



# Alive!

LADOT/Retired

# THE Gift OF Warmth

Giving jackets to the needy started small.

But it has turned into a major charity project for Zaki Mustafa, Retired, and current LADOT colleagues.

Read the story on PAGE 10, and lend a hand.



Zaki Mustafa (center), Retired, LADOT and Club Member, surrounded by his primary group of LADOT colleagues who distribute jackets, from left: Michael Dinh, Transportation Engineering Associate III; Bill Chan, Sr. Transportation Engineer; Jeannie Shen, Transportation Engineer; John Sam, Retired, Transportation Engineer; Brandon Wong, Transportation Engineering Associate III; Zaki Mustafa, Retired, Executive Officer; Rafik Khachikyan, Traffic Marking and Sign Superintendent I; Jeffrey Johnson, Retired, Traffic Officer II; David Kim, Transportation Engineering Associate I; and Zhehao Tian, Transportation Engineering Associate I.

Alive! photo by Summy Lam

Cheap Tickets. Enhanced Benefits. Unparalleled Service.



Employees Club of California  
120 West 2nd Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

## Tasty Holiday Deals!

**10% OFF**



**15% OFF**



THE GIFT THAT FEELS BETTER  
packages.

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





# What Giving Means

## ROBERT'S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



In retirement, **Zaki Mustafa**, LADOT, Club Member, has transformed tens of thousands of lives. And maybe even his own.

For our photo shoot in November to illustrate his story, Zaki promised he would bring some volunteers – current LADOT employees who help him give away jackets to those who live on the streets. We prepared to include maybe five or ten, but they kept coming. And coming. A chorus of people – another 20 or 30 -- waiting at the light a block away shouted, "Wait for us!" Wait we did. You see those photos on our cover, and inside our feature.

The Club has known Zaki Mustafa for many years. He had an exemplary career at LADOT, which we covered as he rose to lead the international Institute of Transportation Engineers. When he retired, the City Council threw him a goodbye event, and LADOT named a school crosswalk for him.

That pales in comparison to what he's doing now. From a single instance of giving a jacket to a man in need, he and his wife, Loretta, and their volunteers have now given away 55,000 jackets. That is truly impressive.



From left: Zaki Mustafa, Retired, and Club CEO Robert Larios in front of the Caltrans/LADOT building downtown, where Zaki's Transforming a Life charity began.

For our Holiday cover, we could think of no better example of what giving means than Zaki. We hope you enjoy his story.

**Worth Considering:** If we take a second lesson from Zaki besides helping others, I offer this: Instead of making excuses, take action. It's up to you to make things happen. You have the power to change your life for the

better. What are you waiting for? Go out there and make it happen!

**Year-End Dedications:** As the year winds down, I wish to call out three City employees who passed away recently having dedicated more than half their lives to serving the City: **Andrew Moffitt** served 52 years; **Emiko Suzukawa** served 50 years; and **Robert Humphries** served 52 years, all with the LADWP. That totals a century and a half of service. Remarkable! May they rest in peace.

**Looking to 2023:** Club Members, you can look forward to incredible improvements and expansions to our #ClubMobile program and our help desk, affordable insurance products, and exemplary customer service. These are exciting times.

That leaves me with just enough space to wish each of you peace, joy and kindness for the holiday season 2022. The Club absolutely honors and celebrates you for your service to Los Angeles. You matter to us. Merry Christmas!

*¡Gracias por leer!*

*Robert Larios*

# #ClubMobile Schedule\*



We're bringing Club benefits and authentic Los Angeles City gear to you!

## Harbor Boys and Girls Club

100 W. Fifth St., San Pedro  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Mobile Team sets up in the Harbor area the first Wednesday of every month:

- Wednesday, Dec. 7**
- Wednesday, Jan. 4**
- Wednesday, Feb. 1**

## LADWP Main Street

1630 N. Main St.  
Noon-3 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 8**

## Harbor C&M

500 Pier A Street  
8 a.m. – noon

**Thursday, Dec. 22**

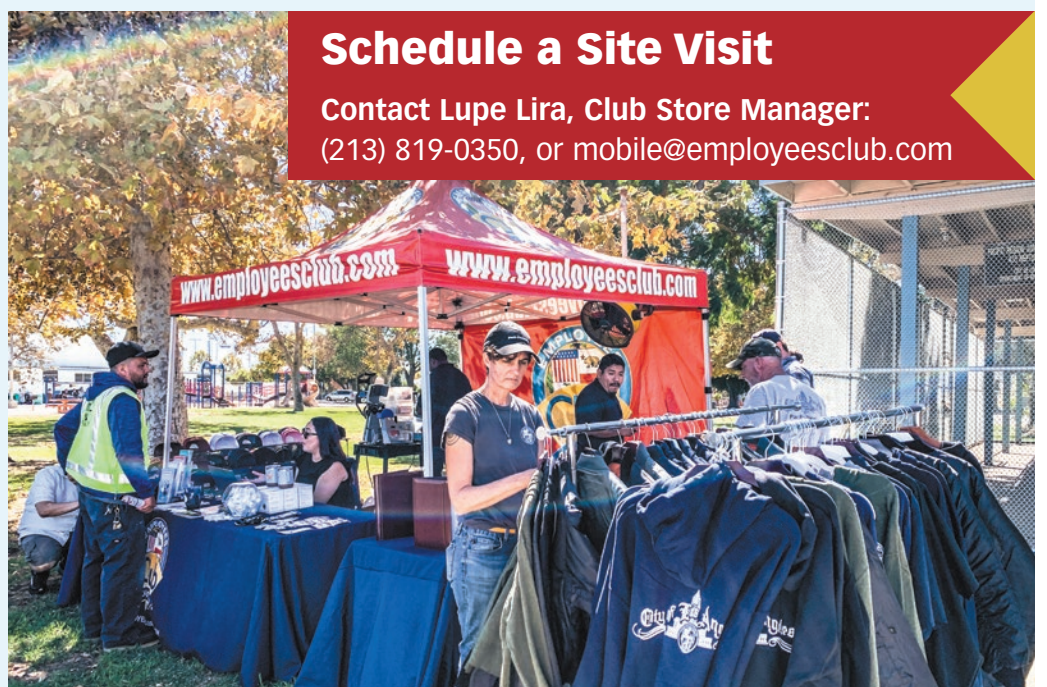
\* Mobile Team site visit dates are subject to change due to the pandemic. Make sure to check with your supervisor to confirm dates and times, up to and including on the scheduled day itself.

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

- @employeesclubofca
- Employees Club of California
- @theClubofCA

## Schedule a Site Visit

Contact Lupe Lira, Club Store Manager:  
(213) 819-0350, or mobile@employeesclub.com



At a recent Mobile Team site visit.

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

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

**For your continued safety:** The Mobile Team is accepting only outdoor set-ups for now.





## NEW THIS MONTH **ONLINE!**

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

### John's Picture Perfect

All the winners from this month's contest on the theme "holiday."



### Rest Insured

See the Club's claims paid this month and feel confident in your Club insurance purchase.



### Cooking With the Club

Chef Larios presents a holiday classic from December 2010: Cornish hen with almond sautéed green beans.



#### COVER STORY:

## The Gift of Warmth ..... 10-11

Zaki Mustafa, Retired, LADOT, turns one simple gesture into a full-fledged charity.

#### Airports/Cultural Affairs

Art at LAX presents its latest installations..... 18

#### Airports/LAPD

Firearms task force honored with Centurion Award for law enforcement action... 13

#### Citywide

The City continues its work on the streets during the COVID-19 emergency... 5

#### Harbor

Lt. Kenneth Hawkes retires after 33 years of City service..... 13

#### LAFACE

Filipino employees association celebrates its 40th anniversary..... 4

#### LIBRARY

Librarians help you enjoy the holidays with book, movie recommendations..... 14

#### LAPD

Police Dept. celebrates National Dispatchers Week..... 8

Annual picnic for African-American law enforcement Retirees returns ..... 4

911 Operators dress up for Halloween ..... 18

Elite Running Team wins its second consecutive First Responders Relay ..... 4

#### Sections & Columns

*Alive!* Around the World..... 9

Club Insurance: Life ..... 8

Club Mobile Team ..... 2

Deaths: In Memoriam ..... 12

LACERS ..... 7

Larios in the City..... 19

Lives Moments ..... 12

Picture Perfect Theme for the Month ..... 5

Ready for Retirement ..... 6

Retirements ..... 12

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



**FOR RETIREES:**  
RLACEI Pages 16-17

#### Get more *Alive!* content at [alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)

Claims Monthly..... Web

Club Team and Counselors ..... Web

Cooking With the Club ..... Web

Kids Coloring Contest Winners ..... Web

Library Top Ten ..... Web

Picture Perfect Contest Winners ..... Web

#### Advertiser's Index

Rosebud Marketing..... 13

United Agencies ..... 9

Corporate Jewelers..... 20

### HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Club Store Holiday Schedule..... 7

City Holiday Events: Enjoy the Season! ..... 15

Club Angels charity helps City employees in need. Can you help? ..... 15

City-affiliated holiday toy and clothing drives are accepting donations . 14



Get ready for an  
even bigger, better  
Club Mobile experience.

Coming in 2023.

#ClubMobile





## 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 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.**

NOTE: The walk-in Club Store is closed every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for staff meetings.

# Alive!

Dec. 2022 • Volume 21 – No. 12

*Alive!* is the official publication of the **Employees Club of California**

120 West 2nd Street  
 Los Angeles, CA 90012  
 TELEPHONE: (800) 464-0452

CONTACT US: admin@aliveemployeesclub.com

*Alive!* (USPS P7960) is published monthly, 12 times per year by the Employees Club of California, 311 Spring St., Suite 1300, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

**ALIVE! EDITORIAL OFFICES:** 311 Spring Street, Suite 1300, Los Angeles CA, 90013 • (800) 464-0452

**POSTAGE:** Periodicals postage paid at Los Angeles, CA and at additional mailing offices.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Annual subscription price for *Alive!* is included in the membership dues and is nondeductible.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address corrections to *Alive!*, Employees Club of California, 311 Spring St., Suite 1300, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

#### Alive! Staff

John Hawkins and Robert Larios,  
*Managing Editors*

John Burnes, *Editor*  
 David Jamgotchian,  
 JJLA Associates,  
*Design and Production*

#### LACEA Board

Phillip Chou, *LADWP*  
 Andrew Virzi III

*Manager of Accounts Payable and Taxes, LADWP*  
 Capt. Danny C. Wu, *LAFD*

#### Employees Club Board

Terry Carter, *Commanding Officer, Property Division, LAPD*  
 Marilyn Holley

*Public Works: Bureau of Sanitation, Retired*  
 Rose Hyland, *Office of the Controller, Retired*

David Muraoka, *LAPD, Retired*

Rita Robinson, *County of LA, Retired*

Andrew Virzi Jr., *DWP, Retired*

The opinions expressed in articles, photos, images and responses contributed to the *Alive!* newspaper and Website, video and social media by those outside the Club staff and vendors are of the contributors, and not the Club. While the Club aims to publish materials that are exceedingly enjoyable and enhancing to Membership as part of the value we return to Club Members, outside materials do not necessarily reflect those of the Club, its staff and vendors or its Members.

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

Club Members who have questions on these points may write to: [alive@employeesclub.com](mailto:alive@employeesclub.com)

*Alive!* does not accept advertising from persons or organizations believed to be unreliable or financially irresponsible. *Alive!* is not responsible, however, for the performance of advertisers, the delivery or quality of their merchandise or services, or the legality of any particular program. Before making any purchasing decision, we recommend you consult additional sources as needed. Please contact the Club if you have any bad experiences with an advertiser. LACEA management reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to refuse any advertisement.

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Vice President of Business Development; Photos by Dylan Herrero

## Retirees Reunite

### ANNUAL PICNIC FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT RETIREES RETURNS.

**LAPD:** The Ebony Reunion Picnic, held each September primarily for African American former LAPD employees, was held Sept. 10 in Kenneth Hahn State Park in LA.

Despite the unpredictable weather, many came out and enjoyed the great food and catching up with everyone.

The annual event brings together both civilian and sworn employees and their families.

The Ebony Reunion Picnic is independently organized and began with the formation of a committee in 1997. Too many sworn and civilian employees were seeing each other only for funerals, they felt, and needed another opportunity to get together and socialize. The committee had one goal in mind: to provide an opportunity and venue for friends, associates, former co-workers and ex-partners to gather and celebrate the past and the present.

In 1997, the committee planned a spectacular two-day event that consisted of a banquet at the Proud Bird Restaurant in Los Angeles. A video titled "LAPD's Black History" was created and shown at the banquet. The next were well attended and allowed everyone to gather, reminisce and enjoy the presence of each other.

Several participants travel from other cities and states to attend the annual picnic. The laughter and upbeat atmosphere among comrades are ever present at each picnic. A common theme each year is the recognition of mentors who have made life easier for future generations of LAPD employees and who have paved the way for their success.

The Ebony Reunion Picnic Committee is always looking for ways to increase the participation of current and former LAPD civilian employees at the picnic each year. Feel free to contact the committee at: [ebonyreunionpicnic@gmail.com](mailto:ebonyreunionpicnic@gmail.com).

### THANK YOU!

The Club honors all current and former LAPD employees for their City service; the Ebony Reunion committee for their hard work in producing this event; and Beverly Clark, Retired and Vice President, RLCEI, for providing information.

More pics online:  
[alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)



From left: Commander Sam Dacus, Retired, Sheriff, 51 years of County service; Det. II Bob Felix, Retired, Wilshire, 39 years; Lt. Marion Johnson, Retired, 77th, 20 years (who then went on to the Superior Court, then Deputy City Attorney and Deputy District Attorney); and Det. II Ken Alexander, Retired, South Traffic, 26 years.



From left: Club Members Sandra Johnson, Sr. PSR, Retired, 36 years of City service; Jeanetta Adams, PSR II, 34 years; and Beverly Clark, Sr. Management Analyst, 32 years.



From left: Lt. II Jimmy Grayson, Retired, RHD, 40 years of City service; Simeon Greene, Retired, DEA, 28 years of national service; and Capt. I Lyman Doster, Retired, 77th, 30 years, Club Member.



The "Wives Club," from left: Beverly Pannell, Billie Davis, Betty Dacus and Jeane Ward.

## Happy Anniversary!

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Vice President of Business Development

### FILIPINO EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY.

**LAFACE:** On October 7, LAFACE – the Los Angeles Filipino Association of City Employees – enjoyed a double-stacked celebration of the important organization's 40th anniversary. A ceremony in City Council chambers began the celebration, followed by a catered luncheon in the City Hall Forecourt.

First, at 10 a.m., the City Council presented a resolution proclaiming October as Filipino American History Month in LA and recognized the 40th anniversary of LAFACE.

Special guest Philippine Consul General Edgar Badajos was on hand as LAFACE President Janelle Parra accepted the Council resolution on behalf of LAFACE Board Officers and Members, and the Filipino community. During this event, LAFACE also honored world-renowned comedian Jo Koy.

A catered luncheon followed the Council presentation to continue the 40th anniversary celebration, a significant milestone for LAFACE.

Those who attended the luncheon enjoyed pancit, rice, adobo, lumpia and several desserts.

Established in 1982, LAFACE now represents more than 2,700 City employees of Filipino descent. LAFACE's mission is to assist Filipinos seeking employment and promotion in City service, and for the economic, educational and cultural advancement of Filipinos and other minorities in the community.

More pics online:  
[alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)



LAFACE President Janelle Parra is presented with the Council resolution proclaiming October as Filipino American History Month.



From left: Sgt. Jay Balgemino, 17 years of City service, Van Nuys; Field Training Officer Christian Costales, 14 years, West Valley, Club Member; Rea Lazo, Executive Administrative Assistant, Operations Valley Bureau, LAPD, 34 years of service and Third Vice President of LAFACE, Club Member; Sgt. Christian Ventura, 16 years, West LA GED, Club Member; and Officer III Arleen Rojas, 32 years, West LA, Club Member.



From left: Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, Club Member, with comedian Jo Koy.



From left: Club Members Rea Lazo, Executive Administrative Assistant, Operations Valley Bureau, LAPD, 34 years of service and Third Vice President of LAFACE; and Field Training Officer Christian Costales, 14 years of City service, LAPD West Valley.



From left: Lt. Raymond Ingal, 22 years of City service, Club Member; and Officer II Lorne Matundan, 15 years.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

# EXPLORE YOUR SAVINGS

BUY NOW
EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM



**PART 31**

# 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.

**Public Works/Streets LA**



"Last week we celebrated the cataloging of 700,000-plus street tree locations! Thank you Linda and your team from @daveytree as you continue your amazing work! For more information visit our website: <https://streetsla.lacity.org/tree-inventory> @lacitydpw@cityoflosangeles #trees#treeinventory #urbanforest#losangeles #ca #sanfernandovalley#dtla"

Sept. 20

**City Clerk**



"The Office of the City Clerk at the Homeboy 5K event this past weekend! Register to vote by the deadline on Oct. 24 to get your ballot in the mail. #VoteLA #LACity #5K"

Sept. 27

**LAPD/Hollywood**



"Chief Moore visited Hollywood Division's busy streets and met with Urban Alchemy, a nonprofit geared towards addressing homelessness, mental illness, and addiction. Together, they discussed the topic of homeless outreach and personally met with members of the community."

Oct. 7

**Public Works/StreetsLA**



"Today our UFD landscape crew 041 began a landscape median island enhancement project on the 19400 blk of Greenbriar Dr between Vanalden Ave & Tamoshanter Ln in #CD3. StreetsLA improving the lives of all Angelenos."

Oct. 19

**AUTOMATICALLY APPROVED**

**TERM LIFE INSURANCE \$20,000 COVERAGE GUARANTEED ISSUE**

**FOR SPOUSE OR DOMESTIC PARTNERS**

**AVAILABLE ONLY TO ACTIVE LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEE'S SPOUSE OR DOMESTIC PARTNERS**



**OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS DEC 16, 2022 NO MEDICAL EXAM AND NO HEALTH QUESTIONS!**

**DO NOT BE WITHOUT PROTECTION IF AN UNTIMELY DEATH OF YOUR SPOUSE OR DOMESTIC PARTNER OCCURS.**

As a Club Member, you are now eligible for competitive group rates on a spouse term life insurance policy.

Enroll your spouse or domestic partner for up to \$20,000 of coverage or upgrade your existing spouse coverage up to \$20,000 without a physical exam or answer any medical questions.

**MEMBER ELIGIBILITY**

You can enroll in this plan if you are:

- An active Los Angeles City employee's spouse, age 56 or under,
- a Member of the Employees Club of California,
- already on automatic payroll deduction with the Club for at least 1 month.



**CONSULT WITH ONE OF OUR (NON-COMMISSIONED) INSURANCE EXPERTS TODAY.**

**REQUEST AN APPLICATION NOW!**

**(213) 425-2030**  
**info@EmployeesClub.com**

*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. is #0B98000.*



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

## John's Picture Perfect Contest

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

The Club's online photo contest, organized by Association CEO John Hawkins, has a monthly theme. For the next contest, we're looking for images that feature gatherings. Send us something awesome!

This month's contest theme:

### Gatherings

**DEADLINE: Dec. 12**

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

**WIN \$25**  
**Amazon Gift Card**



**EXAMPLE**



# READY FOR RETIREMENT



Resources for Club Retirees or Those About to Retire



## LONG-TERM CARE: LOCK IN YOUR RATES THIS MONTH!

Have you been thinking about signing up for the Club's Long Term Care Plan? If you have, now is the time to apply!

**Apply before Dec. 31, 2022 to lock in 2022 rates.** After Jan. 1, 2023, all new applicants will automatically move to the next age bracket year and a higher premium.

Long-term care insurance is designed to protect your retirement savings and assets by paying a monthly benefit for some of the expenses you may incur if you need supervision or assistance with basic activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bathing, eating, continence,



Noelle Kauffman  
Director of Sales  
CA LICENSE NO: 0H45598

dressing, toileting, ambulating and transferring – situations that can follow an accident or illness such as a stroke, because of older age and frailty, or because you need supervision due to a cognitive disorder like Alzheimer's disease.

### DO NOT WAIT UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE!

Contact the Club today to speak with a licensed insurance Counselor who can answer any questions you may have and assist you with completing the application.

**Email: [info@employeesclub.com](mailto:info@employeesclub.com)**  
**Tel: (800) 4640-0452 Ext. 4**

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LOCKING IN RATES NOW

Long-term care insurance is designed to pay benefits for some of the expenses you may incur if you need supervision or assistance with basic activities of daily living (ADLs), including bathing, eating, continence, dressing, toileting, ambulating and transferring.

You may need this kind of help following an accident or illness such as a stroke – because of older age and frailty, or because you need supervision due to a cognitive disorder like Alzheimer's disease.

- ⊖ Locking in your rates by Dec. 31, 2022 ensures you take advantage of the most affordable plans before rates rise for 2023. Group rates are locked in at the age you apply.
- ⊖ Your premiums are conveniently deducted through your pension
- ⊖ Affordable Club Member-only group rates
- ⊖ Coverage is available to you, your spouse/domestic partner, parents, and grandparents
- ⊖ Available payout benefits range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per month
- ⊖ Your plan pays a monthly benefit directly to you, as opposed to most other programs that pay out on a reimbursement schedule
- ⊖ Choose from four plans:
  - 1) Long-Term Care facility;
  - 2) professional home care;
  - 3) total home care; and
  - 4) simple inflation protection
- ⊖ Available terms: four-year nursing facility/eight years in home. Also 10-year nursing facility/20 year in home (Home care benefit pays out at 50 percent)

Schedule an appointment today with a Club Retirement Counselor, and be ready for your best retirement.

**IMPORTANT:** The best time to buy long term care insurance is **before you need it.**

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. is #0B98000.

## Retired or retiring Soon?

Call for a **FREE** insurance benefits consultation with a Member Services Counselor:



**Cheryl Martin**  
(800) 464 -0452,  
EXT. 136  
Work cell: (213) 819-0794

23 years of insurance experience  
CA LICENSE NO: 0C12823



**Tiffany Sy**  
(800) 464-0452,  
EXT. 202  
Work cell: (213) 440-8270

20 years of insurance experience  
CA LICENSE NO: 0D75348

## TIP!

**Apply before Dec. 31, 2022 to lock in 2022 rates.**

## 2022 Events

Dec. 17 **Annual Holiday**  
11 a.m. **Celebration** (LARFPA)  
Sheraton Universal Hotel  
333 Universal Hollywood Dr.  
Universal City

RESERVATION INFORMATION:

**LADWP Retiree Association:**  
[vincedolores@gmail.com](mailto:vincedolores@gmail.com)

**LARFPA:** [events@larfpa.org](mailto:events@larfpa.org)

## Contact Information

**Employees Club of California**  
Club contact:  
[help@employeesclub.com](mailto:help@employeesclub.com)

**Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System** (LACERS) (City Dept.)  
(800) 779-8328  
[lacers.services@lacers.org](mailto:lacers.services@lacers.org)

**LADWP Retirees Association**  
Dolores Foley, *President*  
(949) 388-1206  
[vincedolores@gmail.com](mailto:vincedolores@gmail.com)

**Fire and Police Pensions** (City Dept.)  
(844) 885-2377  
[pensions@lafpp.com](mailto:pensions@lafpp.com)

**LA Retired Fire and Police Association** (LARFPA)  
(888) 288-5073  
[membership@larfpa.org](mailto:membership@larfpa.org)

**Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.** (RLACEI)  
See page 16

### FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

## ARE YOU READY FOR RETIREMENT?

HERE ARE SOME CURRENT PROGRAMS TO HELP WITH YOUR PLANNING:

### Webinars

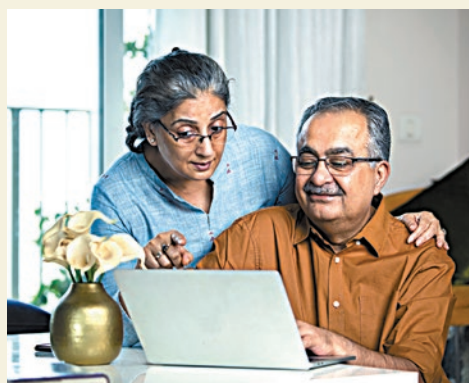
Learn about your retirement options and benefits at an upcoming Planning for Retirement webinar, hosted by the LACERS Member Engagement team. Register via your MyLACERS account. Upcoming dates include:

**Sat., Dec. 10**  
**Wed., Jan. 11**  
**Thurs., Jan. 19** (Tier 3)  
**Thurs., Feb. 16**  
All webinars begin at 9 a.m.

### Applying for Retirement Online

Members are encouraged to submit their retirement application 60 days before their retirement date when using LACERS' new Retirement Application Portal (RAP). The RAP is a great asset to LACERS Members that helps to streamline the retirement process. While the filing period is within 30 to 60 days of your retirement date, starting your application early and submitting it on the first day you can at the 60-day-prior mark, will allow for a couple of benefits. These include having ample time to discover any complications and address them without having to move your retirement date, as well as ensuring LACERS staff has time to meet your retirement date request.

For example, if your desired retirement date is Dec. 17, 2022, you would have aimed to submit your retirement application in the portal on Oct. 18, 2022. For more information, please visit [lacers.org/applying-retirement](https://lacers.org/applying-retirement).







LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS

## In-Person Appointments Suspended During Move

Beginning Dec. 8, LACERS is suspending in-person appointments as the department moves to its new location. LACERS looks forward to offering in-person counseling in its new location, but before that, there are many options for service active and Retired City employees can utilize during this transition.

- Use the LACERS' Secure Document Upload found at [lacers.org/secure-document-upload](https://lacers.org/secure-document-upload) to submit forms or required documents;
- Visit the LACERS Website at [LACERS.org](https://LACERS.org) to obtain benefit information;
- Log onto your MyLACERS account at <https://mylacers.lacers.org> to view your account details; and
- Visit the LACERS' YouTube channel found at [youtube.com/laceryoutube](https://youtube.com/laceryoutube) where current and Retired employees can find a wealth of benefit videos.

**Stay up to date with the move and all LACERS announcements by checking the Website periodically at [lacers.org](https://lacers.org), contacting LACERS by email at [lacers.services@lacers.org](mailto:lacers.services@lacers.org), and by phone at (800) 779-8328.**

FOR RETIREES

## LACERS Well Events Coming This Month

Register for these virtual events below through your MyLACERS account at <https://mylacers.org> or by calling LACERS. If you need assistance, email [LacersWell@lacers.org](mailto:LacersWell@lacers.org). Space is limited for each event so be sure to sign up early. To view additional dates and information, visit: [lacers.org/lacers-well-events](https://lacers.org/lacers-well-events).

### VIRTUAL

#### Mom's Computer Technology Class

Mom's Computer will host monthly technology classes throughout 2022; the next one is set for 3 p.m. Wed., Dec. 14. These classes help members navigate the changing technology landscape and offer tips on using computer, smart phones/ tablets, Internet, and more.

#### Fitness Made Simple: Exercise Class

Why just talk or dream about exercise when we can "Make Fitness Simple?" Join Coach Sean Foy at 9:30 a.m. Wed., Dec. 14 as he helps you train in the comfort and convenience of your own home to realize your personal health and fitness goals!

#### Brain Health Class

Alzheimer's Los Angeles (ALZLA) is hosting monthly brain health classes, the next being held at 2 p.m. Wed., Dec. 7. The mission is to improve the lives of local families affected by Alzheimer's and dementia by increasing awareness, delivering effective programs and services, providing compassionate support, and advocating for quality care and a cure. Both active and retired members are welcome at this event.



#### Missed Past LACERS Well Events?

LACERS offers several event recordings on various topics: finances, emotional wellness, fitness, and more! Visit the LACERS YouTube channel at [youtube.com/laceryoutube](https://youtube.com/laceryoutube) and hit the subscribe button to receive alerts of newly posted videos. Also, enjoy exclusive content and get connected with LACERS Members on the LACERS Well Facebook Group. Log on to your account at [Facebook.com](https://facebook.com) and search for the LACERS Well group to join.



## CLUB STORE Holiday Schedule

For the 2022 holiday season, the physical Club Store will be open on a limited basis for all your holiday needs! The Club Webstore will be open 24/7 for shipping (see below for deadlines), with limited curbside pickup options, too.

### Physical Club Store Hours:

#### Open:

- Mon.- Fri., 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

#### Closed:

- Dec. 23 (Friday), closed for Christmas
- Dec. 26 (Monday), closed for Christmas
- Jan. 2. (Monday), closed for the New Year holiday
- Jan. 16 (Monday), closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

*The Club Store is also closed for curbside pickup on the above days.*

**Staff Meetings:** The physical Club Store is closed every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for staff meetings.



## Shipping for Christmas?

For Christmas delivery, order from the Club Store online by Dec. 15 (standard shipping) or Dec. 17 (priority shipping).

NOTE: DELIVERY IS NOT GUARANTEED.

**ORDER ONLINE 24/7**

The online Club Webstore is open 24/7, but orders are not processed on holidays. [www.employeesclub.com](https://www.employeesclub.com)

**Shipping:** If you want your Club Webstore order to arrive by Christmas using shipping, order by Dec. 15 (standard) or Dec. 17 (priority). Don't wait! **Note: Delivery is not guaranteed.**

**Curbside Pickup:** Club Webstore orders will be processed and available for curbside pickup (by request) instead of shipping Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. except those days listed above.



The LAPD Elite Running Team that won the second First Responders Relay.

## Here's to the Winners

DEPT. RUNNING TEAM WINS SECOND RESPONDER RELAY.

**LAPD:** On Oct. 15, the LAPD's Elite Running Team defended their title, winning first place in the second annual First Responders Relay.

The Club was bib sponsor for the event. Well done, Elite runners! Here's to a three-peat next year. ●





Be a Part of a Club Holiday Tradition

# It's Party Pix Time





*Is your dept. celebrating the holidays in person again?  
Let us publish your photos!*

The past three years, departments have had to improvise when it comes to planning the official holiday gatherings ... or just hold off and wait. The Club Holiday tradition continues – have photos from your department’s holiday party printed in *Alive!*, in our special holiday section, online and in print. It’s an *Alive!* tradition!

**Here’s how to have your holiday photos published:**

1. If you’re having your party in person, take your own photos and submit to the Club at the address below.
2. Or, invite the Club to attend your holiday party. We’ll assign your Club Counselor or other Club employee, and will join your party just to take some photos. Send us your details. We’ll do our best to get to as many parties as we can, but we can’t guarantee it.
3. If your department party is going virtual again, send us an email and we’ll try to schedule it from there.

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

## Kid’s Coloring Winners!





PSR II of the Year Nikki Nguyen with (from left) Chief Michel Moore, her husband Sgt. II Neil Wank, and Commander Vic Davalos.

Photos courtesy Francisco Duarte Jr., PSR II



**INSURANCE FROM THE CLUB**



# Life Insurance

**If anyone relies on your income, you need Life Insurance.**

**Get it today. Here’s why:**

- Think about your mortgage, children’s tuition, funeral expenses and serious unforeseen expenses
- You should be covered for at least four to five times your salary
- Life insurance pays in addition to your City benefits and any individual life insurance policy you have in force.



Phone and virtual meeting appointments available.

**Email: [help@employeesclub.com](mailto:help@employeesclub.com)**  
**Or call: (800) 464-0452**

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

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



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



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


## Thanks, Dispatchers!

LAPD HOSTS LOCAL CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL DISPATCHERS WEEK.


**LAPD:** The LAPD celebrated National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week – popularly known as National Dispatchers Week – April 11-15, honoring its dispatchers with ceremonies and honors. In 1992, President George H. Bush established National Dispatchers’ Week to honor police dispatchers for providing vital emergency services to their community nationwide. The LAPD has been celebrating it ever since.

Honors for employees of the year and pins for service were distributed. The following received honors:


<p><b>Sworn Supervisor of the Year:</b> Sgt. II Manuel Sanchez</p> <p><b>Civilian Supervisor of the Year:</b> Whitney Baumann, Sr. PSR I</p> <p><b>Administrative Employee of the Year:</b> Roberto Lopez, Sr. PSR II</p>	<p><b>PSR III of the Year:</b> Aaron Johnson</p> <p><b>PSR II of the Year:</b> Nhu Nguyen</p> <p><b>Police Officer of the Year:</b> Officer II William Roecker</p>
---	--




Civilian Supervisor of the Year, Whitney Baumann.



Sworn Supervisor of the Year, Sgt. II Manuel Sanchez.




Administrative Employee of the Year, Roberto Lopez, Sr. PSR I.



PSR III of the Year, Aaron Johnson.

### THANK YOU!



Thanks, Dispatchers, for all you do to keep us safe! You are some of the most important safety employees in the City. And to all the employees of the year, well-deserved! We honor everyone at LAPD/Communications.





Celebrating the work and lives of California municipal employees.

## Are You Hearing About the Hottest Club Deals?



**SIGN UP FOR THE CLUB'S EMAIL BLAST, AND YOU WILL!**

Sign up now for all the great Club news, delivered right to your in-box – exclusive deals, great benefits, Club news, *Alive!* content ... and more!

Some of our best deals sell out quickly. Don't miss out! It's free, it's safe, it's the Club ... right to you!

**SIGN UP NOW!**

Go to the Club's Website, click on "Join our e-news" on the bottom right, follow the instructions, and you're done. ●

...OR PHOTOSCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR PHONE TO SIGN UP TODAY:



100 N. 1<sup>ST</sup> St., Ste. 301, Burbank, CA 91502  
877-801-5522 CA License #0252636

**New Discounts on MERCURY INSURANCE SAVE MONEY TODAY!**

## Club Members! Save on your Auto Insurance!

**(888) 801-5522**

**DIRECT LINE FOR CLUB MEMBERS**



Home and Auto Insurance Services provided for members of the **EMPLOYEES CLUB**

Get a **\$50 Arco Gas Card** For Club Members if they purchase by Dec. 31

**We also have great rates on Homes, Boats, Motorcycles, RV's, Rental Properties and Apartment Buildings.**

A FREE Benefit to members of the Employees Club

These insurance products are brought to you by the Club's Partner, United Agencies, Inc. CA Lic. # 0252636 United Agencies represents Mercury Insurance Group, as well as Chubb Insurance, Hartford, Fireman's Fund, Progressive, Civil Service Employees Insurance, Allied, Safeco, Travelers, Unigard and Encompass.

# Be My CLUB Valentine

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

*Here's how it works:*

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

**DEADLINES:**  
January 18 for Print and Web *Alive!*  
February 9 for Web *Alive!* only.

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





Below: Zaki with Verej Janoyan, Retired, Principal Transportation Engineer; Rafid Khachikyan, Paint and Sign Superintendant, with his son, Steve dropping off jackets at the LA Mission.



# Help Zaki

“We’re very lucky as City employees to have what we have,” Zaki Mustafa says. “Even a simple jacket can bring joy to somebody’s face. Together we can help others.”

If you want to volunteer or donate\* to the Transforming a Life charity, below are links (photoscan the codes). One hundred percent of the funding received is used to purchase the jackets for the unhoused, according to Zaki.

*\* As Transforming a Life is a registered charity, donations could be tax-deductible; consult your tax professional.*

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Contact Zaki at  
(909) 234-5148

## MAKE A DONATION

Photoscan this code to make a donation through PayPal:

PayPal



CHECKS MAY BE SENT TO:

Transforming A Life  
9717 Cinch Ring Lane  
Alta Loma, CA 91737  
transformingalife.org

# LADOT/Retired THE Gift OF Warmth



Photos by Summy Lam and courtesy Zaki Mustafa/Transforming a Life

Zaki Mustafa, front row (right, with Santa hat), with his larger group of LADOT-based volunteers gathered to distribute jackets. They are (first row, from left): Bill Chan, Sr. Transportation Engineer; John Sam; Jeannie Shen, Transportation Engineer; Jayanne Jimenez, Transportation Engineering Associate II; and Zaki Mustafa. Second row: Nahum Rivera, Transportation Engineering Associate II, Derek Tou, Transportation Engineering Associate I; Rafik Khachikyan, Traffic Marking and Sign Superintendant I; Patricia Lipana, Transportation Engineering Associate I; and Collette Del Poso, Graphics Designer II. Third row: David Kim, Transportation Engineering Associate I; Brandon Wong, Transportation Engineering Associate III; Eric Leung, Transportation Engineering Associate III, Steven Nguyen, Transportation Engineering Associate I; Kenny Pham, Transportation Engineering Associate I; Sara Zaldana, Transportation Engineering Associate II; Jeff Johnson, Retired; and Gustavo Villareal, Transportation Engineering Associate II. Top row: Marcel Kurniawan, Transportation Engineering Associate I; Jaime Fregoso, Transportation Engineering Associate II; Zhehao Tian, Transportation Engineering Associate I; Dennis Chavez, Transportation Engineering Associate II; Albert Raez, Transportation Engineering Associate I; Eder Romero, and Transportation Engineering Associate II.



Zaki Mustafa and his wife, Lore, responsibilities managing their jacket...

## A Municipal Team Effort

Zaki Mustafa has always depended on the assistance of his current and Retired friends and co-workers. Here are some from the LADOT. (The charity, Jackets for the Homeless, is managed independently from the LADOT. Volunteers work in their free time.)



Brian Callahan



Zaki with Dave Royer, Retired, LADOT. Dave originally hired Zaki into the LADOT and now volunteers to help Zaki distribute jackets.



From left: John Sam and Sergio Valdez.



Alex Castanon

## The First Giveaway

Zaki’s first organized jacket giveaway, with assistance from fellow LADOT employees on their free time (April 2022).





Giving **jackets** to the needy has turned into a major retirement project for Zaki Mustafa and other LADOT employees. You can lend a hand.



...ance from his (2016)





**THANK YOU!**

The Club thanks Zaki Mustafa, the dozens of LADOT volunteers who help him organize and distribute jackets to the poor; his wife, Loretta; and all those in the City of Los Angeles who help improve the world. We are honored to know you and give you the spotlight you so deserve.

All it takes is one transformative moment.

For Zaki Mustafa, Retired Executive Officer, LADOT, 33 years of City service and Club Member, that moment came while walking from Union Station past City Hall early one morning six years ago. He was on his way to work.

He passed an unhoused person shivering in front of him, and Zaki gave him literally the coat off his back – a new jacket his wife had gifted him. He couldn't get that man out of his mind, so he started giving away more jackets.

With his wife, Loretta, he formed a nonprofit. He raised money any way he could. He organized shipments of jackets on his lawn. He wore out the family van. He reached out to organizations that could help him. Many

of his colleagues from LADOT gave up their early hours and lunch hours to help him. (The LADOT is not officially connected to his charity.) Then other volunteers came by the dozens, and then by the hundreds.

When funds got low, he reached out to *Alive!*, and we ran a small story on his charity, called **Transforming a Life**. That outreach raised several thousand dollars, and he was back in business.

Today, Transforming a Life's **Jackets for the Homeless** campaigns have given away more than 55,000 jackets.

During this season of giving, when so many have so little, the Club once again features Zaki and his nonprofit for

inspiration, for good news, and to give Club Members a chance to join him and help those in need.



**Zaki Mustafa,**  
*Jackets for the Homeless*

**INTERVIEW**

## Transforming the Lives of The Needy, and Zaki, Too

On October 24, Club CEO Robert Larios and *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed Zaki Mustafa, Retired, Executive Officer, LADOT, 33 years of City service, Club Member. *Alive!* talked to Zaki about the charity he manages, *Jackets for the Homeless*. The interview took place via Zoom.



Club CEO Robert Larios (right) visits with Zaki Mustafa's Transforming a Life group as they set out to distribute jackets to the homeless in Downtown LA.

**Hi, Zaki. Good to talk to you again!**

**Zaki Mustafa:** You too!

**I think the last story we did about you was when you retired – the City Council gave you a beautiful sendoff.**

**Zaki:** Right. That was 2017. You know what's really bizarre? My son works for city of Riverside; he's the deputy Public Works Director. [Former LA Mayor] Antonio Villaraigosa is now in charge of infrastructure construction for the state of California, and he came to inspect the projects in Riverside. My son asked him, "Do you remember my dad? Villaraigosa and Councilman Mike Bonin and [the late] Councilman Tom LaBonge gave me the "Yes" award. I think you did a story on that too.

**Pretty sure, yes.**

**Zaki:** So Villaraigosa says back to him, "I remember. He's the guy who took the Yes award!" He remembered. Pretty incredible.

**So how's retirement going? Since you retired, Zaki, what have you been up to other than this huge charity project, which we'll get to in a minute.**

**Zaki:** Well, we set up the livestreaming of Mass in our church. We were the first one to broadcast in our Diocese of San Bernardino. On Thursdays, my wife and I babysit our grandson; that's our first priority. But on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, it's jackets.

**That's every other day of the week.**

**Zaki:** Right.

### Jackets for the Homeless

**Well, I guess that brings us right to the subject of your charity, Transforming a Life and its Jackets for the Homeless Campaign. When we last spoke, the charity had bought and distributed 45,000 jackets for those experiencing homelessness.**

**Zaki:** I was wrong. So far this year it's been another 8,000, with 3,000 more to go. That will be more than 55,000 given out since retirement.

'We have an army of more than 600 people who help.

Some people say that others [in the world] don't care. That's not the case.'

— Zaki Mustafa

**More than 55,000 jackets to the homeless?**

**Zaki:** Yes.

**Where do you distribute them? I think it started in downtown LA, and then out to where you live in San Bernardino, and in San Diego " and Tijuana, Mexico.**

**Zaki:** The jackets go to Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Road Island, Wisconsin, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Texas, Kentucky, Florida, Minnesota, and also Washington, DC. I'm sending a lot of raincoats to Florida because of the hurricane; they don't need thick jackets, they need raincoats. I have guys today going to Indian reservations in Montana, I have guys going to Arizona also. All throughout the country. The last time I counted we had more than 600 volunteers helping us take these jackets out to different people and places throughout the country.

**That's amazing. Let's start from the beginning. Tell me the mission statement of this charity. What does it do?**

**Zaki:** Well, it's basic – to help people who are in need with clothing and also food. We just started the food about two years ago. In January and February, we do the food drive, and then we continue the jacket drive,...

**Alive! Interview**  
CONTINUES, PAGES 21-22

## Assisting Organizations

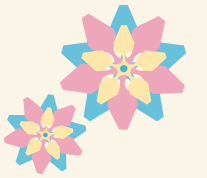
The Salvation Army, the Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis and SELAH (in Atwater Village) help distribute Zaki's jackets. These are among the many organizations that participate.







# Life's Important Moments



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

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

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



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

## Retirements\*

Below is a listing of those who Retired from the City in Oct. 2022. To all we say, welcome to the best years!

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

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Allen, Ronald E.	Office Eng. Tech	Bldg. & Safety	30	Haro, Delia	Sr. Systems Analyst	LAPD	35	Parra, Dean C.	Garage Attendant	LAPD	18
Anderson, Freddie C.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Harshberger, Fred A.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Peters, Carlson C.	Power Op./Maint.	LADWP	N/D
Bershon, Nicole C.	Insp. General	LAPD	16	Johnson, Diedra L.	Tax Compliance Officer	Finance	22	Razavi, Mahmood R.	Power System Eng.	LADWP	N/D
Billingslea, Cynthia L.	Metering Svcs.	LADWP	N/D	Jordan, Michelle E.	PSR	LAPD	23	Richardson, Earnest	A/C Mechanic	Airports	21
Blue, Elliott H.	Mgmt. Analyst	Fire Comm.	25	Justo, Danilo C.	Sr. Tax Auditor	Finance	21	Rodgers, Judy L.	Sr. Personnel Analyst	Personnel	21
Brennan, Thomas E.	Administrator	LAPD	34	Kellerman, Matt P.	Sr. Building Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	32	Rodriguez, Erika M.	Mgmt. Analyst	LAPD	27
Bright, Marva A.	Library Asst.	Library	35	Kerrigan, John C.	Sustainability	LADWP	N/D	Salgado, Melissa	Legal Secretary	City Attorney	20
Brown, Linda D.	Comm. Info. Rep.	Public Works	16	Korman, Seth	Systems Analyst	Public Works	17	Schifando, Robin A.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
Carr, Nancy C.	Admin.Clerk	Public Works	18	Leung, Dora M.	Sustainability	LADWP	N/D	Shepherd, John C.	Officer	Airports	12
Carr, Nobbie	Detention Officer	LAPD	31	Llorens, Maria T.	Water Division	LADWP	N/D	Sison, Janet S.	Accountant	Public Works	16
Casino, Gene A.	Elevator Mechanic	Airports	24	Lowry, Patricia A.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Smith-Lynch, Evelyn D.	Metering Svcs.	LADWP	N/D
Clift, Gary L.	Fleet Svcs.	LADWP	N/D	Lubell, Deborah L.	Recreation Asst.	Rec and Parks	2	Tamm, Daniel A.	Mayoral Aide	Mayor's Office	6
Criste, Felina C.	Admin.Clerk	Library	22	Luevano Jr., Steven J.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Thompson, Dwayne L.	Custodian	Gen. Svcs.	35
Cruz, Claudio A.	Officer	Airports	31	McNally, Michelle D.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Tomicic, Jimmy	Energy Dist.	LADWP	N/D
De Lapaz, Oscar	Sr. Wastewater Treat.	Public Works	35	Michel, David G.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	22	Tran, Mabel K.	Transport Eng. Assoc.	LADOT	9
Encarnacion, Ronn B.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Gen. Svcs.	35	Mor, Patricia A.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	15	Truong, Grandin	Equipment Mechanic	Gen. Svcs.	16
Finnels, Dey On W.	Recreation Asst.	Rec and Parks	7	Morga, Jesus C.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	27	Villacorte, Allan C.	Forensic Print Specialist	LAPD	32
Frew, Andrew J.	Safety/Envnmtl. Svcs.	LADWP	N/D	Moran, Yolanda T.	Sr. Admin.Clerk	LAPD	27	Wong, Lawrence P.	Energy Dist.	LADWP	N/D
Garcia, Luis R.	Equipment Mechanic	Gen. Svcs.	22	Muller, Ronald G.	Street Svcs. Super.	Public Works	22	Yi, Susan C.	Accounting Clerk	Controller	36
Gary, Philip	Mech. Repair	Rec and Parks	16	Novelo Jr., Miguel A.	Corporate Purchasing	LADWP	N/D	Yum, Peter	Detention Officer	LAPD	13
Gonzalez, Roberto	Resource Planning	LADWP	N/D	Orona, Pamela A.	Systems Analyst	Rec and Parks	36				
Hardy, Pamela R.	Custodian	Airports	24	Owens, Patrick K.	Power New Business	LADWP	N/D				

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

N/D = not disclosed

## In Memoriam\*\*

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

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
<b>ACTIVE</b>					
Coleman, Lori D.	Rec and Parks	32	Correa, Margaret E.	LAPD	31
Cross, Stephen	Personnel	19	Corugedo, Carlos S.	Bldg. & Safety	34
Ghent, Peer	LADOT	18	Davila, Lydia I.	LADWP	30
Jongepier, Roger D.	Airports	<1	Douglas, Wilbert	Public Works	31
Masuda, Scott C.	LADWP	33	Eastenson, Neal O.	LADWP	37
Quintero, Karim O.	LADWP	14	Erickson, Carmen L.	LADWP	28
<b>RETIRED</b>					
Aguado, Charles	City Attorney	36	Evans, Joyce M.	LAPD	24
Alipio, Antonio S.	Public Works	17	Galan, Jesus D.	Rec and Parks	13
Arias, Gary	Public Works	23	Gomez, Sherry K.	Gen. Services	10
Barnes, Henry S.	N/D	N/D	Gonzalez, Patrick J.	LADWP	33
Benton, Donald E.	LADWP	29	Graham, Don A.	LAPD	34
Bowen, Carmen R.	LADWP	36	Grossman, Lyla L.	N/D	N/D
Bowman, Frank J.	N/D	N/D	Guss, Iskender A.	Personnel	30
Capucetti, Bruce S.	Bldg. & Safety	39	Haight, Arthur K.	LADWP	7
Castro, Viola M.	Library	23	Hemming, Daniel R.	LADWP	30
Chamy, Joseph J.	LADWP	36	Hinkle, David R.	Public Works	29
Clayton, Robert L.	Rec and Parks	11	Hoffman, Eric L.	N/D	N/D
Conway, Don	Airports	12	Humphrey, James L.	ITA	28
Cordero, Teresita O.	Public Works	16	Humphries, Robert M.	LADWP	52
			Jones, Thomas L.	LADOT	39
			Kametani, David N.	Airports	45
			Knox, Balinda M.	Airports	20
			Leggett, Zach	LADWP	20
			Lowe, Troy	Public Works	35
			MacDonald, Allan	N/D	N/D
			McDonald, Nelda J.	LADWP	31
			Macy, Marilyn L.	N/D	N/D
			Magdaleno, Juan M.	LADOT	13
			Masters, Lee C.	LAPD	23
			McCanne, David A.	N/D	N/D
			Mims, Leon	Rec and Parks	6
			Montgomery, Walter	LADWP	31
			Murphy, Joseph A.	LADWP	31
			Myers, Donald T.	LADWP	24
			Ogden, Bobbie G.	LADWP	21
			Painter, Elaine E.	LAPD	32
			Revil, Eduardo A.	Controller	26
			Rosales, Gloria S.	N/D	N/D
			Salonga, Maria D.	LAPD	20
			Sanghvi, Rohit H.	Bldg. & Safety	19
			Seabury, Lionel K.	LADWP	25
			Scott Stafford, Jessye R.	LAPD	36
			Staffeldt, Troy A.	LADWP	30
			Thomas, William D.	Library	15
			Trower, Ronnie D.	LADWP	25
			Young, Melvin	LADWP	35

\*\* **NOTE:** If you wish to have a listing deleted from our online posting of these death notices, please email us at [admin@employeesclub.com](mailto:admin@employeesclub.com), stating the name and department of the deceased, and your relation to that person. We derive our lists from official public records provided by the City and LADWP.

N/D = not disclosed



## Looking for Promotional Products?

Print your logo on anything:

- Pens
- Coffee mugs
- T-shirts
- Magnets
- Key Tags
- And more!



**ROSEBUD Marketing Group**  
**(800) 426-0174**  
 rosebud@getpromos.com  
**www.RosebudMarketing.com**



The Regional Firearms Trafficking Team (and leaders), from left: Assistant Chief Al Labrada, LAPD; Det. Edna Moreno, Airport Police; Det. Patrick Hoffman, LAPD; Capt. Lillian Carranza, LAPD; Det. Kevin Curry, LAPD; and Lt. Eric Bixler, LAPD.

Information courtesy Lt. Karla Rodriguez, Airport Police  
 Photo by Det. Peter Arutunian, Airport Police

## Centurion Winners

JOINT LAXPD/LAPD TASK FORCE  
 HONORED FOR SUCCESS.

**AIRPORTS/LAPD:** On Oct. 25, members of the Regional Illegal Firearms Trafficking Team, consisting of Airport Police and the LAPD – was honored with a Centurion Award from the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County (POALAC).

Those honored – Airport Police Det. Edna Moreno with Dets. Kevin Currie, Darin Day and Patrick Hoffman and Lt. Eric Bixler from the LAPD – executed a search warrant that resulted in felony arrests and hundreds of firearms removed from the streets. The investigation involved firearms being illegally trafficked out of LAX.

Other participants in the investigation and search warrant execution included the Torrance PD and the Gardena PD.

The award for multi-agency investigations was one of a number given out at a POALAC ceremony.

Congratulations to the task force! ●



# THANK YOU!

The Club honors and thanks Dets. Moreno, Currie, Day and Hoffman, and Lt. Bixler for their dedicated and critically important service to the City.  
 Well done!



From left: Retiree and Club Member Lt. Kenneth Hawkes with his wife, Sue, pictured with a beautiful shadow box.

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club VP of Business Development, and Dylan Herrero

## Lt. Hawkes Heads Out

LT. KENNETH HAWKES RETIRES AFTER  
 33 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.

**HARBOR:** A retirement reception was held Aug. 27 for Lt. Kenneth Hawkes, who retired from the Port Police after 33 years of service.

The event was held at the USS Iowa Fantail. Many family members, friends and co-workers attended. Even his baby-sitter attended!

A City Council resolution, produced by area Councilman Joe Buscaino and signed by all Councilmembers, read:

“Whereas, Lt. Kenneth Hawkes became a Police Officer with the Los Angeles Airport Police Dept.; transferred to work with the Los Angeles Port Police; was promoted to Field Training Officer (FTO), also known as Sr. Lead Officer on May 7, 2000. In March 2003, he was promoted to Sergeant and in May 2009, he was promoted to Lieutenant; and

“Whereas, Lt. Hawkes’ many years of service, the City and the Port of Los Angeles have experienced unparalleled growth, including the Pier 400 Project and Ports O’Call, and the development of the Port Police Hazardous Materials and K-9 Units; and

“Whereas, Lt. Hawkes served 33 years with confidence and dedication from July 18, 1989, to Aug. 27, 2022; and

“Whereas, Lt. Hawkes’ courteous demeanor, professionalism and his ability to take charge and lead by example, were an asset to the Los Angeles Port Police and earned a high degree of respectability among his peers;

“Now, therefore be it resolved, that by the adoption of this resolution, the Los Angeles City Council extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Lt. Kenneth Hawkes for his 33 years of service to the City of Los Angeles, and extends to him and his family best wishes for health and happiness in the years to come.” ●



From left: Lt. Octeau, 17 years of City service; Mary Ramos, Sr. Admin. Clerk, 20 years, Club Member; Sashah Brown, Principal Clerk, Club Member; Karina Rodriguez, guest; Jessica Ortiz, Sr. Administrative Clerk, Club Member; Claudia Rodriguez, Executive Administrative Assistant, 17 years; Christine Pina, Management Analyst, 18 years, Club Member; Claudia Romero, Principal Clerk, 21 years, Club Member; and Jessica Bautista-Torres, Management Analyst, 27 years, Club Member.




From left: Club Members Sgt. Frank Huang; Retired Officer III Don Hobbs; Retiree Lt. Kenneth Hawkes; Claudia Rodriguez, Executive Administrative Assistant; and Capt. Daniel Cobos, Club Member.



Lt. Nathan Blair presents the City Council resolution to Lt. Kenneth Hawkes.


More pics online:  
[alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)



## The Club wishes you...

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


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



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

## THANK YOU!

The Club congratulates and honors Lt. Kenneth Hawkes on his retirement. Your hard work is recognized and appreciated! The Club also thanks Lt. Ryan Howley, Regina Grant and Lt Nathan Blur for their assistance.





# Read All About It: It's the Holidays!

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

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

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

## THANK YOU!

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

### For Adult Readers

Curated by the Literature and Fiction Dept.

#### American Christmas Stories

Edited by Connie Willis

This volume includes 59 stories referencing how Christmas is celebrated and written about in America. The themes in the stories pay homage to the sacred and the secular aspects of the holiday, and reflect the diversity of America, beginning with the Civil War up to modern times.

#### A Child's Christmas in Wales

Dylan Thomas

The hardcopy is lovely and wonderful. However, it is the recorded version with Dylan Thomas reading that is the absolute gem, with his beautiful phrasing and sonorous voice. This version is available on E-Audio (A Child's Christmas in Wales and Five Poems)

#### A Christmas Memory; One Christmas; The Thanksgiving Visitor

Truman Capote

Truman Capote's loving memories about living in rural Alabama with relatives, one of whom was as much an outsider as the young Truman, portrayed as Buddy. These stories capture the spirit of love and gratitude that should be part of the holiday season.

### For Young Adult Readers

Curated by Librarians Llyr Heller and Amanda Charles

#### Recommended for You

Laura Silverman

Shoshanna Greenberg loves working at Once Upon, her favorite local bookstore. With her moms fighting at home, the store has become an escape. When her boss announces a holiday bonus to the person who sells the most books, Shoshanna sees an opportunity to get her car fixed. The only person standing in her way? New hire Jake Kaplan. He doesn't even read! But somehow his sales start to rival hers. As the competition intensifies, Jake and Shoshanna might be more on the same page than either expects. (Adapted from jacket.)

#### All I Want for Christmas Is the Girl Next Door

Chelsea Bobulski

Graham Wallace has been in love with the girl next door for a decade. Unfortunately, she's been dating his best friend for the past two years. Out of sheer desperation, Graham makes a wish on a shooting star – all he wants for Christmas is Sarah Clarke. When Graham wakes up the next morning, everything has changed, and he's the one who's been dating Sarah for the past two years, not his best friend. Graham assumes the wish would have come true only if he and Sarah were meant to be together, but as it becomes clear that he and Sarah bring out the worst in each other, not the best, and as he starts to fall for the new girl in town, Graham wonders if some wishes come true to show us what's not meant to be. (Adapted from jacket.)

#### The Resolutions

Mia Garcia

Four Latinx teens make New Year's resolutions for one another – and a whirlwind of a year follows. (Adapted from jacket.)

### For Young Readers

Curated by the Librarians of the Children's Literature Dept.

#### May Your Life Be Deliciosa

Michael Genhart; illustrated by Loris Lora

A grandmother shares her wisdom along with the Christmas Eve tradition of making tamales.

#### Life is Good

Cam Higgins

This early chapter book tells the story of a farm dog experiencing snow for the first time. A cozy read for cold weather days.

#### Red and Green and Blue and White: Inspired by a True Story

Lee Wind, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky

A community's beautiful response to an act of hate brings together people of different religious traditions during the holiday season.

#### Bird Count

Susan Edwards Richmond, illustrated by Stephanie Fizer Coleman

Narrator Ava shares her experience of participating in the National Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count. She and the members of her Count Circle spend one Sunday in December documenting every bird they see in their neighborhood. An afterward includes additional information about more than 20 bird species, as well as an Author's Note with more information about how the reader can become a citizen scientist just like Ava!

#### How to Excavate a Heart

Jake Maia Arlow

Queer, Jewish Shani's winter break is derailed by unexpected romance in this frothy enemies-to-lovers holiday rom-com. Shani is intent on leaving her disastrous first semester at college behind her. Determined not to think about how her girlfriend broke her heart, she plans to focus solely on her internship at the Smithsonian. That gets off to a rough start when, trying to navigate snow-laden streets, she and her mother almost run over a pedestrian with their car. Despite the hiccup, Shani dives headfirst into her internship until a dog-walking gig puts her face-to-face with Jewish May, the girl she almost ran over. Their relationship is civil at best, but when they're snowed in together on Christmas Eve, their antagonism thaws. May and Shani's clever banter, coupled with their myriad relationship ups and downs, make for a cozy and sharply funny confection. Main characters cue as white. (Adapted from a review.)

#### Others:

#### So, This Is Christmas

Tracy Andreen

#### Christmas Ornaments: 27 Charming Decorations to Make, From Wreaths and Garlands to Baubles and Table Centerpieces

Christine Bellstedt Myers

#### Knitted Gifts for All Seasons: Easy Projects to Make and Share

Wendy Bernard

#### Creating Winter Crafts

Dana Meachen Rau, illustrated by Kathleen Petelinsek

A brief overview of the major winter holidays (Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and New Year's) precedes instructions for making eight fun crafts to enhance celebrations and create lasting memories. Includes a glossary, index, and links to additional information.

#### Winter Candle

Jeron Ashford, illustrated by Stacey Schuett

The heartwarming story of a stubby candle that provides light just when it is needed, as it is shared by the diverse community living in an apartment building. Backmatter provides brief information about Havdalah, Saint Lucia Day and Kwanzaa.

#### Wintercake

Lynne Rae Perkins

Thomas and Lucy make a new friend and start an annual holiday tradition after a series of mistakes involving the ingredients for wintercake, in this picture book by Newbery Award Medalist Perkins.

#### Twinkle, Twinkle, Winter Night

Megan Litwin

A cozy bedtime story tells about all the lights that twinkle on a cold December night, including those celebrating a variety of winter holidays.

## Donate to a Toy/Clothing Drive!

Many City departments host holiday toy and clothing drives.

The Club encourages you to be generous by participating. (As many agencies were finalizing their plans at Alive! press time, please check their social media channels for the most current information.)



### LAFD Spark of Love



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

This annual event is in its 30th year and includes the "Stuff a Bus" event Dec. 9 at Westfield Topanga & The Village from 4 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

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

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

### LAPD Northeast

LAPD's Northeast Station has given away up to 1,000 toys per year to area children living in poverty or other challenging situations. Plans for 2022 were not complete at press time. But bring a new, unwrapped toy for 3-to-12-year-old children to the station, 3353 N San Fernando Rd., by Friday, Dec. 9.



At last year's LAPD Northeast toy drive and giveaway.

### LAPD North Hollywood

Last year, the North Hollywood Station hosted its first "Winter Wonderland" toy giveaway at Whitsett Park, 6907 Whitsett Ave. Check North Hollywood's social media closer to the date around Dec. 15. Unwrapped toy donations are requested at the Station, 11640 Burbank Blvd.

### West Valley Sanitation

Public Works' West Valley Sanitation Yard is once again hosting its annual Holiday Toy Drive. Drop off your unwrapped toys at the yard, 8840 Vanalden Ave., Northridge, by Wednesday, Dec. 14, as West Valley donates the toys to the Guadalupe Center the next day.

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



### Rec and Parks Muscle Beach Toy Drive

Rec and Parks sponsors the 15th annual Muscle Beach toy drive from 10 a.m. Dec. 4 at the Venice Beach Recreation Center, 1800 Ocean Front Walk in Venice. A special presentation by Santa and his Elvettes is promised.

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



Donate your blankets and sleeping bags for unhoused residents as part of the Spread the Warmth Blanket Drive

GO TO ONE OF LASAN'S SIX DISTRICT YARDS FROM 9 AM-4 PM. BINS WILL BE PLACED AT EACH YARD WHERE THE BLANKETS CAN BE SAFELY PLACED.







# Holiday Happenings

## CITY HOLIDAY EVENTS: Enjoy the Season!

Some City-sponsored events returned last year, and more continue reopening this year as the pandemic seems to fade into the distance (cross our fingers).

Every year, the City produces and sponsors a variety of events to celebrate the holidays. Here's Alive!'s annual guide for 2022.

### Pancakes With Santa

When: **10 a.m. -noon Sat., Dec. 10.**  
Where: Studio City Rec Center, 12621 Rye St.  
Cost: Free  
City sponsor: Rec and Parks  
Information: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)

Enjoy and celebrate the holidays with Santa! Pancakes, arts and crafts, cookie decorating, photos with Santa. (Note: Check with [laparks.org](http://laparks.org) for more complete information on your local Rec Center holiday happenings.)

### Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square

When: **various times, through Jan. 1.**  
Where: Pershing Square downtown, 532 S. Olive St. Take Metro Red/Purple Line to Pershing Square, or park in nearby facilities (fee).  
Cost: Starting at \$20. Skate rental included.  
City sponsor: Rec and Parks.  
Information: (213) 624.4289; [holidayicerinkdowntownla.com](http://holidayicerinkdowntownla.com)

One of the City's largest outdoor ice rink returns for the 2022 holiday season on Nov. 23. Suitable for experienced and novice skaters. Holiday hours limited. Lockers available for rent. Sessions last one hour.



### Victorian Christmas

When: **noon – 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 3**  
Where: Banning Museum, 401 E Main St., Wilmington.  
Cost: Free admission.  
City sponsors: Rec and Parks, Harbor  
Information: (310) 548-2005 or [www.thebanningmuseum.org](http://www.thebanningmuseum.org)

This free event is one day for visitors to enjoy period entertainment, tours of the residence museum decorated in holiday splendor, refreshments, a children's craft area, carolers, and a horse-drawn trolley ride between the museum and the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum nearby. Proof of full COVID vaccination required for those 12 and over to tour the indoor museum.



### Holidays by the Sea/ Harbor Afloat Parade

When: **4-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3**  
Where: LA Waterfront; Banning's Landing Community Center, 100 E. Water St., Wilmington.  
Cost: Free.  
City sponsor: Harbor, Council District 15  
Information: [www.portofla.org](http://www.portofla.org)

First, enjoy a town square tree lighting, then live entertainment, a tall ship light display, and crafts and games. Then, at 6 p.m., join harbor community members for this free and festive boat parade on the LA Waterfront. Enjoy the sparkling spectacular parade of boats and celebrate the nation's busiest international trade gateway.



### LA Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow

When: **6-10 p.m. nightly through Jan. 22**  
(closed most Mondays and Tuesdays, plus Christmas Eve and Christmas).  
Where: LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Griffith Park, 5355 Zoo Dr. Free parking.  
Cost: \$27-\$39 (daytime Zoo admission extra).  
Value nights: Some nights are lower cost; some are premium cost. Check the Website.  
City sponsor: LA Zoo.  
Information: (323) 644-6042 or [www.LAZoolights.org](http://www.LAZoolights.org)

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

### Holiday Light Festival Train Ride

When: **5-8 p.m. weeknights; 5-9 p.m. Fri-Sun. through – Jan. 6**  
Where: 4400 Crystal Springs Dr., Griffith Park  
Cost: \$7  
City sponsor: Rec and Parks  
Information: (323) 662-9678, [www.griffithparktrainrides.com](http://www.griffithparktrainrides.com)

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

The trains operate every night until Dec. 23, then resumes Dec. 26-Jan. 7. The trains do not operate in the rain.



### Las Posadas on Olvera Street

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

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

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



## Help Others for the Holidays

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

### Club Angels



**To donate, go to:  
[ClubAngels.org](http://ClubAngels.org)  
Please be generous.**

*Club Angels is a separate charity begun by Club staff.*

The pandemic may be easing, but the hardships faced by some City Employees and their families remain critical. Club Angels, the charity started by staff members of the Employees Club, invites you to join our efforts to help.

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

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

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

The Club encourages City Employees and everyone to con-



tribute to the Club Angels fund. Donations go to City Employees in need; Club Angels and the Employees Club earn nothing from the transaction. Donations might be tax deductible; consult your tax professional.



Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.



# RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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



Ruth B. Perry

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

**2022 Executive Board of Directors**

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

**RLACEI DIRECTORS**

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

Beverly Anderson, <i>Director</i>	Ext. 702
Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, <i>Treasurer</i>	Ext. 718
Mark Blunk, <i>Audit Chair</i>	Ext. 704
Beverly J. Clark, <i>Publicity Director</i>	Ext. 716
Dennis Harding, <i>Director</i>	Ext. 706
Nancy Hammoudian, <i>Secretary</i>	Ext. 705
Tom Moutes, <i>Director</i>	Ext. 710
Verkin (Vicki) Keoseian, <i>Director</i>	Ext. 719
Ruth B. Perry, <i>Membership Director</i>	Ext. 717
Elizabeth Torres, <i>Entertainment Director</i>	Ext. 703

**RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:**

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

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

**RLACEI WEBSITE**

Visit the RLACEI website [www.RLACEI.org](http://www.RLACEI.org) to find the latest news.

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

EMAIL: Contact@RLACEI.org

**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.



Beverly J. Clark

**Send in your Interesting News Contributions!**

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

**RETIREE EVENTS**

**Dec. 15, 2022 Annual Holiday Party**  
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Friendship Auditorium  
3201 Riverside Dr.

**June 8, 2023 RLACEI 50th Anniversary Party**  
Location and time to be announced

**RLACEI EVENTS RESERVATION LINE:**  
(800) 678-4145, ext. 701

**RETIREES ON THE MOVE**



Beverly J. Clark

**Meet Corrine Chu**

by Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director

Meet Corrine Chu. She prefers to be called "Corrina." Corrina began her City career in 1969 with the Library as a Clerk Typist. After 33 years, she retired in 2002 from City Planning in the Code Study Division.

Corrina loves to sew and used to make clothes for her daughter and her daughter's dolls. Now that she is Retired, she keeps busy teaching dance classes in Alhambra, San Gabriel and Rosemead. She teaches 29 classes that include tap dance, jazz dance, yoga, Pilates, line dance, stretching, social dance and Zumba. Her favorite classes to teach are tap and jazz. She developed a special line dance combination that combines pop, rock and Latin moves. Her students range from age five to 96 years old, and they often put on performances and recitals for various events.

Corrina has always worked a minimum of three jobs even when working with the City. She has one son, Casey, and one daughter, Hollie. "Casey is my inspiration," Corrina says "At the age of 17, he was diagnosed with a life-threatening ailment but was able to overcome it after many months of treatment." Hollie graduated with a double major. She is a teacher and has two daughters.

"My community service involves donating to nursing homes a special blend of body wipes made for sensitive skin for their patients. They are difficult to find, and I order them from HSN (Home Shopping Network)."

**What words of wisdom can you share with those Retired or about to retire?**

"I have a chalkboard on which I've inscribed the following: 'Eat Well, Sleep Well and Keep Good Friends.' These are words I live by. I remember listening to a radio talk show psychologist some time ago, and she said, 'People go to get their needs met where they get met.' That statement stuck with me. So when I have a dance class scheduled and only a few students show up, I reason that their needs were not met and I'm okay with that."

She also incorporates another slogan into her daily life from a prominent TV psychologist: "You teach people how to treat you."



Corrine Chu

**What did you do to prepare for retirement?**

"I had not actually prepared to retire when I did. However, after 9/11, going to work became a hassle. I worked in City Hall, and every morning just to get to my office I would have to take off my shoes and

have my purse searched, and then there was a white barrier in front of the building that made it a little more difficult to get dropped off. I realized that I met the criteria to retire, so I did."

**What do you miss or don't miss about your years working for the City of Los Angeles?**

"I love to dress, and enjoyed dressing up to go to the office. I enjoyed receiving comments on how professionally I dressed."

**As you reflect on your City career, would you have done anything differently?**

"Working for the City was not my first choice. My plans were to be a sociologist. I loved people and wanted to do something in that field. I married and began a family, so my plans changed. Also, with the ensuing divorce, I found myself a single mom needing to take care of my children and maintain stability. However, I do not have any regrets working for the City."

**How do you fill your days in retirement?**

"Along with my passion for teaching dance and fitness, I love doing crafts and cooking. I have not traveled much but would love to do so. I welcome anyone who wants to stay healthy and keep active to join one of my classes."

**In Summary**

"I love to dance, and I love music. I love a variety of music and I encourage everyone to listen to music more. Music, healthy eating, humor and moving are great ways to self-medicate. I enjoy people. There is always something to be learned from each person I meet." ■

**LACERS BOARD UPDATE**

**LACERS Explores Infrastructure Investing**



Michael R. Wilkinson

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

The LACERS Board of Administration recently received training in infrastructure investing from its general investment consultant, NEPC, LLC. This is the first step that the Board is taking before making any decision on starting infrastructure investing.

As you know, the overall investment philosophy is incorporated in the Board's decision to allocate its investments using Board-level decisions on what type of assets the plan should invest in keeping in mind the total investment return as compared to risk. This is the asset allocation process.

What is infrastructure, you ask? Infrastructure is defined as the structures and facilities needed for the operation of society or companies. Some examples are toll roads, airports, fiber optic networks, the electricity grid, and the list goes on.

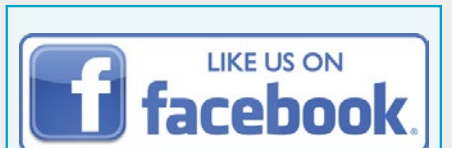
What are some of the advantages of infrastructure investing? 1) Income. It has a predictable cash flow. 2) Inflation protection. Returns frequently go up with inflation. Some are monopolistic assets that are hard to compete with (think airports and toll roads). 3) Infrastructure also has low correlation to other investment classes. This means when the other investment classes go down, infrastructure may not and may even go up.

Considering this, you might ask if this investment class is so great, why don't we put all our money here? Ah, my dedicated reader, you already know where we are going here. The old expression that "there is no free lunch" applies here. For every

investment class there are advantages and downsides.

There is liquidity risk. That is to say, the plan might not have the money it needs and can be stuck with an investment that cannot be sold quickly. However, with proper planning this should not be a problem. As with private equity, a wise investor would not invest money in an illiquid asset if it will be needed quickly.

Also consider, some infrastructure investments are overseas. Foreign infrastructure investments have currency risk and may have geopolitical risks. There are, of course, many other risks and considerations that must be considered such as environmental risk and operating risks. ■



**RLACEI MEMBERS**

Not an RLACEI member?

**Join and like us on FACEBOOK**

Call (800) 678-4145 x717 or visit our website at [RLACEI.ORG](http://RLACEI.ORG)



## Become an RLACEI Member!

RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. We are over 6,000 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 Ext. 717, or visit our website at [RLACEI.ORG](http://RLACEI.ORG) and join today!**

### Looking for a Board Member With Computer Skills



**Computer savvy RLACEI Board Director needed!** Experience and skills in Webpage maintenance, Facebook management and extensive Microsoft Office proficiency particularly wanted. Other computer skills greatly appreciated. If you enjoy working with and assisting City Retirees, join us.

**For more information on this position contact:**

Dennis Harding at: (800) 678-4145, ext. 706  
 Email: [Dennis.Harding@RLACEI.org](mailto:Dennis.Harding@RLACEI.org) or  
 Beverly Clark at: [Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org](mailto:Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org)

## Happy Holidays from the RLACEI Board

The RLACEI Board would like to express its gratitude to RLACEI members, family, friends and associates for a great year. It was great to see members join us in a little fun, food and socializing at our picnics and our annual golf tournament. As we approach the end of 2022, the Board wishes to thank all who contributed and assisted in ensuring that Retiree benefits are maintained and that our Retirees are living their best lives. Our warmest wishes for a happy Holiday season as we look forward to a wonderful new year!



Arnette Travis

## Get Happy Now

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

In the fall of 2017, I was surprised and honored that my friend, bestselling author and Blue Zones founder Dan Buettner, opened his newly released book - *The Blue Zones of Happiness* - with the story of how I re-engineered my life to achieve happiness. Dan's characterization of me as someone who intentionally changed their habits and surroundings, got me thinking of how dreams and desires can manifest in real life.

During the spring of 2020, when normal life activities came to a halt because of the COVID-19 pandemic, staying positive and productive became my daily objective. Ten years earlier, I'd experienced the "dark night of the soul," a.k.a. depression, and knew well that the mind, as well as the body, must be nurtured daily. By mid-summer, news reports of increased incidents of domestic violence, depression and suicides revealed that many people were suffering from a variety of mental maladies. And while the pandemic can rightfully be considered the catalyst, it was not the reason that mental illness - in varying degrees - is omnipresent in our society.

Looking through the 20/20 window of hindsight and wanting to share the process I'd gone through years earlier, happiness as a teachable concept began to take shape. By January 2021, a *Happy* course had been outlined, incorporating five revelations and five essential elements.

**Revelation 1:**  
*Preparation+Opportunity=Success*  
 If you put in the work through positive daily practices, you are in the best possible position

to receive happiness. Habits are the support system of a happy life.

- **Revelation 2:**  
 You have little to no control over many circumstances and events that happen around you and in the world. The one thing you have complete control over is your attitude.
- **Revelation 3:**  
 When you awake looking forward to the day, the probability of having a happy day increases exponentially. Purpose is the essential "you" and brings you joy.
- **Revelation 4:**  
 Your closest relationships are a reflection of yourself and have a direct influence on you. We need to have the right people in our lives.
- **Revelation 5:**  
 Life is too short to be unhappy. You deserve to be happy for as long as you live.

For anyone who questions whether happiness is sustainable, the answer is yes. In addition to the special occasions and relationships that lift us up from time to time, when we go about our daily routines with a mindset of gratitude and giving, a blanket of contentment covers us. Contentment is happiness.

I'm not suggesting that life will be free of challenges and difficulties, or that you should ignore them when they occur. Rather, it is your response that makes the difference in how those challenges and difficulties affect you. Bad things happen to all of us, and if we approach them calmly,

we're able to analyze and assess what actions to take to resolve them. And then there are the times when the only response is acceptance.

Just as things took shape for the *Happy* course, I experienced a sudden and severe case of COPD - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. It came out of nowhere and led to a diagnosis of Stage IV lung cancer. After putting my entire focus on treatment, in early 2022, I resolved to complete the *Happy* program and share with the world the intentional steps to living a life of purpose and joy.

**A complimentary Happy Guide is available to download at <https://arnette.life>**



### RETIRES UPDATE

## Go Big and Small - On Charter Changes



by Tom Moutes, RLACEI Director  
 Email: [Tom.Moutes@RLACEI.org](mailto:Tom.Moutes@RLACEI.org)

The crisis of confidence caused by both alleged and proven corruption by some City Councilmembers as well as the shocking audio recording of other Councilmembers has the press and constituents understandably calling for major changes to the City Charter.

Suggested changes have included an independent redistricting commission, increasing the size of the City Council, and amending the way proposed developments are considered and approved. Considering these and other big changes to the Charter makes sense given the current environment.

However, the Charter changes should not stop with these high-profile ideas. The changes should also include smaller but important changes that have been stockpiling since the last major changes to the Charter were made more than 20 years ago.

An example of such a change would be this recommendation from a 2013 Management Audit of LACERS conducted on behalf of the City Controller, City Council and Mayor (not LACERS):

It is not a coincidence that this recommendation was made after two perfectly good LACERS Board members, Roberta Conroy and Jerry Bardwell, were dismissed from the Board (their pre-signed letters of resignation were accepted) by then Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

So, what is wrong with the Mayor removing Board members? For most City boards, the Mayor probably should have the authority to dismiss board members without specific cause, but pension systems are different. By law, the primary duty of California public pension board members is to the members of their pension plan - not to the Mayor or anyone else. The California Constitution indicates that, "A retirement board's duty to its participants and their beneficiaries shall take precedence over any other duty." This helps protect the pension systems from political influence, especially in a situation like LACERS, where the Mayor appoints a majority - four of the seven - Board members.

It is likely that there are other small but important Charter changes that have been recommended since the last Charter overhaul. So, how should the City proceed to collect these various Charter ideas? How about having OARS compile them? What is OARS? It's the Office of Administrative and Research Services. Still doesn't sound familiar? That's because that name is seldom, if ever, used. It's what the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) was renamed during the last Charter overhaul. Perhaps the new Charter process can be used to get the CAO's more appropriate name back and to help protect the pension systems. ■



LAPD



# Dressed to the Nine-One-One

Photos compiled by Jean Sarfaty, Retired, LAPD/Communications, and Lillian Serrato, PSR II

On Oct. 31, the men and women of the LAPD Communications/Valley and Metro Call Centers had their annual Halloween fun by dressing up for the holiday.

And new this year to Alive! – a pumpkin-decorating contest!

Pictured here are many of the participants.

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



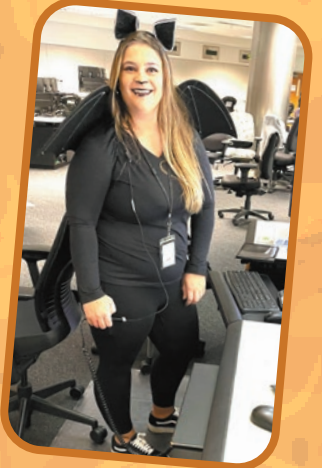
From left: Emil Petrossian, an old (over) timer (first place winner); Deby May as Queen Elizabeth (first-place winner); and Sean King old (over timer) **VCDC**.



**MCDC PM Watch:** from left: Juan Vizcarra as the Creeper; Anita Yang as a Hippie chick; Alicia Alvarez as the Grinch; Rachel Placencia as Little Red Riding Hood; Fernando Molina as a zombie; Betty Lu as a bat; Anna Figueroa as Selena; and Wanda Cook as Ursula.



**VCDC:** Tim McRae and Jennifer Ceballos as Space Jam basketball players.



Paige Rios as a bat.



**VCDC:** Cheryl Chase, as Maleficent, and Heather Jamison, an overtime greenie (second-place winner).



**MCDC:** front row, from left: Bettina Allen, Darcy Ross, Teresa Kachirisky, Naila Hay, Fabiola Lomeli (DOC), Jeanna Costello, Maria Sanchez-Ruiz, and Elana Brown (DOC). Back: Katherine Paden, Mirian Ajanel, Roslyn Edmondson, Hope Wright, Sylvia Richardson, Karen Johnson, Amelia Ocon, Valerie Mokricky, Monica De La Torre, Christine Lufti and Chance Chavez.



**VCDC:** The three top winners, **VCDC PM Watch**, from left: Jenna Cruz, Freddie Krueger, first place; Heather Jamison, an overtime greenie, second place; and Deby Herdrich as Queen Elizabeth, third place.



**MCDC PM Watch**, from left: Mahidi Parnell, Katherine Gonzales, Wanda Cook and Claudia Garcia De Enizo.



Other great costumes we found on Twitter!

## And From the Library!



Library staff at the Central Branch downtown had fun on Halloween, too!



## A Pumpkin Contest

The LAPD Communications team also had a pumpkin-decorating contest.



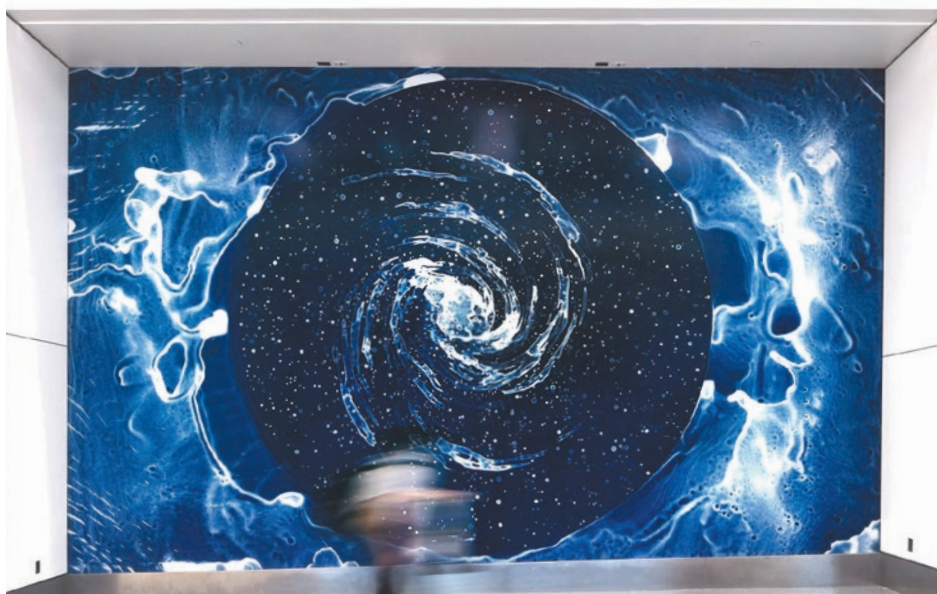
**First place:** A spider, by Betty Lu.



**Second place:** The Central Park Zoo, by Alicia Alvarez.



**Third place:** A Christmas tree, by Autumn Kohoutek.



Your Body Is a Space That Sees, Lia Halloran. Photo by SKA Studios, LLC, courtesy Airports and the LA Dept. of Cultural Affairs.

## Space, at LAX

ART AT LAX PRESENTS ITS LATEST INSTALLATION AT LAX.

**AIRPORTS/CULTURAL AFFAIRS:** LAX has installed its latest work, a continuation of Your Body Is a Space That Sees, in Terminal 2, level 3, through 2024.

The work, by artist Lia Halloran, continues the first part of the work, which is on display in Terminal 1, gate 9.

Your Body Is a Space That Sees combines ink and light to celebrate women's contributions to science. The large-scale cyanotypes recall telescopic views of the night sky, captured in photographic emulsion on glass plates in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and used by a group of female astronomers to make extraordinary discoveries about the universe.

Enjoy the installations during your holiday travels. ●



**THANK YOU!**

Photos by SKA Studios, LLC, courtesy Airports and the LA Dept. of Cultural Affairs. Thanks to the Art at LAX program for enriching our travels!



# Alive! AROUND THE WORLD



## Gibraltar

“A breathtaking view of the Rock of Gibraltar.”

— Christine Tabirara, Retired, Building and Safety, and Vernon Tabirara, Retired, Public Works/Engineering

Send in a travel picture holding the Alive!



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

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

This is a summary of the annual report of the Los Angeles City Employees Assn Welfare Benefit Plan, a life insurance, long-term disability and death benefits plan (Employer Identification Number 95-1667955, Plan Number 501), for the plan year 01/01/2021 through 12/31/2021. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

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

### Insurance Information

The plan has insurance contracts with Unum Life Insurance Company Of America, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company And Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to pay certain LONG TERM CARE, Long-term disability, ADD, Life insurance, Health claims incurred under the terms of the plan. The total premiums paid for the plan year ending 12/31/2021 were \$13,241,729.

Because they are so called “experience-rated” contracts, the premium costs are affected by, among other things, the number and size of claims. Of the total insurance premiums paid for the plan year ending 12/31/2021, the premiums paid under such “experience-rated” contracts were \$6,101,713 and the total of all benefit claims paid under these experience-rated contracts during the plan year was \$0.

### Basic Financial Statement

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$934,987 as of the end of plan year, compared to \$773,784 as of the beginning of the plan year. During the plan year the plan experienced a change in its net assets of \$161,203. This change includes unrealized appreciation and depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan’s assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. During the plan year, the plan had total income of \$17,437,036 including employer contributions of \$0, employee contributions of \$13,091,370, gains/(losses) of \$0 from the sale of assets, and earnings from investments of \$48,993. Plan expenses were \$17,275,833. These expenses included \$4,872,693 in administrative expenses, \$12,403,140 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries, and \$0 in other expenses.

### Your Rights to Additional Information

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

1. An accountant’s report.
2. Financial information and information on payments to service providers.
3. Assets held for investment.

4. Insurance information, including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of Brian G Trent, who is a representative of the plan administrator, at 311 South Spring Street #1300, Los Angeles, CA 90013-1203 and phone number, 213-620-0388.

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

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

### Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) (PRA), no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The Department notes that a Federal agency cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA, and displays a currently valid OMB control number, and the public is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3507. Also, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3512.

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

OMB Control Number 1210-0040 (expires 07/31/2023)

## Larios In the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Executive Officer



## Congratulations!

Robert Larios, Club President and CEO, honors Club Members with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.



**Yolanda E. Williams**  
Personnel, Retired after 40 years of City service.



**Aprile Benjamin**  
Harbor, Retired after 39 years of City service.



**Victor Chavarria**  
DMV, State of California, Retired after 27 years of State service.



**Randolph Scott Salazar**  
LADWP, Retired after 41 years of City service.



**Sophia Ponce De Leon**  
LAPD, Retired after 36 years of City service.



**Sharon Jacobucci**  
LADOT, Retired after 29 years of City service.



**FREE! CLUB RETIREMENT PLAQUE**

## Retiring soon?

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

Get started here:







# 66% OFF

## ALL FINE JEWELRY CLUB MEMBER ONLY

**PAYROLL DEDUCTED**



# UNFORGETTABLE CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS



**EXCLUSIVE PENDANTS**



**EARRINGS**



**GOLD CHAINS**



**NECKLACES**

**FREE SHIPPING ON ALL ORDERS!**

**SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY**

**PLACE YOUR ORDERS BY WED, DEC 21<sup>ST</sup> FOR  
DELIVERY IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!**

✓ NO CREDIT CHECK ✓ NO INTEREST PAYMENTS ✓ NO FEES ✓ 30-DAYS RETURN

### HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- Register online and start shopping.
- Make zero payments today.
- Payroll deduct your purchase with zero interest.
- Make equal installments over 12 months.

Corporate Jewelers  
Made by Us - Created for You



**SHOP NOW**  
EmployeesClub.com



**Alive! Feature**

**ALIVE! INTERVIEW**

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

giving out jackets and trying to help people in need.

**Q: How do you make the connections, Zaki, to these other cities, the other places around the country?**

**Zaki:** Through my friends; from my professional organization, the Institute of Transportation Engineers; and through the Knights of Columbus. A lot of them come through Facebook, too.

**Q: Right. How did it start? Pretty organically?**

**Zaki:** Yes, simply. In 2016, before retirement, my wife gave me a nice leather jacket. I had wanted one. I took the train (Metrolink) or the bus to work every morning in downtown LA. I was exiting Union Station at 5:45 a.m. as usual. I was walking, and I came across this guy who was buck naked in front of City Hall. So I gave him my jacket.

Later, when I was still employed by the City, I got to serve as the international president for the Institute of Transportation Engineers, which consists of all the transportation planners, traffic engineers and city engineers throughout the country. I was the international president, and I was always raising money for student scholarships. We raised more than \$700,000 for student scholarships. Anyway, after I gave that jacket up, my wife said, "You're always asking for money from your friends at these conferences. Why don't you ask them for money for the jackets?" So I put it up on Facebook that we were raising money for jackets for the homeless, and within a week we had about \$3,500.

After we raised the money, I went shopping in downtown LA in my suit and tie of course. I was walking from shop to shop. I walked into this lady's shop. I told her what I was doing, and she started crying. I said, "What happened?" She said, "I feel guilty about driving my Mercedes, I feel guilty about what I have. I heard a message from our bishop on the Year of Mercy yesterday, and you show up today. But I don't want to give them money because they're going to go buy drugs with it." She gave me a couple hundred jackets for free, and she showed me how much it would have cost – four or five or six dollars each. I brought those back to my office.

During Valentine's week in 2017 we gave away those jackets around City Hall. I didn't think much of it. In April, our accountant, Miranda Ow, from my Bureau for the office came into my office first thing in the morning and threw a stack of paper on my desk. When a staff member does that it's usually a complaint or something. So I said, "Miranda, what is this? Some sort of grievance?" She said, "No, I was washing dishes Friday night and God told me to do this." "To do what?" She said, "This is the nonprofit that you and your wife are going to start after you retire. This is the paperwork that will get it started." So we filled out the paperwork and turned

it into the IRS. Miranda came up with the name, and the logo is the one that John Hawkins [City Employees Association CEO] came up with. After we applied, I got a letter from the IRS, saying, "Hey, you messed up something. Who pays for all other expenses because your application says that 100 percent of what you collect from your fundraisers goes to the cause? How are you going to run the nonprofit?" I explained to them that's our donation – my wife and I donate that because we were going to have a good retirement plan from the City.

That's how it started, but the connection was first through that Institute of Transportation Engineers. The engineers donated a couple hundred dollars here, a couple hundred dollars there, and then they donated the money for shipping, which was more expensive than the actual jackets.

**Q: A natural beginning.**

**Zaki:** Right. And then about four years ago, I was going around trying to find a shipping company that would give me a discount. At one shop, the lady said, "Okay, set up your pallet in the back and we'll give you 50 percent off." I went in the back, and then she says, "Where is your pallet?" I tell her, "Everything's in the van." She said, "We only deal with people who bring in their pallet." I said, "I'm sorry, but I promised this shelter back East they're going to have the jackets." And she said, "This is your last time." I told her the story again, and then this guy from the back comes in, grabs my paperwork and said, "From now on, all your shipping is free."

**Q: Incredible.**

**Zaki:** To answer your earlier question, it's friends from throughout the country who have been helping me. I have a lot of people who donate who don't give out the jackets, so I just divvy it up



Giving away jackets on Skid Row.

and give it to other groups. We have Kiwanis from back East supporting us; Baptist, Lutheran and Catholic churches; the Knights of Columbus; the Order of Malta; St. Vincent de Paul; the Boy and Girl Scouts; and now it's by word of mouth. They see us on Facebook and call, saying, "Hey, we have a shelter." Or I'll get a call from people saying, "We have a family that really needs the jackets. Can you ship it to me, or can you send it to me?" For those, they pay for shipping because those are one or two jackets, or they'll come to my house and get it, and they'll give it out to those families.

**Q: All from giving one jacket to a man outside City Hall.**

**Zaki:** I gave out the jacket that my wife had given me. My rule is, if I give out a jacket, it's the kind of jacket you'll see me wearing for the season. I want to make sure I give something that I can wear myself.

**Challenges, and Fate**

**Q: A few years ago, things got tough for you and charity. How did you get through that?**

**Zaki:** It was about the time when I had rotator cuff surgery, and the doctor told me, "You're not going to be able to lift any boxes for this year." That was around April. "It'll be next year or maybe later that you might be able to lift boxes," he said, and I was really down about how I would get the jackets distributed. Also going on at that time, I took out a home equity line loan for about \$50,000 so I could buy the jackets. It was a lot of work for one or two people to collect all these checks, to log it in, to cash it, to reconcile it, and then to collect the money back to pay the loan. Now, the vendors downtown know me and are okay with the fact that I haven't paid them yet. But before, when the fundraising was down, they didn't know me yet. And my shoulder was not healed. But then John Hawkins put a little blurb about my fundraiser in *Alive!*, and all of the sudden things started moving in the right direction again. I had what I needed, and I found another doctor who did surgeries on the Lakers and was on the sports scene. I went to that doctor, had

the surgery, and I was lifting boxes by September. It was amazing how those two things happened when I needed them to.

**Q: Amazing.**

**Zaki:** Here's another one. Last year, my friends came over to our house and saw that it was full of jackets. They were everywhere – the garage, another room, and a small storage shed. Everywhere.

**Q: You were processing all of it at your house?**

**Zaki:** Yes. That's when one of my friends came in and poured the foundation for a new barn, and another friend of mine volunteered to do the framing. Some of the materials were donated, too. That's how that barn was built.

Sometimes I wonder why are we doing this. It's a lot of work. We could be just sitting here enjoying retirement. But my wife and I feel it's time to give back.

**Q: It's a great cause. But people believe in you, too.**

**Zaki:** The gentleman who was in charge of Caltrans District 7, Mike Miles, came to one of my events, and he said, "I'd be just sitting home sipping coffee and doing nothing. I have a good retirement. I'm going to join you." He's also helping me.

**Q: Great.**

**Zaki:** Two years ago in January I got a call from a guy saying, "Hey, I want to donate \$50,000." I said, "My nonprofit was set up for only \$49,999. I can't take that much." The guy says, "We're a bunch of lawyers and CPAs. We'll take care of all the paperwork for you, and we'll even do your taxes from now on." I was doubtful. I said, "Yeah, sure." Four months later, I got a letter from the IRS saying that the limit had been removed.

And our old van that we used to move the jackets was the one we used for the kids growing up. It was tired and breaking down. This is how fate also comes in – in December the week before

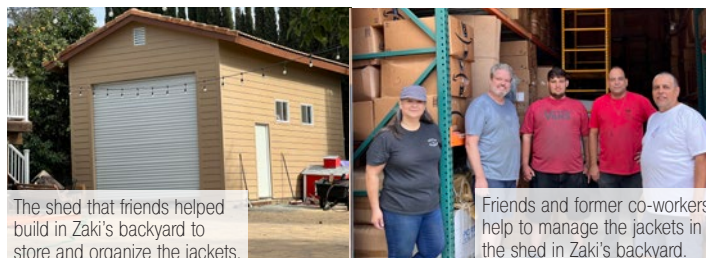
Christmas a few years ago, the back hatch stopped working. It had 280,000 miles on it. We needed a new one. I started looking for a van on Craigslist at that time, and I found this four-wheel drive van, a Toyota Sienna. The guy was asking \$24,000. I called him and he said he was in Hong Kong. I thought it was a scam. But he called me back a few days later with his attorney after checking me out. I thought, attorney? What's going on? He said, "You're the guy who screwed up traffic in LA!" Apparently he wasn't a fan of my work with LADOT! But he liked most of the bike lanes we installed in neighborhoods. Then he said, "Come by the house and pick up the van. It's yours." He donated it to us.

It was one thing after another. It's amazing how things work out to help others.

**Shelters**

**Q: You still give jackets away directly to those who need them, but you're increasingly working with shelters.**

**Zaki:** We try to limit giving out on the street. We're going to Skid Row I think again in a few weeks. I like to



The shed that friends helped build in Zaki's backyard to store and organize the jackets.

Friends and former co-workers help to manage the jackets in the shed in Zaki's backyard.



Zaki uses his home to manage the shipping of jackets.

— CONTINUED PAGE 22



Alive! Feature

**ALIVE! INTERVIEW**

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

give the jackets directly to the shelter. I want homeless people to take advantage of the shelters. Shelters have so much to give.

It really breaks my heart to see how the City is right now. I was in charge of construction and maintenance and engineering for LADOT. I got to drive in the City all the time when I was working. The homelessness, the encampments, at every single corner now didn't exist when I was working, and it breaks my heart to see the condition that our beautiful city is in.

I think it's better for us to encourage people to go to the shelters. It's really critical that we build all these shelters that we're talking about building to help the homeless.

**LADOT Employees**

**Q: I remember when you were still working for Transportation, a number of your colleagues there helped you distribute jackets before work.**

**Zaki:** At that time, the first distribution was done right before we started work. That was when we did the very first distribution. And we started distributing at lunchtime, too. They would even come in on their day off.

I'm retired, but a number of LADOT people still help out. They're still involved.

**Holiday Giving**

**Q: Is Jackets for the Homeless active during the holiday season?**

**Zaki:** Yes. We have a lot of giveaways during the Christmas season. There are events throughout the States giving out jackets and coats to our friends in need. We'll be active for sure.

**The Meaning of It**

**Q: What does giving these jackets away mean? What kind of impact are they making on these people?**

**Zaki:** We have to think about how lucky we are, how blessed we are, that we can come home to a house that's warm and has heat. That one person sitting in front of City Hall, buck naked, was cold. You could see the goose bumps on his body.

There was another lady under the bridge at the LA Mall. Lily was a permanent resident there, always there, and at night you could see she was cold. These jackets are for the truly homeless and people in need. They wear it for maybe a week or two, because after that it starts smelling. They have no way to wash them. Homeless people ask me about that. They say, "We're going to throw it away because we can't wash it. Why are you doing this?" Well, even if it keeps them warm for one day it makes my wife and me happy.

When I see those people, the smile on the kid's face, that's it right there. I get pictures back from the people who have given out those jackets, and you see those kids and adults. Yesterday, we went to breakfast. I had this couple drive to the state of Montana and give out jackets to the shelter there, and the man says, "I can't believe how happy they were when they got that one jacket. It's going to keep them warm when it starts snowing there." That's what gets me – when I see that smile on their face or when I the warmth they're going to be getting by putting that on. I got a comment on Facebook from someone distributing jackets for us in St. Louis. It read: "The best part of my Saturday was this little angel. Joanne helped her try on several coats to find the perfect one. As she left, she gave me a hug and told me she loved me."



Ana Gmeiner of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, with Zaki Mustafa, giving away jackets across from the Fred Jordan Mission on Skid Row.

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

**Zaki:** That so many people want to help other people. It's not Zaki or Loretta. Now we have an army of more than 600 people who want to help. There are so many nice people out there, so many, and they take the time to help out others. Some people say that other people are mean or don't care. That's not the case. There are so many nice people out there.

Just this weekend, a friend of mine from the engineering association is working with the City of St. Louis to hold a major jacket giveaway. He raised the funds, and I'm sending the jackets. There's a Baptist church in North Carolina doing the same thing, partnering up with the local governmental agency to work with the shelters to give out coats to the people. Friends from all over the States will have given out thousands of jackets along with hundreds of locations within our state, making it more than 12,000 jackets to our friends in need just this year.

That's what really gets me – seeing how many people are out there helping others. When I first started, it was how many jackets were are giving away, and how much could I raise. That's not what I think about any more. It's how many people can I get to help others.

**Q: How long will you be doing this?**

**Zaki:** My wife and I are both 62. We'll be doing this until we can't lift a box. We hope a long time.

**Q: Zaki, thank you for talking to us, and for all you do for the less fortunate in LA.**

**Zaki:** You're welcome. I could not have done it if it weren't for you guys at the Employees Club, either, for the logo and that very first story.

**Q: Merry Christmas to you and Loretta.**

**Zaki:** To you, too.



Loretta Mustafa organizes a giveaway to youths in need.



Giving away jackets in Tijuana.



The First Giveaway: Zaki's first organized jacket giveaway, with assistance from his fellow LADOT employees on their free time (April 2016)

**Volunteers**



Carolyn Jackson, Retired, Sr. Management Analyst, assists Jackets for the Homeless.



Dave Patin (left) with Zaki Mustafa. Dave has volunteered with Jackets for the Homeless since Day One and stepped in to take on added responsibilities when Zaki was recovering from shoulder surgery.



James Duffy and his son Levi poured the foundation to Zaki's storage barn and delivered jackets to indigenous men and women in Fort Peck, northeast Montana.



Tom Conner, Retired, City Engineer and General Manager, LADOT, assists Jackets for the Homeless.