



Alive!

RLACEI

50 YEARS Is Just the Beginning

Retirees association and Club partner celebrates 50th anniversary and strengthens its strong support of City Retirees.

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Club CEO Robert Larios with RLACEI President Ruth Perry (left) and Vice President Beverly Clark.

Alive! photo by Summy Lam



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Celebrating Retirees, Together

Associations can be known by their logos, their matching shirts, or other things. But the best ones are known by their people. That comes to mind when I think of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc., or RLACEI. I have intersected with this engaged group since my first days at the Club 25 years ago. I soon learned the Club and RLACEI have much in common as we serve Retired City employees.



Club CEO Robert Larios with RLACEI President Ruth Perry (left) and RLACEI Vice President Beverly Clark at the RLACEI 50th anniversary party.

Ed Harding, Tom Stemnock, Mary Beetz, Hal Danowitz, Americo Garza, Phil Orland, Mike Wilkinson, Phil Skarin, Neil Ricci ... I thought about all of them and more as I stood in front of the joyous crowd at RLACEI's 50th anniversary luncheon, grateful to have been asked to say a few words.

To that list I add **Ruth Perry** and **Beverly Clark**, worthy leaders now building RLACEI into the days ahead.

RLACEI and the Club practice our missions from different angles but from the same heart – serving those who have served the City so well. We salute you, RLACEI, and wish you a very bright future.

Stellar Service

Speaking of 50 years: 1973 also marked a milestone for **Sgt. Richard Kanzaki**, Retired, LAPD/Rampart. That year he began his long stint of service to Los Angeles. After he retired in 2011, he decided to continue right on serving as an LAPD Reserve Officer.

This past May 19, Sgt. Kanzaki finally fully retired after 50 years of City service. With 30 years of that service performed at Rampart, the division threw him a retirement/retirement party. "Thank



Sgt. Richard Kanzaki

you for your service and leadership, Sarge," the division wrote on its Facebook page. "Your Rampart family wishes you the best." The Club completely concurs. Thank you, Sarge, for your incredible example of helping make LA great.

Adventures Return

Along with most of the world, our own *Alive!* Around the World – where Club Members photograph their copy of *Alive!* on their travels – has returned in a big way. I thank **Jean Sarfaty, Shinetha Scott, Larry Campita, Norman Faner** and **Capt. Michael Barnes** in this month's issue for inspiring my own future adventures – London, Carlsbad, Namibia, South Africa and the Aegean. Beautiful images! Club Members: Bring your copy with you as you travel. You are our dreammakers!

Worth Considering

Choose to surround yourself with innovative thinkers and progressive minds instead of negative talkers and doubters. Surround yourself with people who add fuel to your fire and help you become an even better version of yourself!

Finally, I wish you and your families a meaningful Fourth of July. Fill your long summer days with relaxation and purpose.

¡Gracias por leer!

— Robert Larios



#ClubMobile Schedule*

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!

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

Wednesdays: July 5, and Aug. 2, Sept. 6
Harbor Boys and Girls Club
 100 W. Fifth St., San Pedro • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

ADDITIONAL VISITS:

Thursday, July 13
LADWP Van Nuys
 7501 Tyrone Ave.
 6 – 9 a.m.

Wednesday, July 16
Animal Services North Central
 3201 Lacy St.
 8 a.m. – noon

Saturday, Aug. 5
LADOT Crossing Guard Picnic
 4730 Crystal Springs Dr.
 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

* 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.

Schedule a Site Visit

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

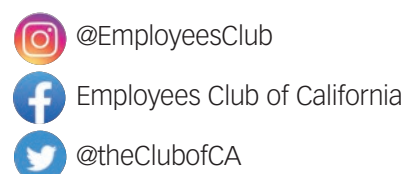


#ClubMobile is cashless!

For your convenience, now accepting:



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



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



COVER STORY:

Just the Beginning 12-15

Retiree association RLACEI celebrates its golden anniversary as it looks back and forward.

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

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LETTERS

About Troy

Dear readers, last month we published letters in reaction to our cover story from May, "No One Is Ever Alone," about the Mertlich family connecting to their lost brother through *Alive!*'s "People We See." Here is another letter. — Ed.



Your May 2023 issue feature story about Troy Mertlich and his family was especially poignant. It was heartwarming to hear his family had some closure due to your article. While there are a lot of issues regarding homelessness in California, I appreciate your features and how you give a face and a voice to those on the streets here in LA. You bring humanity to a tough social problem and I appreciate that. All the best.

— Steph Burkhart, LAPD

NEW THIS MONTH ONLINE!

alive.employeesclub.com

Library Top 10

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



Rest Insured

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



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ATTENTION SUPERVISORS:
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#ClubMobile
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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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 Ronald Cortez Assistant Quality Assurance Analyst	 Natalia Guevara Data Processing Coordinator	 Rey Hernandez IT Senior Developer	

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 Daniel McAlinden Senior Accountant	 Frank Ochoa Accounting Assistant

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 Tuyet Pham Senior Accountant
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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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 Open 24/7: **employeesclub.com**

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Story and photos by Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales

Welcome Back, Retirees!

LADWP EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION HOSTS RETURN OF RETIREES PICNIC.

LADWP: The LADWP Employees Association welcomed back department Retirees to a picnic June 3 at Whittier Narrows Park in South El Monte.

The picnic returned after a break during the pandemic. The #ClubMobile team was on hand to greet Club Members, offer great LADWP Retirees gifts and attire, and share insurance and benefit information.

The Club is grateful to the LADWP Employees Association for hosting the event, and to Dolores and Vince Foley, former LADWP Retirees Association leaders, for inviting the Club to attend.

It was great to see all of our LADWP Retiree Members and friends! We're looking forward to seeing everyone again next year! ●



Ray Thornton, Commercial Field Rep, 38 years of City service, and Fredericka Santee, Commercial Field Rep, 29 years.



Perla Obal, Accounting, and her husband, Jesus.



Mike Dean, Machinist Supervisor, 30 years of City service, with DeAngelo Thompson, #ClubMobile Operations Rep.



From left: Gilberto Perez, Power Generation, and Antonio Perez, Power Generation.



James Monroe, Sr. Information Systems Supervisor, 33 years of City service, and Schiry Gail Monroe, Sr. Documentation Technician, 43 years.



From left: Anita Williams, Management Analyst, 36 years of City service, with Robin Jeffery, Sr. Clerk Typist, 31 years.



Ray Elgin, Truck and Equipment Dispatcher, 25 years of City service (right), with his son, Rowan.



Larry Contri, Building Repair Supervisor, and his wife, Rosie.



Judy Sanchez, Sr. Clerk Typist, 17 years of City service, and Tony Sanchez, Steam Plant Supervisor, 27 years.



Robert Smith, Heavy Equipment Operator, 25 years of City service.



Club Association President John Hawkins (left) and Club CEO Robert Larios (right) with the #ClubMobile team (from left) Noah Hawkins, Customer Service Rep; Eddie Escalona, Mobile Operations Rep; DeAngelo Thompson, Mobile Operations Rep; and Lupe Lira, Retail Operations Manager.



From left: Greg Osborn, SUDCM, 35 years of City service, and Tony Flores, UCDMS, 34 years.



From left: Alicia A. Hidalgo, Sr. Store Keeper, 33 years of City service; and Debbie L. Cordova, Store Keeper, 15 years.



Luis Carlos, Water Utility Worker, 30 years of City service, and his partner, Ana Marie.



John's Picture Perfect Contest

John Hawkins, Association President



See more Picture Perfect winners and contest rules.

This month's theme was: Red, White, Blue



"In April 2022, we visited New England. I have friends and family there, but this was the first time in a long time my oldest son had an opportunity to visit. Of course, Fenway Park was on the list, as I'm a big Red Sox fan. We took a tour of the stadium before the season opened.

Fenway Park is truly a piece of Americana and the Red Sox have a strong connection to America's favorite pastime -- perfect for the Fourth of July!"

– Stephanie Burkhart, LAPD

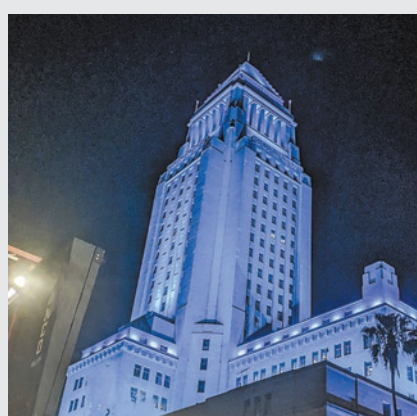
John's comment: Red, white and blue as a concept ... and a good one, as you say, for the Fourth. Further, though, I like the composition here, with the angle of Fenway taking the eye to the sign, then past it into the depth. A home run.



"This is a drone photo of the Ventura Pier. The title is (Forever). I appreciate your contest. It is a lot of fun."

– Alex Andrews, Building and Safety

John's comment: And thank you, Alex, for submitting gems like this one. I love the simplicity, which emphasizes the dignity and steadfast pride of the flag at the end. Excellent!



"Passing downtown LA one evening, City Hall was lit up blue, and there was no traffic. So I had to take a picture. So pretty!"

– Leticia Zepeda, Retired, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment

John's comment: So pretty, indeed, Leticia! It pays to look up sometimes. Thanks for submitting!

"On a visit to Central Florida for an art show, I had extra time to visit Cape Canaveral and tour the Kennedy Space Center. It was quite something to see the colors that represent us with such inspiring history (and mileage) behind it!"

– Shaudi Pishvaie, LAPD

John's comment: I love this, Shaudi. You've captured history here, and the framing is beautifully presented. Thanks for submitting.



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



The next photo contest theme: **Playing Outdoors**

DEADLINE: Aug. 15

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



READY FOR RETIREMENT



Resources for Club Retirees or Those About to Retire



YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO INSURANCE

By Noelle Kauffman, Director Of Sales CA LICENSE NO: 0H45598

Long-Term Care Insurance Is Asset Protection. Find Out Why Long-Term Care Is Vital!

What is long-term care (LTC) insurance?

Long-term care insurance is designed to pay benefits for some of the expenses you may incur if you need supervision or assistance with basic activities of daily living (ADLs), including bathing, eating, continence, dressing, toileting, ambulating and transferring. You may need this kind of help following an accident or illness such as a stroke – because of older age and frailty, or because you need supervision due to a cognitive disorder like Alzheimer’s disease.

Here’s why you need Long Term Care Insurance from the Club:

- Your premiums are conveniently deducted through your pension

- Affordable Club Member-only group rates
- Group rates are locked in at the age you apply
- Coverage is available to you, your spouse/domestic partner, parents and grandparents
- Available payout benefits range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per month
- Your plan pays a monthly benefit directly to you, as opposed to most other programs that pay out on a reimbursement schedule
- Choose from four plans: 1) long-term care facility; 2) professional home care; 3) total home care; and 4) simple inflation protection.
- Available terms: four-year nursing facility/eight years in home. Also available: 10 year nursing

Long Term Care Insurance protects your assets and income from the costs of care.

According to a medically reviewed article from 2022, approximately 70 percent of seniors will need some type of long-term care.

facility/20 year in home (home care benefit pays out at 50 percent).

Do not wait. While you may be healthy today, a change in your health may decrease your chances of getting approved.

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

Retired or Retiring Soon?

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



Cheryl Martin
(800) 464 -0452, EXT. 136
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Thanks, Cheryl!

Club Counselor Cheryl Martin offers a powerful presentation on the strong benefits of the Club’s Long-Term Care insurance throughout each month. She also presents it at the Club’s symposium and Retirement Plaque ceremony, held at the California Endowment. Here’s a testimonial she received from last month’s symposium.



Cheryl Martin presents her Long-Term Care lecture at last month’s Club Retirement Plaque event at the California Endowment.

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.

LETTER FROM A CLUB MEMBER

Dear Cheryl,

I am writing to express my heartfelt congratulations on a job well done with the incredible Long-Term Care training and the awards ceremony. As the Member Services Counselor for the Employees Club, your exceptional leadership and dedication have truly shone through, making this training a remarkable success.

The Long-Term Care training that you organized was exceptional in every aspect. The information provided was invaluable, helping individuals who are close to retiring gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The effort and thoughtfulness you put into curating the training program truly made a difference in the lives of those fortunate enough to attend, myself included.

Cheryl, your commitment to creating meaningful experiences for the retiring members of our organization and the City of Los Angeles is truly commendable. You have displayed a profound understanding of their needs and have gone above and beyond to provide them with a memorable and enlightening occasion. Your leadership and dedication have left an indelible mark on everyone who attended.

Once again, I want to express my gratitude and admiration for your exceptional work. Your passion for ensuring a smooth transition into retirement for our colleagues is truly inspiring. I feel incredibly fortunate to have been a part of this event and to witness your exceptional leadership firsthand.

Congratulations, Cheryl, on a job exceptionally well done!

Warmest regards,

Det. Stan “Forever” Young,
LAPD/Hollenbeck

2023 Events

Sept. 6 LARFPA Membership Meeting

San Antonio Winery
737 Lamar St.
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
\$30/\$40 admission
Deadline: Aug. 22
Reservations, information:
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)
See page 18

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., July 15 (in person)

Wed., July 26 (webinar)

Sat., Aug. 12 (in person)

Wed., Aug. 16 (Tier 3) (webinar)

Tues., Aug. 29 (webinar)

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 Sept. 23, 2023, you would have aimed to submit your retirement application in the portal on July 25, 2023. For more information, please visit lacers.org/applying-retirement.



Orange-Picking Time

ORCUTT RANCH CONTINUES ITS ORANGE-PICKING EVENTS FOR THE PUBLIC.

REC AND PARKS: Orange picking returns in July to Rec and Parks' Orcutt Ranch in West Hills.

The program invites the public to pick oranges from the groves at Orcutt Ranch on select weekends.

The next event is set for 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. July 8-9 at Orcutt Ranch, 23600 Roscoe Blvd., West Hills.

The event is do-it-yourself. Fruit can be picked for \$4 per average reusable bag or \$5 for a medium fruit box. Pickers must bring their own containers. Tree climbing and ladders are prohibited. ●

**Orcutt Ranch
Orange
Fruit Pick
July 8-9
7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Orcutt Ranch
23600 Roscoe Blvd.
West Hills**



From *Alive!* September 2018: Club Association President John Hawkins (right) and Robert Baker, now Retired, Park Maintenance Supervisor at Orcutt Ranch, look at the orange trees in the Orcutt grove.

Welcome, Staycee

STAYCEE DAINS
NOMINATED FOR GM.



Staycee Dains

ANIMAL SERVICES: Staycee Dains has been nominated as the new General Manager for Animal Services. Mayor Karen Bass made the nomination and the announcement.

Her appointment to the position is subject to a vote by the City Council, scheduled for July 3.

Staycee spent more than two decades serving and leading in private and municipal shelters. She comes to Animal Services as the Director of Long Beach Animal Care Services, where she led a team to realize a lifesaving rate of more than 90 percent within her first 18 months, according to Mayor Bass' office. Under her leadership, the Long Beach adoption program grew from just more than 600 animals adopted per year in 2018 to nearly 2,000 last year.

Prior to her career at Long Beach, Staycee worked as the Animal Shelter Operations Manager for the City of San Jose, where she increased the lifesaving rate from 48 percent to 93 percent, according to the Mayor's Office.

The previous permanent General Manager of Animal Services, Dana Brown, left in February 2022 to become the General Manager of Personnel. Annette Ramirez served as Interim General Manager since that time.

The Club wishes a warm welcome to Staycee as she joins the City of LA! ●



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Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

London



Jean Sarfaty, Retired, LAPD, and her husband, Ron, visited London.

"London, United Kingdom, His Majesty's Theatre. We've seen *Phantom of the Opera* in Los Angeles and New York, and we finally made it to London! It was a fabulous trip, with so much to see and do. We took a private Black Cab tour and our driver was amazing! It takes three years of training for the drivers to have 'the knowledge.' We also took a Jack the Ripper tour, which was fascinating. We really loved London and hope to go back some day."

Namibia



Norman Faner, Retired, LADWP, and Florian Faner, Retired, General Services, visited Namibia.

Carlsbad



Shinetha Scott, LADOT, visited the Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch.

"This beautiful 55-acre park filled with different flowers can be seen only in the hills of North San Diego County. They are only in bloom for six to eight weeks each year from March to May."

Africa



Larry Campita, Retired, Controller's Office, visited Africa.

"It was not a vacation as it was an adventure at Kruger National Park Safari, South Africa, and a Victoria Falls hike and helicopter ride in Zimbabwe."

Letter From the Aegean, Pt. 1

Luxury Yachts, Hookahs and the Grand Bazaar



Entering Marmaris Turkey

If you're thinking of taking that dream vacation to a Greek island this summer but want more than a quick stop on a packed cruise ship to Mykonos to see sizeable middle age European gentlemen lying in the altogether on the beach or Santorini and have one of the donkeys or mules who are forced to serve as "taxis," haul you up the 500 hundred grueling steps to the town at the top, then why not try one of the other islands?

Like the Island Rhodes, with the oldest Medieval town in Europe, or Kos, famous for its endless sandy beaches. Symi has colorful neoclassical houses and an annual music festival; Chios has the only mastic trees in the world and a rich history dating back more than 8,000 years, while Samos is just a stone's throw from Turkey across the mile-wide Mycale Strait.

All this sounds fantastic, but even a romantic holiday on one of these islands needs more excitement and adventure. So, with the Turkish ports of Bodrum, Marmaris, Kusadasi, and Çeşme so close, why not catch a ferry and explore the mysterious east for a day or two?

When most people first think of Turkey, they picture the mosques and bazaars of Istanbul, but that's just scratching the surface of this fascinating country. One of the most beautiful places to visit in Turkey is its Aegean region, with its colorful history, ancient ruins and small seaside villages surrounded by beautiful beaches with crystal clear water. The

region has a unique blend of gastronomic dishes, balanced between East and West, from street food stalls to lavishly decorated restaurants.

For example, the ferry from the Greek island of Rhodes to the Turkish port of Marmaris is only a few hours' ride on a fast boat. Guarded by a small Crusader castle at the entrance to the port, it has the largest covered Grand Bazaar outside of Istanbul, which is excellent for shopping.

Make your reservation at least one day before your planned trip, as you can often get a same-day round-trip ticket for little more than the standard one-way fare. An open-date round-trip ticket allows you to choose your travel dates, and it's usually cheaper than two one-way fares.

Turks know Marmaris as Green Marmaris (Yeşil Marmaris) because of its pine and olive-clad mountains. This mountain range protects the harbor and gives ships anchored in the bay below excellent protection from prevailing weather. The port has always been popular with English sailors, dating back to 1798 when Lord Nelson and his motley crew used the port's Shisha bars to drink and smoke shisha tobacco from India while their ships were preparing to sail out to defeat Napoleon's fleet at the Battle of Abukir.

Today, sleek sailboats and powerboats crowd this modern marina and jostle for space ...

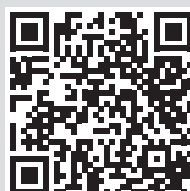
— The adventures of Michael Barnes continue on PAGE 25

Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor



Send in a travel picture holding Alive!



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



August
5th
2023




2023 LAFD and LAPD



**St. Baldrick's
FOUNDATION**

9:00am - 1:00pm at



**THE VINEYARDS
AT PORTER RANCH**
20065 W. Rinaldi St.
Porter Ranch, CA 91326

Shaving our heads to conquer childhood cancers!

- Free pancake & sausage breakfast
- Blood drive & bone marrow registration
- Facepaint/caricature artists & magicians
- Fire & police vehicles on display to explore
- Free kids' toys, live music, DJ, VIPs & more...

Register as a shavee or donate at
www.stbaldricks.org/events/lafdlapd
















For more info, contact LAPD Detective Nick Sinclair (619-602-3107) or LAFD Captain Danny Wu (626-590-6240).

New Marshal in Town

DEP. CHIEF ORIN
SAUNDERS NAMED
NEW FIRE MARSHAL.

Photo courtesy LAFD



Deputy Chief Orin Saunders

LAFD: With his promotion reported in last month's *Alive!*, Deputy Chief Orin Saunders is LA's new Fire Marshal.

Deputy Chief Saunders is a 21-year veteran of the LAFD. Before his selection as the Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal of the Fire Prevention and Public Safety Bureau (FPB), Chief Saunders executed day-to-day operations of the Industrial, Commercial, Public Safety, Legal, and Fire Development Services section by providing safety and accountability through effective leadership.

Before his assignment, Chief Saunders was responsible for training, emergency operations, community relations, and the administrative operations of Operations West Bureau as the Assistant Bureau Commander. His initial assignment as a Chief Officer included Battalions 17 and 18 and special duty as the Employee Relations Officer. Chief Saunders has held the ranks of Firefighter, Firefighter/Paramedic, Inspector I, Captain I, Captain II, Battalion Chief, and Assistant Chief.

Chief Saunders obtained a Master's degree in leadership and management from the University of La Verne; and a Bachelor's degree from USC. Chief Saunders is a current and past participant in the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Congratulations, Chief Saunders, and thank you for your service to the City of LA. ●

Welcome, Engineer Associates

SANITATION WELCOMES NEWEST CLASS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER ASSOCIATES.

PUBLIC WORKS: On June 7, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment officially welcomed the newest class of 32 environmental engineering associates. The event was held at the Public Works Building.

Managers and mentors encouraged the new hires to continue to learn and collaborate with one another to continue to protect public health and the environment. Lunch was provided by the SEIU Union (Local 721), and padfolios were given to each Associate who graduated with degrees in civil, chemical, and environmental engineering.

THE NEWEST ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES ARE:

Daniel Leon-Mendoza
Gabriel Angulo
Purvakumar Shah
Chareen Hsai
Nicholas Nuccio
Darian Doyle
Jorge Cortes
Carl Humphrey
Carolina Corona
Valeria Arteaga
Mitchell Miller
Paige Bistromowitz
Giselle Ramirez
Margarita Cruz
Jason Patrick Marcus Reid
Ivan Lawrence Arcilla

Moussa Sangare
Richard Tavalacci
Dean Taylor
Ricardo Flores
Vincent Chow
Austin Milo
Jocelyn Valencia
Annie Chen
Jose Velasquez
Ernest Tse
Luis Hernandez-Lovano
Mark Nguyen
Ana Rivera
Olivia Chamu
Wilmer Cuc
Talar Galoustian

Story and photos courtesy Pamela Perez, Sanitation and Environment



Doug Walters, Chief Sustainability Officer and Chief Resiliency Officer (front left) and Robert Potter, Assistant Director, Solid Resources (back right) welcome Sanitation's newest group of Environmental Engineering Associates.



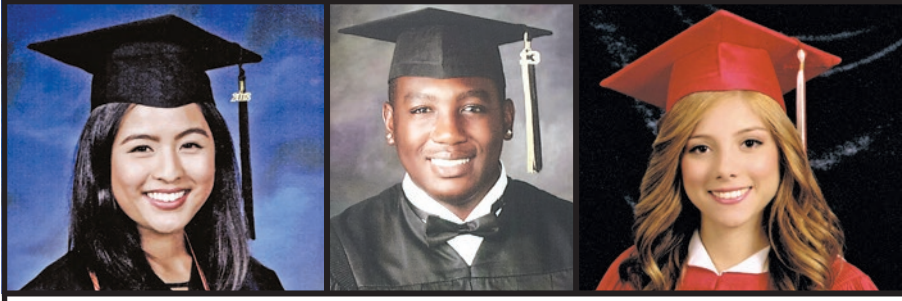
Robert Potter, Assistant Director, Solid Resources.



Doug Walters, Chief Sustainability Officer and Chief Resiliency Officer.

THANK YOU! The Club thanks Pamela Perez and Doug Walters for providing the information, and for training the newest Engineer Associates for the critical work of sustainability. LA's future is in good hands!





Put your graduation photo in *Alive!*

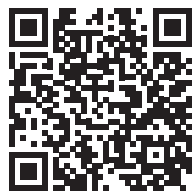
Club members: Have you had a family member graduate from elementary school... high school...or college? Send us a photo, and we'll publish it in *Alive!*

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

The Sanitation Season

WE LOOK BACK AT THE SANITATION OPEN HOUSES FOR 2023.

PUBLIC WORKS: Public Works/Sanitation and Environment just completed another successful season of six open houses!

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 featured trash truck and equipment demonstrations in addition to facility tours, information booths, recycling games and refreshments.

Admission to the Open Houses was free.

Well done, Sanitation! See you next year ●



Scenes from Sanitation's Open Houses during 2023.



Retirees Seminar Educates, Honors

CLUB HOSTS SECOND SEMINAR AND GROUP RETIREMENT PLAQUE PRESENTATION.

THE CLUB: The Club held its second Retiree insurance seminar and retirement plaque presentation Monday, June 12 at the California Endowment Center in downtown Los Angeles.

The event was hosted by Club CEO Robert Larios. Club Counselor Cheryl Martin presented an informational seminar for Retirees and nearly Retirees to learn about Long-Term Care and how to insure against retirement's financial challenges.

As part of the seminar, 18 Club Members who had retired recently were honored with Club Retirement Plaques.

To receive a Club Retirement Plaque and be honored for your career, apply here (Members must have at least five years of Club Membership to apply):

<https://alive.employeesclub.com/retirement-plaque/> ●



Mike D. Story, LAPD, 33 years of City service. Mike retired in 2021.



S. Grant Lewis, LADWP, 33 years of City service. Grant retired in 2020.



Jordan P. Siplon, Public Works/Sanitation, 31 years of City service. Jordan retired in 2013.



Angela Cleitt, Airports, 29 years of City service. Angela retired in 2019.



Stanley C. Young, LAPD, 30 years of City service. Stanley retired in 2023.



James M. Grant, LAPD, 30 years of City service. James retired in 2015.



Richard Worne, Public Works/Sanitation, 27 years of City service. Richard retired in 2016.



Hans Duran, Public Works/Street Services, 27 years of City service. Hans retired in 2023.



Firefighter Dimitrius Joseph Lynch, LAFD, 37 years of City service. Dimitrius expects to retire in 2024.



Adria D. Williams, Airports, 33 years of City service. Adria retired in 2023.



Allen Gordon, Public Works/Sanitation, 36 years of City service. Allen retired in 2023.



Jerry Ragland, Rec and Parks, 25 years of City service. Jerry retired in 2010.



Betty J. Blevins, Public Works/Engineering, 45 years of City service. Betty retired in 2021.



Scott M. Briasco, LADWP, 38 years of City service. Scott retired in 2023.



Jimmy C. Hughes Sr., General Services, 33 years of City service. Jimmy retired in 2021.



David B. Siewert, LADWP, 42 years of City service. David retired in 2023.



Firefighter Cynthia A. Josselyn, LAFD, 36 years of City service. Cynthia retired in 2023.

LAFCU Announces 2024 Board Elections

CREDIT UNION SETS UP LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS.

LAFCU: The Los Angeles Federal Credit Union (LAFCU) is now accepting candidates for its board for 2024.

Those interested in being considered for a nomination to the Board of Directors at LAFCU or an appointment to a Board committee starting in 2024 (and you are an eligible LAFCU member), may send a resume of your qualifications to LAFCU so it's postmarked by Aug. 25, 2023 to:

LAFCU Nominating Committee
c/o Richard Lie, President/CEO
P.O. Box 53032
Los Angeles, CA 90053



Those not nominated for a Board position who wish to run by petition may call the office of LAFCU's President/CEO at (877) 695-2328, ext. 6309, and arrange to pick up a petition and election packet from 10/2/23 to 11/9/23.

Each petitioner needs to collect at least 500 signatures (either on paper OR via a free, secure online petition website provided by LAFCU) from eligible LAFCU members, and the original, completed petitions and election packet (which must include a statement of qualifications in the proper format) must be returned to one of LAFCU's branches by 4 p.m. PST Nov. 9, 2023. Since possibly not all signatures will be deemed valid/verified by LAFCU's Supervisory Committee and/or an outside company, each petitioner is advised to gather 25 percent more signatures (like 625-plus). Filled-out petitions will be reviewed by LAFCU between Nov. 15, 2023 to Nov. 22, 2023. If at least one petitioner is deemed to have enough valid signatures to run against at least one incumbent, then ballots for the 2024 Board of Directors' election will be mailed to eligible LAFCU members on Jan. 26, 2024.

The election results will be announced at LAFCU's Annual Meeting on March 26, 2024 at 4 p.m. at LAFCU's Glendale corporate office and/or via a live video conference. No nominations are allowed from the floor from anyone attending, watching, or listening to the annual meeting. Each Board committee position will be appointed by the Board of Directors.

To be eligible for consideration to be appointed or voted onto the LAFCU Board, candidates must:

- Have \$5 or more in an open LAFCU Share Savings account, be a LAFCU "Primary" account holder, and be age 16 or over.
- Be bondable through LAFCU's bond (insurance) provider.
- Not have caused a financial loss to LAFCU.
- Not have been convicted of a felony or any criminal offense involving dishonesty or breach of fiduciary duty/trust.

Voting for LAFCU Board members is one of the privileges of being a member. If there is an election, paper ballots are mailed to members via the U.S. Postal Service that includes an option to alternatively vote online. You are eligible to sign petitions and/or vote if by Oct. 1, 2023 (petitions), or by Dec. 31, 2023 (vote), you:

- Have \$5 or more in an open LAFCU Share Savings account, are a LAFCU "Primary" account holder, and are age 16 or over. If you only have a Joint account and want to sign a petition and/or vote, you must open a separate Primary account.
- Have a current address on file with LAFCU (make sure the address is accurate inside online banking, or call us).
- Or have a business account with LAFCU, and the account has a person's name associated with it as an "authorized signer."

The Board of Directors has the ultimate responsibility for the direction, operation, safety and soundness of LAFCU. The Board ensures that this responsibility is met by setting credit union policy and governing this policy through credit union management. ●

Two in a Day!

CLUB MOBILE: On June 14, #ClubMobile had a busy day. First, the team was delighted to finally serve LACERS' new headquarters and visit with Club Members Tiffany Obembe, Heather Ramirez and Tameda Larios, among many others.

Then, in the afternoon, they visited the LADWP Main Street Yard, bringing customized gear, ticket deals and insurance services.

#ClubMobile is picking up steam!

Supervisors: Build morale for your team, and bring #ClubMobile to your worksite! Contact Guadalupe Lira, Retail Operations Manager: glira@employeesclub.com ●



#ClubMobile visits the new LACERS headquarters, 977 N. Broadway in Chinatown, from left: Lupe Lira, Dylan Herrero and Noah Hawkins; and LACERS employees and Club Members Tiffany Obembe, Heather Ramirez and Tameda Larios.



The Club Team visits LADWP's Main Street Yard, from left: Cynthia Ha, Dylan Herrero, Rebecca DeBolt, Eddie Escalona, Dylan Noel, Lupe Lira and DeAngelo Thompson.

Larios In the City

By Robert Larios, Chief Executive Officer



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



Clarence Young

Public Works/Street Services, Retired after 30 years of City service.

(Clarence retired Feb. 13, 2013.)

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.)
 * \$499 value!

Get started here:



At the Council Meeting April 11 honoring Dispatchers were (from left) PSR II Lillian Serrato, PSR II Katie Avlas, Commander Victor Davalos (back), PSR II Brandi Holley, Sr. PSR. Maria Moreno, Chief Dominic Choi, PSR III Guadalupe De La Cruz, Councilwoman Traci Park, PSR III Chance Chavez (back), Sr. PSR I Maria Ramos, Capt. Alejandro Vargas (back), Sr. PSR I Naila Hay, Sr. PSR II Deborah Ramsey, Sr. PSR I Steven McKeehan, and unknown.

Photos courtesy PSR II Brandi Holley and PSR II Katie Avlas

Thanks, Dispatchers!

SAFETY AGENCIES HOST LOCAL CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL DISPATCHERS WEEK.

LAPD, HARBOR, LAFD: The LAPD celebrated National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week – popularly known as National Dispatchers Week – April 10-14, honoring its dispatchers with ceremonies and honors.

In 1992, President George H. Bush established National Dispatchers' Week to honor police dispatchers for providing vital emergency services to their community nationwide. The LAPD has been celebrating it ever since.

Honors for employees of the year and pins for service were distributed. Photos below picture the festivities at the Metro Communications Center. ●



Metro Center added a Kentucky Derby theme to the special day. PSR II Laronda Humphrey (left) was the Day Watch winner of the Kentucky Derby hat contest. She's pictured with PSR III Mark Holmes and PSR III Kimberly Fairfax.

THANK YOU!

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



Chief Michel Moore and Capt. Alejandro Vargas honor PSR II Eleitino Tuiasosopo, Police Service Representative II of the Year.



Chief Michel Moore and Capt. Alejandro Vargas honor Sr. PSR I Naila Hay as Supervisor of the Year.



Several Dispatchers attended the City Council meeting April 11 to honor Dispatchers. From left: Katie Avlas Guadalupe De La Cruz, Maria Moreno, Brandi Holley, Chance Chavez (back), Councilman Tim McOsker, Sr. PSR I Naila Hay, Capt. Alejandro Vargas, Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez, Sr. PSR II Deborah Ramsey, Sr. PSR I Steven McKeehan, and Sr. PSR I Maria Ramos.



RLACEI *ALIVE! FEATURE*



50 YEARS Is Just the Beginning

*By Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director
Photos by Alive! and RLACEI*

Retirees association celebrates golden anniversary with grand ceremony, and a commitment to continue its strong support of City Retirees.



On June 8, the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. celebrated its past, toasted its present, and pledged to its future of advocacy for Retired City employees.

All of that happened at a grand 50th anniversary celebration of the Retirees association RLACEI, hosted by the RLACEI Board and held at Stevens Steak and Seafood House in Commerce.

More than 150 RLACEI members attended.

Ruth Perry, RLACEI President, welcomed guests and told of the history and future of the organization. RLACEI Board members spoke about different aspects of the association, and talked about the state of LA 50 years ago. on its anniversary; and LACERS Commissioners delivered a letter of congratulations and pledged a future of working together.

President Ruth Perry provided the audience with a history of RLACEI, its accomplishments and goals for the future. LACERS Commissioners Annie Chao, Thuy Huynh and Mike Wilkinson presented the Board with a certificate of accomplishment.

Dale Wong-Nguyen, LACERS Assistant General Manager, congratulated RLACEI.

Club CEO Robert Larios spoke to attendees about the strong commitment to City Retirees that the Club shares with RLACEI, and shared lessons he has learned about leadership.

Club CEO Robert Larios with RLACEI President Ruth Perry (left) and Vice President Beverly Clark.



Los Angeles Federal Credit Union Sr. Business Development/Social Media Coordinator Robert Aguirre spoke on the long history the credit union has had with RLACEI.

Also in attendance were Retired LACERS General Manager and past RLACEI Director Jerry Bardwell; and Christine Stemnock, widow of Tom Stemnock, RLACEI Golf Committee chair for many years.

The Club was well represented by Club Director of Sales Noelle Kauffman, Member Services Counselor Cynthia Ha, Retail Operations Manager Lupe Lira and Mobile Operations Representative DeAngelo Thompson. *Alive!* editor John Burnes and Club social media manager Dearbhla McNulty also attended.

American Sign Language interpreter Natalie Westfall assisted with signing for Retiree Becky Bookman and others.

A delicious meal of steak, chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetables and cheesecake was served.

A special cake decorated to commemorate 50 years was also served. Attendees danced to music from a live DJ and had the party pics taken at a photo booth to memorialize the date. Prizes were raffled; games were played, and each attendee received a commemorative glass in recognition of the event.

RLACEI extends its special thanks to all the Board members and especially to the Entertainment Committee and its chair, Elizabeth Torres, for the beautiful decorations and centerpieces.

Since its inception, it has been the goal and responsibility of each Board member to ensure that City Retirees are well represented, and benefits are maintained. In the words of the current Board, this is why they serve and are proud to join in celebrating 50 years of service to fellow retirees.

In this story, read the proclamations delivered, and relive the party by enjoying the photos of many of those who attended. ●



Mission Reflection

In honor of RLACEI's 50th anniversary, current

Ruth B. Perry, RLACEI President

After a long and prestigious Harding passed the helm to R president effective January 2019.

"It is with a humble heart and an e began my tenure as RLACEI President my fellow Directors. The RLACEI Board ble for the budget, contracts, projects of Retirees, and the Directors are the policy and all other matters relating to

"While not everyone is ab ing as a Director, we enc an opportunity to meet t serve the best interests whole. Join us at sponso events to inform us of yo and otherwise, regardin and interests. Visit our W



From left: Linda Brown, Retired, Harbor, 32 years of City service; Lulu Kabling, Retired, Finance, 30 years; Lou Quan, Retired, Housing, 30 years; Anita Cormier, Retired, Airports, 40 years; and Pamela Cruz, Retired, Airports, 32 years.



The 50th anniversary cake was a highlight of the event.



Front, from left: Sherrilynn Floyd-Henry, Retired, LADOT, 32 years of City service; and Linda Browne-Ransom, Retired, LADOT, 39 years. Back: Susan Preuitt, Retired, LADOT/LADWP, 33 years; Della Lyde, Retired, LADOT, 34 years; Ira Starks, Retired, LADOT, 20 years; and Cynthia Jackson, Retired, LADOT, 23 years.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



RLACEI President Ruth Perry and Club CEO Robert Larios.



From left: Vonda Harvey-Smith and Rhonda Brown.



LACERS Commissioners Annie Chao, Thuy T. Huynh and Mike Wilkinson (toward the right) presented a letter of congratulations to Ruth Perry, RLACEI President, at the anniversary luncheon. Pictured are RLACEI Board Members Beverly J. Clark (Vice President), Mark Blunk, Lucy Artinian, Vicki Keoseian, Ann Seales, Tom Moutes, Beverly Anderson, Elizabeth Torres and Nancy Hammoudian.



Jerry Bardwell, past LACERS General Manager and RLACEI Director.



Ann Seales, Retired, LACERS, 28 years of City service, and RLACEI board member.

Thanks From the Board

The RLACEI Board of Directors wishes to thank each of you who participated in our celebration, those who wanted to but were not able to participate and to those who continue to support the Board and fellow employees.



From left: Terry and Edward Piña, both Retired from General Services, 16 and 35 years of City service; David Hernandez, Retired, LADWP, 39 years, with his wife, Donna; Gloria Hinojosa, Retired, LAFD, 31 years; and Simone McDade, LAPD, 34 years.



Club CEO Robert Larios spoke to the guests about the value of supporting City employees and Retirees that the Club shares with the RLACEI.

See All the Photo Booth Photos!

All photos taken at the photo booth can be accessed at the RLACEI website: www.RLACEI.org



The RLACEI Board had fun in the photo booth. See all the photo booth photos on the RLACEI's Facebook page!

THANK YOU! The Club thanks Ruth Perry, Beverly Clark and the entire RLACEI board for their invitation to attend and participate in the celebration; and we congratulate the association for its continued hard work and commitment to taking care of City Retirees. It is a noble and important mission, and we honor you for making LA the great City it is. Congratulations!

ons

board members shared their mission of serving Retired City employees.

– CONTINUES PAGE 13

Beverly J. Clark, First Vice President and Publicity Director

"I have been an RLACEI Board member since April 2018. My vision as a Board member is to assist the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement community in staying connected, staying involved, and staying physically and financially healthy. My goal as a Board member is to keep the Retired community informed of their benefits, ensure that benefits are maintained and to continue to research options to enhance benefits."

"I joined RLACEI because I felt that, with the 32 years of experience and knowledge I gained during my career, I am well equipped to assist fellow Retirees with their retirement needs."

Mark Blunk, Second Vice President and Audit Director

Mark's years with LACERS involved serving members and dealing with members' issues through staff and hands-on assistance. Mark says his "time spent serving active and retired City employees has always been and remains some

of the most rewarding experiences of my career. My hope is to help serve Retirees again as a Director with RLACEI."

Lucy Artinian, Treasurer

"I joined RLACEI because I felt that, with the 37 years of experience and knowledge I gained during my career, I am well equipped to assist fellow Retirees with their retirement needs."

Nancy Hammoudian, Secretary

"I joined the RLACEI board to help protect Retiree benefits, and I am enthusiastic that the RLACEI organization brings Retirees together for various events. Although I've been Retired for quite a few years, I have remained friends with several of my City co-workers."

Vicki Keoseian, Director

Vicki joined the Board to help ensure all LA City employee Retirees benefits are safe.

ent

tenure as president, Ed Ruth Perry. Ruth became

enthusiastic outlook that I in the good company of of Directors is responsi-, etc., for our community final decision-makers on to our organization.

ple or interested in serv-ourage everyone to take those individuals who will of our membership as a orred RLACEI and LACERS ur thoughts, suggestions, g your pension benefits ebsite at RLACEI.org."



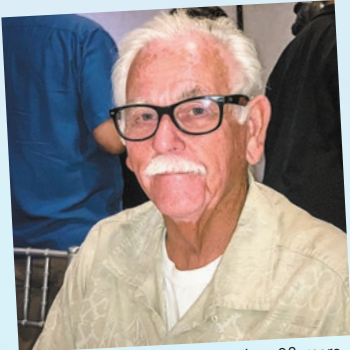
RLACEI Director (and *Alive!* columnist) Tom Moutes, with Christine Sternnock, widow of former RLACEI Director Tom Sternnock.



From left: Marvin and Florita Avila, Retired, Economic/Workforce Development, 27 years of City service; and Rowena Workman, Economic/Workforce Development, 31 years.



RLACEI Elected Commissioner Mike Wilkinson (left) and Club CEO Robert Larios.



Calvin Oglesby, Retired, Housing, 38 years of City service.



Tracy Beverly, Retired, LAPD, 28 years of City service.



Thomas Boyd.



From left: Verdel Hopkins, guest; Patricia Taylor, Retired, Personnel, 39 years of City service; Susie Golden, guest; and Bea Smalls, Retired, Personnel, 36 years.

RLACEI 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Shirley Tan, Retired, Controller's Office, 33 years of City service, with her husband, Richard Tan, Retired, MLK Hospital, Los Angeles County.



At the RLACEI 50th anniversary luncheon, held June 8 at Stevens Steakhouse in Commerce.



Luis Carlos, Retired, LADWP, 30 years of City service, with his wife, Ana Maria.



Sylvia Whelan, Retired, Fire and Police Pensions, 37 years of City service, with her husband, Rich.

'Let as many other fellow Retirees know how important this organization's future is for us all now, 50 years from now, and beyond.'

— **Ruth Perry, RLACEI President**



Dodie and Irene Muñoz. Both are Retired, ITA, with 35 years of City service.



From left: Susan Asuncion, Retired, Personnel, 36 years of City service; Lou Quan, Retired, Housing, 30 years; and Rowena Workman, Retired, Economic/Workforce Development, 31 years.



Front: Yvonne Torres. Top, from left: Celeste Torres; Elizabeth Torres, Retired, LACERS (and RLACEI board member); and Club CEO Robert Larios.



DJ Daryl Lewis.



Becky Bookman, Retired, LADOT, 39 years of City service (right) with interpreter Natalie Westfair.



An unidentified couple enjoying the party.



Club CEO Robert Larios with RLACEI President Ruth Perry (left) and RLACEI Vice President Beverly Clark.

WELCOME FROM RLACEI

RLACEI President Ruth Perry welcomed attendees to the 50th anniversary celebration for the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Incorporated (RLACEI). She presented the following:



RLACEI was incorporated on Sept. 18, 1973, by an ambitious group of City of Los Angeles Retirees whose primary purpose was the protection and preservation of our retirement benefits and communication with Retired City employees. This group was led by George Zakaryan, serving as President; Samuel Bornstein, serving as Secretary; and by Winston Roche, Gladys Kitchen, Richard Bonner, Nathan Levy, Thomas Kendrick, John Tully Jr., and Charles Walbridge.

Just shy of six years later, in March 1979, RLACEI President June Grose, along with fellow Board members Aaron Davis, Nathan Levy, Florence Burrows and Sam Weiss, filed for 501(c)(4) exemption and obtained nonprofit status for the organization, which is still maintained to date. Sadly, none of these pioneers are with us today to share in this celebration.

Over the last 50 years, RLACEI has taken great strides in monitoring changes in pension legislation, keeping our members up to date on pertinent pension matters, and maintaining camaraderie among fellow retirees by hosting various social events throughout the year.



Ruth Perry, RLACEI President, welcomes the guests.

From 1994 to 2017, RLACEI President Edward Harding led the organization to increase, maintain and/or enhance benefits, such as the annual cost of living adjustment, urging the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) Board members to consider coverages for hearing aids and eyeglasses, and to include a health subsidy to include Retirees, their dependents and their surviving spouse or domestic partner. A partnership with the Los Angeles City Employees Association, also known as the Employees Club of California, was established to provide additional opportunities for quality insurance products and a variety of discounts for travel, hotels and family entertainment. In addition, more than 20 years ago, the summer picnic, holiday party and particularly the golf tournament organized by Tom Sternock, became annual events, which we hope will continue to occur for many years to come.

Many fellow City Retirees have held positions on the RLACEI Board over the last 50 years; they, along with Ed Harding,

ALIVE! FEATURE



Americo Garza, Gary Mattingly, Phil Orland, Neil Ricci, Phil Skarin, Ken Spiker and Tom Sternock, are no longer around to see how their past efforts still drive us to keep their legacy growing.

Our future advocacy includes maintaining watch on LACERS investments to ensure our plan stays whole and healthy. We will make public comments wherever and whenever necessary, when we support or oppose important issues affecting our health and dental plans, and other benefits. We will continue to champion for participation and encourage involvement from our fellow Retirees on matters that impact us all. We will make every attempt possible to change legislation regarding Medicare and Social Security for the future financial security of all Retirees, not just RLACEI members. And of course, we hope to continue our partnership with the Employees Club of California and keep in close contact with LACERS staff to ensure a mutual concern and responsibility for our shared members.

So much more can be said about this organization, but in closing, we ask for your support and commitment to get involved, stay involved, and encourage others to do the same. This organization is only as strong and as loud as our members join in with us to be. There is strength in numbers. Let as many other fellow Retirees know how important this organization's future is for us all now, 50 years from now, and beyond.

The Board wishes to thank all who joined us in commemorating RLACEI's 50 years of achievements. ●

2006: RLACEI joins The Club

RLACEI in Alive!

Since its inception, the Club has been committed to RLACEI and City Retirees. Content began in the second issue of *Alive!* in 2002, and increased when RLACEI became Club Members in 2006. We love covering your news!



2006



2003



2014

CONGRATULATIONS FROM LACERS

Congratulations on your 50th anniversary!

On behalf of the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) Board of Administration and the LACERS Executive Team, we congratulate the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) on 50 years of providing dedicated service to the Retirees of the City of Los Angeles and to the years of partnership with LACERS. Your advocacy and diligence to advance the health, wellness, and retirement security to the tens of thousands of members and beneficiaries of the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System is recognized and commended by all.



You have diligently served LACERS retirees by providing education to members, and promotion of the common welfare, looking to advocate better outcomes, assure benefits, and create a support system for our retired members by providing a community that exemplifies the LACERS Guiding Principles, including professionalism, kindness, and respect.

We recognize and commend you for the more than 50 years of exemplary service to our retired members and their families. And are excited to continue the positive and productive relationship well into the future.

On behalf of the LACERS Board of Administration and the LACERS Executive Team, we congratulate you on your long-standing achievements and wish you continuing success. ●

Neil Guglielmo
General Manager

Michael R. Wilkinson
Commissioner,
Retired Elected Representative

Todd Bouey
Executive Officer

Annie Chao
Commissioner,
Active Elected Representative

Dale Wong-Nguyen
Assistant General Manager

Thuy T. Huynh
Commissioner, Appointed
Representative

Rodney June
Chief Investment Officer

Mission Reflections – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

In honor of RLACEI's 50th anniversary, current board members shared their mission of serving Retired City employees.

Beverly Anderson, Nominations Committee Chair

RLACEI's purpose "... to promote the common welfare, the improvement of benefits, provide the means of communicating the policies of the retired Los Angeles City employees, to the retired City employees and their spouses ..." is why she joined the RLACEI Board. She feels she can still make a difference and advocate for the needs of Retirees and their spouses. Being a member of RLACEI and attending its events has kept her in touch with many other Retirees.

Tom Moutes, Director

Tom retired from the City in 2018 as the General Manager of LACERS. He previously held positions as Assistant General Manager and Chief Management Analyst. Tom brings a wealth of experience and firsthand knowledge to the Board.

Ann Seales, Membership Director

"I ended my City career at LACERS managing the Member Support Section of the Retirement Services Division. My passion for all things retirement is what makes being a part of RLACEI exciting. To be able to share with members and potential members the importance of being proactive in our benefits is a challenge I look forward to and hope to serve with the same enthusiasm that I brought as an active employee."

Elizabeth Torres, Entertainment Committee Chair

Liz reflects, "Retirement is a whole new life! Because of COVID, retirement wasn't what I expected – no celebrations, get-togethers or traveling. Joining RLACEI was not only one more venture to keep busy, but as a Retiree, it's important to keep informed of possible changes that can impact our retirement benefits. An added plus is that I'm getting to meet my fellow Retirees."

The *Alive!* Kids' Coloring Contest with **Coloring The Club**

Deadline for submission:

Aug. 10, 2023

Compiled by:



Guadalupe Lira,
Retail Operations Manager



DeAngelo Thompson,
Mobile Operations Rep

Mail completed coloring art to:

Club Coloring Contest
Employees Club of California
311 Spring St., Suite 1300
Los Angeles, CA 90013

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

Print and Online Schedule

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

In the printed *Alive!*:

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

In the online edition of *Alive!*:

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



SCAN TO
DOWNLOAD ART



Download Coloring Art From the Web

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

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

Your name _____ How old are you? _____

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

What is your favorite snack? _____

What is your favorite television show? _____

Why do you want to go to the Knott's Berry Farm? _____

For parents/guardian to complete:

Name of parent/guardian: _____

Job title and department with the City: _____

Parent/guardian phone number: _____

Child's address/city/zip: _____

Club Membership number: _____



Coloring with The Club

Natalie Draws a Winner

Natalie's winning entry.



COLORING
CONTEST WINNER
NATALIE
ENJOYS HER
PRIZE.

THE CLUB: Natalie Lechuga, 7, won her age category in last month's kids coloring contest. She was quick to take her family to the San Diego Zoo, and it was all on her! Natalie is the granddaughter of Jose Chavarria, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment. Well done, Natalie!

TO OUR ALIVE! READERS: Our next children's coloring contest is posted in this issue (page 16) and online, with a deadline of Aug. 10.



Enjoying her prize – free tickets to the San Diego Zoo – is Natalie Lechuga (right) and her sister, Leyla.

Rachel the Humanitarian

RACHEL PLACENSIA AWARDED DEPT.'S HUMANITARIAN HONOR.

LAPD: Congratulations to PSR III Rachel Placensia, who received the LAPD's Lt. Charles Mealey Humanitarian Award for her commitment every day to serving others. She won the award for 2021 but was only just given the certificate due to a pandemic delay; Chief Michel Moore presented the award to her at Metro Communications Center in March.

Rachel was also named the First Responder of the Year in 2021 for Metro Center during National Dispatchers Week that year.

The Club says well done, Rachel, for receiving this award, and thank you for all your service to the department, the City and other people. ●



PSR III Rachel Placensia and Chief Michel Moore.

Get Fired Up
with free shipping plus up to
10% off Omaha Steaks!
Go to:
employeesclub.com

St. Baldrick's
Sat., Aug. 5
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Shave the Date

ST. BALDRICK'S FUNDRAISER IS BACK!

LAPD/LAFD: The St. Baldrick's head-shave event – a fundraiser managed by members of the LAPD and LAFD – returns for its second year in person after a pandemic hiatus.

St. Baldrick's invites to people to have their heads shaved bald, and to raise sponsors for their endeavor. The event raises funds nationally to fight childhood cancers.

The 21st annual LAPD/LAFD event has been scheduled for 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5 at The Vineyards at Porter Ranch, 20065 Rinaldi St. The event includes a free breakfast, face-painting and rides for the family, live music, and more.

To register as a shave-ee or donor, go to: www.stbaldricks.org/events/lafdlapd

Councilmember John Lee and the Council District 12 office sponsored the event. This is the 21st annual local event; original Co-Organizers were Retired LAFD Capt. Waldie Brangham and Retired LAPD Lt. Greg Doyle. The 2023 event co-organizers are once again LAFD Capt. Danny Wu, Club Board Member, who took over in 2007, and LAPD Det. Nick Sinclair, who took over in 2015.

Local organizers say they have raised more than \$1 million over the previous 20 years. The local event is part of the nationwide St. Baldrick's Foundation. The Club has been an official sponsor annually.

For further information on local interest, please contact LAPD Det. Nick Sinclair: 35147@lapd.online or LAFD Capt. Danny Wu, (626) 590-6240. ●



From left: Co-Organizer LAPD Det. Nick Sinclair, 15 years of City service, Club Member; Retired LAPD Lt. Greg Doyle and former Co-Organizer; and Co-Organizer LAFD Capt. Danny Wu, Club Board Member.

A Ten-Year Tail

Story and photos courtesy Airports

LAX PUPS PROGRAM CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY.

AIRPORTS: Just in time for summer holiday travel, the LAX Pets Unstressing Passengers (PUPS) held a paw-tty May 10 to celebrate the program's tenth anniversary. A pup parade and special giveaways for passengers marked the day.

The celebration took place in Terminal 1 in partnership with Southwest Airlines.

The LAX PUPS program is a division of LAX Guest Services and began in April 2013 to enhance the passenger experience at the airport. The program has served as a model for more than 90 airports which have started similar programs nationally and internationally.

The program launched with 30 therapy dogs ten years ago. To date, the program has grown to 80 canine participants and handlers who volunteer their time to meet and greet passengers in every LAX terminal and help relieve some of the stress and anxiety that is often associated with flying.

Dogs of all sizes and breeds are welcome to apply to join the program as long as the animals and handlers meet the program's requirements, including serving at least one year with a recognized pet therapy organization. All the dogs are privately owned, and the majority come from local shelters or rescue groups. ●



At the PUPS program's tenth anniversary celebration May 10 in Terminal 1.



Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.



RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

CONTACT INFORMATION

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ruth B. Perry

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

2023 Executive Board of Directors

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

RLACEI DIRECTORS

Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

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

RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:

(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0

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

RLACEI WEBSITE

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

MAILING ADDRESS:

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.
Terminal Annex
P.O. Box 86264
Los Angeles, CA 90086

Change of Address?

Please notify Ann Seales, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 706 or Ann.Seales@RLACEI.org for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFUCU as applicable.



RLACEI 2023 Annual Picnic

Open to Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. members only.

Join today!

(To join RLACEI, call (800) 678-4145 EXT. 717)

Thursday, September 14, 2023

11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Friendship Auditorium • 3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



RSVP to (800) 678-4145 EXT. 701 no later than September 1, 2023.

RLACEI member plus one (1) guest at no cost.
No additional guests allowed at this time.

We look forward to seeing you!

RLACEI Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Number of Attendees _____

Email to Contact@RLACEI.org or mail to RLACEI, P.O. Box 86264, Los Angeles, CA 90086

****Limited to first 100 RSVPs—Free Mask to those in attendance—Only RLACEI members will be eligible to win prizes.****



Beverly J. Clark

Send in your Interesting News Contributions!

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

RETIREE EVENTS

Sept. 14 Annual Picnic
Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Dr.
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

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

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

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!

Looking for a Board Member With Computer Skills



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

For more information on this position contact: Beverly Anderson at:
Phone: (800) 678-4145 ext. 702
Email: Beverly.Anderson@RLACEI.org



RLACEI MEMBERS Not an RLACEI member?

Join and like us on FACEBOOK

Call (800) 678-4145 x717 or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG



Last year's Lotus Festival featured the culture of India.

Photos by JuanCarlos Chan, Rec and Parks

Lotus Festival Blooms Again

Lotus Festival
July 15-16
Echo Park Lake

POPULAR SUMMER FESTIVAL RETURNS IN PERSON FOR 42ND YEAR.

REC AND PARKS: The Lotus Festival in its second year after a pandemic hiatus, returns and will honor and showcase the people and culture of Indonesia. The Lotus Festival originated in 1972 and is one of the City's largest festivals and a celebration to promote awareness and understanding of the contributions by the Asian and Pacific Islander people to our culture and to the local and surrounding communities.

The festival is a major yearly Rec and Parks event, and many other City departments take part.

The 42nd Lotus Festival is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, July 15-16 at Echo Park Lake.

The annual festival coincides with the traditional blooming of the lotus flower, which symbolizes rebirth. A variety of entertainment, Asian food and drinks, booths, artwork, handmade crafts, an eco-friendly area, a children's courtyard, and other activities. The event will also bring back the widely popular Dragon Boat Races with teams of people paddling across Echo Park Lake.

Admission to the festival is free, but there are fees for food, craft items, clothing and other merchandise. The opening ceremony commences at noon July 15 and will feature entertainment, including performers complete with their vibrant colors, beauty, and pageantry. Limited shuttle services and sign language interpreters are also provided at no charge.

Normally the festival attracts an estimated 100,000 people.

Echo Park Lake is located along Glendale Boulevard, south of Sunset Boulevard.

For more information, follow @LotusFestivalLA on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. ●



From previous Lotus Festivals.



Marc and Pam Perez, holding children Houston and Savannah, at Savannah's adoption.

From Foster to Parent

PAM PEREZ GOES FROM FOSTER PARENT TO ADOPTER.

PUBLIC WORKS Congratulations to Pam Perez, Marketing Manager, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment, and her husband, Marc, on the adoption of their second child and first daughter, Savannah. Their first adopted child is Savannah's older brother, Houston, adopted in 2021.

Pam and Marc are laudable in their incredible commitment to infants in need. Since 2017, Pam has cared for 14 newborn babies in foster care and successfully helped 12 of them reunify with their families by teaching parental skills, providing resources and obtaining baby essentials for their homes.

Pam is now giving back to the foster community by serving as Board president for the nonprofit group, Fostering UNITY, which builds better tomorrows for children in out-of-home placements through direct caregiver support and family strengthening.

Members who are interested in more information on the LA-based Fostering UNITY or making a donation can go here: Fosteringunity.org

Congratulations to Pam and Marc on their adoption and their commitment to serving the most vulnerable. ●



FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS

LACERS is Open at its New Headquarters

As you have read in last month's cover story, LACERS recently moved to its state-of-the-art building in Chinatown. LACERS is once again able to assist active and retired members with their retirement needs in-person from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. No appointments are needed. Visit lacers.org/contact-us to learn more about the building at 977 N. Broadway.

Please note: A current government-issued photo identification or City employee badge is required to enter the building except when attending public meetings of the LACERS Board of Administration. Also, parking is not available at the building.

Paid parking lots, public transit, and street parking are available nearby.

Additionally, *online options* will continue to be available.

- Use the LACERS' Secure Document Upload found at lacers.org/secure-document-upload to submit forms or required documents
- Visit the LACERS website at LACERS.org to obtain benefits information; log onto your MyLACERS account at <https://mylacers.lacers.org> to view your account details; and
- Visit the found LACERS' YouTube channel at youtube.com/lacersyoutube where you can find a wealth of benefits videos.

Stay up to date on LACERS announcements by checking the website periodically at LACERS.org, contacting by email at lacers.services@lacers.org, and by phone at (800) 779-8328.

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

Cost of Living Adjustment Is Effective July 1

The LACERS Board of Administration has approved the maximum allowable Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for eligible LACERS Retired Members and Beneficiaries at 3.0 percent for Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced Members, and 2.0 percent for Tier 3 Members.

The COLA is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the Los Angeles area, which has been determined to be 7.4 percent for 2023. The maximum COLA is set by the City of Los Angeles Administrative Code at 3.0 percent for Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced Members, and is set at 2.0 percent for Tier 3 Members. Tier 1 Retirees who have been retired for a full year or more will receive a 3.0 percent increase. The remaining 4.4 percent will be banked and applied in the future when the COLA is less than 3.0 percent.

According to LAAC § 4.1080.17, the Tier 3 COLA benefit is capped at 2.0 percent, and there is no banked benefit. Therefore, Tier 3 retirees will receive a COLA of 2.0 percent.

All Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced members who retired after June 30, 2022, will receive a COLA of 1/12th of the 3.0 percent for each full month of retirement completed by June 30, 2023. Similarly, all Tier 3 Members who retired after June 30, 2022, will receive a COLA of 1/12th of the 2.0 percent for each full month completed by June 30, 2023. The COLA will be included in all eligible Retired Members' and Beneficiaries' July 31, 2023, printed check or direct deposit.

Since the average CPI increase for last year exceeds the COLA caps, the LACERS Board of Administration has requested that the City Council review granting a discretionary COLA to its Members according to LAAC § 4.1023 and § 4.1080.17(c). Should the City Council decide to consider this item, it will be agendized and discussed at the City Council. LACERS continues to monitor this issue. ●

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{ Who are the people you see every day? }

No. 110
in a series.

People We See

Shelterless in Los Angeles.



Meet Ron Moore

From
August
2011



INTERVIEW

The interview took place July 15, 2011 on Main Street between Third and Fourth Streets downtown by Noah Hawkins, son of Club Association President John Hawkins. • The Club gave Ron shaving cream, a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, two pairs of socks, shampoo, hand wipes, some food, \$20 and some bottled water.

Age: "I'm 54."

Birthplace: "Los Angeles."

Marital status: "I'm divorced. I have a 13-year-old daughter that I really love and would like to see, but my condition doesn't really warrant that."

Family: "I have two sisters and one brother. I am the oldest."

Are your parents divorced? "Yes. Before they died, they were divorced."

Military service: "I was in the [U.S.] Navy for three years. I was assigned to the USS Carl Vinson, a Nimitz-class super carrier."

When did you move to Los Angeles? "I was born here in County General."

Education: "I graduated from high school, but that's it."

Favorite childhood memory: "Oh man! My best memory is when I rode my dad's Harley-Davidson... at nine years old!"

Awards or medals: "I have trophies and stuff from high school."

Religion: "I believe in Jesus, but that's about it."

Friends: "I have lots of friends, but mainly stick to myself."

Where do you live? "I don't want to give away my location because it's in a really quiet out-of-the-way place, but I live in a tent and it's somewhere downtown."

How did you end up on the streets? "About 15 years ago my grandmother died. That really tore me up and sent me into a strong depression. Then I got divorced and it went downhill from there. Alcohol has not helped the situation, that's for sure."

What was the last job you had? "Occasionally I work out in Vegas, building big ad signs."

Favorite place in the City: "McArthur Park."

Favorite sport: "I used to play baseball."

Favorite actor: "Nicolas Cage."

Favorite actress: "Demi Moore."

Favorite movie: "Ocean's Eleven or Face-Off."

Favorite TV show: "Definitely I Love Lucy."

Favorite candy: "I love Hershey's Kisses."

Favorite music: "Classic rock."

Last book read: "Red Dragon."

Advice for everyday people: "Smile back."

Last thing eaten: "I had a Whopper from Burger King. No cheese."

On medication? "No."

Who or what organization has been the biggest help to you? "The Midnight Mission, but the problem with the missions is that more and more they want something in return, like your soul."

If you could wish for anything, what would it be? "My life back."

If you had \$1 million, what would you do with it? "Give it to my daughter."

If you were the mayor of Los Angeles, what would you do to help the homeless? "I would keep the cops off my back, you know, limit the harassment."

Most prized possession: "My blanket."



Noah Hawkins, son of Club Association President John Hawkins (left) with Ron Moore.

Club Members: Do you know Ron?

Have you seen Ron on the streets of LA, or we hope, sheltered?

Please let us know:

admin@aliveemployeesclub.com

{ In this feature, Club Association President 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. }

Photos by Gary Florin, Rec and Parks

People We See FROM MAY 2019

Jonathan Brooks, 1957-2022

AN UPDATE ON A PREVIOUS "PEOPLE WE SEE" FEATURE:

Last month, we reprinted our interview with Jonathan Brooks, philosopher and former NFL player, whom we met and interviewed on the streets of downtown LA originally in May 2019. We asked if anyone had knowledge of what had happened to him.

Sadly, we learned of Jonathan's death – Jonathan Brooks died in February 2022 in his native Saluda, South Carolina. He was 64. Here is a link to his obituary. May he rest in peace.

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/24379422/jonathan-brooks>



Cabrillo Museum Shark Week
July 16-22
2 to 5 p.m.

Jawsome!

CABRILLO MARINE AQUARIUM HOSTS SHARK WEEK FEATURING THE FEARED SEA CREATURES.



A juvenile great white shark.

REC AND PARKS: Coinciding with TV's week of sharks, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium presents its own Shark Week from 2 to 5 p.m. July 16-22 (the aquarium is closed Monday, July 17). Shark Week features special shark crafts and activities each day.

The Exploration Center invites kids of all ages to participate in an exciting shark egg case craft that they can take home. Plus, learn why sharks are so important for our marine eco-system and how we can help protect them from extinction.

The Marine Research Library at the Aquarium will have special shark videos, Shark Week books, and exciting shark word searches and puzzles to solve.

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Collections will also have a shark specimen display, featuring real shark egg cases, sharkskin and shark jaws.

Other daily activities include a Shark Week fact scavenger hunt, special Shark Week photo opportunities and a special Shark Week auditorium presentation about the different sharks that live in our oceans and how humans are impacting their populations and environments.

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is at 3720 Stephen M. White Dr. in San Pedro on the shores of Cabrillo Beach and is a Rec and Parks facility with support from Friends of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. Public hours are Tuesday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Mondays. For Shark Week program schedule or further information, please call (310) 548-7562 or visit www.cabrillosmarinaquarium.org.

BONUS COVERAGE

CITYWIDE

BAKER to VEGAS

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



Arlene Herrero, Club VP of Business Development, on the racecourse with long time Baker to Vegas voice KNX radio host Pete Demetriou.

Here are even more photos from April's Baker to Vegas footrace. Enjoy!

In last month's *Alive!*, we brought you hundreds of Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay images of City teams, teams the Club sponsored, and other teams.

But we could fit only a fraction here in print. So here are more! And make sure to check out all the photos and results in the online *Alive!*

The 39th annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay was held from the desert to Los Vegas April 1-2.

This amazing footrace is an annual event for public safety organizations throughout the world. The relay race is a 120-mile, 20-stage footrace between Baker, California, and Las Vegas and is considered the "Super Bowl" of law enforcement; the champions are the best, in terms of physical fitness and logistics the police world has to offer. The race was created by and is managed by the Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club, and the Employees Club is grateful for their leadership.

For more photos go to:



Club Members (from left): Dwight Thompson, DPO II, 38 years of City service; Elizabeth Gonzalez, DPO, 16 years; and Tony Oshiro, SDPO, 24 years.



Team 195 LADOT Reginald Allen, Hollywood DOT Training Division, Club Member.



Team 239 NYPD Women's Running Team returns.



From left: Team 169 LAPD Pacific Eric Anderson, P3, 8 years of City service; and Team 114 LAPD Metro Robert Morales, 25 years, Club Member.



From left: Team 244 LA City Attorney Valerie Flores, Chief Assistant City Attorney, 20 years of City service, with Leg 1 runner AP Diaz, 25 years.



From left: Madeleine Flanagan, Team Photographer, Club Member; Sgt. Troy Tatak, 24 years of City service (runner Leg 1); and Co-Captain Daniel Gardea, Club Member.



From left: Sonia Chavez, PSR II, LAPD/Communications, 14 years of City service, Club Member; Diana Najera, PSR III, 22 years and Leg 1 runner; and Sandra Portamarin, PSR II, 11 years, Club Member.



Team 84 LA County Probation SDPO George Alva from the Alhambra Field Office drives the follow vehicle.

Team 70 LAX Joe Mendoza, Club Member, on Leg 5 as he conquers 6.1 miles.





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
Abreu, James	Bldg. Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	27	Garcia, Emma S.	Secretary	LAFD	23	Nachman, Kenneth	Pt&D Energy Dist.	LADWP	N/D
Alvarez, Isaac	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Gettle III, Rollin B.	Bldg. Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	13	Najera, Victor M.	Maint./Constr.Helper	Gen.Services	9
Arman, Darrell R.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Gonzalez, Guadalupe P.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Navarrete Jr., Rudy M.	Power New Business	LADWP	N/D
Arredondo, Francisco P.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	28	Gnanapragasam, R.	Mgmt.Analyst	LAPD	39	Omlor, Philip F.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D
Barrios, Debora Lynn	Police Service Rep	LAPD	21	Gonzales, Caroline	Sr. Benefits Analyst	Fire/Police Pens.	39	Ortiz, Gloria A.	Human Resources	LADWP	N/D
Bessos, Alex S.	Energy Support	LADWP	N/D	Gonzalez, Dora A.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	17	Padilla, Raymundo M.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
Blunt Jr., Ira	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	N/D	Gordon, Allen	Truck Operator	Public Works	36	Patterson, David E.	Energy Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Brown, Matthew E.	Sr. Airport Engineer	Airports	31	Hall, Monika R.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Personnel	29	Patzlaff, Thomas G.	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D
Bruskin, Carolyn A.	Energy Support	LADWP	N/D	Hanna, Eleanor L.	Asst. Park Srv. Attend.	Rec and Parks	2	Reyes, Loida S.	Sr. Systems Analyst	Bldg. & Safety	28
Busby, John A.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Hart, Harris S.	Deputy City Attorney	City Attorney	31	Rodelo, Catherine	Pr. Clerk	City Attorney	36
Cabral, Anselmo H.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Hill Jr., James B.	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D	Romero, Elmer N.	Off. Engineer Tech	Bldg. & Safety	28
Carter, Harden	Planning Asst.	Planning	6	Hill, Sharon M.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Sauter, Julie K.	Dep. City Engineer	Public Works	27
Chan, Hing K.	Systems Programmer	Library	26	Jackson, Morris G.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Stadler, Cynthia K.	Veterinarian	Zoo	13
Chang, Yunting	Programmer/Analyst	Personnel	23	Kamachi Lazaro, Avalyn	Civil Eng. Ass.	Public Works	31	Strucke, Darryl E.	Traffic Paint Sign Post	Transportation	9
Chavez, Adrian	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Kapoh, Mark D.	Sergeant	Airports	34	Szaktilla, Janos G.	Geo Info Sys. Super. I	LAFD	24
Citrin, Neil K.	Librarian	Library	24	Kharbertyan, Zabela	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAFD	33	Taylor, Simone N.	Water Resources	LADWP	N/D
Corral, Daniel D.	Special Prog. Asst.	Rec and Parks	4	Leung, Samuel	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Tran, Jennifer M.	Fiscal Systems Spec.	Public Works	22
Cousins, Roland W.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	29	Llamas, Reynaldo H.	Water Quality	LADWP	N/D	Turner, Jeffery	Telecom Planner	Airports	43
Cubas, German	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D	Losoya, Bill	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	33	Tylutki, Thomas E.	Bulk Power	LADWP	N/D
Day, Robert Nelson	Welder Supervisor	Gen.Services	20	McCarter, Kimberly A.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Valenzuela, Orestes R.	Mgmt.Analyst	LAPD	21
De La Roca, Carlos J.	Corporate Services	LADWP	N/D	McDonald, Jane E.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Vicino, Christopher O.	Security Services	LADWP	N/D
Dergrigorian, Ronald	Water Quality	LADWP	N/D	McDonald, Joseph P.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Wang, Allen C.	Civil Engineer	Public Works	30
Donohue, Thomas J.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Milani, Fred F.	Construction Insp.	Public Works	20	Williams, Adria D.	Chief Mgmt.Analyst	Airports	34
Edson, Joyce J.	Asst.Gen.Manager	ITA	38	Misustin, John C.	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D	Wilson, Allen B.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D
Fritts, Donald E.	Power Engineering	LADWP	N/D	Monroe, Schiry G.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Zitko, Laura G.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Harbor	14
Fullam, John T.	Material Test Eng.	Harbor	31	Montgomery, Debra E.	Power Engineering	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 = No Data

In Memoriam

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

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
ACTIVE					
Angulo, Andrea M.	LAPD	22	Gaviola, Ruben F.	N/D	N/D
King, Joseph W.	LAPD		Hardison, James E.	LADWP	36
Marasigan, Noemi M.	Controller's Office	24	Harris, Eric C.	LADWP	46
Owens, Michael T.	Council	12	Hart, Johnny C.	LADWP	31
RETIRED					
Ainer, Leon K.	N/D	N/D	Holden, Robert B.	Airports	34
Alvarez, Edward I.	LADWP	20	Howe, Elvira L.	LAPD	47
Anderson, Phillip C.	LADWP	28	Hurd, Henry W.	Personnel	35
Arnold Heon, Glenda E.	Rec and Parks	21	Hyde, Alan G.	Airports	21
Bakman, James E.	LADWP	32	Joco, Cristina P.	LADWP	25
Betz, Jack M.	N/D	N/D	Jordan, Curtis L.	Public Works	34
Bustillos, Stephen J.	Rec and Parks	31	Kennedy, Irene K.	N/D	N/D
Carlos, Terry	N/D	N/D	Keyes, Denis J.	Social Services	9
Carvajal, Jose S.	LAPD	35	Kilian, Jean L.	LADWP	22
Cavdek, Victor	N/D	N/D	Kumamoto, Kiyoshi	LADWP	38
Claus, Sterling E.	LADWP	24	Laughlin, Daniel P.	Econ./Workforce Dev.	14
Clermont, Donald A.	LADWP	36	Levine, Sandra C.	LADWP	33
Cook, Robert S.	Gen. Services	15	Luna, Craig G.	LADWP	45
Dao, Kiem V.	LADWP	18	Malva, Dolly R.	Econ./Workforce Dev.	35
Eaton, James G.	N/D	N/D	Maningas, Casimiro C.	LADWP	27
Garcia, Cecilia I.	LADWP	25	Manriquez, Martha I.	LADWP	25
			May, Steven M.	LADWP	33
			McKeon, Marlene J.	LADWP	23
			Mendez, Albert A.	LADWP	31
			Miller, Bruce S.	LADWP	32
			Miller, Glenn R.	Gen. Services	32
			Milosevich, Ronald A.	Public Works	34
			Miller, Gary A.	Public Works	16
			Mirano, Frank	LADWP	25
			Peterson, Gail D.	City Attorney	30
			Pinkney, William H.	LADWP	27
			Port, David L.	N/D	N/D
			Reilly, John	Bldg. & Safety	21
			Render, Eddie	N/D	N/D
			Reyes, Thomas R.	LADWP	31
			Rivera, Mariana M.	LAFD	32
			Rodriguez, Nick	N/D	N/D
			Sanchez, Maria S.	Housing	30
			Shim, Choon Khil	ITS	33
			Simons, CJ	Convention Center	23
			Sistoni, Bert	LADWP	25
			Snyder, Zellda E.	LAFD	24
			Vargas, Stella M.	Transportation	32
			Ward, Harold L.	LADWP	19
			West, Burnett	N/D	N/D
			White, Shirley M.	LADWP	24
			Whitney, Dennis B.	LADWP	34
			Woods, Bennie C.	N/D	N/D
			Yasui, Beatrice	N/D	N/D
			Yates, James E.	LADWP	30

N/D = No Data

Graduations



Fernando Navarrete
graduated from Cal State Dominguez Hills and plans to "continue to serve the residents of Los Angeles and provide equitable transportation services." Fernando is the Council Liaison for LADOT.



Claudia Serrato
graduated from the University of Washington and plans to earn her doctorate and continue to teach at the university level. Also, she enjoys presenting indigenous food ways workshops. Claudia is the daughter of Rose Serrato, LAPD.



Ailaine Rosales
Ailaine Rosales graduated from Legacy High School in South Gate. As for her future plans: "Don't tell me the sky is the limit when there are footprints on the moon." She's the daughter of Samuel Bacon, General Services.



Maya Horvath
graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor's degree in horticulture, plant and soil science. She is now working in her professional career of agriculture. Maya is the daughter of Robert Horvath, Retired, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment.



Everet Emerson Fink
graduated from Cal State Northridge with a Bachelor's degree in criminology and justice studies, graduating magna cum laude. He plans to pursue a career as a special agent for the FBI. Everet is the son of Ross Fink, Retired, LADWP.



Paul Bingaman Jr.
graduated from Harvard University in Massachusetts, double-majoring in philosophy and business finance. He plans to study for a Master's degree at Cambridge University in England, and has a job waiting for him at Morgan Stanley. He's the son of Paul Bingaman, Public Works/Street Services.



Emily Bastris Orellana Mejia
graduated from La Serna High School in Whittier and plans to attend college studying forensic science. "She has a bright future," says stepdad Guillermo Barragan, Public Works/Engineering.



Daniel Barragan
graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a Bachelor's degree in science in landscape architecture. He's already started his professional career working for a landscaping firm. Daniel is the son of Guillermo Barragan, a landscape architect with Public Works/Engineering.



Blessing Williams
graduated from Robert E. Peary Middle School in Gardena. She plans to attend Narbonne High School's STEAM magnet program in the fall and continue her basketball career. She's the daughter of Kay Davis, LAPD.



Jonah Cisneros
graduated cum laude from St. Francis High School in La Cañada. He plans to attend the University of San Diego to pursue a degree in creative writing. He also plans to play football at USD. Jonah is the grandson of Rito Cisneros, ITA.



Births



Katrina Rose Haro, born May 17 to Jason and Alecia Haro. Katrina is the **granddaughter of Kurt Kaufman, LADWP, and IBEW Local 18**, Los Angeles.

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Cooking with the Club

with Chef Robert Larios

Photos: Patty M. Larios



From May 2019

Rafael's Guacamole Deviled Eggs

Get ready for a culinary adventure where the classic deviled egg meets guacamole's bold, vibrant flavors. Impress your guests with this crowd-pleasing hors d'oeuvre that is my Dad's favorite; it's only fitting that this recipe is named after him. Perfect for any occasion!

¡Buen provecho! Chef Larios

Rafael's Guacamole Deviled Eggs

INGREDIENTS: Serves 4

- 6 large eggs
- 2 ripe avocados
- 1 tbsp lime (or lemon) juice
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tbsp sour cream (can skip if you need dairy-free)
- 1 tbsp chopped cilantro (plus a several leaves for garnish)
- 1 serrano or 1/2 jalapeño chile pepper, minced (include the seeds for more heat, leave them out for less...Rafael just leaves them in!)
- ¼ cup diced chives or green onion. (Alternatively you may use 1/4 cup finely diced white or yellow onion.)

DIRECTIONS:



1 Hard-boil the eggs: The easiest way to make hard-boiled eggs that are easy to peel for deviled eggs is to steam them. Fill a saucepan with 1 inch of water and insert a steamer basket. (If you don't have a steamer basket, that's okay.)

Bring the water to a boil, then gently place 6 eggs in the steamer basket or directly in the saucepan. Cover the pot. Set your timer for 15 minutes. Remove eggs and set in icy cold water to cool. In a future column, I will show you how to cook eggs in a pressure cooker!

2 Prep the eggs: Once they've cooled, carefully peel the hard-boiled eggs and cut them in half lengthwise. Place them on a serving platter. Scoop out the cooked yolks and set aside.



3 Make the filling: Cut the avocados in half. Remove the pit. Scoop out the avocado flesh and place in a bowl.

Roughly mash. If necessary, use your fingers to break up one or two of the cooked egg yolks (2 to 4 halves) over the mashed avocado. (Reserve the remaining egg yolks for another use.) Sprinkle with lime juice and salt, and stir in the sour cream. Stir in the chopped cilantro, serrano or jalapeño chile pepper.



4 Fill the egg halves: Scoop a generous spoonful of the avocado mixture into each well of the hard-boiled egg whites. Top with a small sprig of fresh cilantro or some chopped chives.

Enjoy!



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Cooking Tidbit - If you have trouble with the flavor of onions, just reduce the amount or leave them out altogether. You may also use the traditional Tabasco sauce or other hot sauce instead of diced serrano.

Kids Can! - Children can wash the cilantro and also sprinkle the sprigs of cilantro onto the avocado mixture after placing the scoops onto the hard-boiled egg whites.

OVERFLOW TO WEB *ALIVE!*

Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

along the famous waterfront promenade with assorted restaurants and bars. This is the perfect place to watch the sunset while drinking a local ice-cold adult beverage called Efes, a nice light beer for a hot day, or a non-alcohol drink. Try the yogurt-based drink Ayran; it's believed to have excellent health benefits.

The heart of Marmaris is The Grand Bazaar. Its hundreds of shops and stalls are under one roof and sell the usual tourist trinkets and local specialties such as Turkish Delight, honey, and "genuine" fake handmade carpets. Most of the clothing on offer is very cheap, and the quality can be surprisingly good. There are some unbelievable bargains if you are okay with wearing fake designer labels, but check the sizes before purchasing. Do not buy pirate DVDs and games, as they will not work on USA equipment, despite assurances from vendors. If you're prepared to haggle, genuine leather can be bought reasonably, but remember the starting price is two-to-three-times above what they will finally accept. As for hairdressing and beauty treatments, massages and steam baths are all excellent values, but beware of tattoo hygiene issues if you decide to add to your ink collection. The small crusader castle/museum is interesting, and if you look closely while strolling around the town, you'll see beehives everywhere, gathering Marmaris' famous honey.

The time seems to fly by when you're having fun. You'll be on the ferry, zooming back to Greece in no time. It is not quite like beginning on a private yacht, but close your eyes and dream.

May you have "fair winds and following seas."



Asking a group of bronze tourist statues, the way in Marmaris Turkey.



The Entrance to Cruisador Castle in Marmaris



A Bazaar view of the *Alive!*



The Island Ferry to Marmaris Turkey.