



# Alive!

LAPD PUBLIC WORKS  
GENERAL SERVICES MAYOR'S OFFICE

## Toward a Greener Blue

LAPD's award winning first solar array project points to a sustainable energy future.

**PAGE 10**



LAPD Motor Transport Division's solar array.

Under the LAPD Motor Transport Division's solar array are team leaders (from left) Leslie Herrig, Sr. Management Analyst II and second LAPD Liaison for the solar array project, LAPD, 27 years of City service; Ingrid Reyes, Architectural Associate and Construction Manager, Public Works/Bureau of Engineering, 15 years, Club Member; and Fidel Oñate, Building Electrical Engineer and Project Manager, Public Works/Engineering, 6 years.

Alive! photo by Summy Lam

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# The Future on the Roof

I am certain you have seen it ... or at least the edges of it. It is right there above Main Street two blocks from the LAPD headquarters. Have you?

The structure is also near the Club headquarters, and we watched it being built panel by panel. While we watched, we planned on featuring the project in *Alive!* once it became operational. But what were they building up there?

We found out. I speak of the LAPD's first major solar array, a bold and award-winning look into the future of LA. It sits atop the LAPD Motor Transport Division's headquarters. Building a major solar array atop this very important and busy building proved to be delicate surgery indeed!

The array already powers the building it sits above, with the excess power returned to the LADWP grid.

In this month's cover story, we focus on the City team that oversaw its beginning and completion – **Fidel Oñate**, **Ingrid Sanchez**, **Leslie Herrig**, **Grace Hsieh** and **Michael Samulon**. Through their different departments working hard together, they prepared Los Angeles for a responsible, more affordable and healthier energy future. We send our profound thanks and honor those who created the future on the roof. And now you know what it is.



Robert Larios, Club CEO (right), talks about the LAPD Motor Transport Division's solar array project with team leads (from left) Ingrid Reyes, Public Works/Engineering, Club Member; Leslie Herrig, LAPD; and Fidel Oñate, Public Works/Engineering.

**ROBERT'S BLOG**  
by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club

**SCHOLARSHIP:** I commend the Club's **Joannie Mukai** Scholarship Committee – led with excellence by the Club's **Mariana Guevara** – for its announcement to increase the number and amount of the stipends the Club will award to this year's winners. The committee worked hard and found ways to give back even more; read the details in this issue and submit by the deadline. Well done, Committee!



Young Joseph Cornejo with Chermaine Fontenette

**FRIEND-MAKING:** As we anticipate the return of Sanitation and Environment's popular open houses, we feature a story this month with the same spirit of customer service. Club Ambassador Chermaine Fontenette, RCTO, tells a wonderful story of making a special friend along her route in the East Valley. Thank you, Chermaine, for your generous spirit. I recommend Club Members check out this story; it might make your day. It did mine.

**WORTH CONSIDERING:** To stay happy, don't overthink – it's a trap! Our thoughts can easily become overwhelming and lead us down the rabbit hole of negativity. Instead, practice living in the present moment to give yourself some much-needed mental clarity and peace of mind.

*¡Gracias por leer!*

# #ClubMobile Schedule\*

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



At a recent Mobile Team site visit.

## Schedule a Site Visit

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



### 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:

**Wed., Mar. 1**      **Wed., Apr. 5**      **Wed., May 3**

### North Central Sanitation Yard

452 N. San Fernando Rd.  
6 a.m. – noon

**Monday, March 6**

### Rec and Parks/Encino

16821 Burbank Blvd.  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 8**

### LADWP Wilmington

315 N. Island Ave.  
1 – 3 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 14**

### LADWP Castaic

3700 Templin Highway  
7 – 10 a.m.

**Wednesday, March 15**

### LADWP El Segundo

685 W. Grand Ave.  
7 – 10 a.m.

**Thursday, March 16**

### Street Lighting West LA

4550 Santa Monica Blvd.  
7 a.m. – noon

**Tuesday, March 28**

### 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.

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

- @employeesclubofca
- Employees Club of California
- @theClubofCA

\* 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.



# Toward a Greener Blue

LAPD  
PUBLIC WORKS  
GENERAL SERVICES  
MAYOR'S OFFICE

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## NEW THIS MONTH **ONLINE!**

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

### John's Picture Perfect

All the winners from this month's contest with the theme "winter."



COVER STORY:

## The Toward a Greener Blue ..... 10-13

Departments combine to design, manage LAPD's first solar array.

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### Rest Insured

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



### Cooking With the Club

In this month's issue: Indulge in some early spring pasta with garden spinach ricotta ravioli with zucchini ribbons, tomato and creamy lemon sauce. See page 8.



# Coloring Contest for Grown-Ups!

Hey Club Members, the deadline is soon for this year's Grown-Up Coloring Contest, so get out your crayons, sparkles and whatnot, and submit!



**DOWNLOAD THE ART AT:**  
[aliveemployeesclub.com/grown-up-coloring-contest/](http://aliveemployeesclub.com/grown-up-coloring-contest/)

**SEND ENTRIES TO:** Club Grown-Up Coloring Contest  
Employees Club of California  
311 S. Spring St., Suite 1300  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

# WIN \$50

**DEADLINE:**  
**March 10**

**Amazon**  
Gift Card





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**

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**employeesclub.com**

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

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

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# Meet the Club Team

The Club Team is here to help you receive the full power of your Membership and bring value, financial confidence and fun to your families. We honor your hard work and service! How can we help you? Contact us, and we'll be in touch with urgency. It's our promise to you!

Contact our help desk for all your Club needs:  
**help@employeesclub.com**

## Member Experience Team



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**Edith Bon-Sanchez**  
Data Processing Coordinator

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**Mikayla Sprague**  
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Vice President of Business Development

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LACEA Insurance Services, Inc., DBA Employees Club of California



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President & CEO, Los Angeles City Employees Association, Inc.



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# North Hollywood's Best

DIVISION HONORS ITS OFFICERS OF THE YEAR FOR 2022.

*Story and photos courtesy LAPD.*

**LAPD:** Last Nov. 8. LAPD's North Hollywood Division honored its best for 2022 – Officer of the Year, Civilian of the Year, Specialized Unit Officer of the Year and Detective of the Year.

**Capt. Stacey Vince presented the awards to the recipients. They are:**

**OFFICER OF THE YEAR**  
**Officer Jeffrey Winters**



Officer Jeffrey Winters

"Whether in patrol running our bike unit, or working in detectives, we can count on him to give his best effort each and every day," the department's citation noted.

**DETECTIVE OF THE YEAR**  
**Det. II Timothy Kirkpatrick**



Det. II Timothy Kirkpatrick

"A big congratulations to Det. II Timothy Kirkpatrick for being named the LAPD North Hollywood division's 2022 Detective of the Year," the citation said. "It's an honor that he truly deserves as this man continually goes above and beyond."

**CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**  
**Jacqueline Cervantes, Crime Analyst**



Jacqueline Cervantes

"We are proud to introduce our Civilian Employee of the Year, Jacqueline Cervantes," the department's citation noted. "She runs our Crime Analysis Detail unit, which is often given Herculean tasks of providing vital data with a very short deadline. No matter the task, Jacqueline and her team are up for it. Congrats on the well-deserved honor."

**SPECIALIZED UNIT OFFICER OF THE YEAR**  
**Officer II Claudia Guillen**

"Let's have a big round of applause for our 2022 Specialized Unit Officer of the Year,



Officer II Claudia Guillen

Officer Claudia Guillen," the department's citation noted. "Officer Guillen is known for her outstanding work ethic, dedication to duty, and her pursuit to enhance public safety."

# Pay Tribute to Your Mom!

**CLUB MEMBERS:** Pay tribute to your mom this Mother's Day ...with a photo and message of lifelong love, published in *Alive!*.

In our May issue, we'll print a photo of you and your mom (or just your mom) ... and a two- or three-sentence message of Happy Mother's Day from you. Your tribute will also appear on *Web Alive!*, starting just before Mothers Day.

Send in your digital photos and your message now!

To submit, go to:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/mothersday](http://alive.employeesclub.com/mothersday)

**DEADLINES:**

**APRIL 17:** to appear in print and online

**May 10:** to appear online only



# Open Houses Return!

SANITATION'S POPULAR OPEN HOUSES AT SIX YARDS RETURN AFTER PANDEMIC PAUSE.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Public Works' Sanitation and Environment has released the schedule of its popular open houses for 2023.

These are Sanitation's first open houses since they were paused for three years during the pandemic.

Each of Sanitation's six waste shed district yards will open to the public in a series of free Saturday events. The Open House program showcases Sanitation's residential curbside collection programs with the promotion of proper recycling practices and information about bulky item collections. Each event will feature trash truck and equipment demonstrations in addition to facility tours, information booths, recycling games, and refreshments.



Will Brown, RCTO, 8 years of City service, and his son, Carter, 6 years old, with a young neighbor in the cab.



At the West LA Open House.

In 2019, the last open house before the break, more than 6,000 residents attended the open houses with more than 230 City Employees who volunteered their time to give back to the neighborhoods they serve.

There is no charge for admission and all ages are welcome, but Sanitation requests that pets be left at home for safety.

In 2003, LA Sanitation launched its first Open House at the West Los Angeles district yard. The goal of the program was to reconnect the refuse collection truck operators, on a voluntary basis, with City residents after the implementation of the automated collection program in 1993.

In the following years, the program grew to also promote recycling and proper disposal practices as well as to improve access to LA Sanitation services. The program expanded in 2005 to add the East Valley, West Valley, North Central, and South Los Angeles district yards. In 2006, the Harbor district yard was added to provide Citywide coverage.

Residents visiting the yards have grown with approximately



200 visitors in 2003 to more than 6,700 in 2016. The popularity of the Open Houses can be traced to City and Sanitation leaders as well as City employees who volunteered their time to transform the six Sanitation yards into fun learning centers.

By combining solid resources, clean water, watershed protection, and recycling education, and recycLA information with refreshments, music and games, Sanitation has succeeded in capturing the attention of families across the City. ●

**Earth Day Celebration**  
**Saturday, April 23**  
Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant  
12000 Vista del Mar  
Playa del Rey, CA 90293

**Public Works/Sanitation Open Houses: Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

<b>East Valley Yard</b> <b>May 6</b> 11050 Pendleton St Sun Valley	<b>Harbor District Yard</b> <b>May 20</b> 1400 N. Gaffey St. San Pedro	<b>North Central Yard</b> <b>May 27</b> 452 N. San Fernando Rd. Los Angeles	<b>West Valley Yard</b> <b>June 3</b> 8840 Vanalden Ave. Northridge	<b>South LA Yard (Expo Center)</b> <b>June 10</b> Expo Center 3990 Menlo Ave Los Angeles	<b>West LA Yard</b> <b>June 24</b> 2027 Stoner Ave. Los Angeles
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# READY FOR RETIREMENT



Resources for Club Retirees or Those About to Retire



## LONG-TERM CARE MAKES SO MUCH SENSE



Noelle Kauffman  
Director of Sales  
CA LICENSE NO: 0H45598

This month, we continue our discussion of the importance of having **long-term care insurance**.

A survey conducted by Genworth in 2020 states that the median costs for these services range from \$53,768 to \$105,850 per year.

as a stroke, because of older age and frailty, or because you need supervision due to a cognitive disorder like Alzheimer's disease.

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, dressing, toileting, ambulating and transferring – situations that can follow an accident or illness such

Make an appointment with our Retirement Specialists.

### JOIN THE CLUB

As a Retiree, you are entitled to group rated insurance benefits including life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, pre-funeral planning, long-term care, and our popular legal plan by MetLife.

### LET'S TALK ABOUT LONG TERM CARE (LTC) INSURANCE

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, nearly 70 percent of Retirees will need some type of long-term care.

## HERE'S WHY YOU NEED THE CLUB'S LONG-TERM INSURANCE

Long-term care insurance is a form of coverage that can assist with the costs associated with everyday living, providing you and your loved ones financial peace of mind. It offers support should you need help in areas such as dressing, bathing or moving around; making sure necessary day-to-day needs are taken care of when needed most.

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.

- Your premiums are conveniently deducted through your pension
- Affordable Club Member-only group rates
- Group rates are locked in at the age you apply
- 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)



### ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

ADLs, or Activities of Daily Living, are the key skills that enable us to engage with daily life and maintain our personal hygiene. First introduced in 1950 by Dr. Sidney Katz, these activities include everyday tasks such as ambulating (walking/stairs etc.), grooming, toileting (continence), dressing, and eating.

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.

### 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:

**Tues., March 7**  
(in person at The California Endowment)

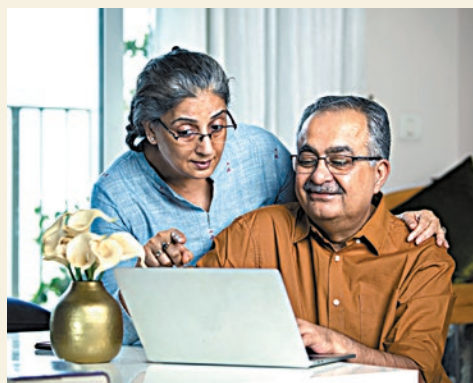
**Thurs., March 23**

**Sat., April 1**

**Thurs., April 20** (Tier 3)

**Wed., May 25**

All webinars/events 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 July 15, 2023, you would have aimed to submit your retirement application in the portal on May 16, 2023. For more information, please visit [lacers.org/applying-retirement](https://lacers.org/applying-retirement).

## Retired or Retiring Soon?

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



**Cheryl Martin**

(800) 464 -0452,

EXT. 136

Work cell: (213) 819-0794

23 years of insurance experience

CA LICENSE NO: 0C12823

## 2023 Events

2023 events will be added as they are announced.

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)

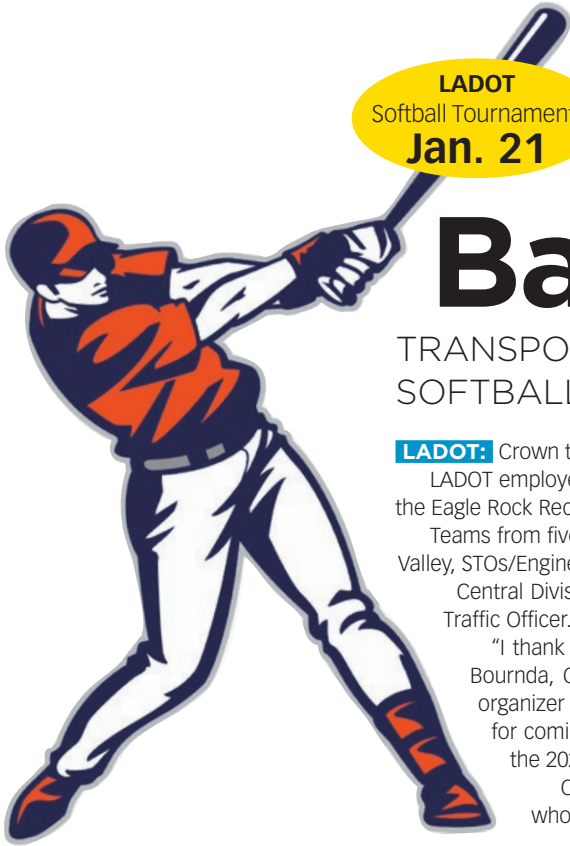
### Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)

See page 16



LADOT  
Softball Tournament:  
Jan. 21

Story and photos courtesy Cesar Ponce, Traffic Officer



# Batter Up!

TRANSPORTATION HOSTS WINTER SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT.

**LADOT:** Crown the Central Division as softball champs! LADOT employees held a one-day softball tournament Jan. 21 at the Eagle Rock Recreation Center.

Teams from five divisions participated: Hollywood, Central, West Valley, STOs/Engineers, and Official Police Garage.

Central Division won the tournament. MVP was Ryan Moran, Traffic Officer.

"I thank all of the team coaches: Dennis McCarthy, Jerry Bournda, Gene Williams, and Carlos and Patty from OPG," organizer Cesar Ponce said. "I also thank all of the players for coming out on a Saturday and joining in on the fun at the 2023 Winter DOT Softball Tournament."

Congratulations to the winners, and to everyone who had fun at the tournament. ●



From left: Antonio Cordova and Hans-Sosa Lanza.



Tournament MVP Ryan Moran, Traffic Officer, Central Division.



The LADOT West LA team.



The LADOT Central Division team, tournament champions.



Antonio Cordova and Marlene Prado.



Serena Sosa and Marlene Prado.



The LADOT West Valley team.



The Central N/E Official Police Garage team.

Story and photo courtesy Airports

## Samms for Landside Modernization

AIRPORTS APPOINTS NEW DEP. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR LANDSIDE MODERNIZATION.

**AIRPORTS:** On Jan. 13, Harold C. Samms III was appointed Airports' Deputy Executive Director of the Landside Access Modernization Program (LAMP) Performance.

Harold C. Samms III

As the director of LAMP performance, Harold Samms provides operational oversight to the multi-billion-dollar Public-Private Partnerships as they begin operating the Automated People Mover (APM) and the Consolidated Rent-a-Car (CONRAC) Facility. This position also will oversee the Airport Operational Readiness Division to ensure the readiness of multiple airport programs and projects. He reports to Chief Operations and Maintenance Officer Michael Christensen.



For more than 25 years, Harold Samms has excelled in the design, construction and operation of airport people mover projects across the country, including the Skylink at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport and the AirTran at JFK Airport, along with transit systems in Jacksonville, Fla., and Las Vegas. He possesses extensive knowledge and experience with current automated people movers, rail systems and autonomous vehicle technology.

Previously, Samms served as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army and National Guard

Welcome, Harold! ●



#ClubMobile Member Services Rep DeAngelo Thompson (back row, red shirt) has fun saying hello to all the LADOT softball players and their families.

## Everyone's a Winner!

LADOT  
Softball Tournament:  
Feb. 20



**#CLUBMOBILE:** The #ClubMobile team attended the most recent LADOT softball tournament, held Feb. 20 (Presidents' Day) at the Eagle Rock Rec Center.

#ClubMobile team greeted Club Members and new friends, too, delivering popular apparel and insurance information to the City employees and their families.

**We say: Huge thanks for the invite! Let's do it again soon!**



# Cooking with the Club

with Chef Robert Larios



Photos: Patty M. Larios



## Garden Spinach Ricotta Ravioli

with Zucchini Ribbons, Tomato and Creamy Lemon Sauce

Ravioli is so much more than mere pasta; it's pillows of delight! This version packs in all the flavor, texture and appeal that could be hoped for – spinach and ricotta is just a beginning here. Chopped zucchini, diced tomatoes

and Italian herbs bring this dish to its full potential, while a creamy lemon sauce adds an extra dash of luxury. Finally top it off with Parmesan cheese and scallions – let your heart skip a beat as you savor these exceptional raviolis!

¡Buen provecho! *Chef Larios*

### Garden Spinach Ricotta Ravioli

with Zucchini Ribbons, Tomato and Creamy Lemon Sauce

Serves 2

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 zucchini
- 1 Roma tomato
- 2 scallions
- 1 lemon
- 1 packet or 9-ounce spinach ricotta ravioli
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 1 unit veggie stock concentrate
- 3 tablespoon sour cream
- 3 tablespoon Parmesan cheese
- 2 teaspoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- Kosher salt and pepper, to taste

#### UTENSILS YOU WILL NEED:

- Small bowl
- Strainer
- Large pan
- Potato masher
- Small pot

#### Food Lover's Dictionary:

##### Ravioli [rav-ee-OH-lee]:



An Italian specialty of little square or round pillows of noodle dough filled with any various mixtures such as cheese, meat or vegetables. Ravioli are boiled, then usually baked with a cream, cheese or tomato sauce.

Bibliography: Copyright Barron's Educational Services, Inc. 2009, adapted from The New Food Lover's Companion, 2007, by Sharon Tyler Herbst and Ron Herbst.

#### Cooking Tidbit

Make your own restaurant-worthy ravioli dish with a few simple tweaks! Start off by selecting any variety of store-bought or home-made pasta you'd like. To give the flavors an extra boost, substitute in some sea salt for kosher to really tantalize those taste buds.

#### Food Quote

"Ravioli allows you to create a secret envelope and to share your pleasure unbeknownst to others."

– Joël Robuchon, French chef and restaurateur



#### DIRECTIONS:

**1 Prep:** Bring a medium pot of salted water to a boil. Wash and dry produce. Trim ends from zucchini; shave zucchini lengthwise into thin ribbons using a peeler, rotating as you go, until you get to the seedy core. Finely chop core. Dice tomato. Trim and thinly slice scallions, separating whites from greens. Zest and quarter lemon.

**2 Cook Pasta:** Once water is boiling, gently add ravioli to pot. Immediately reduce to a low simmer. Cook, stirring occasionally, until al dente and floating to the top, 4-5 minutes. Reserve 1 cup pasta cooking water, then drain. Tip: Gently shake strainer with ravioli in it to remove as much moisture as possible.



**3 Cook Veggies:** Meanwhile, heat a large drizzle of olive oil in a large pan over medium-high heat. Add chopped zucchini, tomato, scallion whites, and 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning; use the rest of the Italian seasoning as you like. Cook until veggies are just softened, 1-2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

**4 Make Sauce:** Reduce heat under pan with veggies to medium, then stir in stock concentrate, ¼ cup reserved pasta cooking water, and a squeeze of lemon juice. Reduce heat to low and cook, 1-2 minutes. Stir in sour cream and 1 tablespoon butter (2 tablespoons for 4) until melted and combined. Season with salt and pepper. Tip: If needed, stir in more reserved cooking water a splash at a time until sauce reaches a creamy consistency.



**5 Finish Pasta:** Separate zucchini ribbons with your hands, then stir into pan with sauce. Gently stir in drained ravioli. Simmer until sauce has thickened, 1-2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in lemon zest to taste.

**6 Serve:** Divide pasta between bowls. Garnish with scallion greens and Parmesan. Serve with remaining lemon wedges on the side.





# Ray Retires

RAY CIRANNA RETIRES AS GENERAL MANAGER AFTER 33 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.



Ray Ciranna

**FIRE/POLICE PENSIONS:** After nine years at the helm, Ray Ciranna, General Manager of Los Angeles Fire and Police Pensions (LAFPP), retired last September. He has served as General Manager of LAFPP since May 2013, and also acted as Chief Investment Officer after the resignation of the previous CIO, Ray Joseph.

Previously, Ray Ciranna had served as the Assistant City Administrative Officer from 2006-13.

During his tenure at Fire and Police Pensions, Ray led the department to achieve many milestones, including the implementation of a new pension administration system; the purchase of a dedicated department administration building in the Los Angeles Arts District; ten-year average returns of 9.95 percent; total fund asset growth from \$18 billion to \$30 billion; and a funding status increase from 83 percent to 96 percent. The continued progress of the department's business continuity plan was the key to continuing essential services to its members without interruption during the COVID-19 restrictions. (This data is according to an official Fire and Police Pensions release.)

Ray Ciranna expressed that it was his great honor to serve those who protect the City and thanked the Board and staff for their incredible dedication to Fire and Police Pensions members. "Out of my 32 years of service with the City, the last nine as GM of LAFPP have been the most rewarding because of the staff, the Board, and our members," he said.

LAFPP Board President Brian Pendleton said, "Ray's extraordinary impact on LAFPP will be felt for years to come. The staff he assembled, trained, and supported are the best in the business and despite Ray's departure his legacy will live on."

Congratulations on your productive career, Ray! Best wishes in your retirement. ●

# Laura Triner, 59, Passes Away

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE DIES UNEXPECTEDLY.



Laura Lynn Triner

RIP

**LAFD:** LAFD personnel were in attendance and watching online at the funeral of Laura Lynn Triner, Sr. Personnel Analyst, LAFD, their colleague who served the City for 28 years.

Laura died unexpectedly on Christmas Eve. She is survived by her husband of 33 years, Doug Shultz; her father, Robert Triner; and her sister, Debbie House.

"Laura Triner was an instrumental part of our LAFD team," said LAFD Chief Kristin Crowley. "She was a joy to work with, and we grieve her loss. Please keep her family in your thoughts."

According to her obituary, she started work with the City doing research for Personnel. She continued to gain other skills as she grew in her career, cul-

minating in management of a team for the LAFD's Personnel Services Section. Her friends and coworkers describe Laura as a calm, kind, down-to-earth, genuine person who was easy to get along with and work with. She was an extremely capable and knowledgeable employee and manager.

The Club mourns Laura's loss and sends its condolences to Laura's family, friends and numerous work colleagues. ●

# The Club...

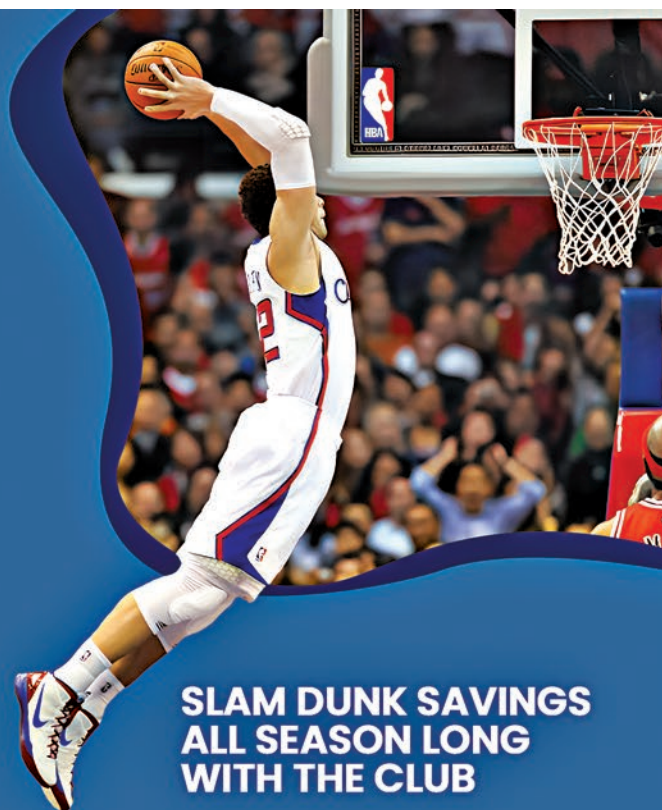


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LAPD PUBLIC WORKS GENERAL SERVICES MAYOR'S OFFICE

# Toward a

LAPD's award winning first solar array project points to a sustainable energy future.

Under the LAPD Motor Transport Division's solar array are team leaders (from left) Leslie Herrig, Sr. Management Analyst II and second LAPD Liaison for the solar array project, LAPD, 27 years of City service; Ingrid Reyes, Architectural Associate and Construction Manager, Public Works/Bureau of Engineering, 15 years, Club Member; and Fidel Oñate, Building Electrical Engineer and Project Manager, Public Works/Engineering, 6 years.

ALIVE! FEATURE

Photos by Summy Lam, Club COO, and courtesy Public Works/Engineering and LAPD

# Greener Blue

**A** new era of sustainable power generation in the City of LA has begun with the completion of the LAPD Motor Transport Division's Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Array project. The large array, built atop the MTD headquarters building and garage on Main Street downtown, is now generating power for the building, with the remainder deposited back to the LADWP's power grid. It's been generating power since Aug. 22, 2022.

The array, the first of its kind in the City, is expected to be a model for power generation for the LAPD and the City as part of LA's Green New Deal initiative.

A team of engineers and managers from the LAPD, Public Works/Engineering, General Services, the Mayor's Office and outside consultants and construction companies came together to make it happen. Many other departments played major roles, including Building and Safety, the LAFD, the LADWP and others.

## THE NUMBERS

The total installed capacity of the solar PV system is about 580kW DC, with estimated annual electricity production of 953,248 kWh that could support the electricity use of about 131 homes in the United States for one year and offsets approximately 676 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions annually from fossil fuel power plants, according to the Bureau of Engineering. This annual production by PV is also equivalent to avoiding greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 146 gas-fueled passenger vehicles driven for one year.

The project also included the installation of

electrical, lighting, carport, fire protection, and hose bibbs infrastructures supporting the new solar PV system.

The MTD project is a very significant solar installation and is expected to be a precursor to other PV installations in the City.

The Bureau of Engineering provided project and construction management, including the planning of the solar PV system and reviewing the construction documents to assure that it met the City's municipal facility requirements and LA's Green New Deal goals.

The total project construction cost was about \$3.3 million and was funded by MIC-LA (Municipal Improvement Corporation of Los Angeles). The design-build contractor was Baker Electric, Inc. The consultant was Gruen Associates and Consultants.

## AWARD WINNING

The solar array project was one of two Bureau of Engineering projects that were honored with 2022 Project of the Year Awards presented by the American Public Works Association (APWA) Southern California Chapter. The APWA SoCal BEST (Building Excellence, Shaping Tomorrow) awards recognize the most outstanding projects of the year.

- The LAPD Motor Transport Division (MTD) Solar Array was awarded Project of the Year in the Facilities category.
- The Sixth Street Viaduct Replacement Project, also covered extensively by *Alive!*, was named Project of the Year in the Transportation category. *Congratulations to both project teams!*



LAPD Motor Transport Division's solar array.

## OTHER TEAM MEMBERS

Project team leaders in addition to those interviewed and photographed in this issue include Grace Hsieh in General Services' Office of Sustainability; Neel Mistry, Civil Engineer, Public Works/Engineering; and Michael Samulon in the Electric Vehicles and City Projects division in the Mayor's Office.

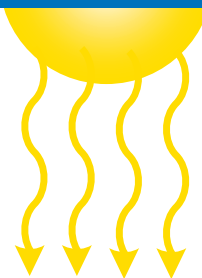
Others who participated in the creation of the solar array project include:

- **City Engineer Ted Allen and Chief Deputy City Engineer Deborah Weintraub**
- **Architectural Division (ARC) Team:** Steven Fierce, Saro Dersarolian, Celso Del Poso, Shun Yu Zhang, Brandon McKnight and Son Vuong;
- **Construction Management Division (CMD):** Richard Louie, Meghan Aldrich and Neel Mistry;
- **Environmental Management Group (EMG):** Shilpa Gupta;
- **Project Award and Control Division (PAC) Team:** Rey Sison, Miu-Ying Tam, and Ivet Madatyan;
- **Contract Administration (BCA) Team:** Curtis Moss, BCA Inspector, and his inspection team; and
- **LAPD:** Jeffry Phillips.

## THANK YOU!

The Club thanks Mary Nemick, Director of Communications, Public Works/Engineering, and Leslie Herrig, Sr. Management Analyst II, for coordinating our photo shoot. Thanks for helping tell the story of this important project!

## THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW



# Adding Solar to A Busy Facility

On Feb. 8, Club CEO Robert Larios and *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed members of the team that developed the LAPD's first solar array: Fidel Oñate, Building Electrical Engineer and Project Manager for Solar and Other Special Projects, Public Works' Bureau of Engineering, 6 years of City service; Ingrid Reyes, Architectural Associate and Construction Manager for the Solar Array Project, Bureau of Engineering, 15 years, Club Member; and Leslie Herrig, Sr. Management Analyst II and second LAPD Liaison for the solar array project, LAPD, 27 years. Project team members who were unable to participate in the interview were Michael Samulon, Electric Vehicles and City Projects, Mayor's Office; Grace Hsieh, Office of Sustainability, General Services; and Neel Mistry, Civil Engineer, Bureau of Engineering. • The interview took place via online conference.

**T**hanks for joining us today to talk about this important and impressive project. First, tell us your career path, and how you got to your current position.

**Fidel Oñate:** I have a Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, and my first job was as a building electrician in construction in the field. And then I worked in electrical design for a year back in the Philippines, mainly working for residential and warehouse projects. And then I worked as an electrical design engineer in Saudi Arabia for three years building military housing.

Then I spent five years in Malaysia working for a couple of cement plants in Malaysia and three gas-fueled power plants in the Asia Pacific Region – the Philippines, Vietnam and Australia – as a project engineer or coordinator.

Before I joined the City in 2017, I spent eight years as a senior electrical engineer in a private consulting firm working for school districts and for office building tenant improvement projects. And then another nine-and-a-half years in a private firm as principal engineer for USPS, building Post Office facilities and military training facilities nationwide.



Robert Larios, Club CEO (right), talks about the LAPD Motor Transport Division's solar array project with team leads (from left) Ingrid Reyes, Public Works/Engineering, Club Member; Leslie Herrig, LAPD; and Fidel Oñate, Public Works/Engineering.

# Toward a Greener Blue



Ingrid Reyes and Fidel Oñate receive the award for the LAPD MTD Solar Array project from the American Public Works Association (APWA) Southern California Chapter.



## THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

And then I spent three-and-a-half years as an electrical engineer/consultant to the City in the Bureau of Engineering, Environmental Engineering Division working on wastewater treatment plant's capital improvement projects. From there, I accepted this position as a Building Electrical Engineer / Project Manager in the Bureau of Engineering, Architectural Division for solar PV projects in the City, or any special project – like lighting project, and providing electrical engineering technical support to other City departments for the citywide electric vehicle (EV) charging station projects. *Alive!* covered the City Hall lighting project. I worked on the electrical design of that project before General Services' Construction Forces built it.

### Yes we did. We love the City Hall lighting program! Great, thanks. Ingrid?

**Ingrid Reyes:** I started with the City a long time ago, as an intern during my school years of architecture school. I volunteered during that time because the student internship program became available. It was an unpaid intern position, but I was glad to do it as I was eager to learn my field and also to learn what the City of Los Angeles did. After my City internship and as I graduated from architecture school, I was hired by JAG Architects, at that time a historical preservation firm. They were located inside the historical Bradbury Building. Then I went off to work for AC Martin and Partners, a very large architecture firm. Then the position for architectural associate became open within the City, and I applied and got it. I started as an Architectural Associate in design. But then an opportunity to work for the LA Zoo occurred and I started my training to become an Assistant Project Manager and Construction Manager. While working for the Zoo bond, I was an Assistant Project Manager/Assistant Construction Manager for the Reptile Exhibit and oversaw the design development of the Rainforest of the Americas. When that bond project came to an end, I was given the opportunity to work for the police bond, where I also worked as a Project Manager and Construction Manager at the same time. I managed the Northeast Police Station project on San Fernando Road and Treadwell. I also managed the Rampart Police Station project on Temple Street. But then that bond also closed, too. I transferred to the Bureau of Engineering's Construction Management Division in which I have been primarily a construction manager for various types of projects such as award-winning parks, bathhouse and pool replacements, street projects, lighting, and solar. I very much enjoy construction. I love to be out there and see everything there is about construction.

I also enjoy the other aspects of not being hands-on in the field, but reviewing contractor's schedules and dealing with contractors and subcontractors – there is always something new to learn. It's a very interesting position for me.



Fidel Oñate, Building Electrical Engineer and Project Manager of the LAPD MTD Solar Array Project, also was the behind-the-scenes Engineer of Record who designed another prominent project, the City Hall lighting project, which *Alive!* featured in May 2021. Well done, Fidel!



### And when you were working on Zoo and Police bond projects, that was still within the Bureau of Engineering?

**Ingrid:** Yes, that's correct.

**Leslie Herrig:** My story is going to be slightly different. I started my career with the City in the Police Academy. I was injured in the Academy and transferred to the civilian side, and I've been here my whole career. I was promoted into this position in Facilities Management in May 2021, and to Sr. Management Analyst II the next month.

### Is this your first solar project?

**Leslie:** Yes. [Project team member] Grace Hsieh was here for a number of years, and she started a lot of infrastructure projects as well as this solar project for the LAPD. When she transferred out of LAPD, I inherited this. A lot of the hard work was done prior to my arrival by Grace. As the COVID issues were resolved, I worked with Fidel and Ingrid as they put the solar panels up.

## LAPD's First Solar Project

### In general terms, describe the solar project that's above the LAPD parking structure downtown.

**Fidel:** It's a solar photovoltaic (PV) system. It's installed in about 60,000 square feet of the rooftop carport at the LAPD Motor Transport Division parking facility at South Main Street in the Civic Center. It is under Council District 14 and it was completed in August 2022. It is connected to LADWP's utility grid through net energy metering (NEM) configuration.

This project also included installation of electrical, lighting, carport, and fire protection infrastructures, and also water hose bibbs for cleaning purposes, supporting the solar PV system.

The carport covers many parking spaces on the roof, so it helps people and keeps cars cool. It also provides partial renewable energy to more than 100 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the building, plus other electrical loads in the building.

And the excess power goes back to the grid and generates energy credits for the LAPD in terms of electric bills. The system also incorporates the connection for the future battery energy storage system for storing power from the solar PV system.

**Ingrid:** This project was not typical. Most projects the City does are Design-Bid-Build. This was a one-of-a-kind project on its own for the LAPD as it was a design-build, which means that the City designed the first 30 percent, setting up a standard of performance that we wanted to achieve when we went to bid. Then the contractor studied our 30 percent bridging documents, and then they took it through the 100 percent design process; the contractor now becomes the designer of record and General Contractor. They finished the design with their expertise. This was interesting in that aspect. It was a trial project for the LAPD for building future solar array systems. A lot of it will depend on the percentages of change orders – how much the contractor had to adjust the design from our original 30 percent. But closing out this project with like a 1.5 percent total of change orders, it's unheard of. Most projects include a contingency of eight to 10 percent change orders. This project only had 1.5 percent. That's remarkable.

### Leslie, how would you describe this project?

**Leslie:** Finished!

They started working on it years before I got here, and then COVID happened and everything got delayed. When I came in, they were putting up the actual solar panels. I don't know if that's the easy part, but Ingrid, Fidel and Grace all worked through the headaches to get to that point. I got to see and work through the completion of it.

I don't think the City has allotted any more funding at the moment for a second project. We have a list of potential locations to put solar, but we're waiting on funding to move forward with the next solar project. We've made our suggestions.

### Right. And just to clarify, the excess power that is produced from this array, the power that goes into the LADWP's power grid, is for general use? It's not reserved for just Police Dept. use?

**Ingrid:** No. It offsets the grid.

**Leslie:** There's no battery backup in this. It's a learning experience – in future projects we'll look at the resiliency piece so that if the power does go out, then the batteries would be charged and could

keep power on in the facility.

**Fidel:** During the day, let's say it generates 100 kilowatts from solar PV and the load on the building is 90 kilowatts; it provides that power to the building and returns 10 kilowatts to the grid. We are not storing those 10 kilowatts at this time.

### Does that building use a lot of power?

**Leslie:** It's more than just a parking structure.

### Really, I didn't know that.

**Ingrid:** It's a live structure. It's used every day 24/7, 365 by LAPD staff. We couldn't in any way hinder the LAPD Officers who work there.

**Leslie:** It's the LAPD Motor Transport Division Admin Office (headquarters) as well as a parking structure for the fleet vehicles assigned to LAPD's Police Administration Building and a fleet service garage.

**Ingrid:** You also have offices within that parking structure.

**Leslie:** The LAPD's Motor Transport Division has its main admin office in that facility. From there they coordinate all the garages at all our facilities and manage LAPD's entire motorized fleet.

**Ingrid:** You can imagine what it took to not shut the facility down at any given point.

**Leslie:** And we put a large solar array on top of that facility.

### That's impressive.

## Project History

### How did this project begin?

**Fidel:** When I joined the City in July 2017, it was one of the projects initiated through the Mayor's Office, specifically Michael Samulon. It was on my agenda when I started. Mayor Garcetti had created the Green New Deal for sustainability of LA. It was not specifically stated in the Green New Deal, but generally it's in line with it. The Green New Deal promotes the renewal of energy in the City.

This solar array is not generating the power from a fossil fuel power plant, but getting it from a renewable source.

### Sure, of course. Ingrid, have you been on this project since the very beginning?

**Ingrid:** My beginning with it was as a construction manager. I was not part of the initial 30 percent design process that the City provided through Fidel and outside consultants. The project was out to bid. And then the project got awarded to the contractor. That's when I became the lead person for the project construction. I set up pretty much everything, all the parameters that needed to happen, all the design charrettes that were needed to continue. I oversaw everything in the construction from nothing on the ground to the turnover back to the City of the completed project.

As of now, I'm still closing out the project and arranging for the City to take over once the contractor leaves. There's a list of minimum requirements that need to be met before General Services takes over completely. Almost everything is done, but General Services has the final signature on that.

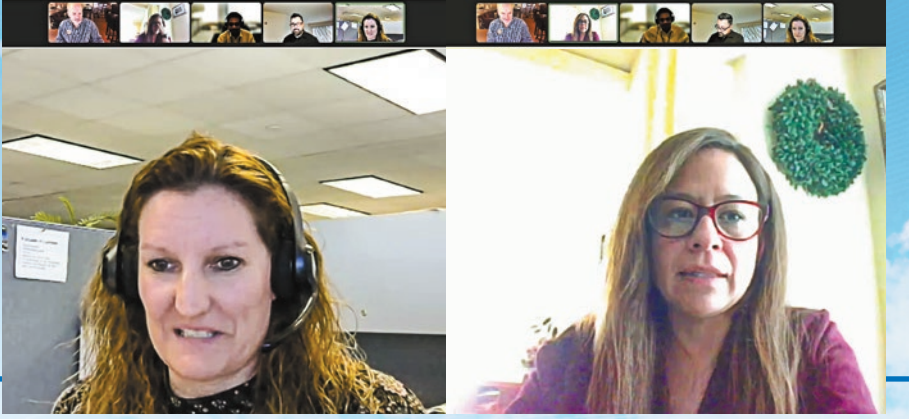
**Got it.**

## Importance

### Why is this project important to the City of LA?

**Fidel:** This creates renewable energy, and it offsets carbon dioxide (CO2) emission. We estimate that it offsets about 676 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually from fossil fuel power plants. It's really very important because we are helping to reduce gas emissions. And of course, it's in line with our Green New Deal – it will help Los Angeles to achieve what they call Carbon Neutrality by 2050 and lead by example.

**Ingrid:** In recent years, the City is moving very heavily on net zero buildings and in general sustainability. All, or at least most, of our buildings need to be sustainable. How much impact is our society having on climate change? What does it mean to have solar in place? There's only one way to find out.



Leslie Herrig, LAPD

Ingrid Reyes, Public Works/Engineering

**THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW** — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

**Leslie:** For the Police Dept., it's important to reach the Mayor's sustainability goals, and also to move forward with getting the infrastructure in place to support a fleet of electric vehicles in the future.

**Is this project more than just for now? Is it a model to see what works and what doesn't, to gain knowledge for the future? This won't be the City's last renewable energy project.**

**Leslie:** Yes.

**Ingrid:** I concur.

**Fidel:** Yes. There will be benefits back to the City, like reducing the electric bills. We will be calculating the costs and the benefits of reducing the building's electric bills because we are creating renewable energy.

**Invisible Infrastructure**

**It's not always easy to see a solar array when it's on top of a building. It would be nice for the public to notice the good work that you're doing on an important project. Does anybody notice it?**

**Leslie:** I'd like to think they do!

**Ingrid:** They were noticing it when we were in construction – I can't tell you how difficult it was to get all those I-beams up there! You wouldn't believe what I had to go through!

**Leslie:** I believe you.

**Ingrid:** Because you were there!

**Leslie:** I was there.

**Ingrid:** A lot of the folks I work with at the Bureau of Engineering who take the commuter buses have seen it up there, and they tell me, "Wow, Ingrid, that's impressive. I want to go up there and see it." It's an LAPD facility. People can't just go up there.

I'm assuming the public has seen it, but maybe they don't really understand its importance. They might not know all the real benefits that it's having. We put up a small sign during construction that read, "Future LAPD solar array." Maybe they know.

**Fidel:** Our BOE website is also accessible to the public and it was published in our newsletter and Facebook page. And it was on the Mayor's Facebook and Twitter accounts, with very positive feedback.

Ingrid, Leslie and I attended the award ceremony for this project.

**Yes, congratulations!**

**Fidel:** We received an American Public Works Association Award, Southern California chapter. People from other cities recognize and know this project.

**Proud of the Power**

**Are you proud of this project?**

**Leslie:** It was nice to see the first LAPD solar project go in, but I feel like I shouldn't be getting credit for it because I came in at the end.

**Ingrid:** That is not true. You should be getting credit. You helped a lot.

**Leslie:** Grace had done a lot, too. It was neat to be part of the first LAPD solar project. It was special.

**Fidel:** I am really very proud of this project because this was my first solar PV project

where I did project management. In the past, I did solar PV projects for U.S. government facilities. But I had never seen the actual construction and installation. I'm looking forward to helping in the future – our bureau is working toward more solar PV projects.

**Ingrid:** I take pride in every project that I do. There's always something very rewarding and something that I learn. But this project in particular, we had to work through a very difficult time – COVID. People don't understand the difficulties we went through – our entire team had to go to get plans checked when Building and Safety offices were closed. And other outside jurisdictions, too. We had to go through fire approvals, and approvals for electrical, building, and all kinds of different clearances – they took forever because of the pandemic. But everybody was really on top of their game, and it was a true delight to have worked with a team that really worked really hard. Yes, we got sick but we bounced right back.

And as I said before, at the end of the day, we're closing out a project with only 1.5 percent total of change orders, with most projects having a contingency of about eight to 10 percent in change orders. That, in such a difficult time as COVID, and to get an award on top of that, and to have an amicable close, it's just incredible.

I always take pride in being a partner with all of my contractors. It's quite an honor for me.

**Fidel:** We also expect to receive solar incentives from LADWP for this project. They worked to get us an extension for those credits because of the pandemic. I really appreciate the support from LADWP for granting us this extension.

**Ingrid:** I mean, it was a lot of money. It was half a million dollars.

**Fidel:** Yes, and we will be using this for the next solar PV projects.

**Passion**

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

**Ingrid:** I love that I get to work with a lot of different types of people and a lot of different types of personalities and entities. The pleasure of being a construction manager is that I get to problem-solve; each project is a beast on its own. I'm a thinker. I love to resolve problems. That's why I went to architecture school to begin with, but my career path led me to construction management. That's where my love is.

**Fidel:** I worked with the Mayor's Office, the Board of Public Works, and at some point with the CAO office, with Ingrid's crew, consultants, and others. Working with so many is a challenge, but I love that. That's why I love this project because you have a lot of challenges, and can resolve it.

And I like learning something that I can share with my colleagues on our team. Sharing it is really amazing.

**Leslie:** When it comes to the sustainability part of facilities management where I work, getting to witness and be part of the first solar project was an honor, and having Ingrid and Fidel made it quite easy to make it happen. I hope that any future LAPD solar projects involve Ingrid and Fidel, and Baker Electric, too, because it truly was a great experience. They set the bar high.

**Well, Fidel, Ingrid and Leslie, thank you for your time today to explain this project to our readers. We know you're busy.**

**Leslie:** Thank you.

**Fidel:** Thank you.

**Ingrid:** Thank you very much for inviting us! ●



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Member Services Counselor  
cmartin@employeesclub.com  
Work cell: (213) 819-0794  
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# Larios In the City

By Robert Larios, Chief Executive Officer



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



**Sonia Romero-Fuentes**  
LADWP, Retired after 32 years of City service. She retired in February 2021.



**Camilo Rogelio Chilcott**  
ITA, Retired after 19 years of City service. He retired in March 2010.



**Judy Phung Le**  
LADWP, Retired after 34 years of City service. She retired in February 2023.



**Donald A. Smith**  
LAFD, Retired after 43 years of City service. He retired in February 2023.



**Karen D. Shepard-Grimes**  
LADWP, Retired after 16 years of City service. She retired in October 2020.



**Herman W. Van Twist**  
LAPD, Retired after 26 years of City service. He retired in August 2022.



**Jorge G. Iracheta**  
LAFD, Retired after 30 years of City service. He retired in September 2022.



**Anna M. Burton**  
Emergency Preparedness, Retired after 35 years of City service. She retired in August 2021.

**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:

## Sergeant Says So Long

SGT. BRAD HEARN RETIRES AFTER 28 YEARS OF SERVICE.

Photos courtesy Sgt. Brent McGuyre



**LAPD:** Sgt. II Brad Hearn held his final roll call Jan. 26 before he retired from the LAPD with 28 years of City service. He ran day-to-day operations in the Harbor Area as Watch Commander.

Congratulations on your much-deserved retirement, Sgt. Hearn!

Sgt. II Brad Hearn holds his final roll call Jan. 26.

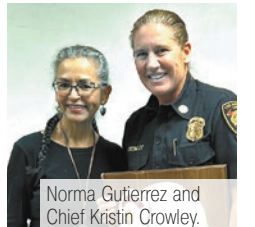


Sgt. II Brad Hearn, retired after 28 years of City service.

## Goodbye, Norma

NORMA GUTIERREZ RETIRES AFTER 32 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.

Photos courtesy LAFD



Norma Gutierrez and Chief Kristin Crowley.

**LAFD:** On Jan. 30, a reception was held for the retirement of Norma Gutierrez, Personnel Director II. She retires after 32 years of City service, nearly 18 with the LAFD.

Congratulations, Norma, on your well-deserved retirement!

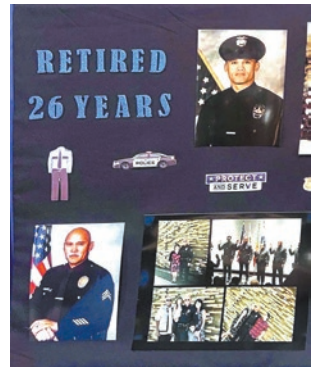


At the retirement reception for Norma Gutierrez.

## So Long, Sgt.

SGT. HERMAN VAN TWIST RETIRES AFTER 26 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.

Sgt. Herman "Twister" Van Twist.



**LAPD:** Last Oct. 27, a retirement party was held for Sgt. Herman "Twister" Van Twist, who retired from the LAPD after 26 years of City service. Before being promoted to sergeant, he spent more than 20 years at Rampart Division.

At Sgt. Van Twist's retirement party.

Congratulations!

## Adios, Pepe

PEPE GARCIA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, RETIRES FROM SANITATION AFTER 35 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.



Joseph "Pepe" Garcia

**PUBLIC WORKS:** A City Hall ceremony was held Jan. 27 for Jose "Pepe" Garcia, Assistant Director of the Solid Resources Operations, LA Sanitation and Environment.

Pepe retired with more than 35 years of City service. "Your ideas and enthusiasm, your successes, and your focus on employee development will be always be appreciated and remembered," the department said in a statement. "We wish you the very best in retirement!"

Pepe began his career with LASAN as a Refuse Collection Truck Operator in the West Los Angeles Yard. He worked as a Crew Instructor, Supervisor in Safety and Training, Alternative Fuel Program, and Container Replacement, Superintendent at Customer Care and North Central and Solid Resources Manager at Clean Streets LA.

Most recently, Pepe was in charge of the Solid Resources Collection Division.

Congratulations, Pepe! Enjoy your much-deserved retirement.

Pepe Garcia on the *Alive!* cover, November 2015, from left: Steve Reed; Exempt Maintenance Laborers Onei Chaul, Mark Melgar and Seasha Torres; Russell Zamora; and Jose "Pepe" Garcia.



# Collecting a Friend

RCTO CHERMAINE FONTENETTE MAKES A YOUNG FRIEND ALONG HER COLLECTION ROUTE.

*Photos courtesy Chermaine Fontenette and Sara Panameno*



Chermaine Fontenette delivers a birthday present to Joseph – an LA Sanitation "uniform" she made for him.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Club Ambassador Chermaine Fontenette, Refuse Collection Truck Operator, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment out of the East Valley, kept seeing a young boy waiting when she drove by his house. So finally last summer, she stopped, and a beautiful friendship was born.

"His name is Joseph Cornejo, and this is one of the reasons why I truly love working for the City of Los Angeles' Sanitation Dept."

"Last year, Chermaine drove by on our side of the street, but didn't stop," remembers Sara Panameno, Joseph's mother. "She saw Joseph crying, so on her way back down the other side, she stopped. That was the first time they met. "Ever since he turned one, he has loved garbage trucks. He's obsessed. I once tried to take him for a haircut on a Thursday, and he cried and refused – that's his day to wait out for the garbage truck to drive by. It's his favorite day of the week.

"It's a blessing she crossed paths with Joseph," mom Sara says. "She's a celebrity to him."

Joseph has more than 30 garbage truck toys. He enjoys garbage truck videos, some of which include Chermaine, he enjoyed a garbage truck piñata, and he wears garbage truck pajamas. For his birthday last year, Chermaine surprised him by bringing a replica LA Sanitation uniform she had made for him.

"I was blessed to be invited to his fourth birthday party," Chermaine remembers. "I created his own little Sanitation uniform."

"Chermaine made his dreams come true of going inside an actual garbage truck. We can't thank her enough."



Sanitation's Chermaine Fontenette with her friend Joseph Cornejo as she helps him fulfill his longtime dream of climbing inside a garbage truck.



Joseph wearing the LA Sanitation "uniform" that Chermaine made for him.



Joseph, wearing the LA Sanitation "uniform" Chermaine made for him, and his collection of toy garbage trucks and bins.



Good friends Joseph Cornejo and Chermaine Fontenette, who holds the Christmas card he made for her.



Joseph watches garbage truck videos while wearing his garbage truck pajamas.



Joseph Cornejo and his garbage truck piñata.

## John's Picture Perfect Contest

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



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



This month's photo contest theme:

# Yellow

The Club's online photo contest, organized by Association CEO John Hawkins, has a monthly theme. For the next contest, we've chosen "yellow" as the theme. We'd love to see your favorite shots.

**DEADLINE: March 15**

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

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

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

# RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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



Ruth B. Perry

### 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
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.

**Send in your Interesting News Contributions!**

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

## RETIREE EVENTS

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

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



Beverly J. Clark

### RETIREES ON THE MOVE

by Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director

# Meet Mitsuko Funakoshi

Meet Mitsuko Funakoshi, who prefers to go by "Mitsie." Mitsie started her City career in the Controllers Office and retired from the same department after 22 years.

While still employed with the City, Mitsie moved to Oceanside and feared she may have to resign from the City. She found that she could take Amtrak to work even though she had to get up at 3 a.m. to get to work by 7:30 a.m.

During her lifetime, Mitsie has made some amazing milestones, one of which is celebrating her 100th birthday this past September. She celebrated her birthday with a party on Sept. 10. Approximately 55 people gathered to celebrate her birthday, including some L.A. City Retirees. Relatives from Texas, Indiana, Connecticut and Hawaii came to celebrate. At the party, Mitsie's nephew, Glenn Yasukochi, shared different aspects of Mitsie's long-lived life. Attendees enjoyed a Mexican buffet of tacos, quesadillas, taquitos and more. And to top it off, the birthday cake was a delicious white cake with raspberry filling.

Mitsie says she was living a happy life when World War II broke out and Japan bombed Pearl Harbor at the end of 1941. She was just about to receive her Associate of arts degree from Fullerton College when her family was forced to leave their home and livelihoods like so many Japanese Americans living on the West Coast at the outbreak of World War II. She had all the credits needed and was scheduled to graduate when the 1942 evacuation brought everything to a standstill. As circumstances would have it, she did not receive her degree until 1990.

Mitsie recalls that a notice was placed on their door stating that "All Japanese, both American citizens and non-citizens, are to be evacuated from the West Coast



Mitsuko Funakoshi

within two weeks. Any Japanese could relocate to any place in the United States if they had a place to go."

Mitsie and her family were relocated to Ft. Lupton, Colo., to live on a farm owned by her father's friend. Farm life was a shock! She grew up in Norwalk, and her family owned a grocery store. They went to the beach and played in the sun. Now she had to attend to the animals and get up very early. However, while on the farm, she met her husband, Fred, the farmer's son. They married in 1944. They have one son, Gary, and one daughter, Debra, as well as grandchildren.

Mitsie was featured in *Alive!* in 2014 when she and her husband, Fred, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary

on March 15, 2014, and again in 2018 when they celebrated their 74th anniversary.

Mitsie says, "I don't get around as much as I used to, and my daughter helps me a lot. I enjoy socializing and keeping up with friends by talking on the phone a lot. And that's what keeps me going." ■

**Congratulations to Mitsie!**



Mitsie Funakoshi with family and friends.



Mitsie Funakoshi (right) with Geri Cochrane, Retired City employee.



From *Alive!* 2014: Fred and Mitsie, celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary, then and now.



**LACERS BOARD UPDATE**

# LACERS Scores Well Compared to Peer Funds

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



Michael R. Wilkinson

Former Mayor of New York Ed Koch was always asking the public, “How am I doing?” Well, LACERS asked the same thing when it asked an independent firm to do a benchmarking test to compare its performance to other comparable public pension plans.

CEM Benchmarking was hired to compare LACERS’ result to CEM’s global universe of more than 400 funds representing \$15 trillion in assets, as well as a more targeted group of peer funds near to LACERS’ size.

LACERS’ five-year total return for the period end-

ing Dec. 31, 2021, was 40 basis points better than the median U.S. public fund and also the peer median. 100 basis points equals one percentage point. The five-year return was 11.6 percent for LACERS and 11.2 percent for the peer median.

When we do use active management, we get a good return with 70 basis points of gain after deducting for the additional costs of active management. This is 10 basis points better than our peers and equal to the U.S. median fund. So, all in all, it costs less and delivers more.

CEM uses 145 pension funds in its comparison database. The median U.S. fund had assets of \$13.2 billion, and the average fund had assets of \$31.2 billion. However, CEM found the most informative comparison

to LACERS was to the U.S. public universe of 46 funds, and more specifically to the 19 public funds sized from \$10 billion to \$46.9 billion.

And finally, investment costs. It doesn’t matter if you have good gross returns if your money is eaten up by high fees. LACERS had 1.8 basis points of savings on fees versus its peers by more use of passive management and less use of fund of funds for alternative investments.

For risk, LACERS had a slightly higher risk of 12.0 percent versus 11.1 percent for the fund median. It should be noted that this measure does not capture the return that relates to that risk, but rather the standard deviation or up and down swings of the asset class. ■

# SAVE THE DATE!

## Thursday, June 8, 2023

(Location and time to be announced)

# RLACEI

## 50th Anniversary Celebration!

### 1973-2023



The Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) is a non-profit organization with more than 6,000 members. Founded in 1973 by City Retirees for City Retirees, RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for Retiree interests and providing pertinent information and social opportunities.

**RETIREES UPDATE**

## Question Every Retirement Article – Including Mine!

by Tom Moutes, RLACEI Director • Email: Tom.Moutes@RLACEI.org



Tom Moutes

As you read articles about retirement, including retirements from LACERS, it is extremely important that you read them with skepticism. The reason for this is that almost all retirement articles have biases. The two most common issues to watch out for are the data within the articles and the source of the articles.

**The Data**

Sometimes data is true, but cherry-picked. For example, if I told you LACERS retirement benefits used to be 116 percent funded but was only 70 percent funded in 2022, that is a true statement, but I cherry-picked the starting point at the highest funding percentage in LACERS history. It doesn’t tell the whole story – LACERS funding was only at 81 percent in 1990 before rising and then declining. Frequently, authors cherry-pick data starting or ending points to try and make the case for the idea they are putting forward.

If authors want to make the case that public pensions are crumbling, they will deliberately choose data that makes the plans look bad – for instance, going from 116 percent funded to 70 percent – without mentioning that the funding level was only 81 percent before it went up to more than 100 percent for a relatively brief period of LACERS 85-year history.

If authors want to make the case that LACERS is in very good shape, they might say something

along the lines of, “Our actuary indicated that we are on-track to be fully funded in 30 years.” First, the actuary backs into the full-funding number, so it’s self-fulfilling. Second, the actuary’s math is based on many assumptions, such as the rate of investment return, number of members, salary increases, deaths, etc. If any one of those assumptions proves inaccurate (as they probably all will prove to be!), then the pronouncement of full funding in 30 years will also likely prove to be wrong. But, full funding in 30 years sounds good!

**The Source**

Always – let me repeat that – always consider the source of the article. If an article is from an organization that you are not familiar with, look up the organization. Many “think tanks,” even those that claim to be nonpartisan, have definite biases. By checking into the organization, including its sources of funding, you frequently can discover its bias.

If it’s an individual writer, consider his or her position. Many pension articles come from people in the retirement industry, such as investment advisers, actuaries, auditors, pension board members, and consultants. Almost all of them will have biases that will be reflected in their articles.

The purpose of this article is not to make you give up on reading pension-related information, but to give you a few tools to help you see through common biases that are frequently present. So, be skeptical when you read pension articles – even mine! ■



**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)

## 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:** Beverly Clark at: [Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org](mailto:Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org)

## Become an RLACEI Member!

RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests.

We are over 6,300 strong!

Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

enjoy all RLACEI events such

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!**



# Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

## Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor



### Letter From Morocco, Pt. 1 Pirates, Islam and the French



Argana Restaurant overlooking Jemaa el fna Square, Morocco.

Morocco during winter with its clear, star-filled nights, is a land of mystery and adventure just waiting to be explored. If you visit this fascinating country, you will wonder at the impressive imperial cities, with their ancient rainbow-hued souks (markets) and beautiful palaces, and gaze at mind-blowing sunsets over the Atlas mountains, which are surrounded by the vast golden sands of the Sahara desert.

So, whether you are just spending a couple of hours visiting from a cruise ship, hiking across the Sahara on a five-day camel safari, or just renting a riad (apartment) and exploring the souks, this is the perfect time to enjoy this lovely country. Fewer crowds make it easier to get around and experience the culture and gastronomic pleasures that await. Centuries of imperial and commercial interaction have created a melting pot of tempting recipes and delicious dishes made from locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables. Inimitable spices and herbs bring dishes to life and complement the many seafood and meat specialties. One of the best green peppercorn steaks I have ever tasted came from a restaurant in Marrakech,

accompanied by the ever-popular side dish of couscous – this time using a knife and fork! Traditionally couscous is eaten without flatware as it is common to use one's three fingers of the right hand to eat the dish.

Although there is no dress code in Morocco, most of its citizens follow "modesty rules" as respect for the Islam. Muslims generally do not resent the restrictions placed on their dress by their religion, and most regard it as a proud statement of their faith. Therefore, it is respectful to dress properly, and not wear tight clothing or show too much flesh, even in the heat of summer.



French style Berber breakfast.

Unlike in California, cannabis (hashish) is not legal but it is widely used and tolerated. Morocco is the biggest producer of cannabis in the world and it is grown mainly near Chefchaouen, which is known for its striking, blue-washed buildings, south of Tangier in the Rif Mountains.

There are three languages spoken – Arabic, Berber (Amazigh) and French, since independence from the colonial control of France. When King Mohammed VI became king in 1999, the Royal Harem of 40 concubines was dissolved, women were granted the same rights as men, and English instead of French was taught as the international business language in schools.

Morocco is quite a liberal country in comparison to other Muslim nations; alcohol is served, but only in licensed hotels, bars and tourist areas. Drinking alcohol in the street is not allowed and can get you into serious trouble if you are caught breaking the law. However, due to high taxes, alcohol is expensive in Morocco, so bring duty-free alcohol with you to drink in your accommodation.



Badia Palace Morocco.

Moroccan cities have many fountains, and although you may see the locals drink the water, it is not a good idea for tourists to try it. Just step back and admire the fountain, take photos, and definitely stick to bottled mineral water!

Trains between cities are fast and clean, and take away the stress. Everyone gets to see more of the local scenery, but you will still need transport when you arrive. There is a great highway system, but I would not recommend renting a car; hire a driver or take a tour as the guides speak and read the languages. Specific tours can be arranged via TripAdvisor or through your hotel for camel, hot air balloons, or truck adventures...

— CONTINUED PAGE 25

Send in a travel picture holding 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.

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# LACERS

LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS

## In-Person Appointments Suspended During Move

LACERS has temporarily suspended 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](http://lacers.org/secure-document-upload) to submit forms or required documents;
- Visit the LACERS Website at [LACERS.org](http://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/lacersyoutube](http://youtube.com/lacersyoutube) 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](http://lacers.org), contacting LACERS by email at [lacers.services@lacers.org](mailto:lacers.services@lacers.org), and by phone at (800) 779-8328.

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

## New IRS Tax Withholding Pension Forms for 2023

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has released a new federal tax withholding form (W-4P, Withholding Certificate for Periodic Pension or Annuity Payments) for pension payments in 2023. It includes substantial changes to the Federal tax withholding elections available, as well as changes to the calculation LACERS performs to determine the amount to be withheld. A significant change to Form W-4P is that filers will no longer be able to adjust their withholding by electing a specific number of withholding allowances. The IRS now offers new input fields for increasing or decreasing the amount to withhold, including fields for tax credits and deductions.

LACERS members and beneficiaries who already receive ongoing payments and who do not wish to make changes to their federal tax withholding elections are not required to file a new form; however, all are encouraged to review their withholdings and determine whether an adjustment is necessary. You may visit your MyLACERS account to view and estimate your tax withholdings: [mylacers.lacers.org](http://mylacers.lacers.org)

The new form W-4P is posted on [lacers.org/forms](http://lacers.org/forms).

If you live in California and you wish to change your state tax withholding election, you will need to submit a separate DE-4P state tax withholding form. These forms and Frequently Asked Questions are available on the LACERS website at [lacers.org/forms](http://lacers.org/forms) and [lacers.org/frequently-asked-questions](http://lacers.org/frequently-asked-questions) respectively.

LACERS and/or the Club are not authorized to provide tax advice. If you are seeking tax guidance or advice, we recommend you speak to a tax professional.

# Coloring with The Clubs

## Congratulations to the WINNERS! of our Club Coloring Contest!

Everyone who turned in a design is a winner in our opinion! But our top four participants win **4 tickets to Aquarium of the Pacific**

Look for our next contest in April online at: [alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest](http://alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest)



**Olivia Weaver, 5**

BIRTHDAY: Aug. 19 • BEST FRIEND: Logan • FAVORITE SNACK: Muffins • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Bluey" • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC: To see penguins • PARENT: Shane Weaver, Fire Inspector LAFD



**Mica Flores, 6**

BIRTHDAY: Aug. 10 • BEST FRIEND: Isabella • FAVORITE SNACK: Pizza • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "CookieSwirlC" • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC: I want to see a seal and a stingray • PARENT: Leriza Flores, Utility Accountant, LADWP



**Isaac Granados, 10**

BIRTHDAY: Oct. 19 • BEST FRIEND: Daniel • FAVORITE SNACK: Super Spicy Chips • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Clarence" • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC: Because I like going places with my family • PARENT: Bryan Granados, Equipment Mechanic LAPD



**Collin Sousa, 13**

BIRTHDAY: June 16 • BEST FRIEND: Noah • FAVORITE SNACKS: Oatmeal • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Amazing World of Gumball" • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC: Because it would be a great way to spend time with my family • PARENT: John P. Sousa, Airport Police-SACU

### Honorable Mention

CHILD	AGE	PARENT/GUARDIAN	DEPT.
Mile Monroy	1	Mario Ochoa	Animal Services
Avy Verde	5	Yamil Verde	Rec and Parks
Dylan Gonzalez	5	Grace Gonzalez	Retiree
Ethan Gonzalez	5	Grace Gonzalez	Retiree
Noah Gonzales	5	Grace Gonzalez	Retiree
Christopher Kanayama	6	Richard Kanayama	LADWP
Aiden Markosian	6	Varooj Markosian	LADWP
Brook'Lyn Brantley	6	April Clark	Retiree
Mica Flores	6	Leriza Flores	LADWP
Karina Cheung	7	Ka Man Fan	Airports
Lillian Wadahara	7	Elisa Lam	Economic/ Workforce Dev.
Ryan Milar	7	Clifford Milar	Retiree
Allison Tiet	8	Than Tiet	LADWP
Alondra Aguirre	8	William Aguirre	LADOT
Blossom Brantley	8	April Clark	Retiree
Emma Cooper	8	Milton Hicks	Retiree
Audrey Zavela	9	Charles M. Garcia	Retiree
Dylan Soto	9	Juan Soto Funes	LAPD
Emiliano Luna	9	Juan Luna Valenzuela	Building and Safety
Justin Milar	9	Clifford Milar	Retiree
Kelsey Cheung	9	Ka Man Fan	Airports
Liliana Moran	9	Saul Moran	LAPD
Emma Tiet	10	Than Tiet	LADWP

### Print and Online Schedule

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

**In the printed *Alive!*:**

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

**In the online edition of *Alive!*:**

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





# 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. 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
Adamian, Serge V.	Gen. Services	LADWP	N/D	Feuer, Michael N.	City Attorney	City Attorney	21	Marden, Carol A.	Admin. Clerk	Bldg. & Safety	42
Augustine, Vincent G.	Storekeeper	Gen. Services	35	Fusano, Michael C.	Park Maint. Supv.	Rec and Parks	17	Minetta, Victoria A.	Human Relat. Advocate	Econ./Wrkfr. Dev.	28
Bass, Gus	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Garrabrant, Ronald S.	Park Srvc. Attend.	Rec and Parks	16	Moore, James E.	Solid Res. Mgr.	Public Works	33
Belisle, Charlene J.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Gerstel, Suzon L.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Morris, Wilma J.	Crossing Guard	Transportation	7
Bell, Angela L.	Sr. Security Officer	Airports	15	Goldman, Cara L.	Council Aide	Council	14	Parra, Robert	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	22
Bishop, Allen W.	Energy Support	LADWP	N/D	Green, Gayle D.	Security Services	LADWP	N/D	Patterson, Peter M.	Security Services	LADWP	N/D
Blevins, Bettye J.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Public Works	43	Gubatan, Gerald G.	Council Aide	Council	30	Payton, Carol A.	Emerg. Med. Srvs. Ed.	LAFD	15
Bonin, Michael John	Councilman	Council	25	Haig, Brian D.	Exec. Assistant	Airports	31	Phillips, Carl L.	Heavy Duty Truck Op.	Airports	16
Brown, Jerry D.	Energy Support	LADWP	N/D	Hersch, David I.	Council Aide	Council	23	Ponce De Leon, Sophia	Police Service Rep	LAPD	36
Carranceja, Ramonette	Retirement Plan	LADWP	N/D	Huerta, Cesar H.	Supply Chain	LADWP	N/D	Porter, Pamela T.	Employee Services	LADWP	N/D
Castro, Fernando P.	Capt., Airport Police	Airports	35	Ito, Richard H.	Envr. Chem Lab	LADWP	N/D	Price, Nancy A.	Environmental Spec.	Airports	28
Cedillo, Gilbert	Councilman	Council	15	Jackson, Kathy D.	Custodian	Airports	21	Reyes, Tomas T.	Special Prog. Asst.	Rec and Parks	9
Chang, Allan A.	Relief Corr. Nurse	Personnel	1	Karau, Karen	Facility Director	Rec and Parks	5	Reza, Javier F.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	33
Cisneros, Dora A.	Admin. Clerk	Housing	16	Kharbertyan, Grigor	Admin. Clerk	Library	15	Rogasch, Helmut A.	Security Services	LADWP	N/D
Corrales, Bessy L.	Exec. Admin. Asst.	Housing	33	Kishita, Karen	St. Srvs. Investigator	Public Works	35	Segura, Luis F.	Background Investig.	LAPD	10
Davis, Calvin	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Koretz, Paul	Councilman	Council	28	Stielow, David R.	Retirement Plan	LADWP	N/D
Dieguez Davila, Cristobal	Custodian	Airports	16	Lam, Kiet Vi	Sys. Programmer	Bldg. & Safety	31	Tatum, Walter D.	Security Officer	Airports	22
Dixon, Daniel D.	Officer	Airport Police	28	Lee, Poh Choo	Admin. Clerk	Library	20	Ter Ghevondian, Vartan	Paralegal	City Attorney	23
Durkee, Darryl L.	Power O&M	LADWP	N/D	Lopez, Jose C.	Sr. Gardener	Rec and Parks	34	Torrence, Garry A.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	21
Dy Gadoury, Doris	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Bldg. & Safety	15	Lyle, Joel Michael	Council Aide	Council	7	Waters Jr., Dennis	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Farrell, Mitchell D.	Councilman	Council	18	Mach-Leung, Lina Phuong	Comm. Engineer	Airports	30				

N/D = not disclosed

\* **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.

## In Memoriam\*\*

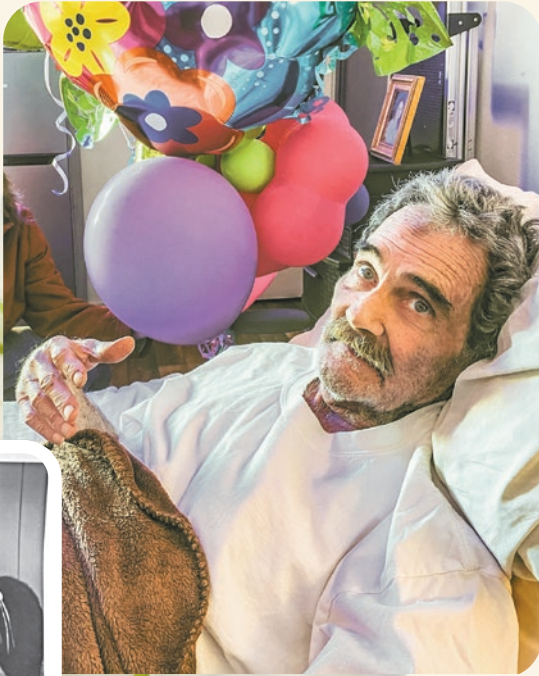
*We honor those who have passed away and recognize their lifelong service to the City of Los Angeles. Their lives mattered to our City and our region. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the following current and Retired City employees who were reported to have passed away.*

	YEARS OF DEPARTMENT	SERVICE		YEARS OF DEPARTMENT	SERVICE		YEARS OF DEPARTMENT	SERVICE
<b>ACTIVE</b>			Helms, Richard R.	LADWP	27	Okada, Amy	N/D	N/D
Chumley, Deana M.	Public Works	28	Hintz, Dorothy	N/D	N/D	Parra-Sanchez, Ruben	Rec and Parks	29
Revilla, Gloria	LADWP	14	Holsey, James	N/D	N/D	Pepito, Jose	Public Works	23
Gholar, Dwayne E.	Rec and Parks	1	Huff, Marie	Transportation	16	Pugliese, Guy	Harbor	24
Himan, Gary Lao	Planning	22	Hummer, Dennis E.	LADWP	35	Rangel, Laurencio P.	Rec and Parks	26
Magat, Michael C.	LAPD	18	Irwin, Thomas R.	LADWP	34	Redd, Lloyd E.	LADWP	31
Triner, Laura L.	LAFD	28	Jackson, Ezell	N/D	N/D	Sanchez, Bernard L.	LAPD	30
<b>RETIRED</b>			Jacobs, Barbara S.	N/D	N/D	Shahidi, Houshang M.	Public Works	22
Abrams, Anthony	Public Works	30	Jameson, John H.	LADWP	34	Shaw, James A.	LAPD	20
Amiel, Chaim V.	Gen. Services	20	Jenkins, Terry D.	LAPD	19	Simpson, George B.	LADWP	28
Balfour, Rosemarie	LADWP	30	Jensen, Sheldon N.	N/D	N/D	Simpson, Michael	LAPD	33
Barker, Clarence	LADWP	30	Johnson, Erma J.	Library	33	Sims, James	N/D	N/D
Berwick, Peggy M.	LADWP	10	Kasner, Judith K.	LADWP	33	Smith, Charles	N/D	N/D
Brown, Linda	N/D	N/D	Katz, Carole L.	Rec and Parks	27	Sprenger, Sharon M.	Personnel	21
Bridgers, Carl K.	Airports	13	Katz, Moses	N/D	N/D	Stokes, Joe	LAPD	30
Bryant, Walter L.	N/D	N/D	Keatley, Syrus L.	LADWP	27	Sullivan, John M.	Public Works	34
Chan, Helen	LADWP	31	Langford, Edwin M.	LADWP	36	Takai, Kenji	ITA	41
Chapman, Simon G.	LADWP	11	Lawson, Robert	Public Works	32	Tatangelo, John	LADWP	33
Collier, Kenneth M.	Rec and Parks	34	Longley, Edward D.	N/D	N/D	Thomas, Leon	Bldg. & Safety	32
Copeland, Kenneth W.	N/D	N/D	Lopez, George	LADWP	32	Tow, Ralph H.	N/D	N/D
Coutu, Michael L.	LADWP	32	Magaw, David L.	LADWP	30	Trujillo, Edward	Public Works	32
Duarte, Joe A.	Transportation	19	McCullough, Moses	Airports	34	Tsukanov, Igor A.	LADWP	36
Dungo, Pacioncia Z.	LADWP	30	McFarland, Glover J.	Rec and Parks	12	Tucker, La Verne	N/D	N/D
Elliott, Margaret A.	LADWP	35	McWhirter, John W.	LADWP	36	Valensi, James E.	Harbor	17
Ellis, Barbara F.	LADWP	12	McLagan, David A.	LADWP	33	Wagner, Louis N.	LADWP	41
Espinosa, Joseph	Bldg. & Safety	12	Melikian, Lucik M.	LADWP	15	Warren, Robert L.	LADWP	31
Forman, Robert E.	Transportation	38	Melom, Constance J.	Library	10	Watanabe, Linda M.	LAPD	32
Fuqua, Shirlee	LADWP	28	Monroe, Cheryl	LADWP	30	Weller, Alan F.	LADWP	18
Gardner, Joe A.	ITA	33	Morales, Andy G.	Rec and Parks	37	Williams, Walker	LADWP	43
Gillson, Lyn R.	Library	38	Morgan, Jimmie E.	N/D	N/D	Willis, Robert	N/D	N/D
Gough, Richard B.	CAO	12	Moriwaki, Frances Y.	N/D	N/D	Wong, Jack G.	LADWP	32
Hand, Charles	LADWP	31	Nevarez, Luis R.	LADWP	38	Zahn, Patrick M.	LADWP	23
			Nichols, Lewis R.	N/D	N/D			

\*\* **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

## In Memoriam



Richard Kaufman



## RIP, RICHARD

Richard Kaufman, brother of Kurt Kaufman, LADWP, passes away

Kurt Kaufman, LAPD, announces the death of his brother, Richard Kaufman, Feb. 9.

Richard, the deceased, was "a proud IBEW Union brother," according to Kurt, a Club Member.

Richard died of cancer. He is survived by his brother, Kurt, Club Member; sisters Rose Monday, Christe Ricknich and Gretchen Kaufman Moore.

**Rest in peace, Richard. The Club sends its condolences to his family, friends and coworkers.**

## Greg to Port

GREG MCMANUS, FORMER LAPD HARBOR, BECOMES PORT POLICE DEPUTY CHIEF.

**HARBOR:** On Nov. 9, Port Police swore in Gregory McManus as its new Deputy Chief. Previously he had been LAPD Captain in the Southwest Area.

In his decorated career, Deputy Chief has served the City for 24 years, and before that the U.S. Marine Corps.

Congratulations on your promotion, Deputy Chief McManus! And thank you for your many years of dedicated service. ●



From left: Port Police Chief Thomas Gazsi swears in Deputy Chief Greg McManus.

# Boy It's Good savings at Knott's for Boysenberry season!

Save up to 27%, starting March 10.

Go to the Club Website for details: [employeesclub.com](http://employeesclub.com)

## CLUB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: More Awards, Higher Stipends

CLUB INCREASES NUMBER, AMOUNT OF AWARDS.

TRADITIONAL DEADLINE TURNS: 11:59 P.M. JUNE 30, 2023.

**CLUB:** Applications are now being accepted for the Joannie Mukai Memorial Club Scholarship on the *Alive!* Website.

The Club has increased the number of awards to be given – at least 30 – and the amount given to each awardee – \$750, up from \$500.

"After careful consideration, we feel it's best to allocate more funds to more awardees," the Mukai Scholarship Committee said. "We want to do everything we can to help the most deserving students in our Club family to achieve a college education."

The 2023 Mukai Club Scholarship Program, named after the late Club Board Member Joannie Mukai, is now accepting applications.

Those eligible for the scholarship program include Club Members; their spouses; their children, grandchildren, step-children, and foster children; and nieces/nephews who are in college or will be attending an accredited college or university in Fall 2023. There is no age limit for Member or spouse, but all others must be under 25.

All materials must be completed on the *Alive!* Website and submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. June 30, 2023. Winners will be notified by July 31 before school starts.

The Club expects to give each recipient a stipend of \$750.

"It is a vital part of the Club that we give back to support the future success of our treasured young people," said Robert Larios, Club CEO. "We honor all Club Members for the work they do for LA, and the scholarship program is one way we thank them." ●

**INTERESTED CANDIDATES MAY BEGIN THE PROCESS DIRECTLY ON THE ALIVE! WEBSITE AT:**  
[alive.employeesclub.com/scholarship](http://alive.employeesclub.com/scholarship)

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- All Club Members and their spouses of any age; and children, grandchildren, step-children, foster children and nieces and nephews of Club Members under the age of 25; are eligible to apply. Club Members must be in good standing.
- The successful candidate must attend an accredited four-year college or university full time in the fall semester 2023. Current high school seniors matriculating to a four-year school in Fall 2023 are eligible.
- Candidates will be judged for academic excellence, community service and financial need.
- Scholarships are expected to be awarded in equal amounts of \$750 (each).
- Deadline: Applications must be completed online at the *Alive!* Website and submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. **June 30, 2023.** All applications must be completed in their entirety and submitted at that time to be eligible. Sorry, but the Club is not responsible for delays in delivery.
- Decisions will be made by Club personnel and will be considered final.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.



Cameron Palacios incoming student at UCLA, and son of Shirley Palacios, Harbor, City of Los Angeles, received a stipend last year as part of the Mukai Scholarship Program.

**\$750**  
**Club Scholarships**  
**APPLY NOW!**

### ABOUT JOANNIE MUKAI

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



**Apply Today**  
on the *Alive!* Website:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/scholarship](http://alive.employeesclub.com/scholarship)  
**DEADLINE**  
**11:59 p.m.,**  
**June 30, 2023**

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



# John's Picture Perfect Contest

John Hawkins, Club CEO

WIN A \$25 AMAZON E-GIFT CARD



"Taken while snowboarding from the top of Snow Summit ski resort in Big Bear."

– Kris Petrevski, Harbor

**John's comment:** This is a breathtaking panorama shot, Kris. We all think of white as the official color of winter, but this reminds us that if we look at the shadows, that blue and purple and even some green are just as evident. Thanks for submitting!

"Beautiful snow on mountains, viewed from an airplane on return from Vegas to Ontario, Calif."

– Marla Chan, Zoo

**John's comment:** I can hear the song, Marla – 'for purple mountain majesties.' Winter can be viewed from 10,000 feet, too, with beautiful textures and visual rhythms. Excellent.



"This picture was captured at Mt. Baldy during our rainstorm. The kids definitely had fun in the snow!"

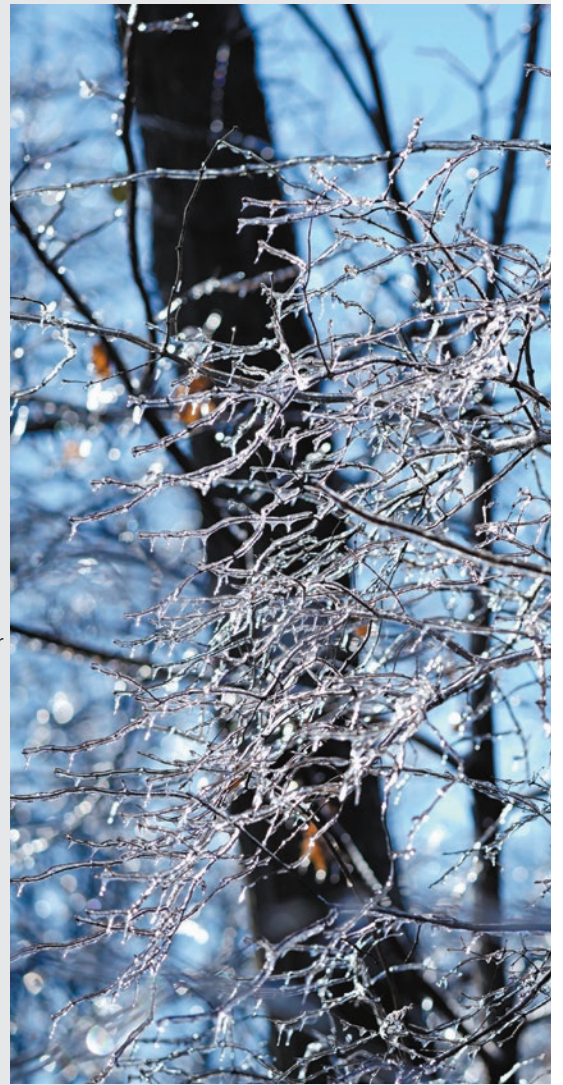
– Sharon Khaw, LADWP

**John's comment:** There are so many good elements here, Sharon – the white rocks as a foundation, the tall trees pulling our eyes upward, and a grayish sky to frame from above. But most of all, with your children at the focal point, it hints that winter can be fun, too.

"A memory from Tryon Park, New York City."

– Rose Serrato, LAPD

**John's comment:** Winter might be brutal, but as you demonstrate here, Rose, it's also delicate ... if we only bother looking. Thanks for the reminder!



More winners and contest rules:



## Wisteria Regale Returns

BANNING MUSEUM FUNDRAISER RETURNS MARCH 25.

**REC AND PARKS:** The Banning Museum's chief fundraiser, the Wisteria Regale, returns after the pandemic with a gala evening scheduled for 5-9 p.m. March 25 at the museum, 401 East M St., Wilmington.

The theme for this year's event is "The Time Machine." Guests are invited to dress in Victorian period or Steampunk-inspired attire.



The event will feature a silent auction, a delicious dinner, hosted bar, entertainment by Big Lucky Band, and the Banning High School Scholarship presentation.

"We are so excited that we can once again host Wisteria Regale in person," said Julia Banning, President of the Friends of Banning Museum and a direct descendant of Phineas Banning. "It is an opportunity for supporters of the museum and local history lovers to sort of step back in time by attending the event."

The Banning Museum, also known as the Banning House or Banning Mansion, is a historic Greek Revival-Victorian home in Wilmington. It was built in 1864 by Phineas Banning, "Father of the Port of Los Angeles," and entrepreneur and founder of the City of Wilmington.



Tickets to the Wisteria Regale are available at [thebanningmuseum.org](http://thebanningmuseum.org)

### About the Friends of Banning Museum

Friends of Banning Museum is a non-profit organization 501(c)(3) founded in 1974 to support the Museum's educational and cultural programs as well as ongoing restoration and conservation.

At the 2016 Wisteria Regale fundraiser. This year's theme is "steampunk."

Photos courtesy Simie Seaman

FRIENDS OF BANNING MUSEUM PRESENTS

# THE TIME MACHINE

## 2023 WISTERIA REGALE

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE HISTORIC BANNING MUSEUM

### SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023  
5:00 - 9:00 P.M.

THE BANNING MUSEUM  
401 East M Street, Wilmington, CA 90744  
[www.thebanningmuseum.org](http://www.thebanningmuseum.org)  
310.548.2005

VICTORIAN STEAMPUNK OR THEME ATTIRE REQUESTED BUT NOT REQUIRED.

@thebanningmuseum

Story and photos courtesy  
Commanding Officer Lillian Carranza

## Adios, Alex

DET. SUPV. ALEX POZO RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.

**LAPD:** A retirement party was held Feb. 2 for LAPD Det. Supervisor Alex Pozo, who retired after nearly 30 years of City service.

"We will never know how many lives were saved or how many overdoses and crimes were prevented," commented Commanding Officer Lillian Carranza, Gang and Narcotics Division, on Twitter. "But rest assured you made a tremendous difference."

Congratulations, Det. Supervisor, from the Club! ●



Det. Supv. Alex Pozo at his retirement party with Commanding Officer Lillian Carranza.



# Discover the Wild

**EXCLUSIVE MEMBER DISCOUNT**



**Club Members SAVE on San Diego Zoo and Safari Park 2-visit tickets!**

**Visit two parks with one ticket or one park twice!**

**More information at EmployeesClub.com**

**Kids AGE 3-11**

RETAIL PRICE

~~\$108~~

CLUB PRICE

\$97<sup>20</sup>



San Diego Zoo  
**Safari Park**



San Diego Zoo

**Adults**

RETAIL PRICE

~~\$118~~

CLUB PRICE

\$106<sup>20</sup>



**BUY TICKETS**  
EmployeesClub.com

Information and photos courtesy LAFD

## Goodbye, Graham

DEP. CHIEF GRAHAM EVERETT RETIRES AFTER 34 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.



Dep. Chief  
Graham Everett

**LAFD:** A ceremony was held Jan. 27 in City Council chambers to note the retirement of Dep. Chief Graham Everett, Executive Bureau Commander.

He retires after 34 years of City service.

Deputy Chief Graham Everett comes from a family of firefighters. He is a fourth-generation LAFD firefighter, and his wife is a Retired member of the LAFD. He joined the LAFD in 1989.

After obtaining his paramedic license and serving various field assignments, he was promoted in 1999 to Captain I, in 2003 to Captain II, and in 2007 to Battalion Chief.

He served in new-at-the-time sections including Risk Management Section in 2004 and as the Internal Affairs Section Commander in the Professional Standards Division in 2008.

He was promoted to Assistant Chief in 2014 as the Chief of Staff to then-Chief Ralph Terrazas' executive administration. In 2016, Chief Everett became the first appointed Deputy Chief to serve as Chief of Staff. He developed the Chief of Staff Office to become the Administration Bureau in 2016. In 2022, the Administration Bureau was re-named the



Dep. Chief Graham Everett receives a City proclamation from Councilmembers Monica Rodriguez and Bob Blumenfeld.

Executive Bureau. In that role, he oversaw intergovernmental relations with the elected offices, served as an integral component of the Fire Chief's Command Staff, and implemented the mission and direction of the Fire Chief. He supervised the execution of the Department's multi-year budget and strategic plan, and provided liaison for important partnerships, including the Board of Fire Commissioners, the LAFD Scholarship Awards Program, MySafe LA, and the LAFD Foundation.

"I am grateful for his advice, dedication, leadership and friendship," Chief Kristin Crowley commented. "Our department is better because of him. Happy retirement."

Congratulations on your retirement, Dep. Chief Everett! And thank you for your long and dedicated service to the City of LA. ●

{Who are the people you see every day?}

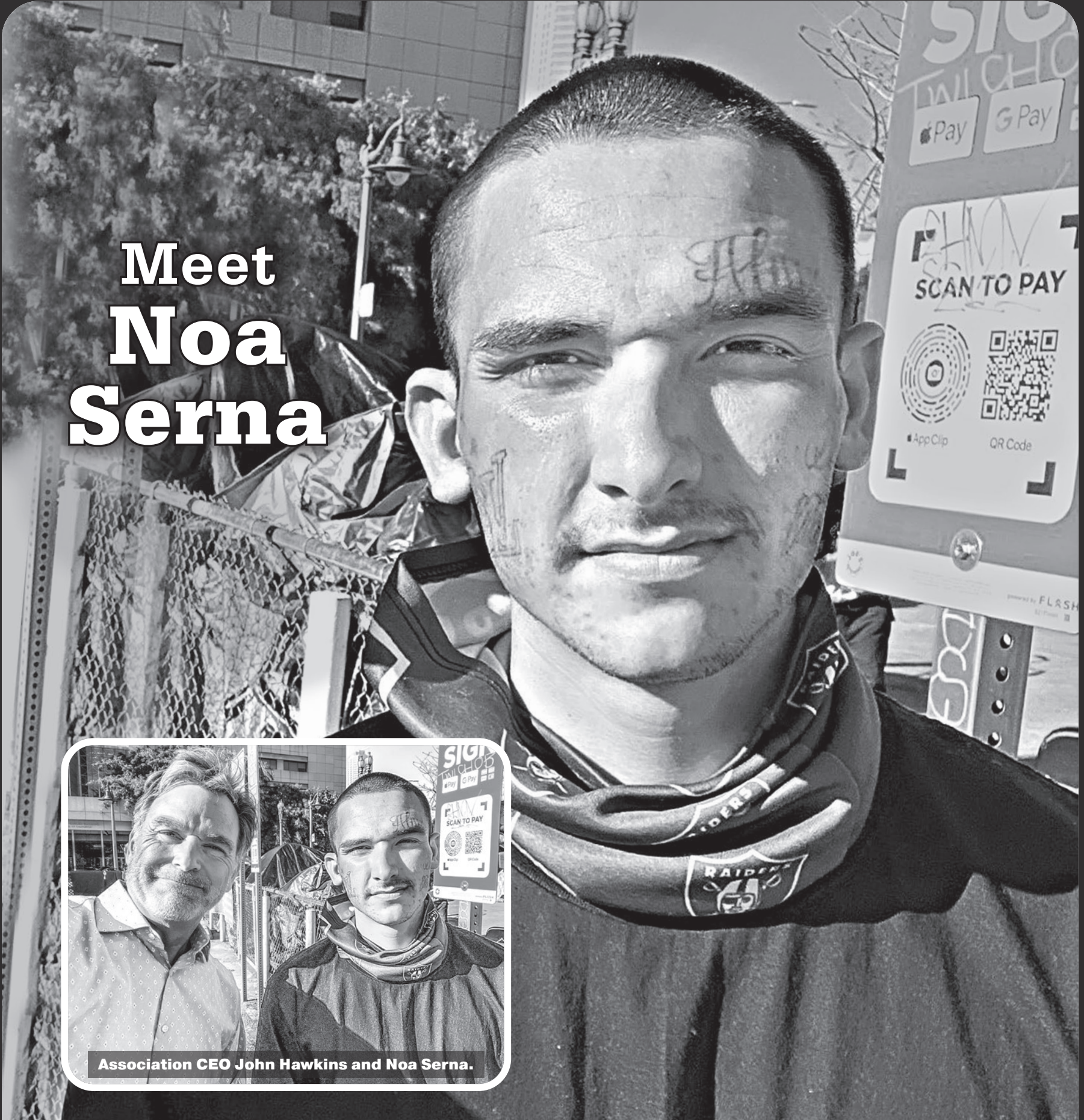
No. 106  
in a series.



# People We See

Shelterless in Los Angeles.

## Meet Noa Serna



Association CEO John Hawkins and Noa Serna.

### INTERVIEW

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:**  
Dec. 7, 2022

**LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:**  
Third and Spring Streets downtown

**BIRTHPLACE:**  
"Long Beach."

**BIRTHDAY:**  
Aug. 25, 1995

**Moved to LA:**  
"I was born here." (Long Beach)

**Current location:** Sleeping over a subway grate. "My tent was stolen, and I want to use the \$20 you gave me to buy a new one."

**Family:** "I was raised by foster parents, who I thought were my birth parents. I had more foster parents, too, and I don't know who my real parents are."

**Favorite candy:** Snickers

**Favorite food:** Maruchan noodles

**Education:** "I dropped out of high school in ninth grade. I'm surprised I made it that far."

**Focus:** "I did not like school at all. I was only interested in girls."

**Incarceration:** "I was always in trouble ever since I was a kid. I've been in jail many times. When I was 11, I stabbed one of my foster mom's boyfriends," he alleged. "The boyfriend lived, and I got hurt probably more than the boyfriend. I ran away after that."

**Advice for 16-year-olds:** "Focus on money and what makes you happy. Don't worry about other people; do what you have to do to survive."

**Make a wish:** "No more poor, and no more poverty."

*The Club gave Noa toiletries, food, \$20 and bottled water.*

*The interview was conducted by John Hawkins, CEO, Los Angeles City Employees Association.*

{ In this feature, Association CEO John Hawkins introduces you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and our stories to tell. }



# Overflow to Web Alive!

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

## *Alive!* AROUND THE WORLD

Local people are very friendly, and it is safe to wander around the souks and markets, however, remember that no place on the tourist route is free from pickpockets, so keep flashy jewelry and expensive cell phones hidden. I recommended wearing a small crossbody purse that cannot be opened easily like backpacks or flimsy purses...

Very few stalls in the souks have their prices marked up, but you must haggle. My advice is to compare the cost to a similar article in your home country, convert that into local currency, then offer less. If that does not get the desired price, walk away. The shopkeeper will chase after you or throw his hands in the air. When buying silver objects, be aware of the authenticity of the silver - real silver has 250 stamped on the object. If it does not have a stamp, then pay less!

Local money can be obtained only in Morocco and at limited places, but credit cards and foreign cash are accepted.

### MOROCCAN HISTORY IN BRIEF

For some 2,000 years, the country was controlled by a variety of Berber tribes until the eighth century BCE, with the arrival of its first invaders the Phoenicians, followed by the Carthaginians, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, and Visigoths. But with the arrival of Islam in 791 AD and the creation of the first Moroccan State, it could finally keep powerful invaders at bay.

Morocco became the trade crossroad for the African and the European continents, dealing in salt, sugar and spices. Sadly, it was also the center of the Trans-Saharan slave trade route from Timbuktu to the slave market in Marrakesh.

While under French control the slave markets were officially closed, but slavery still took place. Slavery in the country was dissolved along with the Royal harem only when King Mohammed VI ascended to the throne in 1999.

Morocco from medieval times until the late 1800s was known for its Barbary pirates, who attacked shipping and raided as far north as Ireland and southern England looking for slaves. In 1675 Britain had enough of these pirates and sent the Royal Navy to bombard the ports of Tunis and Tripoli into submission, giving them the order to cease and desist. Years later during the American Revolutionary War, Sultan Mohammed III of Morocco was the first ruler to recognize America as an independent country, and to this day is America's oldest non-broken friendship treaty with a foreign power. Although the Sultan did ask to allow American merchant ships to enjoy safe passage along his coastline.

Twenty-eight years later in 1801, when Thomas Jefferson became President, the pirates increased the tribute, and in answer to the Sultan's request, America sent warships to bombard the pirate havens. The pirate threat was finally subdued by the French conquest of neighboring Algeria. In 1830, following the assassination of European citizens, the French occupied Casablanca. France finally pacified the country after 22 years of military oppression and limited cooperation from local chiefs.

In 1927, King Mohamed Ben Youssef (Mohamed V) was proclaimed Sultan of Morocco. As protector of all his subjects, he fiercely defended the Moroccan Jews against the Vichy French regime of World War II. After the war, King Mohammed V spent years negotiating with the French for independence but failed, and in 1953 along with the whole royal family, he was exiled to Madagascar.

However, with France's problems in Algeria and Indochina (Vietnam), the royal family returned home unopposed after two years, and independence from France and Spain was finally recognized in 1956. Today Morocco is a thriving country, tremendously popular with tourists looking for a different kind of vacation.

The joys of being a traveler – it leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller.

### — *The Captain*

## Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor

