



Alive!



PUBLIC WORKS

Practice Makes Perfect

Through training and certification, StreetsLA's Commercial Vehicle Training Center puts safety in the driver's seat.
— PAGE 10

At StreetsLA's Commercial Vehicle Training Center in Van Nuys are (front, from left) Richard Gaytan, Equipment Operator; Jerry Wolfe, Safety Engineer; and Leo Chacón, Street Services Supervisor II. Back: Samuel Ramirez, Tree Surgeon Assistant; and Mark Mendoza, Street Services Worker I. All are Club Members.

Alive! photo by Sammy Lam

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



The Drive for Better Safety

Three years ago, Public Works/StreetsLA recommitted to public safety in a big, big way. It created the Commercial Vehicle Training Center to teach and certify its heavy equipment drivers. The center is an incredible and important place of intentional progress.

How serious is the center? Sometimes *Alive!* requests to move a few things to make for a better cover photo: We might nudge a shovel a foot or two, or ask a participant to remove sunglasses for a better portrait, that sort of thing.



From left: Richard Gaytan, Equipment Operator, Club Member, with CEO Robert Larios.

But there was no moving the orange cones for this month's cover, not even one inch. They are in their precise location required for state DMV certification.

The StreetsLA crew is totally committed to its renewed mission to make LA as safe as possible. We all benefit from that, and we cheer that loudly.

Thank you to **Jerry Wolfe**, **Leo Chacón** and **Richard Gaytan** for welcoming us!

A REMINDER: We were delighted to receive an unexpected memorial to **Michael Gene Dooner**, a former Public Works/Street Services employee who recently passed away. This incredible essay in this month's issue tells the story of a dedicated and hard-working City employee, and we are grateful to honor his memory. But more than that, a quote of his sticks with me. Gene used to say: "Anything less than right is wrong." That is poignant and true. I send a warm thank-you to his niece, **Lynette Smith**, for giving us the honor of publishing it.

WORTH CONSIDERING: As we turn our eyes gratefully to spring and renewal, here's something I find inspirational: Change can be seen as an opportunity for growth! Embrace it, and strive to make the most of it with thoughtful planning.

Happy Spring, everyone! Let us be grateful and enjoy.

— Robert Larios

Applause, Please:



Leonor V. Garcia

Join me in sending major congratulations to **Leonor V. Garcia**, long-time Club Member and friend to the association, on her recent retirement from the LADWP after 34 distinguished years of City service. Leonor, who was a Management Analyst in LADWP's Corporate Strategy and Communications Division, proved influential far beyond Water and Power. She was Vice President, Executive Secretary, Executive Secretary and Recruitment Chair during her 25-year voluntary career with the groundbreaking LA City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA); served as an Affirmative Action Association for Women (AAAW) Member; and was an LADWP Committee Chair. I anticipate a continued future between Leonor and the Club. Well done, Leonor! You are a legend.

#ClubMobile Schedule*



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

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

Wed., Apr 5 **Wed., May 3** **Wed., June 7**
Harbor Boys and Girls Club
100 W. Fifth St., San Pedro • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Monday, April 3
North Central Sanitation
452 N. San Fernando Rd.
6:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12
General Services HQ
200 N. Main St.
7 – 9 a.m.

Thursday, April 6
Piper Tech
555 Ramirez St., third floor
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Wednesday, April 19
Griffith Park, Yard 52
5201 Zoo Dr.
6:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

ATTENTION Raise employee morale!
SUPERVISORS: 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.

Schedule a Site Visit

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



At a recent Mobile Team site visit.

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.



PUBLIC WORKS

Practice Makes Perfect

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

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NEW THIS MONTH ONLINE!

alive.employeesclub.com

Cooking With the Club

In this month's issue: Enjoy a springtime veggie treat with this recipe for a delicious zucchini and sun-dried tomato panini.
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Library Top 10

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



John's Picture Perfect

See all the winners from this month's contest with the theme "yellow."



Coloring CONTEST WITH THE CLUB

Color it and **WIN**
 4 free tickets to the

Ask an adult to print the coloring page:
alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest





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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Alive!

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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

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Claims Administrator



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Claims Coordinator

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Vice President of Business Development

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Cecilia Talbot

Goodbye, Cecilia

CECILIA TALBOT, CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR, RETIRES AFTER 24 YEARS OF CLUB SERVICE AND THOUSANDS OF CLUB MEMBERS SERVED.

THE CLUB: From Greek teacher to advocate of thousands of Club Members, Cecilia Talbot took her place as one of the most important – and behind the scenes – Club staff members.

As head of the Club's claims department, Cecilia managed sometimes life-saving claims payments to Members who carried Club insurance, at the most challenging times of their lives – claims for life insurance of loved ones and those facing serious medical conditions. She kept families together, helped save houses during financial crunch periods, advocated for Members in rare disputes, helped Members navigate the path of claims redemption, and was a warm and understanding voice for thousands of Club Members when they needed one during difficult times. She was the quiet but critical soul of the Club.

Cecilia, Director of Claims and Member Advocate, retired in January after 24 years of Club service.

"I was teaching Greek in a university in Argentina," she told *Alive!* in 2018 about how she came to work for the Club. "Then I came to the United States and I taught Greek and theology at the San Francisco Theological Seminary. I decided to look for a full-time job, so I came to the Club.

"My background is in theology, but I learned everything I could at the Club. I took the Club to a higher level, to help Members in ways that no one had before. We started going out to meet and help Members where they were at that moment.

"Our communication became more holistic."

In her career, under her guidance and supervision, Cecilia helped more than 6,000 Members and processed more than 64,236 claims valued at more than \$120 million. Aside from claims, she totaled an additional 14,000 client interactions.

For her retirement, *Alive!* asked colleagues, Members and insurance partners to share their thoughts and wish her well. ●

Congratulations, Cecilia, on a truly remarkable career of dedicated service to Club Members, the backbone of the City. Thank you, and God bless.



MESSAGES FROM CLUB COLLEAGUES

Cecilia, congratulations! Twenty-four years of dedicated service to the Los Angeles City Employees Association and the Employees Club of California – you have helped so many families through life's toughest times as the Claims Administrator (and as the Member Advocate)! I still remember when we began our journey at the Association – just one month apart! Your passion and hard work have made an immense impact on all of us over the years.

During your journey at the Employees Club, you have seen five U.S. presidents and three association CEOs. Such an extensive timeline surely bears testimony to your many talents and devoted passion for celebrating the lives of employees – justly rewarded with your retirement! The Association is certainly going to miss having you around; you will continue serving as an inspiration for generations who follow you in this profession. Congratulations, again, Cecilia!

— **Robert Larios, President & CEO, Employees Club of California**

I have known Cecilia for more than 20 years. She has become what the Club stands for, fighting for our members. She is tough, resilient, stands her ground, and will always tell you what's on her mind. She has trained numerous employees over many years on the "Club way."

As our Claims Director, she has been responsible for making sure that the insurance companies we partner with pay fairly and quickly, and if a Member ever feels like they were not treated fairly, she will always jump in and fight.

I am already missing Cecilia, but I know the people she has trained and mentored over the years will be able to serve Club Members with excellence, compassion and full support. That's the only way Cecilia would want it.

Thank you, Cecilia. Enjoy your much-deserved retirement!

— **John Hawkins, Association CEO**

It is with great joy and a hint of sadness that we celebrate Cecilia's retirement after 24 years of dedicated service as Director of Claims for the Employees Club of California. As one of her colleagues who worked alongside her during the beginning of her career, I can attest to the passion and commitment she brought to her work every day.

Cecilia has been an invaluable asset to the Club, and her unwavering dedication to her job has made a lasting impression throughout the Association. Her compassion, empathy and relentless pursuit to get the best possible claims outcome for our Members have earned her the respect and admiration of everyone she has worked with, including our partnered insurance carriers. Throughout her career, Cecilia has always put the needs of our Club's members first, and she has gone above and beyond to ensure that every claim was handled with care and professionalism.

As she embarks on a new chapter in her life, I want to thank Cecilia for her many years of service and wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement. Her contributions to the Club will be remembered and cherished for many years to come.

Congratulations Cecilia on your retirement!

— **Summy Lam, Chief Operating Officer**

Cecilia was my biggest cheerleader when I started my career at the Club when I was 20. She was always available to help me with any question I had with a smile on her face. She is truly Club Gold and will be missed dearly.

Enjoy your retirement to the fullest, Cecilia! You deserve it!

— **Noelle Kauffman, Director of Sales**

Thank you for bestowing your knowledge, your high standard of customer service and the many years of dedicated and valuable service to our members and LACEA!

Congratulations on your retirement, Cecilia!

— **Ron Cortez, Assistant Quality Assurance Analyst**

When I first met Cecilia, I knew she was special. She was a true advocate for our Members and was always full of compassion and empathy. Cecilia was incredibly intelligent as well. I always left enlightened after our conversations about work and life. I'm glad our paths crossed, she will be missed!

— **Jeanette Lopez, Former Club Counselor**

Cecilia, you have left a remarkable legacy behind, one that will remain with us for years to come. You have been a fundamental part of the Club and have helped so many Members. You are the true definition of an advocate – someone who never gave up and went up the ladder to the Coordinator, Manager, Supervisor, CEO and President to make sure Members were taken care. You are an inspiration for all of us! I am fortunate to have had you as a mentor and even more fortunate to call you a friend.

It has been an honor to work with you. Thank you for your guidance, expertise and help you have given me! I wish you a healthy and happy retirement!

— **Monica Zamudio, Club Claims Administrator**

I will miss you, Cecilia, thank you for the many memories we've had together for almost a quarter century and for taking good care of our members as well as our staffs! I hope you enjoy your retirement to the fullest!

— **Trinh Pham, Sr. Accountant**

The legend has finally retired. Congratulations, Cecilia!

The office will not be the same without you.

Thank you so much for bringing your knowledge, hard work and dedication for the last 24 years.

Your contributions will not be forgotten, and I will miss our many lunch- and late-night discussions of how we can always provide the very best to our Members in products and services, especially at critical moments in their lives.

Now it's time for you to live the next chapter of all the amazing things to come as you embark on your retirement.

Thank you for your friendship,

— **Arlene Herrero, Vice President of Business Development**

Cecilia is an incredible asset to have on your side. Her commitment to our Members was an integral part of the Club for the past 24 years. I feel extremely fortunate to have gotten to learn from her and am truly grateful for her taking the time to teach me some of her ways.

Cecilia always took time out of her day to sit with me and help me understand why my part on the Club was important. She was always there to lend advice if I ran into an issue and helped me affectively solve problems in ways she had proven to work. I am thankful for her patience, her knowledge, trust, and compassion.

Cecilia has left a lasting impression, and her impact will continue throughout the years.

Thank you, Cecilia!

— **Mikayla Sprague, Claims Coordinator**

Cecilia is a magnificent leader and Member Advocate. Cecilia made an impression on me because she would help me in a meticulous fashion. No detail was too small for Cecilia to notice and consider. She made sure Members were taken care of and showed me how to keep special accounts in order. She provided me thorough instructions that I hardly had questions on because she was so detailed. I admire her tenacity and willingness to teach others what she knows.

I wish Cecilia the best in her retirement.

— **Citlali Bon, Data Quality Manager**

FROM GRATEFUL CLUB MEMBERS

With gratitude, I am writing to thank you for the immense support you have provided me during the loss of my disability benefits due to my mistake. You went beyond the call of duty to help correct the error on my behalf, resulting in me being reinstated with disability benefits. I am so grateful.

Furthermore, as a Member and policyholder of the Employees Club of California for more than 14 years, I can sincerely say the genuineness, compassion, kindness and consideration that you have demonstrated toward me far exceeds my monthly life insurance and disability premiums that I have paid over the years. For as long as I recall, you have always provided me with exceptional service as a person, Member and policyholder.

I thank God for you, Ms. Talbot. You are a very loving person who cares about people while at the same time representing your employer with great professionalism and integrity. You are a jewel, one in a million, and a great asset to the Employees Club of California.

Thank you again.

— **Earline Spry, General Services, 33 years of City service**

Cecilia, congrats on your retirement. You are truly an exceptional, remarkable and inspirational person.

— **Debby Labat, LADOT, 34 years of City service**

In 1992, I was working at East Valley Substation Operations. At one of our monthly safety meetings, the LACEA made a presentation of the membership benefits. A co-worker approached me after the meeting. He said, "You should check into the Long Term Disability Plan. You're single." Thanks for reminding me. "No, I mean you are your sole provider. If something happens, and hopefully it doesn't, you will have some assistance. The coverage is good, for that price. Plus, you can avoid the personal stress."

He was right, so I signed up that day. A decade later, I had some health issues, and my financial situation was deteriorating.

I had forgotten about the LACEA plan. Then, somehow, I remembered. But after all those years I thought I was on autopay, but it was canceled due to non-payment. A friend and I went to the LACEA office and, fortuitously, I was seen by Cecilia. She calmly listened. Her demeanor allowed me to relax and open up. Cecilia was kind and unpretentious. She has worldly experience in life matters, a full spectrum knowledge, and a heart and soul that encouraged me to let my faith be bigger than your fear.

After that introduction, even if I couldn't get any financial assistance, the meeting itself was more valuable.

I am not sure how, but I am certain that Cecilia "strongly encouraged" the necessary parties to honor my claim. And that was another blessing. She's a warrior for good, too.

I always felt better when I contacted the LACEA. Questions were answered; concerns, relieved.

Alive! issue with Cecilia and Monica [Zamudio] on the cover from May 2019 stays in my collection.

Cecilia, you have helped and guided so many people. I have tried to pay it forward to others. Together, we will keep it flowing.

May your journey continue with all you desire and deserve.

Respectfully, with love.

— **Sarah Roper, Electrical Station Operator, LADWP, 31 years**

FROM A VALUED CLUB INSURANCE PARTNER

Cecilia, congratulations on your retirement! The energy and passion you placed on your work and the care for our Members never ceases to amaze me. It was a pleasure working with you for so many years. Now go use those same traits towards your happiness in retirement!

— **Victoria Turner, Regional Account Executive, Voluntary Benefits, ManhattanLife**

READY FOR RETIREMENT



Resources for Club Retirees or Those About to Retire



INSURANCE INFORMATION FROM NOELLE KAUFFMAN, DIRECTOR OF SALES:

Club Life Insurance: Designed for Retirees

Why would a Retiree need life insurance?

Does anyone rely on your income as a Retiree?

A life insurance payout can help pay for things such as your final expenses, outstanding debt or the loss of any income you were still providing to your loved ones.

Life insurance can also be used to replace all or a part of your spouse's pension benefits.

Have peace of mind knowing that your loved ones will be taken care of in

the event of your passing.

The Club provides Group Rated Term Life Insurance for its Members. Celebrate each new season of life, knowing the Club has your back!

Speak to our Retiree Specialist today for guidance on life insurance and other retirement benefits such as Long-Term Care insurance and Funeral Pre-Planning.

For Retirees, or Those About to Retire: Take the First Step to Retirement Success

Let's stay connected! Staying informed on your Membership and insurance details is key, so make sure you share with us your personal email address and phone number to ensure nothing slips through the cracks. Retirement doesn't have to mean disconnection - get in touch now for peace of mind tomorrow.

Please email info@employeesclub.com or call (800) 464-0452 to speak with a Customer Service Representative to update your current contact information.

Retirement should be a stress-free process, and the Employees Club of California can help you make it just that! Get expert guidance from our team so you can start your retirement journey with peace of mind.

You've worked hard for retirement - now let the Club help you enjoy it fully! Speak with

one of our Retiree Counselors and take advantage of group-rated Life Insurance benefits, Accidental Death & Dismemberment coverage, Pre-Funeral Planning services, Long Term Care protection and exclusive access to MetLife Legal Plans. What better way is there to start your golden years on solid ground? Schedule an appointment today with a Retirement Specialist and learn why life insurance remains so important in retirement.

Ready to take the next steps in your financial independence journey? Our Retirement Specialists

can give you an edge - book a consultation today and start planning for tomorrow! With their help, you'll be well on your way towards achieving financial security and living out the retirement of your dreams. Don't wait - secure your future now.

Staying informed about your Membership and insurance details is key, so make sure you share with us your personal email address and phone number to ensure nothing slips through the cracks.

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.

SIGN UP ONLINE



LACEA Insurance Services, Inc. (Employees Club of California) is a licensed insurance agency offering insurance benefits to qualified Club members. The Club's CA DOI Lic. is #0B98000.

Retired or Retiring Soon?

Call for a FREE insurance benefits consultation with 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

June 7, 2023

LARFPA Annual Picnic and Benevolent Fundraiser

Almanson Court
700 S. Almanson St., Alhambra

Noon - 3 p.m.

\$10 admission

Reservations: events@larfpa.org

Contact Information

Employees Club of California

Club contact:
help@employeesclub.com

Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) (City Dept.)

(800) 779-8328
lacers.services@lacers.org

LADWP Retirees Association

Dolores Foley, *President*
(949) 388-1206
vinedolores@gmail.com

Fire and Police Pensions (City Dept.)

(844) 885-2377
pensions@lafpp.com

LA Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)

(888) 288-5073
membership@larfpa.org

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)

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FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

Are You Ready for Retirement?

Here are some current programs to help with your planning:

Webinars

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

Sat., April 1

Thurs., April 20 (Tier 3)

Wed., May 24

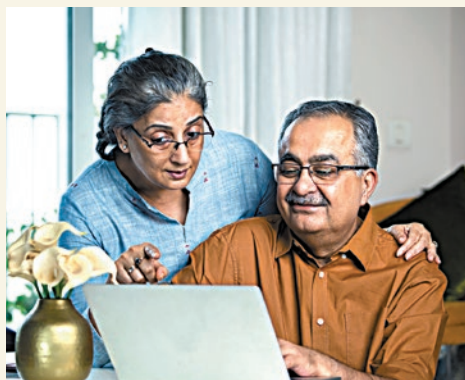
Thurs., June 29

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.



Popular Open Houses Set to 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.

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

GROWNUP COLORING CONTEST

WINNER!

Sara Vega
HOUSING



Sara received a **\$50 Amazon Gift Card**

Once again, the grown up Club Members have blown us away!

Alive! publishes its Grownup Coloring Contest only once a year. But when we do, Club Members go above and beyond, and send us some amazing works of art.

Thanks for your contributions, and look forward to another Grownup Coloring Contest in the future!

Other Notable Entries

MEMBER NAME	DEPARTMENT
Carolyn Jones	LAPD
Celeste Chu	LADWP
Claudia Yopez	Airports
Ed Johnson	Retired
Eduardo Hernandez	Rec and Parks
Evelyn Fitzpatrick	Retired
George Gonzalez	Retired
Jacob Murrell	LAFD
Jason Sims	Public Works
Kathryn Kutsch	Airports
Leticia Zepeda	Retired
Randall Cheng	LADWP
Salvador Lopez	Retired
Yono Hong	CAO

Life Insurance

FROM THE CLUB

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

Get it today. Here's why:

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

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



Cheryl Martin
 Member Services Counselor
 cmartin@employeesclub.com
 Work cell: (213) 819-0794
 (800) 464-0452, Ext. 136
 23 years of insurance experience
 CA LICENSE NO: 0C12823



Phone and virtual meeting appointments available.

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

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



Cooking with the Club

with Chef Robert Larios



Photos: Patty M. Larios



Zucchini and Sun-Dried Tomato Panini with Melty Mozz, Basil Sauce and Italian-Seasoned Potato Wedges

A creative twist on a classic, these golden panini juxtapose creamy and zesty flavors for an unforgettable dinner experience. Savory, sautéed zucchini melds with tangy sun-dried tomatoes and melted mozzarella, all sandwiched

between light ciabatta bread -- then finished off by my signature herb sauce!

Some oven roasted potato wedges make the perfect complement to complete this vibrant plate that even Julia Child would be proud of.

¡Buen provecho! *Chef Larios*

Zucchini and Sun-Dried Tomato Panini with Melty Mozz, Basil Sauce and Italian-Seasoned Potato Wedges

INGREDIENTS: Serves 4

- 12-ounce Yukon Gold potatoes
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 unit Italian seasoned zucchini
- 1 zucchini
- 2 ciabatta rolls
- ½ ounce basil
- 1.5 ounces sun-dried tomatoes
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 4 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- ½ cup mozzarella cheese
- 5 teaspoon olive oil
- Pepper and Kosher salt, to taste

UTENSILS YOU WILL NEED:

- Baking sheet
- Medium bowl
- Large pan
- Small bowl



Save on HelloFresh Deliveries

Join Chef Larios by making your own HelloFresh meals delivered to your home. Sign in to the Club website and access your Entertainment/My Club Deals to receive 16 free meals with promotional purchase, including free shipping on the first box!

Food Lover's Dictionary:

Sun-dried tomatoes:

Dried in the sun (or by other, artificial methods). The result is a chewy intensely flavored sweet dark red tomato. Sun-dried tomatoes are usually either packed in oil or dry-packed. The dry-packed type benefits from soaking in oil or other liquids before use. Sun-dried tomatoes add their rich flavor to sauces, soups, sandwiches, salads and myriad other dishes.

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



Want to make your taste buds sing like Pavarotti? Add some juicy chicken to your zucchini and sun-dried tomato panini and you'll have a sandwich worthy of a Michelin star. Don't worry about a little dry pan, just toss in some extra oil or butter -- a surefire way to prove that everything is better with butter, even your panini!



DIRECTIONS:

1 Roast Potatoes
Adjust rack to top position and preheat oven to 450 degrees. Wash and dry all produce. Cut potatoes into ½-inch-thick wedges. Toss on a baking sheet with a large drizzle of oil, half the Italian seasoning (you'll use the rest later), salt, and pepper. Roast on top rack until lightly browned and tender, 20-25 minutes.

2 Prep
While potatoes roast, trim and cut zucchini into ¼-inch-thick rounds. Pick basil leaves from stems; finely chop leaves. Halve ciabatta rolls. Finely chop sun-dried tomatoes.



3 Cook Zucchini
Toss zucchini in a medium bowl with a drizzle of olive oil, half the garlic powder (you'll use the rest in the next step), remaining Italian Seasoning, salt, and pepper. Heat a drizzle of oil in a large pan over medium-high heat. Add zucchini in a single layer; cook until golden brown and just tender, 2-4 minutes per side. Turn off heat; transfer to a plate. Wipe out pan. 4 SERVINGS: Toss with a large drizzle of olive oil.

4 Make Basil Sauce
Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine mayonnaise, sour cream, chopped basil and remaining garlic powder. Season with salt and pepper.



5 Assemble Sandwiches
Spread a layer of basil sauce onto cut sides of ciabatta. Fill ciabatta with mozzarella, sun-dried tomatoes, and a few slices of zucchini (you may have some left over—feel free to serve on the side, if you like).

6 Finish and Serve
Heat a drizzle of oil in pan used for zucchini over medium heat. Once hot, add sandwiches; press down with a spatula or heavy-bottomed pan. Cook, pressing occasionally, until bread is toasted and cheese melts, 2-4 minutes per side. Transfer to a cutting board. Once cool enough to handle, halve on a diagonal.



Divide between plates. Serve with potato wedges on the side. Makes four servings: Cook sandwiches in batches if needed.

Larios In the City

By Robert Larios, Chief Executive Officer



Diana Castro
LADWP, Retired after 33 years of City service. She retired in February 2021.

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



Dean Guzman
Public Works/Contract Administration, Retired after 30 years of City service. He retired in June 2017.



Estelle Ezell
LADOT, Retired after 25 years of City service. She retired in August 2014.



Rhonda R. Maxey
LAPD, Retired after 34 years of City service. She retired in February 2023.



Craig A. Nonemaker
Public Works Engineering, Retired after 17 years of City service. He retired in August 2022.

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:



Honoring the Earth

SANITATION TO HOST SIXTH EARTH DAY SUSTAINABILITY EVENT IN PLAYA DEL REY.

PUBLIC WORKS: On Sat., April 22, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment plans to hold its sixth annual Citywide Earth Day LA event, this year at the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant in Playa del Rey. Feature plans include City vehicles for kids to explore, games to play, prizes to win, sustainability workshops, plant giveaways, 50 exhibitors, customer service, and fun for all ages. Free beverages and snacks will be available while supplies last. All exhibits will be related to City services and sustainability.

EARTH DAY LA 2023

Hosted by Public Works/Sanitation and Environment
April 22, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant
12000 Vista del Mar, Playa del Rey

- Free
- Limited parking at venue

Pay Tribute to Your Mom... with a Picture or Video!

Tell your Mom you love her, for all the world to see ... and hear!

The Club's Mother's Day tribute photos are an *Alive!* tradition. But for the first time ever, the Club welcomes Mother's Day video greetings, too. Shoot a video selfie and send it to us. We'll post it on the *Alive!* Website for Mother's Day. Let Mom see your face and hear your voice, across the miles or anywhere.

It's free for Club Members. *That's Club value.*



INSTRUCTIONS

Submit a short video of you, your mom (or both), and add a brief message. Your tribute will appear on the *Alive!* website starting May 13.

DEADLINES:

April 17: to appear in print and online
May 10: to appear online only

Picture TRIBUTE



INSTRUCTIONS

Submit a photo of you, your mom (or both), and add a brief message. Your tribute will appear in the May print issue of *Alive!*, and online just before Mother's Day.

DEADLINE:

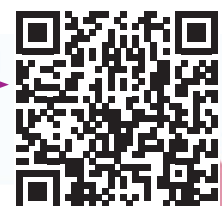
May 9: to appear online starting May 13

Video TRIBUTE

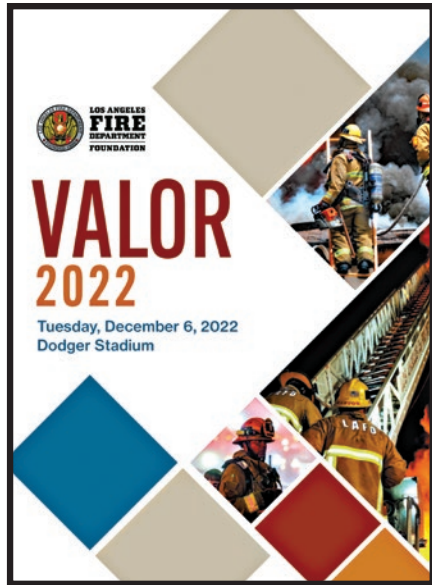
START HERE:

alive.employeesclub.com/mothersday

...or scan this code with your smart phone.



All the instructions are on the simple, online form.



HONOREES

MEDAL OF VALOR

Engineer Mario Rodriguez

MEDAL OF MERIT

Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Jones

LETTER OF SPECIAL COMMENDATION

Capt. II Michael Fortini

Firefighter II Tanner Keeler

Firefighter/Paramedic Dajon Johnson

DIVISION OF THE YEAR

LAFD Cadet Program

Also highlighted were:

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Whittier Trust

CORPORATE IMPACT AWARD

Banc of California

Medal of Valor

The Medal of Valor is awarded to sworn personnel who have demonstrated bravery at great risk to their own lives, beyond a doubt and clearly above the call of duty, whether on or off-duty.

Medal of Merit

The Medal of Merit is awarded to sworn personnel who distinguish themselves by performing an act where the individual's actions, if not taken, would have resulted in serious injury or present imminent danger to life. The individual must have demonstrated a conspicuous act of bravery with calculated personal risk to his or her own life.

Letter of Special Commendation

A Letter of Special Commendation is awarded to department members who perform an act requiring initiative and/or ability worthy of recognition during emergency or non-emergency conditions.

Corporate Impact Award

The Corporate Impact Award is presented to a company that exhibits philanthropic excellence in the community, outstanding corporate citizenship, and longstanding support of the Department and its personnel.

Community Impact Award

The Community Impact Award is presented to an organization that provides invaluable service to the community and outstanding support for the people of Los Angeles.

Station/Division of the Year Award

The Station/Division of the Year Award is presented to the men and women assigned to one specific station or division, who collectively exhibit exemplary service, professionalism, bravery and compassion.

MEDAL OF VALOR

DEPT. HONORS 5 FOR HEROIC ACTS.

LAFD: On Dec. 6, the LAFD hosted its annual Valor ceremony at Dodger Stadium. The ceremony, sponsored and produced by the LAFD Foundation, honored five who performed over and above the call of duty during 2022.

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

CONTINUES ON WEB ALIVE!

All these stories of valor continue on Web Alive!



MEDAL OF VALOR:

Engineer Mario Rodriguez

Fire Station 1



Medal of Valor Engineer Mario Rodriguez

Engineer Mario Rodriguez was off duty on the afternoon of Aug. 8, 2022. He had pulled into the parking lot of his local gym with just enough time for a quick workout before

having to rush home and drop his daughter off at her job.

As he approached the gym doors, he heard four gunshots directly behind him. He turned and saw a gunman fire a fifth shot into the windshield of a car just yards away.

Engineer Rodriguez shouted for other nearby gym patrons to take cover. He instinctively made his way toward the scene, suspecting that someone might need help. As he approached, he locked eyes with the gunman...

DIVISION OF THE YEAR:

LAFD Cadet Program



The Los Angeles Fire Department's Cadet Program offers teens and young adults a pathway toward a rewarding career as a firefighter. Rooted in the history and tradition of the Explorer Program from the 1980s and 1990s, this vital community program helps participants develop confidence, teamwork, leadership and life skills to succeed in their future career endeavors. The program also serves as a recruiting pipeline by cultivating future generations of LAFD firefighters...

CORPORATE IMPACT AWARD:

Banc of California

For over 80 years, Banc of California has served small and medium-sized businesses and their principals throughout the Golden State. It is one of the largest banks headquartered in California, with extensive experience in the manufacturing, healthcare, commercial real estate, entertainment, and nonprofit sectors.

Banc of California firmly believes that corporate social responsibility (CSR) is fundamental to its long-term success and sustainability, proudly investing, lending, and volunteering in the communities it serves. By partnering with proven leaders and local causes, Banc of California helps to build stronger communities through affordable housing and homeownership, financing small businesses, and financial literacy education...

MEDAL OF MERIT:

Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Jones

Fire Station 64



Medal of Merit Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Jones

Late in the evening of Dec. 16, 2021, Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Jones and his partner on the rescue ambulance had just wrapped up an incident call. They were returning to the station when they heard a radio call about a nearby residential fire.

Their ambulance was a few blocks away from the fire, and initial reports stated that there were victims inside. Given their proximity to the incident address, they voluntarily attached themselves to the incident and were the first to arrive on the scene...

LETTER OF SPECIAL COMMENDATION:

Capt. II Michael Fortini Firefighter II Tanner Keeler

Fire Station 98



Capt. II Michael Fortini

Firefighter II Tanner Keeler

On the morning of Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022, Capt. II Michael Fortini and Firefighter II Tanner Keeler were headed home after a typical 24-hour shift. As they drove home on the 118 freeway and neared the 405 interchange in Mission Hills, they witnessed a vehicle swerve across lanes and roll over multiple times. Capt. II Fortini and Firefighter II Keeler pulled their vehicles to the shoulder and carefully approached the accident scene as passing drivers slowed and dodged to miss the debris field...

LETTER OF SPECIAL COMMENDATION:

Firefighter Dajon Johnson

Fire Station 65



Firefighter Dajon Johnson

The gathering at Firefighter Dajon Johnson's Long Beach apartment had begun to wind down. The Los Angeles Rams had just secured their historic Super Bowl LVI victory. Johnson and his cousin stepped outside to take out the garbage when they encountered a couple in a heated argument...

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD:

Whittier Trust

Since 1935, Whittier Trust has delivered exceptional wealth management and financial services, guiding families through multiple generations, and protecting and enriching family legacies through diligence and integrity.

For more than 13 years, Julie Lytle Nesbit served as Whittier's Executive Vice President and Executive Director of Philanthropic Services. During that time, she was instrumental in channeling major gifts to the LAFD Foundation to support the needs of its mission. "I am humbled and proud to be receiving the [LAFD] Community Impact Award, but the true honor is mine in knowing that we played a part in keeping our firefighters safe, supported, and well-equipped," she said...

MY CLUB DEALS

by entertainment

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▶ EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

Scholarship Increases Awards, Stipends

APPLY BY 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.

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 award each recipient a stipend of \$750.

Interested candidates may begin the process directly on the *Alive!* Website at: alive.employeesclub.com/mukaischolarship

INTERESTED CANDIDATES MAY BEGIN THE PROCESS DIRECTLY ON THE ALIVE! WEBSITE AT:

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

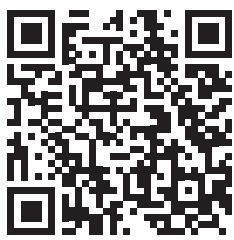
\$500

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

DEADLINE

11:59 p.m.,
June 30, 2023

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



100 N. 1ST St., Ste. 301, Burbank, CA 91502
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MERCURY
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SAVE MONEY TODAY!



Photo courtesy Sara Panameno

His Story Is Picking Up

YOUNG JOSEPH CORNEJO LOVES HIS STORY IN ALIVE!

Joseph Cornejo, 4, reviews the story on him in the March *Alive!*

PUBLIC WORKS: He read it here first in *Alive!* – a story on himself, the first of his young life.

Last month, we brought you the story of Joseph Cornejo, 4, and his friendship with Chermaine Fontenette, RCTO, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment out of the East Valley Yard, and Club Ambassador. Chermaine began stopping by Joseph's house last summer. They've been friends ever since.

"Since he turned one, he has loved garbage trucks," says his mother, Sara Panameno. "It's a blessing Chermaine crossed paths with him," Sara says. "She's a celebrity to him."

As soon as the family's copy of *Alive!* arrived, Joseph looked for the article on himself and was happy to see it. "Joseph's response was that it 'is so adorable!' He loved looking at the article. It means a lot to all of us," Sara told *Alive!*

You're welcome, Sara and Joseph. ●



From last month's *Alive!* story on Joseph Cornejo and Chermaine Fontenette, RCTO, Public Works/Sanitation.

PUBLIC WORKS

Practice Makes Perfect

Photos by Summy Lam, Club Chief Operating Officer, and courtesy Public Works/Street Services

Through training and certification, StreetsLA's Commercial Vehicle Training Center puts safety in the driver's seat.



When it comes to driver safety, there's no substitute for classroom learning, time in a challenging simulator, and experience behind the wheel.

That's the thinking behind StreetsLA's Commercial Vehicle Training Center, its comprehensive driving academy and partial licensing center in Van Nuys. The state DMV has authorized the center to test City-employed truck drivers on a DMV-approved course on City property. (The written and medical portions of the licensing process must still be performed by the DMV.)

The center also trains operators to use heavy equipment like loaders that do not involve general on-road driving.

The Commercial Vehicle Training Center was reformed three years ago to address the gaps and opportunities in the program and reduce liability against the City.

Come along with the *Alive!* team as we learn all about the center's new capabilities and climb inside its impressive simulator for a test drive. ●



THANK YOU!

The Club thanks Paul Gomez, Principal Public Relations Representative; Dan Halden, Sr. Adviser, External Relations; and Marisol Rodriguez, Director of External Relations, StreetsLA, for their assistance in arranging for our visit; Abe Navarro, Retired, Assistant Director of Street Services, for the information about other driver training programs; and to Club Members Jerry Wolfe, Leo Chacón and Richard Gaytan for spending time to explain this important City asset.



Leo Chacón, Street Services Supervisor II, demonstrates one of the DMV's requirements to earn a Commercial A license – the ability to back up a truck with a trailer over a certain distance, and keep it straight.



Richard Gaytan, Equipment Operator, Club Member, aboard one of the dump trucks used for training at the Commercial Vehicle Training Center.

CERTIFICATION COURSE



At the end of the DMV's approved certification course at StreetsLA's Commercial Vehicle Training Center are (from left) Leo Chacón, Street Services Supervisor II; Richard Gaytan, Equipment Operator; Jerry Wolfe, Safety Engineer; Mark Mendoza, Street Services Worker I; and Samuel Ramirez, Tree Surgeon Assistant. All are Club Members.



The other element of the programs at the Commercial Vehicle Training Center involves teaching StreetsLA employees to operate heavy machinery. Here, Leo Chacón, Street Services Supervisor II (in the cab) and Richard Gaytan, Equipment Operator, demonstrate a typical training session.

At StreetsLA's Commercial Vehicle Training Center in Van Nuys are (front, from left) Richard Gaytan, Equipment Operator; Jerry Wolfe, Safety Engineer; and Leo Chacón, Street Services Supervisor II. Back: Samuel Ramirez, Tree Surgeon Assistant; and Mark Mendoza, Street Services Worker I. All are Club Members.



THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW

It's All About Safety

On Feb. 27, Club CEO Robert Larios and *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed Jerry Wolfe, Safety Engineer, 2 years of City service, Club Member; and Leonel Chacón, Street Services Supervisor II, 22 years, Club Member, of Streets/LA's Risk Management and Safety Section. The subject: StreetsLA's relatively new Commercial Vehicle Training Center, which trains and certifies Street Services drivers to operate heavy equipment. The interview took place via the Club's Zoom link. ¶ Both Jerry and Leo are Club Members.

Thanks for joining us today. Let's start with this: How did you get to the position that you're in? What was your path?



Leonel Chacón

Leonel Chacón: I was asked by the Bureau Director to help out with the Commercial Vehicle Training Section. It has to do with my institutional knowledge of working with commercial vehicles for more than 15 years. I've worked with everyone from our Class A (big rig licensed) drivers down to our oversized equipment operators.

What is meant by "commercial"?

Leonel: For the Bureau, that means a license for either Class A or Class B vehicles that haul equipment and other items.

So you deal only with City employees who are learning to drive vehicles that the state DMV calls commercial vehicles.

Leonel: Yes.

Jerry Wolfe: Specifically with Bureau employees, not all City employees.

Leonel: Exactly, Bureau of Street Services only.

Jerry: The commercial vehicles used in our Bureau are those



Jerry Wolfe

designed for transporting heavy equipment and other materials. Most people have a Class C license. If you move up in weight of a vehicle, then that next step would be a commercial B license, and if you were to add the weight plus a trailer, then that takes it into a Commercial A. We train and test StreetsLA operators who drive the heavier equipment out there on the road.

Jerry, you're a recent hire by the City. What path did you take to your position?

Jerry: I applied for the position, was interviewed and selected for the position. I have my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in environmental occupational health and safety.

In the early '90s when I started my professional career, I was working for private companies. Then I went into the public sector in the LA County Sanitation Districts, the City of Long Beach, then Huntington Beach as the City Safety Officer. I re-entered the private sector for the Ingersoll Rand companies Hussmann and Trace Commercial Services. I came back to the public sector a little more than two years ago here at Street Services.

I was a regional leader in the private sector and city safety officer in Huntington Beach, so I've been in various levels of leadership.

Club CEO Robert Larios (center) learns about the driver certification process from Club Members Samuel Ramirez, Tree Surgeon Assistant (left) and Mark Mendoza, Street Services Worker I.



I bring knowledge, background experience and education to help all the managers and supervisors in our bureau better protect the employees and take care of them.

Training and Testing

What's the purpose of the Commercial Vehicle Training Center, and who is it for?

Jerry: There are two sides to it – the commercial vehicle side trains and tests drivers on getting Commercial A and B licenses. The other side is to train operators on using heavy equipment, such as loaders, backhoes, paving machines and other equipment.

Leonel: The main purpose is to help the Bureau reduce liability. The focus is to bring the Bureau to a certain standard when it comes to commercial-license drivers and understand what is

Practice Makes Perfect ALIVE! FEATURE, CONTINUED

DRIVING SIMULATOR



Jose Murillo, Heavy Duty Truck Operator, Club Member, demonstrates the driving simulator.



At the training supervisor's computer, Joseph Castorena, Heavy Duty Truck Operator, Club Member (foreground) monitors the progress of Jose Murillo, Heavy Duty Truck Operator, Club Member, who demonstrates the process in the simulator seat.



The StreetsLA crew that gathered to welcome the *Alive!* team and demonstrate the simulator's capabilities were (from left) Gerald Lozano, Street Services Supervisor I; Emillion Banales, Heavy Duty Truck Operator; Jose Murillo, Heavy Duty Truck Operator; Joseph Castorena, Heavy Duty Truck Operator; Eric Garcia, Heavy Duty Truck Operator; Leo Chacón, Street Services Supervisor II; and David Aviles, Heavy Duty Truck Operator.



Jose Murillo, Heav StreetsLA's driving simulator can present virtually unlimited driving challenges to assist in operator training exercises. Here, instructor Joseph Castorena, Heavy Duty Truck Operator, Club Member, guides Association CEO John Hawkins at the wheel through a backup exercise. y Duty Truck Operator, Club Member, demonstrates the driving simulator.

THE *ALIVE!* INTERVIEW

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

obligated either by law or by bureau policy when it comes to checking your vehicle and making sure it's safe to go out on the road.

Jerry: Leo was here when they restarted this unit about three years ago. There are liability claims against the City due to damage made by our vehicles and equipment; that's the reality of it. To reduce liability, decrease severity of accidents and reduce the number of accidents that we have both for heavy equipment and the commercial vehicles – these were the compelling reasons to restart the Commercial Vehicle Training Section. It's to make sure that we're addressing the gaps and the opportunities that we have to correct. That is what this group has been doing for the past three years – working to be proactive instead of reactive.

The Section has taken it further – Leo and Joseph Castorena have now been certified by the California DMV to test the skills portion of a Commercial B or a Commercial A license candidate. The DMV certified our test area at Balboa Yard and approved driving routes that must include the proper maneuvers. [The written and medical portions still must be administered by the DMV.] This ability to serve as proxy DMV examiners benefits the Bureau because it reduces the time it takes to have drivers schedule an exam for the DMV commercial skills and driving tests. There's a time limit element– if an employee was hired for a position that required at least a Commercial B license, and there was a waiting list for their test to be performed by the DMV, they might run out of time waiting on availability with the DMV. Leo and Joseph are certified to give the skills and driving tests. The Bureau loses fewer drivers that way.

Got it. Both of those – the training and the testing – make sense for the City.

Jerry: We are the Risk Management and Safety Section. We are trying to reduce the risk and liability within the Bureau.

Leonel: We're here to make everyone aware of safety. "Don't do this. Don't do that. Why? Because of this, because of that." That's why we're here, to remind everybody of the importance of safety. Working around equipment or driving a truck down the road, it's all about safety, safety, safety, safety.

Jerry: We tell them to take care of themselves, take care of each other and to take care of the other people who share the road with them.

History

What's the history of the Center?

Leonel: Back in the early 2000s there was a commercial vehicle section of the Bureau. But there were fiscal challenges that led to a ten-year freeze in the City. The realization of increased liabilities led to restarting the Section: to bring down the losses.

As part of that process we were certified by the DMV to issue Commercial A and B licenses.

Jerry: That's the commercial vehicle side. On the heavy equipment side – we saw opportunities to enhance the core competencies, proficiency and the skills that employees have when they're dealing with the heavy equipment – the loaders, backhoes etc. The heavy equipment training also takes place in the Balboa Yard.

Both sides have safety as a goal.

Jerry: Safety is a value. Operational safety both for the operator and those who are on the ground in the worksites as well is a never changing value.

We're doing what is required by normal occupational health and safety standards to protect the Bureau employees.

As Leo touched upon, it's important to help employees build careers, too. Some Bureau employees have the opportunity to be promoted, and because of the training and licensing here, there have been some employees who have the opportunity to see their wages increase because they learned new skills or passed their commercial license tests. It's a great feeling to see someone go through the training and their lives change because of getting their Commercial B license.

— CONTINUED PAGE 13

CLASSROOM TRAINING



The training center's curriculum includes classroom instruction; that day's lesson concerned vehicle maintenance. Richard Gayton, Equipment Operator (left) and Joseph Castorena lead this class.

More Training Programs



StreetsLA's Commercial Vehicle Training Center isn't the only path toward safer drivers.

Street Maintenance Technology Program

The City also sponsors the Street Maintenance Technology Program, which provides the necessary technical knowledge and skill to Street Services employee who wish to advance to Supervisor and Superintendent levels. The courses are also open to other City employees and outside city agencies and the public. The program is an upward mobility opportunity that offers a thorough knowledge of paving, resurfacing and repairing of Los Angeles' city streets and roadways.

The technology program began in the early 1970s and was reinstated in its current form in 1991. It offers specialized courses that allow bureau employees to either focus on a specific area that will enhance their job skills such as Heavy Equipment or Report Writing, or pursue a Certificate or Associates degree in the program co-hosted through the Los Angeles Community College District.

Motor Sweeper Operations school

Part of the overall technology program is the Motor Sweeper Operations school, which teaches the student drivers to master the safe operational procedures and maintenance practices of Motor Sweeper Operators. The Motor Sweeper School began 38 years ago and was implemented by then-Training Superintendent Abraham Navarro.



From left: Abraham Navarro, Retired, Assistant Director of Street Services, and Keith Mozee, StreetsLA General Manager.



The next Motor Sweeper Operators class began March 4. StreetsLA General Manager Keith Mozee welcomed the new class; Abraham Navarro, Retired, Assistant Director of Street Services, began the classes three decades ago and came out of retirement to pass along his advice and best wishes.



On March 8, StreetsLA graduated its next members of the Street Cleaning family, who successfully completed courses in the City's Motor Sweeper Operations program.

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

That's an important point. Give us a quick list of the kinds of vehicles and heavy equipment you train on.

Leonel: We train on several pieces of equipment: Class B tractors and dump trucks; Class A tractors and trailers; graders, motor graders, front loaders, backhoes, pavers, profilers, and others.

Is there a course of study that your drivers and operators must complete? A syllabus?

Jerry: That is still in development. We're going through incremental improvement, one step at a time, one piece of equipment at a time. Essentially, our employee should already know how to operate equipment they were hired for, but there are operational issues that need to be addressed.

How does the training program take for someone to go through?

Leonel: If employees are going for either the B or A, four days. Three of those days are basically the DMV content. We are required to teach the individuals the DMV course as part of the process, so three days of that content. The fourth day is testing day.

Jerry: Leo is describing the ETP, the Employee Testing Program; this is the program through which we are certified by the DMV to conduct the commercial license tests. One of the requirements of having an Employee Testing Program is that we have our own curriculum. What Leo and Joseph do is present the Street Services way of inspecting and operating vehicles – the brake test, tires, cabin, vehicle inspection, and then take them through the DMV test. As examiners Leo and Joseph cannot both train and test an employee test candidate on driving skills. One will train and the other will conduct the testing

Referring now to the heavy equipment side – not the ETP – we also teach skills. It's left, right, up and down, how to operate the equipment, how to stage the equipment, how to transport the equipment, how to secure it, and so forth. It's about presenting the least risks and hazards to the commuting and pedestrian public that we can. And situational awareness – we can't normally block bike lanes and we always need to set up the proper barricades when we are loading and unloading equipment.

It's comprehensive.

Leonel: Yes it is. It's an intense course that we offer.

Jerry: And we can't forget about the simulator over at Plant II.

Yes – tell us about that.

Leonel: Training is available on the driving simulator. We can simulate anything. Part of the training includes our operators experiencing what it feels like to drive in rain or fog and what it feels when your back brakes fail. They get to feel that in the simulator.

Jerry: There are many scenarios that the software allows us to simulate inside this rig with multi screens and truck cabin interior mock up.

Impressive! Does the curriculum include refresher courses for employees in case the equipment changes, and so forth?

Leonel: Yes, we offer some refresher courses if the equipment or operator responsibilities might change. We'll give them a refresher training course here at the yard.

Jerry: Leo brings up a good point – within our Bureau, for an employee to operate a piece of heavy equipment one has to have at least a Class B license, and sometimes a Class A. I'm talking about more than just the tractor-trailers. I mean the rollers, the profilers, the backhoes, the front-end loaders, etc. Street Services requires that you at least have that Class B and sometimes a Class A to operate heavy equipment.

Life-Changing

You mentioned before how much these two programs can assist young employees in building their career. Can you talk a little more about that?

Leonel: Yes, because it actually brings chills up my spine to see the gratitude of these employees who have come to our training section and have their lives changed, from making \$40,000 to making six digits. I get phone calls and visits from people who stop by, just thankful for how we were able to help them further their career.

Jerry: There are two programs that I know of; Targeted Local Hire program, the TLH program and Bridge program that helps people enter into City employment not necessarily through civil service, but through this TLH program. I don't know if I'm doing the explanation justice, but TLH hires will work either in the office or in the field. There have been occasions where TLH employees go through the Section testing and pass their Commercial B license test. They can increase their earnings potential because of the additional pay that comes with having that license.

Leonel: Because they qualify for the higher position.

Jerry: It opens up the door for advancement.

Leonel: I tell employees, "You can go as far as you want here. It's really up to you." We're the tool that they can use us to get where they want to get. It's up to them.

Jerry: It really is incumbent upon the person to take advantage of the opportunity and put in the time and effort to do it. The opportunity is there, but the person must decide to go through what it's going to take to get them through it and learn skills outside of a comfort range. It's not easy. So far I think nearly 50 employees have taken this route. They all didn't pass right away.

They might have to reflect on their skills and practice more, and then come back and retest.

Nothing here is gifted. It's earned.

Challenges

What main challenges does the center face these days?

Leonel: Staffing. There's just not enough of Joseph or me to go around, so to speak. But we're just starting and we'll see what happens with the budget next year and see where we are. I have a list of individuals who want to get their Bs, but there's only so much I can do with all my other responsibilities in the bureau.

Right.

Jerry: The need outpaces the bandwidth that Leo and Joseph have. Eventually, the employees who may become part of the Section to assist with training have to have the heart and the mind to help others learn. Someone who wants to be an instructor needs to know about adult learning; how to transfer knowledge in a way that people can grasp. Are they a visual learner? Do they book lessons? Are we able to transfer that information and knowledge into a way that somebody can learn how to actually do it? With instructors we look at their ability to connect with employees.

A Calling

What do you love about what you do?

Leonel: I'm able to help somebody and improve their livelihood in all aspects of their life. There are no words to describe that feeling when you see somebody who has accomplished something and they're able to live a more comfortable and a little bit less worried life. I love that.

Jerry: I absolutely feel that the Lord has put me here to help out and to make a difference and to help leadership, supervision and employees work better and protect themselves and make a better life for themselves. I absolutely believe that.

Leo and Jerry, thanks for speaking to us today.

Jerry: You're welcome.

Leonel: You're welcome.

Jerry: Take care. ●

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

CONTACT INFORMATION

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)

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

RLACEI WEBSITE

Visit the RLACEI website www.RLACEI.org to find the latest news.
Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 0 to make suggestions.
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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!

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

RETIREE EVENTS

June 8 RLACEI 50th Anniversary Party
Stevens Steakhouse
5332 Stevens Place, Commerce
11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

TBA Annual Picnic
Date and location to be announced

Dec. 14 Holiday Party
Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles
Time to be announced

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



RETIREES ON THE MOVE
by Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director

Meet Mark Williams

Mark Williams retired from L.A. Dept. of Water and Power in 2011 after 22 years of service as a Structural Engineering Associate in the Power System. Mark says he had a wonderful career with LADWP. "I enjoy retirement with equal enthusiasm." He has been a regular reader of *Alive!* since retiring and recently read a "Retirees on the Move" article that inspired him to tell his story.

Mark has been married to his wonderful wife, Irene, for 51 years, and they have one son, Josh.



Mark Williams

What do you do to keep busy in retirement?

"I have maintained a lifelong passion for playing music. In my lifetime, I have played with various musical ensembles with various degrees of proficiency and different musical instruments.

"Prior to retirement, I focused on playing the cello. In 2014, my cello teacher, Ms. Agnieszka Borzuchowski, and I formed the Long Beach Chamber Music Group. She conducts, teaches and coaches our group. I take care of the administration and provide financial support. We are solely funded through private donations. We offer adult string players the opportunity to play in an ensemble group with a professional musician/conductor. Our group rehearses weekly and has performed three free public concerts annually since its inception.

"Approximately 50 percent of our musicians are Retirees. I am proud to say that one of our violinists is also a retired L.A. City employee. Our repertoire consists primarily of classical themes, movie themes, popular music, traditional and folk themes, or any interesting piece of music.

"I am also a Board Member of the La Mirada Symphony Association. The La Mirada Symphony is a community symphony orchestra that has been performing free public concerts for 60 years. I would like to encourage L.A. City Retirees and employees to join our group, to attend our concerts or to participate in musical organizations. It keeps

the mind active, develops new friendships and is extremely satisfying. There is a Facebook page under Long Beach Chamber Music Group where we post upcoming concerts and updates regarding our orchestra."

What do you miss or don't miss about your years of service to the City of Los Angeles?

"I truly enjoyed my job with Water and Power. I had very interesting assignments, and each day coming in to work I looked forward to expecting the unexpected. Every day there was a variety of tasks and something new to do. Most of all, I miss the interaction with the wonderful people I worked with. The only thing I do not miss is the two hours of commute time each work day."

Any words of wisdom?

"Working with the community is a worthy cause. I have an odd theory: When you give, you receive far more than you give.

"Find something interesting that truly interests you and get involved. Always keep learning. There are two important lessons I have learned from studying music: To perform well, one must be able to focus and to listen well. Mastering these two skills is useful in all aspects of life. I believe that most successful people have mastered these skills.

"And, to those who are just entering the workforce or are still working, start saving and investing now! A healthy retirement fund can provide options and opportunities to enrich one's life by the time one retires.

If any readers who play the violin, viola, cello or string bass are interested in joining Mark's group, please contact Mark Williams by email at faulhund@aol.com. The group would love to welcome you to an exciting and satisfying a musical adventure. ●



Long Beach Chamber Music Group members, from left: Agnieszka Borzuchowski, violinist, Orchestra Conductor, teacher and professional musician; Karen Dienhardt, violinist, Retired City Employee; and Mark Williams, cellist, Orchestra Manager and LADWP Retiree.

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

LACERS BOARD UPDATE

An Update on LACERS Well

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



Michael R. Wilkinson

We take it for granted that we have the wonderful wellness program LACERS Well to improve our physical and mental health. However, when you look around, we are one of only a few plans that have anything like our wellness plan.

Let's take a quick look back on how it started. LACERS Well started as a strategic plan initiative in 2008. Using funding from the LACERS health carriers, the program debuted in 2012. The LACERS Well Champion program, using volunteer Retirees, was begun in 2014 and a Wellness Coordinator was hired. LACERS Well quickly

switched over to Zoom meetings as virtual offerings in 2020 until now to protect our members from the COVID-19 pandemic.

With that, where are we now, and what does the future hold? LACERS health plans offer webinars and seminars to help members get the treatments they need and to improve their quality of life. The Wellness Champion program continues to expand, leveraging the use of dedicated volunteers who share their passion with other retirees. Other LACERS wellness programs include technology, fitness, brain health classes, the Aging Mastery Program, informational webinars and open enrollment meetings for the health plans.

The Champion-led events include in-person events,

including hikes in Griffith Park and Northridge Park; golf at the Alondra Golf Course; and botanical garden tours.

In the future, LACERS aims to add to the number of Champions and to include new geographic areas not currently covered by the plan and add to the number of preventive care and disease management webinars produced by our health carriers. Some of the topics will focus on areas of weight control, pre-hypertension and hypertension, pre-diabetes and diabetes, osteoarthritis, lower back pain and depression. In addition, the wellness program is looking to add in-person events to improve socialization and networking among members. ●

RLACEI 50th ANNIVERSARY Celebration

Thursday, June 8, 2023

11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Stevens Steak House
5332 Stevens Place, Commerce, CA 90040

\$10 Per Person
All reservations and payments must be received by May 26, 2023

Please Note: Event ticket purchases are non-refundable. If unable to attend the event, please consider your purchase a donation to the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)

No young children at this event, please.

Questions? Please call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 701

RETIREES UPDATE

'BUILDING' THE FUTURE OF LACERS

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



Tom Moutes

As LACERS moves into its new building at 977 N. Broadway, here is a retrospective of its various headquarters buildings.

Decades ago, LACERS was housed in City Hall South. The City, needing more office space, asked LACERS to move out. I'm not sure if LACERS had any other headquarters before moving to the Brunswig Building at 360 E. Second St., but it was located at that address for decades.

Over the years, we discussed many options for a permanent headquarters building for LACERS. The proposals included purchasing the Brunswig Building; purchasing various small buildings proximate to City Hall; integrating into what is now Blossom Plaza in Chinatown; building a structure east of the Chinatown "L" line (formerly the Gold line) or at Union Station; and purchasing part of the Los Angeles Times complex. The City also tried time and time again to have LACERS purchase Figueroa Plaza from the City. With Figueroa Plaza's lack of proximity to City Hall and terrible parking situation, there was no way LACERS was going to purchase it! When none of those options came to fruition, LACERS had to decide what to do with its expiring lease at the Brunswig Building.

While negotiating a lease extension, LACERS became aware of space for lease at the Los Angeles Times complex. At first, LACERS just wanted to use the availability at the Times building as leverage to negotiate an extension to our existing lease, but the more LACERS looked at the Times building, the more it made sense to move there and take advantage of a below-market-rate lease we were being offered.

When LACERS took the Times lease proposal to its Board for approval, the City Administrative Officer (CAO) made an impassioned plea to our Board to not adopt the staff recommendation, but instead become partners in the new building the City was planning to build at the old Parker Center site. Ultimately, the LACERS Board agreed to the lease at the Times complex, which was a good thing as that was many years ago and the new City building never has been built! The City was interested in having its pension funds pay for the building. I was LACERS' General Manager at the time; I told the City that the only way we could have that conversation was if the City would agree to long-term leases at market rates. That was the last I heard of that proposal!

LACERS was the first outside entity to lease space at the Times complex, and it was an improvement over the Brunswig Building. However, LACERS continued to look for a permanent location, including the possibility of purchasing a skyscraper in the downtown area and leasing most of the building to other tenants.

Fairly recently, LACERS purchased and renovated the building at 977 N. Broadway. While I'm sure there will be some limitations to the new headquarters, as there were with all of the buildings and sites LACERS considered over the years, I'm sure there will be some great features, too. It is great to see LACERS finally have its own building, and I look forward to visiting it soon! It has been a long journey to get to this point. ●

RLACEI 50th Anniversary Ticket Order Form

Separate ticket order form at the dotted line, and mail with your payment to:

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P.O. Box 86264
Los Angeles, CA 90086-0264

Tickets are \$10 each:
Enclose check payable to RLACEI:

NUMBER OF TICKETS: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SELECT ONE MEAL OPTION PER TICKET:

Steak/Chicken combo: _____

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Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor



Letter From Morocco, Pt. 2 Souks, Snakes and Magic Carpets



Colorful sacks of magic stuff in Marrakech souk.

Rainbow-hued souks, soothing spas, star-filled nights, and gorgeous sunsets seen from the rooftop restaurants, could only be Marrakech in winter.

For thousands of years, the heart and soul of Marrakech has been the Old City (Medina in Arabic), and the best way to enter is through the beautiful 12th-century Bab Agnaou (gate), one of the 19 gates through the walls of the red city. There is a giant square at the entrance to the Medina called the Jemaa el-Fnaa. In the daytime it's full of vegetable stalls, snake charmers, performing

apes, women painting henna tattoos, and the proverbial gentleman from Sudan selling genuine fake sunglasses. As the sun goes down and the last call for prayer rings out across the Old City, this all changes. Like magic, the square is transformed into a giant eatery with hundreds of small food stalls popping up like mushrooms.

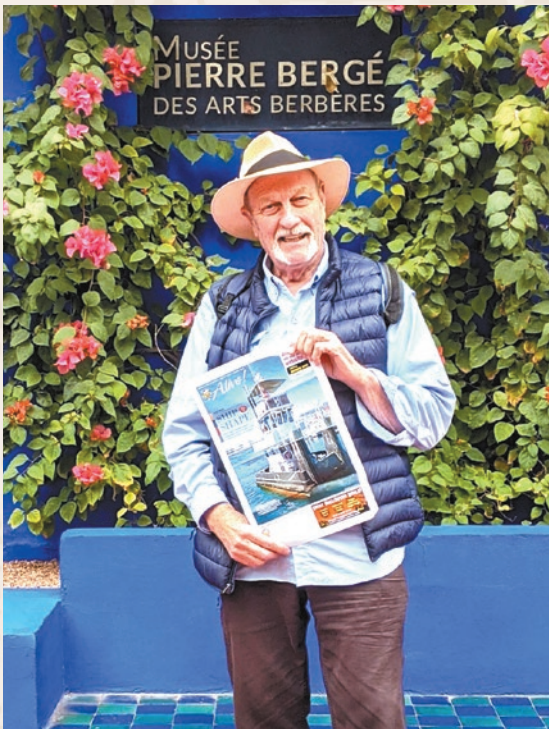
People share meals at long tables, and the air is filled with delicious smells from the open fireplaces. Be bold; try the grilled lamb called Mechoui, the delicious succulent and slowly simmered stew in a tagine, a traditional Moroccan pot made of unglazed clay with a round base and low sides. Or you should try snail soup (a local delicacy), but always choose a busy stall. Elsewhere in the square, fires appear, and groups of men gather around to listen to storytellers and musicians in long robes playing Gnawa, traditional music that could put you into a trance, so I am told. Others are entertained by mixed-gender belly dancers, gyrating to music produced by their portable music box. Unfortunately, there are con artists in the square at night, too, who may offer to exchange fake currency and "gifts" that you will be asked to pay for later.



Unhappy snake charmer in Jemaa el-Fnaa square

Just behind Jemaa el-Fnaa square and opposite the 12th-century 77-meter-tall (250 feet) minaret of the Koutoubia Mosque, the largest in Marrakesh, are the entrances to the souks, a labyrinth of winding streets and alleyways with limited street signs. To explore this kaleidoscope of noise and color you must be willing to get lost over and over again. If somebody offers to show you the way, give a polite "no thanks," unless you're willing to pay for a guide. The souks radiate out like a spider's web overflowing with shops selling everything from dates, babouche slippers, spices, Aladdin oil lamps, and leather goods.

The Zrabia souk was once called Le Criée Berbère or the Berber auction. Before the French Occupation in 1912, kidnapped slaves from Europe and Africa were auctioned here as well. But today it is full of rugs and carpets in all shapes and colors, including possibly a famous Berber rug! As you walk around this souk you will see many carpets and rugs hanging from the walls and balconies of shops; I do not recommend that you buy one of these, as they were probably imported from Pakistan. Some unscrupulous dealers even bleach, then scrub the rugs with hard...



In front of Pierre Berge Museum

— CONTINUED
PAGE 25

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LACERS

LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS

In-Person Appointments Now Available at New HQ

LACERS reopens April 3 for in-person appointments at its new headquarters.

LACERS has recently moved to its very own, state-of-the-art building in Chinatown. Beginning April 3, LACERS once again will be able to assist City employees and Retirees with their retirement needs in-person. Visit lacers.org/contact-us to schedule an in-person appointment and to learn more about the building, located at 977 N. Broadway.

Additionally, *online options* will continue to be available to City employees and Retirees. – Submit forms or required documents at lacers.org/secure-document-upload

- Visit [LACERS.org](https://lacers.org) to obtain benefits information
- Log onto your MyLACERS account at <https://mylacers.lacers.org> to view your account details, and
- Visit the LACERS YouTube channel at youtube.com/lacersyoutube where members can find a wealth of benefits videos.

Stay up to date on LACERS announcements by checking the website periodically at [LACERS.org](https://lacers.org), contacting LACERS by email at 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) released a revised Form W-4P (Withholding Certificate for Periodic Pension or Annuity Payments) that must be used, effective January 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 at <https://mylacers.lacers.org> to view and estimate your tax withholdings. The new Form W-4P is posted on lacers.org/forms and is now available for use.

If you live in California and wish to change your State tax withholding election, you will need to submit a separate State tax withholding, Form DE-4P, also available at lacers.org/forms.

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.



Anthony Taranto (fifth from left), whose life was saved by personnel from Fire Station 62 in Mar Vista, stopped by the station to personally thank the crew that saved his life. Fire Chief Kristin Crowley (fourth from left) stopped by to honor the crew with certificates of appreciation. Pictured (from left): Deputy Chief Richard Fields, Firefighter Armando Diaz, Capt. I Kevin Willis, Fire Chief Kristin Crowley, Anthony Taranto, Engineer Zachary Snyder, Firefighter Jessie Samide, Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Cabunoc, Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Knoll, Firefighter/Paramedic Jose Paz and Assistant Chief Dean Zipperman.

Story and photos courtesy LAFD

Stopping By to Say Thanks

LAFD: On Aug. 6 of last year, Mar Vista resident Anthony Taranto went into cardiac arrest. On March 1 of this year, Anthony stopped by Fire Station 62 to thank the Firefighters and Paramedics who saved his life.

Last year, LAFD received a 9-1-1 call to a location on Venice Boulevard. The 12500 block of Venice Boulevard. Firefighter/Dispatcher Armando Diaz responded to the call. He dispatched Engine 62 and Paramedic Rescue Ambulance 62 to the emergency.

Rescuers encountered a 52-year-old man sitting in his parked car inside an underground apartment garage complaining of symptoms. Rescuers evaluated the man's conditions, which indicated heart trouble. As Paramedics set up treatment and transport, the situation deteriorated as the man went into cardiac arrest. Firefighters immediately initiated CPR and defibrillation, which returned the victim to spontaneous circulation; his heart started beating again on its own.

While being taken to the hospital, Anthony's heart rhythm began to deteriorate again but was restored at the hospital, where he recovered.

He wanted to thank the LAFD Firefighters and Paramedics who saved his life, in person. That's what he did in early March of this year.

The LAFD crew received certificates of commendation from Chief Kristin Crowley. ●

The Club is delighted Mr. Taranto has returned to health, and we thank personnel from Fire Station 62 not only for saving Anthony's life, but for the hard work and live-saving services they deliver every day to the City of LA. Thank you and congratulations. We also thank LAFD Firefighter Margaret Stewart for her assistance.

THANK YOU!



The Club...
was created in 1928
by City employees
just like you.

So Long, Linda

LINDA SHEPPERD RETIRES AFTER 36 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.

LAPD: Linda Shepperd, Sr. PSR, LAPD, retired last November after 36 years of City service.

A retirement reception was held in her honor.

Linda began her City career in 1986 as a Clerk Typist for the LAFD. She's credited with playing a crucial role in the innovation of Communications Division's training.

Congratulations! ●



Photos courtesy LAPD Communications Div.

Linda Shepperd, Retired, Sr. PSR

THANK YOU! The Club thanks Linda for her dedicated years of service to the City, making LA a safer and better place.



Chief David Perez

Perez to Chief of Staff

CHIEF DAVID PEREZ PROMOTED.

LAFD: On Jan. 31, Chief David Perez was promoted by Fire Chief Kristin Crowley to be the department's newest Chief of Staff.

In his 34 years of City service, Chief Perez has risen from single-function paramedic to Captain and Captain II, Battalion Chief, Assistant Chief and Acting Fire Marshal.

The Club congratulates Chief David Perez on his new position and says a sincere thank-you for his long career of dedication and service to the City. Well done! ●

Ring Master

Information courtesy LAFRA/ Art Sorrentino, Retired, LAFD

CAPT. JACK REISS, RETIRED, IS INDUCTED INTO THE WEST COAST BOXING HALL OF FAME.

LAFD: Give the champion belt to Capt. Jack Reiss, Retired, LAFD, who was inducted into the West Coast Boxing Hall of Fame at a banquet March 12.

Reiss, who retired from the LAFD in 2011, was inducted as a former boxer and a longtime boxing referee. He is estimated to have refereed or judged more than 1,000 bouts.

He also played hockey on the LAFD hockey team.

He spent much of his youth in backyard boxing matches and organized amateur boxing and kickboxing programs. In 1986, he competed in a Fire/Police charity boxing tournament as a middle-weight and won the gold medal.

In 1998, he decided to become a boxing referee instead of a boxer, and soon thereafter traveled throughout the United States, North America, Europe, Asia and Australia.

He remains a boxing referee and instructor.

In 2014, he was inducted into the California Boxing Hall of Fame. In 2015, he was inducted into the National Boxing Hall of Fame.

Congratulations, Jack, for earning this wonderful boxing career achievement! ●



Capt. Jack Reiss, Retired, LAFD

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:

Baseball

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

DEADLINE: April 14

Submit your best photos online here:
alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect/
Club Members only. Good luck!





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



- 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
Adams Lopez, Theresa	Pub&Comm Rel. Dir.	Harbor	33	Huerta, Cesar H.	Sr. Storekeeper	Gen. Services	24	Raives, Gary M.	Photographer	LAPD	26
Adams, Julie P.	Traffic Officer	Transportation	25	Irsheid, Mahmoud K.	Civil Eng. Ass.	Harbor	14	Rodriguez, Arthur J.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Adams, Ralph D.	Equip. Mechanic	LAPD	28	Ivanick, Steven F.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Rodriguez, Jose V.	Equipment Mech.	Gen. Services	17
Allen, Linda L.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Public Works	25	Jenkins, Delores Saucer	Recreation Asst.	Rec and Parks	8	Romero, Elmer N.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D
Alvarez, Josefina P.	Admin. Clerk	Rec and Parks	8	Johnson, Euola	Traffic Officer	Transportation	15	Rover-Jackson, Carolyn	ITS	LADWP	N/D
Ares, Maria J.	City Attorney Rep	LADWP	N/D	Kaltenberg, Richard	Water Engineering	LADWP	N/D	Rubin, Charles S.	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D
Armstrong, Etta	Comm. Exec. Asst.	Planning	23	Kuo, John Y.	Water Quality	LADWP	N/D	Samaniego, Anthony	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Fire/Police Pens.	21
Biezins, John A.	Dep. Supt. Bldgs.	Bldg. & Safety	22	Lacour, Bridgett D.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	17	Schiffhauer, James F.	Sr. Person. Analyst	Fire/Police Pens.	25
Boulware, Robert W.	Power New Bus.	LADWP	N/D	Le, Judy P.	City Attorney	LADWP	N/D	Slivchak, Paul N.	Energy Control	LADWP	N/D
Brice, Ryan R.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Lim, Cien	Sr. Accountant	Public Works	23	Svetich, Tamera J.	Civil Engineer	Bldg. & Safety	38
Briegel, William R.	Supply Chain	LADWP	N/D	Lopez, Albert A.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	8	Takenaka, Craig	Asst. City Attorney	City Attorney	34
Brill, Jeffrey S.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	City Clerk	32	Malinovitz, Fabian	Customer Services	LADWP	N/D	Thomas, Robert L.	Electrical Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	15
Buquis, Arnel Chavez	Safety Eng., Press Ves.	Bldg. & Safety	17	Margheritis, Flora O.	Dir. of Airport Ops.	Airports	31	Tikka, Roy A.	Heating/Refrig. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	35
Busch, Kevin R.	Sr. Electrician	Gen. Services	23	Markson, Teri L.	Sr. Librarian	Library	29	Tinker, Debra M.	Police Service Rep	LAPD	21
Cammiso, Roseann L.	Workers Comp. Analyst	Personnel	10	Martellaro Palmer, Lisa	Trans. Eng. Ass.	Airports	28	Todd, Neil J.	Supt. of Operations	Airports	17
Carranza, Carl J.	Aquarium Educator	Rec and Parks	17	Martin, David W.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Tom, Gerald	Engineering Ass.	Transportation	14
Castanon, Steven A.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D	Martinez, Armando	Gardener Caretaker	Public Works	16	Tomomura, Lisa A.	Deputy City Attorney	City Attorney	25
Chavez, Raul	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Medina, Carol J.	Paralegal	City Attorney	17	Torres, Roberto J.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
Cordova Jr., Benjamin	Supply Chain	LADWP	N/D	Mendoza, Vivian L.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Touhey, Timothy K.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D
Cunanan, Cesar B.	Sr. Accountant	Airports	22	Mermelstein, Steven	Trans. Eng. Ass.	Transportation	13	Truong, Kien Quoc	Sr. Wastewater Treat. Op.	Public Works	35
De La Torre, Brian	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Miller, Jeffrey T.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Tuason, Rolando R.	Mngmt. Analyst	Public Works	22
Do, Danny	Control Sys. Eng. Ass.	Public Works	29	Mitchell, Miles L.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Transportation	31	Turner, Robert W.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D
Dominguez, Jesus Y.	Lieutenant	Airport Police	33	Movahedi, Bruce	Power System Eng.	LADWP	N/D	Valadez, Luis	Wastewater Coll. Wrkr.	Public Works	33
Duran, Hans	St. Services Super.	Public Works	26	Munoz, Abraham A.	Instr. Mech. Super.	Airports	15	Vasquez, Pablo E.	Civil Engineer	Public Works	30
Esquivel, Gregory S.	Maint. Superv.	Airports	30	Nakamoto, Eric Hideo	Wastewater Treat. Mech.	Public Works	37	Wannaphor, Phaisak	Event Attendant	Gen. Services	4
Furr, Yvette L.	Comm. Office	LADWP	N/D	Nua, James I.	Officer	Port Police	12	Wilson, Kirk G.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D
Garcia, Leonor V.	Public Affairs	LADWP	N/D	Omahen, James P.	Council Aide	Council	6	Williams, Charlotte M.	Secretary	LAPD	23
George, Leo A.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Ortiz, Maria	Special Prog. Asst.	Rec and Parks	6	Wong, Kenneth M.	ITS	LADWP	N/D
Giles, Julia C.	Librarian	Library	23	Pelico, Joan	Council Aide	Council	17	Yin, Roger S.	Bus Operator	Airports	18
Gomez, Moises	Custodian	Airports	20	Pineda, Jose	Sr. Park Ranger	Rec and Parks	34	Yuen, David Chiu Lung	Pr. Detention Officer	LAPD	31
Gutierrez, Michael A.	Supply Chain	LADWP	N/D	Placencia, Manuel A.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	30	Zamora, Juan M.	ITS	LADWP	N/D
Gutierrez, Norma	Personnel Director	LAFD	32	Pomjanek, Csilla	Sr. Systems Analyst	Harbor	24				
Hamm, Christine Jones	Librarian	Library	9	Quan, Grace G.	Mngmt. Analyst	LAPD	34				
Herrera, Daniel	Heavy Duty Equip. Mech.	Gen. Services	32	Radhakrishnan, Suresh	Asset Mngmt.	LADWP	N/D				

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

N/D = not disclosed

In Memoriam**

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

	YEARS OF DEPARTMENT	SERVICE		YEARS OF DEPARTMENT	SERVICE		YEARS OF DEPARTMENT	SERVICE
ACTIVE			Edmonds, Almus F.	Harbor	28	Long, Gaylord C.	LADWP	30
Ary, Todd K.	Public Works	14	Fontenot, Louis G.	N/D	N/D	Luchsinger, Dan	LADWP	31
Calderon, Francisco X.	Rec and Parks	17	Freeman, Frank	N/D	N/D	Maiberger, John C.	N/D	N/D
Gharibi, Gary	General Services	4	Garibay, David	LADWP	31	Malloy, John F.	Airports	32
Johnson, Michael L.	LAPD	26	Gephart, James R.	N/D	N/D	Malone, Le Roy C.	LADWP	21
Olivares Suarez, Raymond S.	Public Works	3	Goldstein, Andrew L.	Airports	10	Maston, Thomas W.	N/D	N/D
Wilkie, Susana T.	Public Works	23	Gomez, Luis R.	Zoo	21	O'Byrne, Shirley M.	N/D	N/D
			Gonzales, Tomas	Public Works	8	Olson, William A.	N/D	N/D
RETIRED			Grant, Phillip W.	LADWP	39	Otake, Jeanne T.	Transportation	40
Abundo, Reynaldo S.	Public Works	30	Green, George	LADWP	33	Pacheco, Ramon S.	LADWP	34
Amezola, Manuel J.	N/D	N/D	Greenwood, Nowland E.	LADWP	31	Poplawski, Virginia M.	LADWP	18
Ashdown, Edward W.	N/D	N/D	Grimes, Raymond E.	Public Works	31	Pyette, Thomas C.	LADWP	31
Bartley, Paul L.	LADWP	20	Hernandez, Bernardo G.	N/D	N/D	Reed, Paul L.	LADWP	30
Beckford, Carlton V.	Public Works	29	Herron, David M.	LADWP	29	Reyes, Amelia	Airports	32
Bermudez, Milagros R.	Zoo	8	Hudson, Thomas W.	Animal Services	28	Rose, Dorian A.	N/D	N/D
Briasco, Ezio W.	N/D	N/D	Jacobo, Louie F.	N/D	N/D	Skrocki, Stanley J.	LADWP	20
Brou, Harold T.	LADWP	25	Juatco, Manuel M.	Housing	15	Townsend, James R.	Building and Safety	14
Buckley, Rita R.	Library	26	Kamakeeaina, Albert K.	LADWP	29	Vaillancour, Carol	LADWP	31
Christine, Frank	LADWP	59	Kovary, Yvette H.	N/D	N/D	Van Blarcom, Frank P.	Public Works	16
Curwen, Mary J.	City Attorney	29	Kunitake, Miyo	LADWP	39	Warneck, Susan R.	LAPD	35
Crawford, Shirley R.	Public Works	25	Lacour, Tyrone L.	Airports	17	Weitzman, Gerald	LADWP	30
Davis, Benjamin L.	Public Works	34	Lamia, Vincent R.	LADWP	31	Williams, Jack E.	N/D	N/D
Denson, Frank W.	LADWP	29	Layfield, Ronald L.	Public Works	33	Willie, Oscar	N/D	N/D
Dungo, Jesus D.	Finance	10	Learman, Richard W.	LADWP	32	Yee, Ronald F.	LADWP	34
Dunnings, Rosemary	LADWP	32	Lloyd, Eleanor R.	LADWP	42			

** **NOTE:** Departments and/or years of service in italics are for Club Members and sourced from the Club's files. They are not official City records.

N/D = not disclosed

Tell Us Their Story

A REMEMBRANCE

by Lynette M. Smith
Niece of the deceased

Michael Gene Dooner, longtime El Monte resident and Retiree who enjoyed a 37-year career with the City of Los Angeles, passed away peacefully on Nov. 17, 2022. He was 89.

Gene, the older of two sons, was born in Stockton on Jan. 3, 1933. Their father worked in construction, and by the time Gene was 12 his family had lived in 11 Western states and Pennsylvania. Two of Gene's boyhood jobs included picking fruit in Provo, Utah, and selling newspapers on the streets and in saloons and gambling halls in Tonopah, Nevada.

STARTING A CAREER IN CONSTRUCTION

Just out of high school, Gene Dooner worked from 1950 to 1955 for private contractors on a variety of construction jobs. Some of the jobs he was involved with included operating a bulldozer in El Monte to widen Tyler Avenue into four lanes between Bryant and Lower Azusa Roads; working for Owl Rock and Construction Company, usually operating a bulldozer in the decomposed-granite pit in northern Montebello; grading the ground for houses and streets for a new residential subdivision in Burbank; and working on a finishing crew for part of the San Bernardino Freeway. He also operated a bulldozer, grader, scraper and DW21 rubber-tired tractor-trailer dirt hauler to build up the dirt level for levees that were part of the flood control system for Whittier Narrows Dam; and, as part of the same project, he operated a DW20 and DW21 hauler, motor grader, bulldozer, and Cat and carryall, constructing levees for the Los Angeles River to make it into a concrete-lined flood-control channel flowing to the Pacific Ocean.



Gene Dooner atop a bulldozer while working for Public Works/Street Services.

JOINING THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

In October 1955, Gene began his construction career with the City of Los Angeles. Here's how he spent his time with the City:

Seven years as a newly hired Equipment Operator, driving an asphalt paving machine and working on projects located from Eagle Rock to mid Los Angeles and into San Pedro.

Six years reassigned to the street-reconstruction crew, running their LeTourneau rubber-tired bulldozer to dig up existing streets, haul the load to the dump, and prepare the initial sub-base for the new street.

(Gene told a story about when the Baldwin Hills Dam broke on Dec. 14, 1963. Several people in one neighborhood were left stranded, as their one road out had washed away and they had no way to walk or drive out. Gene came to the rescue using a bulldozer to build up an embankment as a temporary road, using somewhat dry dirt, compacting it, and then applying decomposed granite to the surface to solidify it. This created a path where those people who had been trapped could walk or drive out to escape the area.)

Seventeen years, first being promoted to Street Maintenance Reconstruction Crew Supervisor for the same crew, working on concrete, gutters and curbs, asphalt, demolition, and haul-away, importing new asphalt, prepping the sub-base, and paving for both local and major streets; and later being promoted to superintendent.

A little more than a year, rounding-out his work experience by working at City Hall as an Estimator of repairs and job costs of current work by the crews; and, as projects were finished, compiling the cost of the entire job.

Three years in the field as Zone 1 superintendent of the asphalt plant at Olympic Boulevard and Seventh Street in Boyle Heights, still also working with a repair crew on street reconstruction and related work, including equipment operation as needed.

Two years as Zone 2 Superintendent in Van Nuys, for 12 of the City's 24 street-maintenance districts.

Three years as night cleaning Superintendent, where it was his job to address any problems associated with the nighttime cleanup taking place in any of the more than 7,000 miles of streets and alleys in the entire City.

Gene retired from the City in June 1992. His construction experience with private contractors when working with the City had served him well,

and haul-away, importing new asphalt, prepping the sub-base, and paving for both local and major streets; and later being promoted to superintendent.

'Anything less than right is wrong.'

Gene Dooner, 1935-2022



Michael Gene Dooner

Public Works/Street Services

37 years of City service

1933-2022

as he was valued for being able to solve problems by applying creative solutions he'd learned in those past positions. One example was during the relaying of the sewer pipes after the Baldwin Hills Dam broke, where he was able to move some large pipes using his bulldozer, simply by hooking a chain at each end of the pipe and then running the chain across the top of the bulldozer's blade, so that the 'dozer could quickly and efficiently lift and deliver the pipe where it was needed, rather than having to use a long-arm crane, which would have taken much longer.

SERVICE IN THE MILITARY RESERVES

In 1951, Gene began 34 years as a reservist in the U.S. Naval Construction Force (NCF), better known as Navy Seabees. He started out as an E-3 Apprentice and worked his way up to E-9 Master Chief. Because he had been involved in construction work for his regular career, Gene's assigned job as Operations Supervisor for Alpha Company was to find out the work and machines required for the other Seabee companies' work projects, and then assign people qualified to run those machines.

As a Seabee, he served in a wide variety of locations and on some interesting construction projects: the Marine Corps Base in San Clemente; a pier on the waterfront in Kodiak, Alaska; on high-speed roads in Puerto Rico, connecting the ammunition bunker to the main highway leading to the base where ships were being loaded with ammunition; and crane operation while assembling a metal building in Pearl Harbor on Oahu, Hawaii.

Reflections and Remembrance

In 2021, when asked to reflect on his life overall, Gene said, "I was a hard worker for whoever I worked for." He used to tell his workers, "Anything less than right is wrong." Actually, that was a good moral compass for his entire life.

Michael Gene Dooner was predeceased by his wife, Jan, to whom he had been married for 51 years, and his two sons, Mike and Doug. He is survived by his younger brother, Jerry, and was "Grandpa" to three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Gene will always hold a place in the hearts of his many friends and loved ones. ●

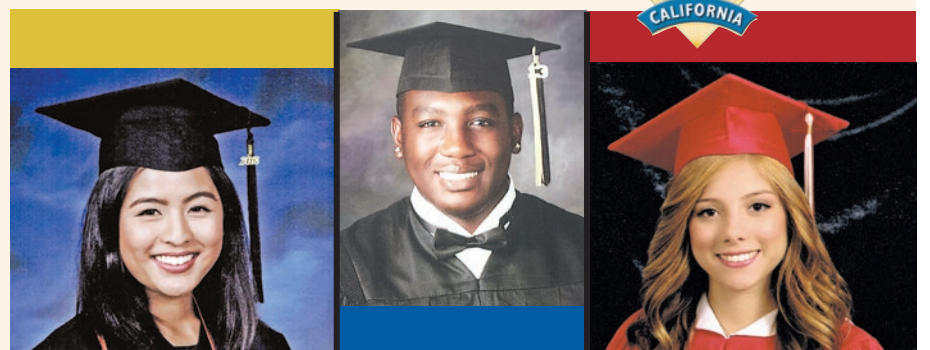
Put your graduation photo in *Alive!*



Club members: Have you had a family member graduate from elementary school... high school... or college? Send us a photo, and we'll publish it in *Alive!*

Make sure you tell us:

- The name of the graduate.
- The school from which they graduated. If a college, tell us their major.
- Their future plans (briefly)
- The name and department of the Club member they're related to, and how they are related



To send a digital photo and your message, go to:
alive.employeesclub.com/graduations



John's Picture Perfect Contest

John Hawkins, Association CEO

WIN A \$25 AMAZON E-GIFT CARD



"Flowers at the farmer's market."

– Alex Andrews, Building and Safety

John's comment: Yes, Jill, plenty of yellow! It's as if the sky there in Washington State produced what you needed to fulfill this month's theme – right on time.



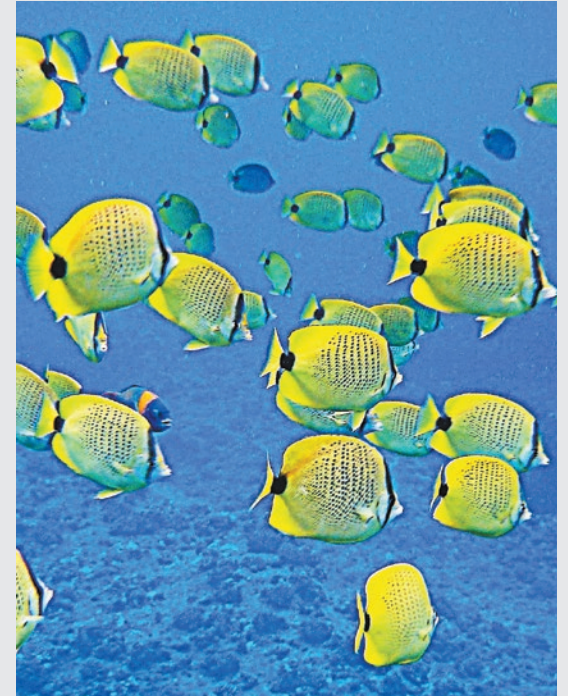
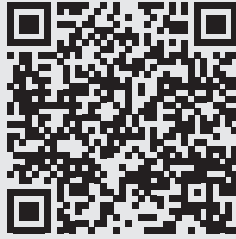
"A sunset ... looking toward Rio de Janeiro from Niterói Parque da Cidade. Taken while visiting a retired coworker who resides in Brazil."

– Anthony Calime, Retired, LADWP

John's comment: The soft light really emphasizes the yellow here, Anthony ... and the orange, brown, and so many other colors. It's darn near dream-like. Thanks for submitting.

This month's theme: **Yellow.**

See more Picture Perfect winners and contest rules:



"I went snorkeling one spring break off the coast of Oahu in Hawaii and had these yellow fish swarm me, undoubtedly looking for free food! This is the Lau Wili-wili Milletseed (Lemon) Butterflyfish found only in Hawaiian waters."

– Carlos Aranda, LADWP

John's comment: Carlos, this reminds me of an old screen saver I had for my computer. The azure blue sets off the patterned yellow very well. Like the screen saver, it's hypnotizing! Thanks for sending it in.



"Roxy and I on our daily walk near a local elementary school in Rossmoor. She is patiently waiting to use the crosswalk to get to the other side."

– Teresa Henkhaus, Retired, Harbor

John's comment: Sometimes photos are beautiful for their composition, balance, tones, etc. ... but sometimes they also tell narratives. What is Roxy thinking? I am still intrigued ... and thanks for your creative use of yellow.

He Got Carded

LIBRARY CARDS FEATURING MOUNTAIN LION P-22 ARE PROVING POPULAR.

LIBRARY: Starting Feb. 23, the Los Angeles Public Library began offering a limited-edition library card to honor P-22 and feature the importance of natural spaces and biodiversity of wildlife in our shared habitat. The image on the card, courtesy of Steve Winter and *National Geographic*, pays tribute to P-22, the celebrity mountain lion that captured the hearts and attention of Los Angeles and the world for many years. P-22 was euthanized late last year due to vehicular injury and illness.

The special-edition card is available at all Los Angeles Public Library locations while supplies last.

As of *Alive!* press time in late March, the Library was reporting that some branches had run out of the special edition library card, while some branches still had some to offer. Check with your local branch. ●



The Library's special edition card featuring LA mountain lion P-22. The photo on the card is courtesy Steve Winter, *National Geographic*.



LADOT's Special Traffic Operations team, highlighted in *Alive!* several years ago, worked around the clock to manage detours and street closures.

Miles of Maintenance

CITY CREWS STEP UP TO MAKE FOR A SUCCESSFUL LA MARATHON.

LADOT • PUBLIC WORKS/STREETS/SLA: City crews were busy during and after the recent 38th running of the LA Marathon to make for a smooth, safe and successful event.

The 2023 marathon was held March 19.

In addition to LAPD, LAFD and other departments, LADOT and Public Works/StreetsLA played major roles. Here are just a few images. ●



Crews from Public Works/StreetsLA during and after the marathon to keep the City clean, which was especially challenging due to the rain during the event.

THANK YOU!

The Club thanks all City employees, including those from LADOT and Public Works, for their very hard work making our City shine for this internationally famous event. Well done!



FROM DEC. 2022

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

LAPD Records Party

RECORDS, IDENTIFICATION HOLDS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON.

LAPD RECORDS: The Police Dept.'s Records and Identification bureau held its holiday luncheon Dec. 8 at XLANes bowling alley near Little Tokyo.

The invitation from Elena Asucan, Police Administrator, read, "Spend time with loved ones and family and take time for yourself."

The afternoon provided plenty of food, fun and camaraderie. ●

The event committee, from left: J. Trinidad, SMA, 16 years of City service, Club Member; Loanne Truong, Sr. MA, 22 years; Elena Asucan, Police Administrator, 36 years; Lourdes Popper, SAC, 19 years, Club Member; Juanita Gonzalez, Office Service Assistant, 11 months, Club Member; and Jennifer Marroquin, Secretary, 16 years. Back: Tammi Crayon, PCP I, 16 years



Back: Oscar Gonzalez, EPA II, 7 years of City service. Seated, from left: Brayden Morris, volunteer, 2 years; and Jaime Ramirez, Sr. Admin Clerk, 25 years, Club Member.



From left: Alma Becerra, Sr. Admin Clerk, 14 years of City service; and Queenie Law, Sr. Clerk Typist, 24 years.



Back row, from left: Jimmy Lee, IE II, 16 years of City service; Laila Khamidova, FIE, 20 years; Nina Kaminsky, FIE, 17 years; Timmy Dharmpetarsakul, Acting FIE II, 2 years, Club Member. Seated: Darlene Henderson, Acting PFIE II, 23 years; Vu Ong, Acting FIE III, 22 years; and Adrian Duran, FIE I, 4 years.



From left: Jazmin Olmos, Office Trainee, 4 months of City service; Hailee Reyes, Office Trainee, 5 months, Club Member; Martha Rios, Sr. Admin Clerk, 21 years; and Shelly Roberts, Principal Clerk Police I, 27 years.



From left: Club Members Janice Sanders, Sr. Clerk, 5 years of City service; and Tamara Armstrong, Principal Clerk Police, 19 years.

From left: Cherie Byers, Principal Clerk II, 24 years of City service; Club Members Alexis Flowers, Sr. Admin Clerk, 8 years; Nev Hill, Sr. Admin Clerk, 8 years; and Misha McConnell, Commission Executive Assistant, 16 years.



See more pictures on Web Alive!

THANK YOU! The Club thanks Lourdes Popper for her assistance to the Club in producing this article, and everyone on the event committee for producing a fun afternoon.



FROM DEC. 2022

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

Port Police Party

HARBOR: Harbor's Port Police unit hosted its 2022 holiday party Dec. 10 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in San Pedro.

The evening was co-hosted by ILWU Local 65 and Los Angeles Port Police Association.

The cocktail reception and dinner included raffles, prizes, a photo booth and dancing. Dress code called for black tie optional. Guests also participated in a toy drive to spread some holiday cheer. ●



From left: Leslie Rabena, wife of Officer II Vincent Hernandez, 6 years of City service, Club Member; Manuel Jimenez, CEO, Black Knight Patrol; and Officer II Miguel Madrigal, Marine Cumpian, 14 years, Club Member.



From left: Nilza Serrano, guest; Irene Huerta, ILWU Local 13; and Ramon Ponce de Leon, President, Local 13.



From left: Officer II Michael Lartundo, 5 years of City service, Club Member, and his wife, Jeannette.



It was a family affair! From left: Leilani, daughter; Isaiiah, son; Erika Gama, guest; and Officer III Ismael Flores, 17 years of City service, Club Member.



From left: Officer II Tyler Casey, LAPD, 4 years of City service, with his wife, Officer II Evelyn Gonzalez, 4 years, Club Member; and Cheryl Morris, Retired SLP, 32 years, Club Member.



Back row, from left: Club Members Sgt. Frank Huan, 15 years of City service, and Officer III Jane Britten, 17 years. Seated: Club Members Officer II Angelo Cumpian, 14 years; Sgt. Joseph Arthur, 15 years; and Michael McGill, Ferome and Ferome.



From left: Jenna and Officer II Bill East, 5 years of City service, Club Member; and Officer II Karissa Corrales, 3 years, Club Member, with her spouse, Jasmine Barajas.



Catherin and Officer II Andrew Sklarsh, 14 years of City service, Club Member.

See more pictures on Web Alive!

THANK YOU! The Club thanks Sgt. Joseph Arthur and Officer Angelo Cumpian from the Port Police for the generous invitation, and for providing information for this story.

{Who are the people you see every day?}

No. 107
in a series.



People We See

Shelterless in Los Angeles.

Meet Daniel Mathis



Daniel Mathis (left) with Association CEO John Hawkins.

INTERVIEW

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:

"I was on my way to get some food at Clark Street Bakery on Glendale Boulevard just outside of Downtown when I saw Daniel sleeping on the sidewalk on a side street. I have since stopped by a couple of times making sure he was okay, and supplied him with goodies."

– John Hawkins

BIRTHDAY:

Nov. 19, 1974 (48)

BIRTHPLACE:

"Fitzgerald, Georgia."

Education: "San Antonio High School, Petaluma, California. I went to junior college during high school."

Family: "My mom was born in Winter Haven, Florida, and my dad was born in Jacksonville. Me and my family left Georgia three weeks after I was born and moved to Florida. My dad had to reenlist in the Navy. He was a welder, and he welded nuclear submarines. He was also on the USS *Kitty Hawk* and the USS *L.Y. Spear*. He left the Navy as an E-5. My dad died from cirrhosis of the liver in 2007; my mom is still alive and lives in Petaluma. I have two older sisters and one older brother."

To Los Angeles: "I came down to Los Angeles [from Petaluma] to go to college and work with the Job Corps."

Disability: "For years I have had chronic depression and acute anxiety. I was recently diagnosed with cancer on my neck and I am disabled on SSI."

First night: "My first night on the street I was actually in San Diego, and I fell asleep on a bus bench. I woke up and there was a blanket on me, and an apple. They were so sweet. I fell asleep waiting for the bus. I was 38."

"I started living on the streets to keep myself safe from [someone] who is trying to get me."

Favorite candy: "Milk Duds."

Favorite movie: "I've got quite a few. Let's see, *Batman Trilogy*, with Christian Bale."

Favorite TV show: "*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*."

Advice for a 16-year-old: "Finish school. Do not walk out of college without your degree; at least get your two-year Associate's if nothing else. Do not take out loans unless you absolutely have to. Stay away from alcohol and drugs."

In five years: "I'm hoping I'll be dead. I'm 48. I'm too old for this. This is not where I wanted to be in life. I was hated for being gay."

"I am on the Methadone program. I was doing heroine and fentanyl. Someone from my past always ended up introducing me into old drugs and old habits like crystal meth, which I started when I was about 21 years old."

Make a wish: "If I could wish for anything it would be to have my health back, to not be a drug addict and to have a part time office job. To be financially a little more secure."

The Club gave Daniel 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

brushes, then hang them out in the hot sun to dry. This not only attracts unwary tourists but gives the rugs and carpets an antique look. If you do decide to buy a rug, be prepared to haggle with the traders; this is expected and often leads to a heated exchange, so stand your ground, and bid low. To procure an authentic magic carpet to ship home, I would suggest visiting an official carpet dealer in the new city, where the prices are posted. Also, concerning the spice souk, all kinds of exotic spices are for sale, including the world's costliest spice by weight, saffron, a labor-intensive production, as the Saffron "threads" are plucked by hand from crocus flowers by older women in the Atlas Mountains. Or so they say. You should feel safe wandering around the souks, but remember that pickpockets love crowds, so it's best to keep valuables hidden.

Every Moroccan neighborhood has a mosque, a communal oven, and a hammam (bathhouse). I would not recommend visiting public hammam. It is far better to visit a private one where you'll have a room to yourself, be scrubbed with a rough bath mitt and the famous Moroccan black soap, followed by a head-to-toe massage. This is not recommended if you have sunburn.

There are 90 fountains scattered around Marrakesh. The oldest still in use today is the Mouassine Fountain, built in 1570 and fed by underground channels direct from the Atlas Mountains. Two of the most impressive buildings in Marrakech are the 17th-century Badi Palace, with its reflecting pools and sunken gardens, and the Bahia Palace, built in the 1860s featuring ornamental wooden ceilings and tiled courtyards. The Old City has many rooftop restaurants providing excellent food and incredible sunset views, but very few serve ice-cold adult beverages, unfortunately.

Outside the Old City is a very different place, with modern hotels, an American-style mall, many boutiques, private art galleries, and modern cafés and bars serving cocktails with live music. If you have time, check out the Jardin Majorelle, where French fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent acquired so much of his inspiration, and it eventually became his last resting place. We booked a nice spacious three-story walled villa called a Riad in the Old City, with four bedrooms, a kitchen, an open courtyard, and a rooftop garden. It offered so much more fun and freedom than a hotel room!

You won't find a Genie or djinn in a magic lamp by staying home, no matter how hard you wish!

Travel while you still can.

The Captain

Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor

