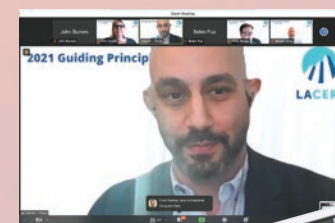
Retirement system holds holiday party virtually, again.

The Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System (LACERS) held its annual holiday party online due to pandemic protocols. LACERS also celebrated virtually last year.

Host was Gabriel Perez, Benefits Specialist, 16 years of City service. General Manager Neil Guglielmo, Club Member, spoke to employees during the event.

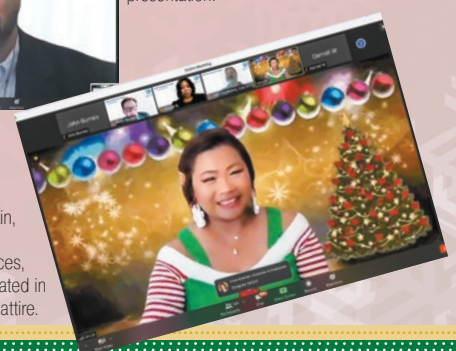
The department also presented its annual Guiding Principal honorees, which will be covered in a future *Alive!* issue.

Upcoming Retirees and those celebrating employment anniversaries were also noted during the event.



Gabriel Perez, Benefits Specialist, 16 years of City service, hosted the holiday party and Guiding Principles presentation.

Lin C. Lin, Human Resources, participated in holiday attire.



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



Ruth B. Perry

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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 News Contributions!

Beverly J. Clark

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

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RUTH B. PERRY



Ruth B. Perry

“Let our New Year’s resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.”
 - Goran Persson, former Prime Minister of Sweden

On behalf of the Board of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI), I extend a very Happy New Year’s greeting. We hope everyone was able to rest, stay healthy and enjoy treasured time with loved ones over the holidays. Let the old year end and the New Year begin with the warmest of aspirations. We have had so much planned for our members since 2020 but have been unable to bring our plans to fruition thus far due to the pandemic. We have high expectations that 2022 will be the year we are able to regroup and put all our plans into action. Not to mention that 2023 will be RLACEI’s 50th anniversary! Thanks to our faithful following of members, we have been and will continue to be the one and only organization that actively protects our retirement benefits.

In June 2020, the RLACEI Board of Directors revised our Mission Statement to read: “The Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc (RLACEI) exists to provide opportunities for fellowship, to promote lifelong learning, to advocate for fair benefits, to recognize the accomplishments of our members, and to strengthen the relationship between Retirees and the Los Angeles City Employees’ Retirement System (LACERS) and the City of Los Angeles elected officials.”

To this end, we have forged strong relationships and partnerships with the Employees Club and with LACERS. The continued collaboration between our organizations will only strengthen our abilities to provide pertinent information for all Retirees, to provide assistance when needed or asked for, and to ensure that our members receive each and every benefit they have worked for and deserve. Along with RLACEI’s annual golf tournament, summer picnic and holiday party, we anticipate going forward with the Retirement Expo previously planned to take place in 2020 and will accept any and all invitations to both the Employees Club and LACERS events to provide outreach to current members and those interested in becoming part of our worthy organization.

Inevitably, the reasons for our inability to socially interact as we would have liked brought some sad moments. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to all the families of the almost 400 RLACEI members who passed away this past year. We honor former RLACEI Directors Edward Harding, Gary Mattingly, Neil Ricci and Tom Stenmoch who also passed and we truly miss. Despite the challenging times, we hope that the beautiful moments spent with our deceased loved ones provide us with wonderful memories of them for years to come.

Much can happen in a year between the good and the bad. So, it is important to recognize the special symbolism the new year brings – new beginnings, fresh starts, as well as a time of reflection.

As I reflect on my last four years on the RLACEI Board, I would be remiss if I did not mention the current Directors. I am so fortunate to work with an exceptional group of dedicated colleagues who put their hearts and souls into helping our members. Being at the helm of RLACEI is both a privilege and a great responsibility. I am determined to make the absolute best of the upcoming year. With our strong, motivated team working together, we can surely make our goals happen. Let it be known that we genuinely appreciate your membership to RLACEI.

Once again, on behalf of the RLACEI Board of Directors, we wish you and your families a happy, healthy and successful 2022!

Best regards,
Ruth B. Perry, President
 RLACEI

LACERS BOARD UPDATE

LACERS Actuary Report A Boost to Funded Status

by Michael R. Wilkinson,
 LACERS Commissioner
 Email: MikeWilkinson4LACERS@gmail.com



Michael R. Wilkinson

Well, it’s that time again. No, not time for New Year’s resolutions; it is time for the new actuarial valuation. Exciting stuff!

Our actuarial value is up and our unfunded liability (the amount that we are below 100 percent funding) is down. That’s good news!

This is due to several factors: strong investment returns, lower than projected salary increases for active members, and better than anticipated health costs made a positive impact. More members retiring offset these gains resulting in lower member contributions than predicted.

There are two ways to look at LACERS actuarial health. The first is called the actuarial value of assets and liabilities. The actuarial value calculation involves “smoothing” or deferring part of each year’s investment gains or losses for recognition in future years. Smoothing cushions the plan against significant short-term fluctuations in annual investment earnings. This calculated value is the one used to set the funding for the plan and the contribution rate that must be paid by the City. The other is the market value of assets. This is simply the value of LACERS’ investment portfolio before any smoothing.

The funded ratio pairs the value of LACERS investments with its liabilities (the cost to provide the benefits and administer the plan). For LACERS’ fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, the actuarial value of the retirement benefits had increased by 2.2 percent to 71.6 percent, while the actuarial value of health benefits was 94.6 percent, resulting in a nine percent increase from the prior fiscal year’s study.

On a market value basis, the retirement benefits funded ratio was 81.3 percent (up 15 percent), whereas the health benefits funded ratio was 107.4 percent, a 25.6 percent increase from the last fiscal year’s measurement.

Okay, what does all this mean and what will change? As we discussed in previous articles, the plan is funded from just three sources: employee contributions, investment returns and City contributions. The actuarial valuation determines how much the City needs to contribute to keep the plan sound. Note that the City has always paid 100 percent of its required contributions, unlike some plans across the country that are in dire financial straits.

This year the required health contribution from the City went down by 0.37 percent while the retirement contribution rate went up 1.43 percent for a combined 1.06 percent increase, resulting in a total of 33.31 percent of the City payroll.

You may ask, why did the overall rate go up with all the good financial news this year? Well, the biggest factor was that the City had a lower payroll largely because of all of the early retirements, which required a higher percentage of payroll to make up the difference. However, the total amount paid by the City with the higher percentage combined with the lower payroll (because of fewer employees) will be about the same. •

RETIREE EVENTS

- June 2, 2022 Tom Stenmoch Annual Golf Tournament**
 Alhambra Golf Course
 630 S. Almansor St.
 Alhambra
- Aug. 11, 2022 Annual Picnic**
 Grace E. Simons Lodge
 1025 Elysian Park Dr.
- Dec. 15, 2022 Annual Holiday Party**
 Friendship Auditorium
 3201 Riverside Dr.

Refer a Friend, Get a \$25 Target Gift Card

Let your fellow City Retiree friends know about the great benefits of being an RLACEI member. Encourage them to call (800) 678-4145, ext. 717, or visit the Website at RLACEI.org, to join today! Once they join RLACEI and mention you, the gift card is yours!

- 100 gift cards are available for this promotion.
- Begins Jan. 1, 2022.
- Friend must join RLACEI for member to be eligible for receiving a gift card.

What are you waiting for? Refer a friend today!

Become an RLACEI Member

RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. We are over 5,500 strong! Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. enjoy all RLACEI events such as the golf tournament, member picnic and holiday party with FREE membership to the Employees Club with access to all group benefits (insurance, discounts, etc.).

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

RETIREES ON THE MOVE

She's a Retiree on the Move.

Meet Carrie Adelia Gabriel (Pt. 1)

By Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director

Meet Carrie Adelia Gabriel, an amazing Retiree on the move and an L.A. historical figure! She's celebrating 100 years!

What a wonderful pleasure it was for me to interview and meet with Ms. Carrie A. Gabriel. She contacted me and said she had a story for me. Ms. Gabriel holds a wealth of information and history about her employment experience with



Carrie Adelia Gabriel

out and came back in and said 'hello.' Everyone spoke on my second attempt. There were days when I would leave work, go home and just walk the floor to get out my frustration. My goal was to do my job well, and I did. My co-workers respected me, and we got along well. There are always some bad apples in the bunch, but for the most part, I enjoyed my City career."

In October 1962, Carrie transferred to the Personnel Employees Folders Unit, where she received a commendation for organizing the unit. In August 1964, she transferred as Secretary to the Engineer of Survey in the Bureau of Engineering's Survey Dept. In 1968, Carrie transferred to Data Service Bureau as a Data Processing Technician, then was promoted to Principal Clerk Personnel. When she retired in February 1978, Carrie had been promoted to Sr. Data Processing Technician in charge of two computer centers.

She has one son who lives in Stockton and drives down to visit her at least once a week, sometimes twice a week. He takes her to doctors' appointments and takes care of the groceries. Carrie also has three grandsons and one granddaughter that she is very proud of. There are pictures throughout the house of loved ones including her brother, Arthur, who was also a City of Los Angeles retiree from the Department of Transportation. She began taking care of him in 2010 when she was 89. He passed away at age 96 in 2017. She also took care of her mother who came to live with her when she moved to Los Angeles.



Carrie took care of her brother, Arthur, Retired, LADOT, until the end of his life.

the City of Los Angeles as well as other jobs she held after she retired from the City. She began her City career in February 1946 just months after World War II had ended in September 1945.

Ms. Gabriel is proud to announce that she will be celebrating her 100th birthday this Jan. 28. She says, "I feel blessed and am not sure why the man upstairs (God) has shown me favor to reach this milestone!" I was amazed and struck by her presence of mind, clarity and ability to recall so many details of her career and life.

Ms. Gabriel, at the age of 99, says she has some health problems but her outward appearance does not reveal that. She walks well without the assistance of a walker or a cane. She does not wear glasses, at least not to get around. She says, "I was still driving until about a month ago when my son advised me to stop."

Ms. Gabriel was born and educated in San Antonio, Tex. Her first two years of elementary school were in a two-room schoolhouse, then she attended Brackenridge Elementary School and graduated from Phyllis Wheatley High in June 1937 at 15. Although the schools in San Antonio were segregated at that time, Carrie continued her education by attending St. Philip's Junior College in San Antonio during World War II. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Carrie found employment with the U.S. Government at Kelly Field in San Antonio.

Carrie and her family moved to Los Angeles in 1943 where she found employment with Lockheed Martin until the end of World War II – the end of the war might have been celebrated, but her job ended, too. She continued to job hunt and take classes at the Metropolitan School of Business. Her career goal was to become a court reporter. However, when the college moved the classes she needed to Bryan School, she could no longer afford the cost.

City Career

On Feb. 1, 1946, Carrie was hired as a War Emergency Clerk Stenographer with the LAPD. Thus began her 32-year City career. She worked for the LAPD for 17 years and was promoted to Sr. Clerk Typist. This was not an easy task in those days. She experienced many challenges as the first African American to be placed in many of her job positions. She recalls her first day reporting to work at Lincoln Heights Jail and having fellow employees staring at her as she walked through the doors. "I walked in the door and said 'hello' and no one spoke. I said, let me try this again. I walked



Carrie received a number of official commendations because of her long, distinguished and historic City career.

Do you get bored?

"No. I don't allow myself to get bored. I just think how great life is. I love to read, and my phone rings off the wall. People call and check on me, and I call and check on others. I console and encourage those who are going through challenges. It is important to stay in contact with people. Many of my friends have passed on, but I have a group of younger people who check on me and I also check on them. I don't wait for them to always call me. I call them also."

What's Next

"I wanted to have a big birthday party celebrating 100 but because of the pandemic, we won't do that. Every day is a celebration."

Carrie was and is a trailblazer. She has a wall adorned with her many awards, commendations and certificates of appreciation acknowledged by Supervisors, General Managers and City Councilmembers.

There is so much history to share in this story of longevity and wisdom, I could not put it all in this one article. Look for more about Carrie Gabriel, a Los Angeles City Retiree who at 99 and soon to be 100, is still on the move, in next month's issue.

RETIREES UPDATE

Why I Belong to RLACEI (And You Should, Too)

by Tom Moutes, RLACEI Legislative Director

Email: Tom.Moutes@RLACEI.org



Tom Moutes

Why do I belong to the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)? The answer is threefold: LACERS needs to have a watchdog, I enjoy the social events, and I enjoy the benefits of my automatic enrollment in the Employees Club.

Does LACERS Really Need a Watchdog?

Unfortunately, that answer is an emphatic "yes"! In my 20 years of working at and following LACERS, there has been at least one bad apple in a high-level staff position. Additionally, some of the LACERS Board Members have wanted to make decisions based on self-interest or political considerations – instead of what is in the best interests of active and Retired members. Lastly, the politicians frequently want to short the City's annual contribution to LACERS and inappropriately try to tell LACERS how to invest its funds.

How Does RLACEI Serve as a Watchdog?

RLACEI Board Members review City Council and LACERS Board and committee agendas, listen to important parts of the meetings and make public comments, as appropriate. Recent examples include various ill-advised requests by the City for LACERS to divest assets from things the Council doesn't like and an attempt to trim back health care coverage for active and Retired City employees.

RLACEI also encourages its members to provide public comments on these important issues. This is where you come in – there is strength in numbers! When the City Council or the LACERS Board receives 100-plus public comments on an issue, they take notice! While RLACEI can spot these important issues and notify members, we need you to take action to help protect your hard-earned benefits!

RLACEI is the only entity that consistently monitors and weighs in on retirement issues on your behalf!

RLACEI Social Events

Because we care about our members and want to keep everyone safe in these challenging times, we have been able to host only a picnic recently. We are hoping to be able to host a full slate of social events in 2022. These events – whether picnics, holiday parties, or golf tournaments – provide great opportunities to connect with former coworkers and other current Retirees.

What You Can You Do to Help?

If you are an RLACEI member, thank you! You are helping us protect your hard-earned pension benefits and helping to make our social events fun! However, there is one more thing you can do – "Refer a Friend". We are holding a "Refer a Friend" promotion that could earn you a \$25 gift card!

Adding new members will help us keep RLACEI strong into the future – helping us protect retirement benefits and put on fun social events.

If you are not currently an RLACEI member, I hope you will consider joining! ●

Follow RLACEI on Facebook



Connect to RLACEI on Facebook, and you'll be eligible to win a \$5 gift card for See's Candies or Starbucks.

The gift card prize will go to the first 150 to like the RLACEI Facebook page.

How to enter:

CURRENT RLACEI MEMBERS: Follow us on Facebook

OTHER CITY RETIREES: Join RLACEI and like us on Facebook

December Winners:

New RLACEI Members – Welcome!

Lily Wren

Guadalupe Ortiz

Following RLACEI Facebook Page

Florita Avila

David Hernandez

Daren Perlstein

Earnestine Berry

Peter Mattingly

Gwendolyn Poindexter

Edwina Chism

Denise McGee

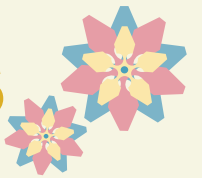
Vasdev Singh

Congratulations for joining RLACEI and our Facebook page!

Follow RLACEI here: www.facebook.com, and search for "RLACEI"



Life's Important Moments



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

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

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

Send your photos and text online:
alive.employeesclub.com/lifemoments



Retirements

View retirements online at: alive.employeesclub.com/retirements-202201

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City in Dec. 2021. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Abracia, Aurora Christine	Chief Admin. Analyst	CAO	41	Lopez, Gary L.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Peralta, Deborah L.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Barbula, Mark E.	Power Safety	LADWP	N/D	Luna, Julius P.	Office Eng. Tech	Public Works	18	Percivalle, Paul M.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D
Bell, Robert Lee	Ref. Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	31	Machado, Maria Esther	Custodian	Airports	22	Phillips, Rickey Eugene	Electrical Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	15
Chesaneck, Tyrone J.	Civil Eng. Assoc.	Public Works	11	Martin, Patricia	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Airports	30	Platte, Stephen J.	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D
Claudio, Carlito Villanueva	Sr. Detention Officer	LAPD	34	Mendoza, Lourdes T.	Admin. Clerk	Rec and Parks	10	Rodriguez, Dan	Wastewater Coll. Supv.	Public Works	32
Correa, William Arellano	Security Officer	LAPD	32	Montantes, Cheryl R.	Custodian Sup.	Airports	19	Rose, Eric W.	Council Aide	Council	5
Creason, Glen C.	Librarian	Library	41	Moody, Eric Lance	Council Aide	Council	26	Russell, Rosalind	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	33
Crenshaw, Joe A.	Street Services Sup.	Public Works	36	Mordi, Sussy Osayabamwe	Correctional Nurse	Personnel	3	Saraee, Juliet	Airport Guide	Airports	13
Dixon, Christine D.	Council Aide	Council	10	Mosgrove, John R.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Sheldon, Raquel K.	Animal Control Officer	Animal Services	18
Duke, Dolores M.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D	Mungra, Ramnik	Sr. Civil Eng.	Public Works	33	Shiner, Lisabeth A.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	19
Dunkle, Roxanne Marie	Administrative Clerk	Eco./Wrkfr. Dev.	20	Murray, Kenneth Tyrome	Custodian	Gen. Services	7	Smith, Anthony Lescell	Sr. Detention Officer	LAPD	26
Gamez, Margarita	Custodian	Airports	14	Myles, Spencer Hardy	Traffic Officer	Transportation	32	Smith, Anthony T.	Ref. Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	32
Garcia, Daniel	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Nakayoshi, Leona L.	Retirement Plan	LADWP	N/D	Starostenko, Walter G.	Material Test Eng. Assoc.	Gen. Services	35
Gomez, Adrian Angel	Heavy Duty Equip. Mech.	Gen. Servies	30	Neal, David F.	Water Eng.ing	LADWP	N/D	Staten, Caprice A.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Harbor	31
Griffin, India R.	Build. C&M Gn. Sup.	Gen. Services	27	Nguyen, Vinh N.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Stringfield, Cynthia E.	Veterinarian	Zoo	8
Huynh, Kim T.	Management Analyst	Public Works	33	Nickell, Cheryl Louise	Police Service Rep	LAPD	21	Thompson, Angela B.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Jackson, Mark H.	Sr. Park Maint. Supv.	Rec and Parks	34	Ochoa, Arturo J.	Special Prog. Assistant	Rec and Parks	9	Ultreras, Juana G.	Custodian	Harbor	12
Jacob, Ashebir	Civil. Eng. Assoc.	Harbor	12	Oh, Seung Tag	Sr. Environmental Eng.	Public Works	32	Urssery, Bobby Joe	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	25
Johnson, John	Heavy Duty Truck Op.	Public Works	13	Olson, Brian Glen	Building Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	14	Vidican, Marc C.	Electrical Mechanic	Harbor	26
Kawase, Eric K.	Wastewater Treat. Oper.	Public Works	42	Padilla, Canda L.	Child Care Assoc.	Rec and Parks	6	Ziman, Loreen H.	Librarian	Library	4
Krikorian, Raffi K.	Energy Generation	LADWP	N/D	Panajotovic, Elena M.	Librarian	Library	7				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					
Cobian, Elia	Transportation	21	De Angelis, S.	N/D	N/D
Cowan, Ronald Justin M.	Bldg. & Safety	14	Edwards, Bonnie R.	LADWP	16
Genovese, Regina Osuna	Public Works	31	Escoto, Elias	N/D	N/D
Guerena, Guadalupe Gamboa	Public Works	20	Flowers, Marcus C.	N/D	N/D
Lemestre, Michael A.	LADWP	16	Gale, Ruth H.	LADWP	33
Morris, Mary	Bldg. & Safety	19	Garcia, Alberto	Transportation	13
Parcon Martinez, Rosemarie	Public Works	1	Gomez, Mary F.	City Attorney's Off.	30
Perez, Ruby Elizabeth	City Attorney's Off.	36	Grady, Diane A.	LADWP	19
RETIRED					
Adams, Jamesetta	Housing	33	Graffi, Robert D.	LADWP	33
Arnold, Linda J.	Public Works	32	High, Joseph W.	N/D	N/D
Ausmus, Curtis J.	LAPD	26	Jarasa, Pedro P.	Cultural Affairs	21
Blade, Ronald	N/D	N/D	Kolacinski, Brian L.	Transportation	38
Blount, Paul C.	Public Works	46	Kramer, Robert W.	N/D	N/D
Branch, Sandra J.	Airports	17	Kumagawa, Takeo	LADWP	31
Brooks, Velta J.	Rec and Parks	3	Landrum, Robert J.	Rec and Parks	29
Burkley, Larry D.	Rec and Parks	30	Lechuga, Margaret	City Attorney's Off.	33
Cervantes, Raoul	Public Works	9	Lee, Connie	LAPD	31
Chang, In Son	LACERS	27	Lee, James	N/D	N/D
Clouser, Russell L.	N/D	N/D	Lenard, John H.	Airports	18
Coady, Patrick L.	LADWP	47	Lisec, Lois L.	LADWP	20
Cramer, Robert	City Attorney's Off.	33	Lloyd, Gary W.	Gen. Services	37
			Masri, Karim K.	LADWP	21
			McDermott, Robert J.	Transportation	32
			Miklovich, Julia	N/D	N/D
			Morrisette, Loell J.	Rec and Parks	30
			Mullennex, Richard K.	Bldg. & Safety	25
			Norris, David	LADWP	32
			Nun, James F.	LADWP	13
			Pinedo, Rudy	N/D	N/D
			Queen, Phyllis M.	LADWP	25
			Quickstrom, Noal O.	N/D	N/D
			Quirola, Diana	Gen. Services	18
			Ruzic, Ilija	LADWP	22
			Sakamoto, Donald K.	Public Works	40
			Sakiyama, Kenneth S.	Gen. Services	28
			Scott, Henry	LADWP	30
			Shaughnessy, Patrick C.	Gen. Services	13
			Strang, Gerald E.	N/D	N/D
			Syan, Ajit S.	Public Works	34
			Sykes, Wanda G.	Rec and Parks	30
			Theus, Gipson L.	N/D	N/D
			Vega, Albert G.	Gen. Services	36
			Walker, John	N/D	N/D
			Weary, Ellis AJ	Airports	23
			Whelan, Thomas P.	Bldg. & Safety	30
			Widdis, Kenneth R.	Rec and Parks	34
			Wong, Molly	City Clerk	42
			Zucco, George	Transportation	30

N/D = not disclosed

Help Us Tell Their Story



Every month, *Alive!* publishes the names of those current or retired City Employees who have died. But who were they?

Did you know them? If you worked with any of these people, knew a story or two about them or were related to them, consider writing to *Alive!* and letting us know. Tell their story!

- Write a few sentences or paragraphs
- Send in a photo, if you have one
- Let us know your name and connection to the deceased
- Send your memories to: talkback@employeesclub.com
Subject line: *Tell Their Story*

PUBLIC WORKS

Goodbye, Mr. Mulch

Paul C. Blount, recycling expert and Retired Club Board Member, passes away.

Paul C. Blount, a Retired Operations Manager in Public Works/Sanitation and Environment's Solid Resource Engineering section; a solid resources recycling and mulch expert; a former Club Board Member, committee member and department representative; a trade instructor; a U.S. Army veteran in Special Operations during the Vietnam War; and subject of an *Alive!* cover story in April 2010; died in Florida in late October. He was 80 and survived by his wife, Peggy Porter. He retired in 2014 with 46 years of City service.

Paul worked in collecting operations for Sanitation for about half his career, but transferred into recycling in the late 1990s. It changed his life.

"I am interested in waste management," he told *Alive!* "I have spent most of my career in the collection side, and then I had an opportunity to come over to this side. I didn't realize that there was so much more going on than was apparent. Once I saw this, it became just fas-

cinating to me, and I became more and more interested. It's turned into a passion." In addition to his work duties, he became a dedicated producer of his own household's mulch at that time.

While working for the City, he also taught solid resources recycling at LA Trade Tech and UCLA Extension for many years.

"Paul had such character, and we honor his many contributions to the City and the planet," said LACEA Association CEO John Hawkins. "The Club is grateful for all the ways he supported us during his City career and in his retirement."

"I remember seeing Paul not just at the Club offices but at the West LA Sanitation open house," remembered Club CEO Robert Larios. "He was a senior level City employee, yet there he was working a booth

Paul C. Blount

APRIL 3, 1941 - OCT. 27, 2021

May he rest in peace.

teaching people about recycling and mulching. He was passionate about it.

"Paul was a pioneer. Solid recycling existed at Sanitation before he arrived, but he managed it well and took it to another place, just as we were all getting serious about sustainability. And through his many years of service to the Club on our Board, he helped make us a stronger association for Club Members and City employees." ■

Read a brief obituary here:



Paul Blount on the April 2010 cover of *Alive!*

The Club sends its condolences to Paul's widow, Peggy, his family members and former colleagues.



Paul Blount receiving a Club congratulatory plaque from Isabel Marquez, then-Club Counselor, at his retirement party in June 2014.



Paul Blount and his wife, Peggy, at his Sanitation retirement party in June 2014.



Paul Blount (right) and then-Club CEO John Hawkins at the City's Lopez Canyon mulch and compost facility (now closed) in April 2010.



Paul Blount with Marilyn McGuire-Holley, Club Insurance Board Member, at his retirement party in June 2014.

Paul C. Blount
Retired, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment
Former Club Board Member
1941-2021

The Alive! Kids' Coloring Contest

Coloring with The Club

Deadline for submission:

Feb. 10, 2022

Compiled by:



Guadalupe Lira,
Club Store Manager



DeAngelo Thompson,
Customer Service Associate

Mail completed coloring art to:
Club Coloring Contest
Employees Club of California
120 West 2nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Club will do everything it can to gather all the submissions, but it cannot be responsible for lost or misdirected mail.

Print and Online Schedule

Alive! has moved half of its children's coloring contests online.

In the printed *Alive!*:

January (winners published in March)
July (winners published in September)

In the online edition of *Alive!*:

April (winners posted in June)
October (winners posted in December)



SCAN TO
DOWNLOAD ART



Download Coloring Art From the Web

You can also download and print art from *Web Alive!*:
alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest



We want to know about you! Tell us a little about yourself:

Your name _____ How old are you? _____

When is your birthday? _____ What is the first name of your best friend? _____

What is your favorite snack? _____

What is your favorite television show? _____

Why do you want to go to this amusement park? _____

For parents/guardian to complete:

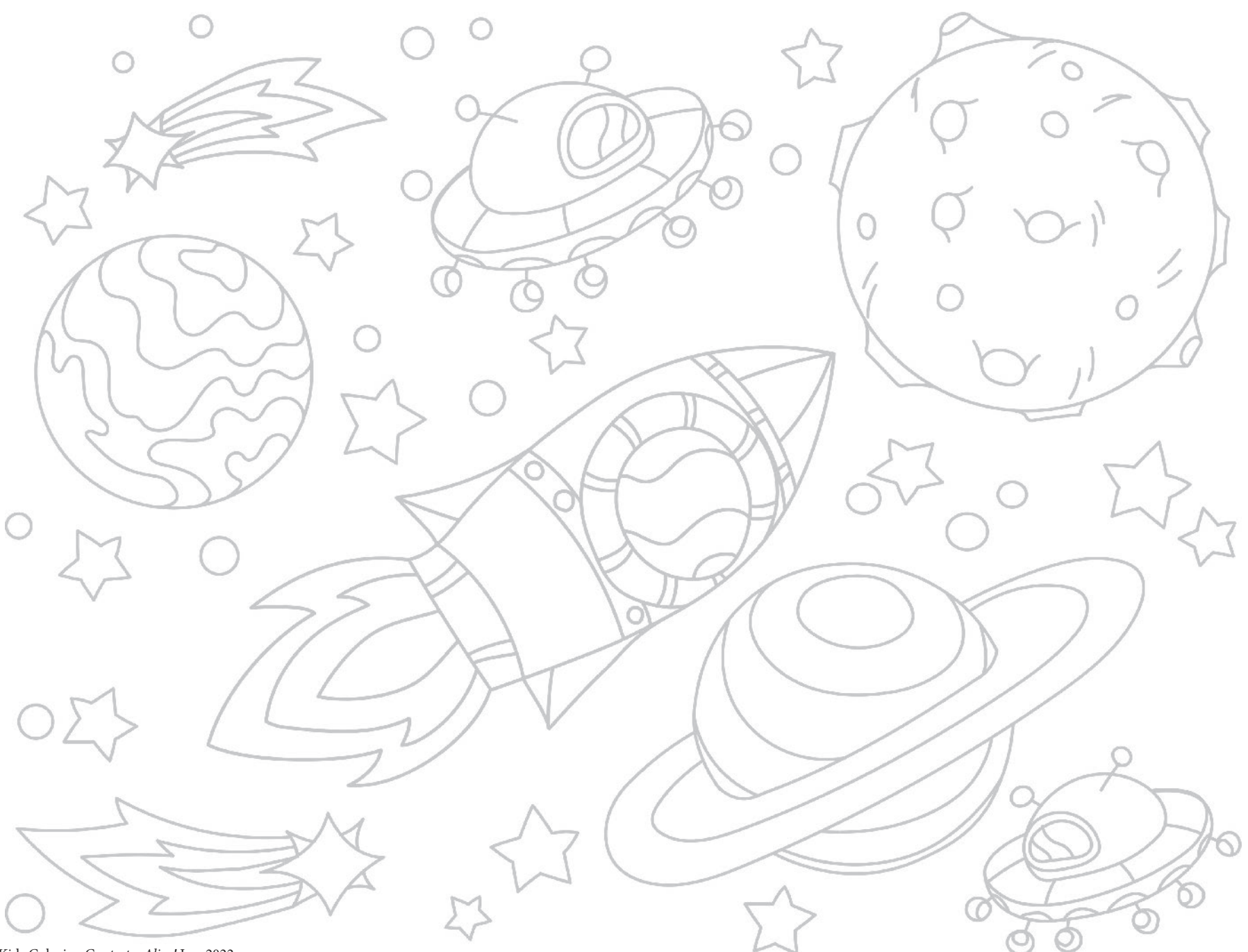
Name of parent/guardian: _____

Job title and department with the City: _____

Parent/guardian phone number: _____

Child's address/city/zip: _____

Club Membership number: _____



The *Alive!* Interview

'A Sense of Pride'

— continued from page 12

not as problematic as we thought it would be at all. That's a good success as far as I'm concerned in terms of how quickly can I get teams out there in time of need.

I should also mention for the folks who are very conscious of the environment and sustainability. We have a large number of electric charging stations in the facility, and that we try to stay cutting edge. The LEED-Gold standard for building and efficiency is important. We have an ultraviolet air purification system to help keep our environment healthy.

Looking at it from the outside, it feels open even though it isn't. It doesn't turn its back on the outside world even though it's secure.

I know exactly where you're coming from, having spent 30 years in another agency where we actually had to fortify our lobby areas. Our lobby is fortified. Glass windows in most police stations would make Officers feel like they could get fired upon because they can be seen. The reality is it's very rare that people attack police stations. We have a community room built in to the facility so it's very much the community's building as well as ours. It's very inviting.

Stepping Up

Looking at a larger picture here it seems to me that this building really marks an important milestone for Airport Police, a very important moment. Do you feel that way?

Yes. I think that the folks here in our agency feel like they weren't valued quite as much for far too long, that they were considered necessary but not really valued. This building is a symbol of how much they are valued. It's the nicest personnel building at all of LAWA as far as I'm concerned. In fact it's nicer than where the CEO is, and I think it really sends out a sense of pride for our



Chief Cecil Rhambo Jr. in his office facing LAX.

personnel to be part of this building.

What do you wish people knew about what your department does?

I wish they knew how much detail goes into providing overall security for the airport. I don't think people realize that we are responsible for providing security badges for more than 50,000 employees here on the property, or what's required to get these badges and the security protocols required. We're also responsible for training folks and making sure that federal regulations are adhered to. A lot of things go on behind the scenes, and a lot of people have no idea what makes all this work. We're more than just a visibility and a presence; there's a whole team and network

of auditing and dealing with electronics, looking at cutting-edge technology, working with our federal partners, and so forth.

There are a lot of things going on.

Yeah, there are. As we came into the pandemic we were taking a look at touchless ticketing where you don't even have touch machines, just facial recognition. That technology has been implemented in the Tom Bradley Terminal. As the scope of these things build out, and as we move forward into the future, our CEO [Justin Erbacci] is very interested in making sure we stay on the cutting edge. With technology, we're always going to be staying ahead of the curve on that.

Third Job in Retirement

What do you love about what you do?

This is my third job in retirement, so I'm going on my 45th year of this profession. I love the camaraderie, the police work, the community engagement. I love public service, and I've been doing it my whole adult life. I like being able to talk to the younger folks coming on, because I lived through the Rodney King riots and a lot of other things that happened in law enforcement. I have a little bit of experience in history to pass on, and I like being able to do that. I just enjoy people, and the airport is an exciting place to be. It's a unique environment, and I really enjoy learning all the new things that I'm learning. I'm grabbing it by the tail and enjoying it all.

Chief, thanks so much for your time.

We appreciate you. We need more good news!

Absolutely.

Bye.



Behind the new Airport Police headquarters are (from left) Club CEO Robert Larios and Officer Tarek Azmy, Club Member.



The new campus features several outdoor relaxation areas (background, left) with Adirondack chairs and other seating donated by Chief Cecil Rhambo.



In the new headquarters' public lobby are (from left) Officer III Jacqueline Zambrano, 11 years of City service, Club Member; Officer III Tarek Azmy, 28 years, Club Member; and Club CEO Robert Larios. In the new headquarters' public lobby are (from left) Officer III Jacqueline Zambrano, 11 years of City service, Club Member; Officer III Tarek Azmy, 28 years, Club Member; and Club CEO Robert Larios.

The Shooting Range



The simulations room – a "shoot house" – is still being finalized, but is so large that Airport Police can build whole sets inside, and can accommodate vehicles. No live rounds are permitted in here – electronic and digital monitoring is the method of evaluation.



An area for weapons loading.