



Alive!
Serving Over 50,000 Members



Cynthia Ha
Member Services
Counselor

Incredible Club Benefits!

-SEE PAGE 12

That's how we honor our members!

The Club celebrates your dedicated service with benefits like these:

The Club Truck

Awesome merch, right to your workplace. (Your belief in us made it possible. More to come!)

Fees Back!

Convenience, handling, and processing fees refunded.

Private Parties!

Pirates Adventure, coming in October!

Events Anywhere

Sports/concert tickets across the US!

Retirees Plaque

Your lifetime of work is recognized and deeply appreciated.

Free Notary Public Service

Have your documents notarized through the Club or receive reimbursement up to \$15 per document.

Club Sports

Now more sports: Get in the game!

Club Scholarships

Money for college!

Club Service Pins

Coming in 2025!

Private Party!



Oct. 13 — SEE AD PAGE 5

Join the Club!

Not a Member? It's time to join and have your work appreciated and honored!



Noelle Kauffman
Director of Sales



Be Celebrated. Be Honored. Be Thanked.

Alive! photo by Summy Lam; photo illustration by JILA Associates



Celebrating the work and lives of public employees.

Employees Club of California
311 South Spring Street, Suite 1300
Los Angeles, CA 90013

SAVE ON FALL DÉCOR!

Club Members save 15% sitewide!

Olive & Cocoa:
home décor and gifts
for any occasion.

employeesclub.com



Lenovo Electronics

Save up to 40% off

Have the right tools to set yourself up for success.



SAVE AT EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM



Jumping for Joy

It's time to celebrate...You!

And honor and thank you, too. It's why the Club exists.

Welcome to our Benefits Issue – a periodic reminder of the hard work our Club staff performs to elevate your lives through special services, discounts, private parties (we love arranging those), sports and so much more. We respect what you do and care about helping you afford a great life for you and your families.

The Club offers so much more than just ticket discounts, although of course we do that, too. We offer a relationship of gratitude, honor and celebration for your career. We are bonded with public service and those who perform it.

This issue charts our relatively newest and most innovative benefits. We are always developing new programs to serve you. Remember, funding through your memberships helps us build these discounts; more Club Members means more offerings. (Make sure you encourage your City friends who are non-Members to join. It's the best thing they will do all year.)



Chuck Beas

Enjoy your Club benefits. You have earned them.

Retirements

I congratulate **Chuck Beas**, Water Operations, LADWP, who retired after 31 years of City service. When



Noelle Kauffman
Director of Sales

Robert Larios
Club CEO

Arlene Herrero
VP of Business Development

ROBERT'S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



Alive! featured movie reviews written by Club Members, Chuck frequently contributed. We liked his style! Thanks, Chuck, for making *Alive!* entertaining and strong.

I congratulate **Will Caperton y Montoya**, Development and Marketing Director, Cultural Affairs, who Retired after 21 years. Will helped us on several strong stories we produced from Cultural Affairs, including our peeks at the Warner Theatre in San Pedro, and the about-to-reopen Vision Theatre in South LA. We hope you come back to see it next year. Thanks, Will!

Worth Considering

Which mindset supercharges your soul—bitterness or gratitude? Let's be real: One of these is like a superfood smoothie for the soul, while the other is just plain junk food. Dodge the toxic crowd, Champ – because your peace is priceless.

Finally, I offer a reminder: Let the Club take care of you and your family, and make your lives more affordable, in recognition of your hard work, dedication and service to all in LA. It's the least we can do. Enjoy your Fall.

¡Gracias por leer!

Robert Larios
CEO

At a recent Mobile Team site visit.



Raise employee morale! Schedule a Club Mobile visit!

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



To schedule a Club Mobile visit:

Scan the Code to Schedule a Visit

Or contact Lupe Lira, Retail Operations Manager:
(213) 819-0350, or mobile@employeesclub.com

MOBILE VISIT SCHEDULE

Every Month

North Central Sanitation

452 N. San Fernando Rd.,
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The first Monday of every month:

Mon., Sept. 9, Oct. 7

Van Nuys City Hall

6262 Van Nuys Blvd.,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The first Tuesday of every month:

Tues., Sept. 3, Oct. 1

Harbor

100 W. Fifth St.,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The first Wednesday of every month:

Wed., Sept. 4, Oct. 2

West Valley StreetsLA

9324 Topanga Canyon Blvd.,
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The first Thursday of the month:

Thurs., Sept. 5, Oct. 3

ATTENTION Raise employee morale!
SUPERVISORS: Bring the Club to your worksite!

Club Mobile is cashless!

For your convenience, now accepting major credit cards.



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





Cynthia Ha
Member Services
Counselor

THE BENEFITS ISSUE



INCREDIBLE CLUB BENEFITS!

— PAGE 12

COVER STORY:

The Benefits Issue 12-15

Club's innovative benefits present awesome ways we celebrate, honor and thank you for your service.

STORIES

Club

Employee of the Year Awards: Club to honor outstanding public employees from around the state 9

Airports

Airport Police hockey team takes bronze at recent Nevada tournament 21

Harbor

Port Police pioneer Maria Hernandez retires after 41 years of City service 20

LAFD

Dept. honors its civilian employees of the year 7

Capt. II Richard Moody named Firefighter of the Year 5

Seven Firefighters honored for saving a life 24

LAPD/Harbor

Law enforcement units join with communities for National Night Out 18

Mayor's Office

Arrival of Olympics flag starts clock toward LA hosting the Olympics and Para-Olympics in 2028 21

Planning

Staff awarded for public outreach, community planning projects 19

Public Works/Council

City celebrated National Public Works Week in May 20

Public Works

Chief Environmental Inspector Sam Higgins dies 23

Zoo

Condor recovery program hatches record 17 condors 9

SECTIONS AND COLUMNS

Alive! Around the World 10

Arlene on the Scene 10

Club Mobile Schedule 2

Club Sports 11

Coloring Contest: Grown-ups Winners 4

Deaths: In Memoriam 22

Graduations 22

Insurance Corner: NEW! 6

LACERS 11

Lives Important Moments 22

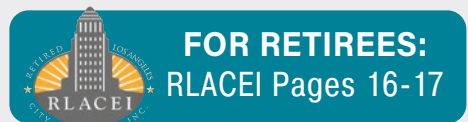
Picture Perfect: Contest Winners and Theme 19

Retirement Plaque Presentations 8

Retirements Listing 22

Robert's Blog: From the CEO 2

Your Insurance at Work: NEW! 20



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

Library Top Ten Web

Advertiser's Index

Rosebud Marketing 21

Water and Power Community Credit Union 24

CLUBDEALS

FROM THE CLUB DEAL DESK

Private Party!
PIRATES
DINNER ADVENTURE
BUENA PARK CA
Oct. 13 – SEE AD PAGE 5

fromyouflowers.com
Save 25% off site wide and up to 50% off seasonally.

SAVE ON FALL DÉCOR!

OLIVE & COCOA

Club Members save **15% sitewide!**
Olive & Cocoa: home décor and gifts for any occasion.

EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM



CORRECTIONS

In the August issue, we published two incorrect phone numbers.

On page 6, the correct phone number for the Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA) is (626) 285-5138.

Also on page 6, the correct phone number for the Club's insurance information helpline is (800) 464-0452.

Alive! regrets the errors and any confusion these might have caused.

Alive! photo by Summy Lam



**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:
Employee of the Year!**

In a new program, the Club will honor several awesome employees. We'll honor the absolute best in public service employees.



Your role: We need nominees!

Submit your nominations online at: aliveemployeesclub.com/award

— SEE PAGE 9 FOR MORE INFORMATION





The Club
Is Here
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

Alive!

Sept. 2024 • Volume 23 – No. 9

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

311 Spring St., Suite 1300
Los Angeles, CA 90013

TELEPHONE: (800) 464-0452

CONTACT US: admin@aliveemployeesclub.com

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

ALIVE! EDITORIAL OFFICES:

311 Spring Street, Suite 1300,
Los Angeles CA, 90013 • (800) 464-0452

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

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

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

Alive! Staff

Robert Larios, *Managing Editor*

John Burnes, *Editor*

Ronald Cortez and Natalia Guevara, *Editorial Assistants*

David Jamgotchian, *JJLA Associates,
Design and Production*

LACEA (Association) Board of Directors

Board Chair Andrew Virzi III, *LADWP*

Phillip Chou, *LADWP*

Carlos Rodriguez, *LADOT*

Jackie Koci Tamayo, *Santa Clara County*

Capt. Danny Wu, *LAFD*

LACEA Insurance Services (The Club)

Board of Directors

Terry Carter, *LAPD, Retired*

Marilyn Holley, *Public Works:
Bureau of Sanitation, Retired*

Rose Hyland, *Office of the Controller, Retired*

David Muraoka, *LAPD, Retired*

Rita Robinson, *County of LA, Retired*

Andrew Virzi Jr., *DWP, Retired*

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

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

Club Members who have questions on these points may
write to: alive@employeesclub.com

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



The Club
Honors Our
Members



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

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

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

Other Notable Entries

MEMBER NAME	DEPARTMENT
Adrian Jimenez	Rec and Parks
Miguel Chilin	Sanitation
David Almanza	Retired

Look for our next
Coloring Contest:
January 2025



CLUB MEMBER ONLY DISCOUNTS

AMC THEATRES

BOX OFFICE \$19.99
Good Anytime

CLUB MEMBER \$10

Knott's BERRY FARM

GATE PRICE \$99.00
Any Day Ticket

CLUB MEMBER \$64.50
Any Day

CATALINA EXPRESS

GATE PRICE \$92.00
Adult Ticket

CLUB MEMBER \$78.00
Adult

SESAME PLACE SAN DIEGO

GATE PRICE \$89.99
General Admission

CLUB MEMBER \$56.55

AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

GATE PRICE \$44.95
Adult Ticket

CLUB MEMBER \$39.45
ADULT

San Diego Zoo

GATE PRICE \$72.00
Adult Ticket

CLUB MEMBER \$56.80
ADULT

THE CLUB DOES NOT CHARGE ANY PROCESSING OR HANDLING FEES!



EXPLORE MORE SAVINGS ONLINE

Prices are subject to change without
notice. Please visit website for the
most updated prices.

www.EmployeesClub.com

The Mobile Team: Club Merch Right to Your Workplace!

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT



Moody: Firefighter of the Year

FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION HONORS CAPT. II RICHARD MOODY.

Story and photos courtesy LAFD and LAFFA

LAFD: LAFD Capt. II Rich Moody, 24 years of City service, was named Firefighter of the Year (2023) by the LA City Firefighters Association (LAFFA) for his personal and professional accomplishments last year.

The annual ceremony was held April 18 at the Universal City Hotel.

With 24 years of exceptional service to the people of Los Angeles, Capt. Moody brings spirited leadership, selfless dedication, approachability and positivity to all he does.

Prior to joining the LAFD in 2000, Richard spent ten years as a paid-call Firefighter and Captain for the Orange County Fire Authority.

After beginning his LAFD career, he discovered a love for firefighting truck operations, and was soon promoted to Apparatus Operator, serving that role with distinction at Fire Stations 17 (Industrial Eastside), 102 (Valley Glen), 10 (Convention Center District), and 98 (Pacoima).

Earning a promotion to Captain I, he proudly served a leadership role at Station 41 serving Hollywood and the Hollywood Hills, before achieving a special duty position in LAFD Tactical Planning. His many contributions to that demanding specialty assignment helped him in earning a promotion to Captain II and service as the Task Force Commander at busy Fire Station 11 in the Westlake/MacArthur Park area. With a leadership style characterized by an open-door policy, Capt. Moody has never missed an opportunity to train and learn alongside those in his command, and has been perpetually noted for always putting the needs



Capt. II Richard Moody

of his crew first.

With Capt. Moody's highly specialized skills and experience in high demand, he was soon assigned to the LAFD Critical Incident Planning and Training Section (CIPTS) to handle complex logistics, where he has supported the department's multitude of large-personnel commitments to incidents such as brush fires, civil unrest, municipal events, large-scale emergencies and memorial services for firefighters.

He has served on the logistics cadre in almost every LAFD fallen member's memorial service for the last 20 years, as well as compassionately assisting other Fire and Police agencies in their most difficult moments.

His ever-expanding role within the department and in support of allied agencies is indeed legendary, including service as a member of FEMA Task Force 1, Field Incident Management Team, and as a Trustee of the Los Angeles Firemen's Relief Association. A beloved mentor, he selflessly assists with LAFD In-Service Apparatus Operator training videos and has presented the essential After Action Review for the Apparatus Operators Core Program. He enjoys helping with department-related fundraisers such as golf tournaments, Hope for Firefighters and other important events, such as the LAFD Valor Awards.

Capt. Moody served the demanding role as the Logistics Section Chief for the Getty Fire in 2019, overseeing the first-ever 100 percent City-Managed Base Camp for more than 2,000 Firefighters. It was a milestone success for the department, and his Logistics Section

set a new standard for the support, care and treatment of deployed Firefighters in the midst of a major firefight.

At CIPTS, Capt. Moody has created a full-time logistical support group, supplying a wide variety of equipment and vehicles, developing vendor relationships and designing response procedures for both planned and emergency events near and far. He has an uncommon ability to say "yes" to – and most importantly, deliver – any requested need from the Department or City, no matter how big or small, through the remarkable relationships he has developed within and beyond the LAFD.

As but one example, within 12 hours of the Mayor's request, Rich assembled and led a team to open a first-of-its-kind Covid-19 Public Testing Site at the LAFD Frank Hotchkin Training Center in Elysian Park, fully staffed by nurses, doctors and firefighters. The site served as the blueprint for and eventually expanded into the Dodger Stadium vaccine super-site.

Other special events that Capt. Moody and his LAFD CIPTS team have overseen include the Space Shuttle Endeavor final move; U.S. Special Olympics; World Police and Fire Games; LA Port Fleet Weeks; Dodgers, Lakers and Kings games; the Summit of the Americas;



LAFFA President James Dolan (right) awards Capt. II Richard Moody as Firefighter of the Year.

and countless concerts, festivals, ceremonies, protests and award shows.

He plans to participate on LAFD's team to organize and manage a successful City deployment for the LA2028 Summer Olympics.

Without question, Rich exemplifies leadership and humility in the ever-changing role of the department. The men and women of the LAFD heartily congratulate Capt. II Richard Moody for being named 2023 Firefighter of the Year!

The Club congratulates Capt. Moody, and honors him for his incredible dedication to serving the people of Los Angeles.

Well done! ●

PIRATES DINNER ADVENTURE

Ahoy, Club Members!

Prepare to set sail for an afternoon of action, adventure, feasting, and fun!

The Club has bought out the venue and tickets are only available to Club Members.

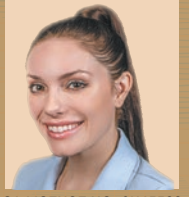
Pirates Dinner Adventure Details
Sunday, October 13th, 2024
Show Starts at 2:00 PM

More details coming soon, so mark your calendars and keep an eye out for an email about this exclusive Club event.

See you there, mateys!

THE CLUB INSURANCE CORNER

by Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales



CA LICENSE NO: 0H45598

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Life Insurance Facts and Statistics

In 2024, the significance of life insurance cannot be overstated. As a fundamental component of financial planning, life insurance provides essential security for individuals and their families in an uncertain world. It serves as a safeguard, ensuring that loved ones remain financially protected in the event of an untimely loss.

Recent findings from the Insurance Barometer Study by LIMRA and Life Happens reveal crucial insights into the life insurance landscape:

- **Coverage Concerns:** Alarming, 22 percent of life insurance policyholders feel their coverage is inadequate.
- **Stable Demand:** The demand for life insurance has remained steady since 2022, with 30 percent of uninsured individuals acknowledging their need for coverage.
- **Income and Insurance Needs:** Among earners in the \$50,000 to \$149,999 range, 39 percent express a need for increased life insurance, highlighting considerable interest from middle-income families.
- **Gender Disparity:** A persistent gender gap exists, with women less likely to own life insurance compared to men, a trend observed consistently over the past 14 years.
- **Generational Trends:** Baby Boomers lead in life insurance ownership, while Gen Z, despite lower ownership rates, shows a growing awareness of the need for coverage.
- **Financial Concerns:** Millennials have emerged as the most financially concerned generation, shifting away from Gen X's previous apprehensions.
- **Cost Misconceptions:** A staggering 72 percent of people without life insurance overestimate the cost of basic term life insurance, a common misconception that endures annually.
- **Knowledge Gaps:** Over a quarter of young people cite insufficient knowledge about life insurance products as a barrier to obtaining coverage.

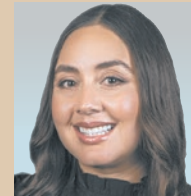
Understanding these trends is vital for making informed decisions about life insurance needs. Such coverage can alleviate financial burdens by covering funeral expenses, paying off debts, and replacing lost income, thereby preventing potential financial hardship for families.

To explore life insurance options, interested individuals can contact help@employeesclub.com or call (800) 464-0452 Ext. 4.

This article is inspired by insights from Bankrate and authored by Ashlyn Brooks. The link is: <https://www.bankrate.com/insurance/life-insurance/life-insurance-statistics/>



Meet Your Club Counselors



Dalila Vielma
Member Services
Counselor



Dylan Noel
Member Services
Counselor



Cynthia Ha
Member Services
Counselor



Cheryl Martin
Member Services
Counselor

Update your benefits and get all of your questions answered by booking a one on one or group presentation appointment with your colleagues at your job site.

Email help@employeesclub.com to request a Counselor visit today!

FOR RETIREES OR THOSE ABOUT TO RETIRE

The Club is here to guide you through the retirement planning process every step of the way!

If you plan to retire soon or are newly Retired, you have access to attend a retirement planning party with Club Retiree Specialist Counselors that will set you up for success in retirement.

We will be reviewing topics including pension deduction, Retiree Life Insurance, Retiree Legal Insurance, the Club's Retiree Mentorship Program, our Retiree Recognition Awards, and other valuable Club benefits.

The Club strives to make your transfer from active to Retired as easy as possible by guiding you through the processes; educating you on new, important topics; and welcoming you to our Club Retiree Community.

Attend a Retirement Planning Party!

Date: Last Thursday of each month
(Choose one: Sep. 26 or Oct. 31)

Time: 1 – 2 p.m.

Location: Club Headquarters
311 S. Spring St., Suite 1300
Downtown Los Angeles

Parking: Validated parking provided.

RSVP today!

To reserve a spot at an upcoming Club Retirement Planning Party:

- Call us at (800) 464-0452, option 4, or
- Email us at info@employeesclub.com



Questions? Don't hesitate to contact our Retiree specialists at info@employeesclub.com • or (800) 464-0452

Contact Information

Club Retirees Dedicated Helpline:
Club Retirees Email:
Club contact:
help@employeesclub.com

LA City Employees Retirement System (LACERS) (City Dept.)
(800) 779-8328
lacers.services@lacers.org

LADWP Retirees Association
(949) 388-1206

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 16

Thanks, Civilians

FIRE DEPT. HOSTS FIRST CIVILIAN RECOGNITION LUNCHEON SINCE PANDEMIC.

LAFD: A robust and full crowd celebrated the career achievements of nine LAFD civilians at a fun luncheon held July 30 at the Stadium Club at Dodger Stadium.

The Club proudly co-sponsored the luncheon. Several Club Members were honored during the event.

Presenting the awards were Chief Kristin Crowley and Chief Deputy Orin L. Saunders, Administrative Operations.

The invocation was delivered by Retired Engineer and current Fire Chaplain George Negrete.

The LAFD's Civilian Employee Recognition Committee (CERC) was established in 1991 to facilitate the recognition of outstanding civilian employee performance on a quarterly basis. In 1997, the ceremony changed to annually.

career achievements of nine LAFD civilians at a fun luncheon held July 30 at the Stadium Club at Dodger Stadium.

The Club congratulates all the honorees and thanks them for their exemplary service to Los Angeles. Well done!

The Club thanks Diana Assadourian, Budget and Data Analyst, for producing the excellent event and assisting the Club in producing this article. The Recognition Committee included Jennifer Corona and Patricia Arias, Co-Chairs; and Diana Assadourian, Bruce Gallion, Dishan Chaudhuri, Mario Salazar, Veronica Arcega, Ingrid Orellana, Silvia Pena, Elsa Rodarte, Jared Lawyer, and Ret. Capt. Robert Cordobes.

Below are excerpts from the remarks for the candidates. ●

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR/ PROFESSIONAL/SPECIALIZED SKILLS

Presented by Chief Kristin Crowley



NICOLE CASTRO, CLUB MEMBER

"Nicole began her journey with the Los Angeles Fire Dept. as a Management Assistant in 2019. She was assigned to the Grants Section, where she assisted in applying for, managing and auditing grants, and worked on and submitted grant reimbursement requests.

"In 2023, she was promoted to Management Analyst in Grants. She attends the Board of Fire Commissioners, Public Safety and City Council meetings, works with Subject Matter Experts, and various LAFD Sections/Units and other City Depts., to complete projects and seek reimbursement. This past year, Nicole has worked on grant-funded projects for the department, including a new Command Post vehicle, a Hazmat Apparatus, a backup power generator for FS 46, and the High Frequency Radio Communications Project. She's currently working on purchasing the Lucas Chest Compression devices, shipboard firefighting props, and USAR Swiftwater support vehicles.

"Her words of wisdom are: 'Choose to be kind and remember that your most important work is always ahead of you and never behind you.'"

LONGEVITY AWARD

Presented by Chief Deputy Orin L. Saunders



CARLOS MORENO

"Carlos is an Auto Painter in the Training and Support Bureau, Supply and Maintenance Division. He works in the Auto Body Shop. He started with the LAFD in 1988. With more than 35 years of service, he has become a go-to person for Field members and Shop members. He consistently goes above and beyond."

FIRE CHIEF'S GROUP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE/ PURCHASING SECTION

Presented by Chief Kristin Crowley



ANNA AREYAN, CLUB MEMBER; KENDREX LUNDY; AND CAROL RUACHO, CLUB MEMBER

"These members are constantly going above and beyond. SRS orders used to take extremely long to receive. Currently, orders are processed in a timely fashion, and the members assist in expediting last-minute urgent orders to ensure they are received for important events and training. The members are very instrumental in guiding employees through the purchasing process. Their attention to detail in catching mistakes has improved efficiency and turnaround time."

FIRE CHIEF'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Presented by Chief Kristin Crowley



CARR ODURO

"Carr started with the LAFD in 2016 as a Sr. Systems Analyst I. Her responsibilities include Applications Project management for NFIRS, FIMS and Build LA, to name a few. She has also worked on the Complaint Tracking System Replacement. In her LAFD tenure she has also been Acting Sr. Systems Analyst II for two years.

"She has taken initiative with various contract amendments and ensures the programs being managed are assigned appropriately. When LAFD transferred from Sansio to ImageTrend, Carr's professionalism assisted the LAFD in having a smooth transition without any gaps in the data, and she completed the project successfully. Her attention to detail ensured that the department received everything outlined in the contract agreement, while keeping both the vendor and the department on good terms.

"Her words of wisdom: 'The storm isn't affecting too badly, thank God.'"

THOSE HONORED WERE:

Professional/Specialized Skills:

Carr Oduro

Fire Chief's Group Award of Excellence:

Carol Ruacho, Club Member; Anna Areyan, Club Member; and Kendrex Lundy, Purchasing

Employees of the Year:

Carol Ruacho, Clerical, Club Member; Nicole Castro, Professional/Specialized Skills, Club Member; and Oscar Jimenez, Shop Maintenance.

Certificate of Special Recognition:

Yvonne Reyes, Professional/Specialized Skills, Club Member; and Gregory Brown, Shop Maintenance.

Longevity Award:

Carlos Moreno, Shop Maintenance.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR/ SHOP MAINTENANCE

Presented by Chief Kristin Crowley



OSCAR JIMENEZ

"Oscar Jimenez began his journey with the Fire Dept. in 2016 as an Equipment Mechanic at the Avenue 19 location. He is currently the lead Mechanic for the P2 Shop. His duties include overseeing the maintenance and repair of transportation equipment, assigning tasks to subordinates to complete day-to-day operations, ordering necessary parts and equipment to ensure the shop is stocked with the essentials, ensuring the service he provides meets a high level of quality and satisfaction, open repair orders and maintain accurate records on work performed, ensure compliance with regulation, maintain shop compliance safety regulations, and continuously pursue improvement in efficiency and quality work with his utmost skill and professionalism.

"On June 28, 2023, Oscar played a vital role during a fellow member's medical emergency. While sitting in the meeting area, a co-worker came up to him, gasping for air. After performing the Heimlich Maneuver several times to no avail, Oscar took the coworker to the nearest Fire Station. Oscar's quick action and notification of first responders enabled them to provide immediate care to the coworker, resulting in a life-saving action.

"Oscar has gone above and beyond on more than one occasion.

"His word of advice: 'Kindness goes a long way, and remember to keep a positive attitude, even in challenging times.'"

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR/ CLERICAL

Presented by Chief Kristin Crowley



CAROL RUACHO, CLUB MEMBER

"Carol began her career with the LAFD as an Administrative Clerk in May 2019. She is assigned to the Supply and Maintenance Division.

"Carol creates, processes and modifies contract purchase orders and requisitions while maintaining the filing and tracking of work orders. She is in close contact with vendors and requestors. In the past year, her unit has also been given the responsibility of purchasing auto parts for the Department.

"She feels great pride in applying her skills and knowledge as a purchaser and to ensure the end user receives their orders in a timely fashion.

"She is humble in receiving this award, as she is doing her job in helping others. Her favorite quote is, 'We are not what we know, but what we are willing to learn.'"

CERTIFICATES OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Presented by Chief Deputy Orin L. Saunders



YVONNE REYES, CLUB MEMBER

"Yvonne is a Management Analyst in the Emergency Operations West Bureau. She developed a monthly administrative performance matrix report for the Central Bureau that created a one-stop shop for the Bureau Commander and members who provide input to these reports."



GREGORY BROWN

"Gregory is an Equipment Repair Supervisor in the Training and Support Bureau Supply and Maintenance Div. Triple Shop. His experience in various shops has given him the ability to be able to troubleshoot various types of jobs efficiently. He knows his inventory in detail that allows him to efficiently navigate his workload. His mentorship is invaluable to the employees he supervises."



Ret. Engineer and LAFD Chaplain George Negrete delivered the invocation.



Jennifer Corona and Patricia Arias chaired the Civilian Recognition Committee.

CLUB RETIREMENT PLAQUE PRESENTATIONS

We Honor Your Service!

Association CEO Robert Larios honors Retired Club Members with a plaque for their many years of dedicated service.



FREE! * CLUB RETIREMENT PLAQUE

Retired or Retiring Soon?

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

***a \$499 value!**

Get started here:



Maria Irene Scaduto
Housing, Retired after 36 years of City service



Martin Mendoza
LADOT, Retired after 25 years of City service



Mack E. Gilchrist
Public Works/Street Services, Retired after 42 years of City service



Barry A. Craddolph
Housing, Retired after 18 years of City service



David E. Almanza
Airports, Retired after 25 years of City service



Eric Escutia
Library, Retired after 40 years of City service



Adriene LaJean Gray
Airports, Retired after 36 years of City service



Fidel J. Puerta
Public Works/Sanitation, Retired after 18 years of City service



Kevin S. Golden
Planning, Retired after 35 years of City service



Ralph Dennis Beckman
Planning, Retired after 25 years of City service



Mark S. Barrera
General Services, Retired after 35 years of City service



John P. Phillips
LAPD, Retired after 32 years of City service



Charles V. Beas
LADWP, Retired after 31 years of City service



Gloria A. Johnson
LADWP, Retired after 34 years of City service



Theresa L. Grant
LADOT, Retired after 16 years of City service



Jaime Castellon
LADWP, Retired after 37 years of City service



Margarita Guevara
LAPD, Retired after 30 years of City service



Johnny L. Williams, Jr.
Public Works/Sanitation, Retired after 30 years of City service



Frederick C. Glover
Public Works/Sanitation, Retired after 36 years of City service



Steven W. Miller
LADOT, Retired after 35 years of City service



Matthew Montgomery
LADWP, Retired after 24 years of City service



Rebecca D. Gonzalez
Rec and Parks, Retired after 30 years of City service



Chol Song Kim
General Services, Retired after 20 years of City service



**Be Celebrated.
Be Honored.
Be Thanked.**

Retirement Prep: Get Ready. Get Happy!

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT



Nominate a Club Member as

THE CLUB

Employee of the Year!

- City of Los Angeles**
Employee of the Year
- LADWP**
Employee of the Year
- County of Los Angeles**
Employee of the Year
- State of California**
Employee of the Year
- LAUSD**
Employee of the Year
- Retiree of the Year**



Arlene Herrero
VP of Business Development

Calling Excellent Employees!

Club Members are bold ... fun ... hard-working ... humble ... and generally awesome. You know Club Members who fit that description. It's time to nominate them.

In a new program, the Club will honor awesome public service employees:

- City of Los Angeles Employee of the Year
- LADWP Employee of the Year
- County of Los Angeles Employee of the Year
- State of California Employee of the Year
- LAUSD Employee of the Year
- Retiree of the Year

We'll honor the absolute best in public service employees at the Club's annual luncheon, set for Wed., Jan. 8 at the California Endowment Center in downtown Los Angeles.



DeAngelo Thompson
Mobile Operations Representative

Successful honorees must be Club Members, but you, the nominator, do not need to be a Club Member. Final selections from those nominated will be made by Club staff.

Your role: We need nominees!

Nominate your colleagues, bosses, direct reports, family members, and so forth, who are current Club Members. Your identity as the one making the nominations will not be disclosed.

Thank you for reflecting excellence in Club Membership!



Employee of the Year!

NOMINATION DEADLINE:
Dec. 1, 2024

AWARD PRESENTATION:
Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025
The Club's Annual Luncheon at the California Endowment Center, Downtown Los Angeles



Submit your nominations online at: liveemployeesclub.com/award

A Condors Record

ZOO'S FAMOUS CONDOR REPOPULATION PROGRAM HATCHES 17 CHICKS.

ZOO: The Los Angeles Zoo is capping off its 2024 California condor breeding season with a record-breaking 17 chicks hatched – all of which will be candidates for release into the wild as part of the California Condor Recovery Program (CCRP). The 17th and final chick of the season hatched in June and is thriving. The previous record of 15 California condor chicks hatched at the L.A. Zoo was set in 1997.

"This is a historic moment for the California Condor Recovery Program and the Los Angeles Zoo's animal care team," said Rose Legato, Curator of Birds, Los Angeles Zoo. "Our condor team has raised the bar once again in the collaborative effort to save America's largest flying bird from extinction."

"The L.A. Zoo has been an integral partner in the recovery of the iconic California condor since the inception of the program in the 1980s when the species was at the brink of extinction," said Denise

M. Verret, Los Angeles Zoo CEO/Zoo Director and Club Member. As of December 2023, there are 561 California condors in the world, of which 344 are living in the wild. The number fluctuates daily.

The California condor is the largest land bird in North America with wings spanning an amazing nine-and-a-half feet. Adult condors stand at around three feet and weigh 17 to 25 pounds.

While California condors are not on exhibit at the Zoo, guests have the opportunity to catch a glimpse of these critically endangered birds by participating in Condor Spotting, held daily (except Tuesdays) by Learning and Engagement staff from 12:30 to 1 p.m. at the picnic area next to the Angela Collier World of Birds Show Theater. ●



From *Alive!* November 2019, from left: Debbie Sears, Animal Keeper; Denise Verret, Zoo CEO and Director, Club Member; and Robert Larios, Club CEO, with Zoo "Ambassador" Dolly, a California condor. (Club photo by Summy Lam)



Read the feature story from Nov 2019.

You Are Appreciated At the Club

LIMITED EDITION PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS

ADORH IV

THE STAGE PLAY

finale'
WPD: LADY Y SMITH
AD: GEORGI MCKINNEY

seeder harvests

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

ANTHONY DESIRE'
GIGI RENFRO
JADORI NICHOLS
DEBORAH MCMILLER
NAKELA SCOTT
KALI JONES
MARLEE FORD
SKYE MCMILLER

WILLIAM & JANE BRISTOL AUDITORIUM * 16600 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE * BELLFLOWER
DOORS OPEN 2P * SHOW 3P - WWW.LEWSIC.COM
\$25 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL at EVENTBRITE FOR A LIMITED TIME

Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

Oklahoma



"Oklahoma! Land of the Native Americans: Tulsa, Oklahoma City and Pawhuska (Drummond Ranch).

"The wife and I set out on our annual adventure to the Sooner state, stayed at the Hard Rock hotel and Casino (the wife won a few \$\$\$) ... onto a Professional Bull Riding (PBR) event at the Paycome Center, then to Pawhuska, where cooking show host Ree Drummond, a.k.a. the 'Pioneer Woman,' films and shares her cooking recipes and family activities on their Drummond Ranch.

"The town of Pawhuska began to thrive after the popularity of the Pioneer Woman show's success. Tourists like ourselves traveled to experience the small-town vibe, and dining and shopping at an area invested in and rebuilt by the Drummond family.

"A fantastic trip and beautiful state with trees as far as the eye can see ... and the Oklahomans themselves, as you would imagine, are down to earth and caring."

Sgt. Mike Alva, Retired, Port Police, and Maria Alva

Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor



Letter From Iguazu Falls Wildlife and Waterfalls

I have seen Victoria Falls between Zambia and Zimbabwe while working as a safari guide in Africa, and Niagara Falls between Canada and the United States as a tourist. It's clear why they are listed as wonders of the world. But despite their worldwide notoriety, tucked away in the northeastern corner of Argentina, sharing the border with Brazil, lies one of the world's most awe-inspiring natural wonders, Iguazu Falls. Cascades of more than 275 individual drops make it taller than Niagara Falls (269 feet) and 3,000 feet wider than Victoria Falls.

From Argentina, the fastest way to the Iguazu Falls is a two-hour flight from Buenos Aires City airport or a 24-hour coach ride to Puerto Iguazu, the town closest to the falls. Three days is the perfect time to visit both sides of the falls. (Cruise ship passengers can see both sides of the falls, but it's a very long, expensive day.)

A SAMPLE ITINERARY:

Day 1: Fly to Puerto Iguazu. A coach leaves the airport for downtown every 20 minutes, costing about \$8.50. It is also possible to hire a driver for the day, either outside the airport or near the bus station downtown. If on a budget, stay near Puerto Iguazu's central bus station. Resort-style hotels are farther away from the airport, so check if they offer transfers to the airport and downtown.

Air conditioning is a must after a day at the falls in the jungle heat, regardless of where you stay.

Visit the three-country landmarks of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, then enjoy a cocktail from the El Hito restaurant balcony while watching the sunset over the magnificent Tancredo Bridge in the evening.

Day 2: Visit the Brazilian side of the falls overlooking Argentina. Coaches from Puerto Iguazu bus station are cheap (Rio Uruguay Co, leave every hour). The border crossing is very casual; it is just a passport check. The coach will stop at a bird sanctuary and picnic area before arriving at the park. If you are taking a self-guided tour, buy a ticket at the entrance kiosk machines. No Brazilian Reals, no problem; all the vendors in the park accept all major credit cards. With the ticket in hand, join the line for the double-decker buses. Sit on the open-air top deck, as the drive is through six miles of rainforest.

Unless you have a mobility problem, get off at stop two, a well-marked half-mile trail that passes all of the fall's best views. Watch out for wildlife, especially the coati; at the trail end, there is a raised platform directly beneath the central crescent of the falls. Being so close is not only a humbling experience but a wet one, so place your phone in a plastic bag and remove only for photos; if not, it will get wet, like you. There are restrooms and refreshment stands with enclosed cages to protect you from the hungry coati while eating. Check the time of your return bus to Puerto Iguazu, Argentina, from the park entrance. It takes about 20 to 25 minutes to return from the falls.

Day 3: Take an early coach to Argentina National Park. There is no bus stop, so pay attention. This is also your return point. Like Brazil, it's straightforward to buy a ticket at the park's entrance and board a little train to the trail called the "Devil's Throat." Take a raincoat or poncho, as



Trying to stay dry at Iguazu falls.

the viewing platform at the end of this half-mile path can be very wet. This trail, including the train ride, takes about 90 minutes to visit. Of the five trails, this is the best; the other four depend on how much time you want to spend walking.

Trail 2: Upper Circuit. This trail, along the top of all the falls, is the most impressive and takes about 1 hour.

Trail 3: Lower Circuit. This trail offers opportunities to photograph rainbows forming over waterfalls and butterflies in the rainforest canopy.

Trail 4: Green Trail. This quiet jungle greenery trail starts near the main entrance and leads to the start of paths 1, 2 and 3.

Trail 5: Macuco Trail. This is a two-hour walk for serious hikers along a very remote trail, perfect for bird watching and the chance to meet native animals. Ensure you take enough drinking water, comfortable shoes, sunscreen and a hat.

There is no better time to visit Argentina than now.

— The Captain

More pictures on Web Alive!



CLUB MEMBER - TRAVEL DEALS

Traveling somewhere fun like Capt. Barnes? Save money with thousands of awesome Club deals!



EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM

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.



Arlene on the Scene

Alive! follows Arlene Herrero as she meets Club Members.

by Arlene Herrero

Vice President of Business Development

August 15

The Club cosponsored LA County's Women's Leadership Conference, held Aug. 15 at the Westin Bonaventure downtown. Of course Arlene met Club Members



New Member Bryan Durant, Retirement Benefit Specialist with LACERA, the Los Angeles County Employees' Retirement Association. "Welcome to the Club, Bryan! Thanks for all you do!"



From left: Michelle Yanes and Maria Silva, both with LACERA – the Los Angeles County Employees' Retirement Association – marked their 8th anniversary of Club Membership at this year's event. "Thank you, ladies, for your dedicated service to fellow County employees," Arlene says. "Your commitment and hard work are truly appreciated!"



Club Sports: Get in the Game!

Another Great
CLUB BENEFIT



CLUB SPORTS

by Noelle Kauffman,
Club Sports Commissioner



Club Sports: Where You Belong!

New sports ... Club sponsorships ... LA and Sacramento ... and more. Great fun for awesome and casual athletes alike!



Turkey Trot 5-K

Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving morning)
City Hall, Downtown Los Angeles

Run off your holiday meal in advance by participating in a friendly 5-K run or walk!

Friends, family and colleagues are encouraged to participate or spectate! The race starts and ends at City Hall.

Club Member price: \$19.95 per runner

Non-Member price: \$29.99 (Regular price: \$44.12)

Gobble Wobble Turkey Trot 5-K

Nov. 30 Downtown Sacramento

Keep the holiday pounds away by joining other State Club Members at this 5-K Turkey Trot!

Friends, family and colleagues are encouraged to participate or spectate!

Club Member price: \$19.95

Non-Member price: \$29.99 (Regular price: \$40.22)



Club Sponsored Basketball Tournament

Oct. 14 EXPO Center

Be part of a team, or be a super fan and experience the action!

Free agent and team spots available.

Player fee is \$20 per person. Must be a Club Member to participate.

Calling All Current and Future Club Members

Club Sports is expanding – offering events and activities that bring public employees together.

This fall, the Club is thrilled to offer new and exciting additions to the Club Sports Program at an affordable price for Club Members.

Don't miss out! Slots are filling up fast. Secure your spot today and be part of the action!

Under the pictures are the upcoming Club Sport Events to add to your calendar.

Sign Up!

If you or your colleagues are interested in participating in any of the events, please contact Club Sports Director Noelle at nkauffman@employeesclub.com.

Now is the time to **BE CLUB!**



Club Sponsored Softball Tournament

Nov. 14 Rancho Park Rec Center

Be part of a team, or come out and support your fellow public employees from the stands!

Free agent and team spots available.

Player fee is \$20 per person. Must be a Club Member to participate.



Tough Mudder

Dec. 7 Lake Elsinore

The Club's first sponsored mudder race, where you'll overcome an intense obstacle course, designed to test physical strength, mental grit and aptitude for camaraderie.

Join the muddy fun and save big by signing up!

Friends, family and colleagues encouraged to participate!

Club Member price: \$59.99

Non-Member price: \$99.99 (Regular price: \$140)



FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS

LACERS Appointment-Based Service Is Now in Operation

LACERS is now using an appointment-based system for all Members who need in-person assistance. There are two options for appointments: in person, at LACERS headquarters; and virtually, via Zoom. These new options allow for timely and convenient access to get your questions answered. Visit lacers.org/contact-us to make an appointment online or call (800) 779-8328.

Appointments aren't necessary if you drop off documents Mon. – Fri. from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., and don't need to speak to anyone. Please note that LACERS' operating hours have changed.

In-Person and Virtual Appointment Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday. **Phone Hours:** 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tuesday

Be advised that pre-entry metal detector screening requirements are in place at LACERS' headquarters, and a current government-issued photo identification or City employee badge is required except when attending public meetings of the LACERS Board of Administration. Parking is not available at the building. Paid parking lots,

LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

public transit and street parking are available nearby.

Additional online options continue to be available to you. 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 LACERS' YouTube channel at youtube.com/@lacersofficial where you can find a wealth of benefits videos. Stay up to date on LACERS announcements by checking the LACERS website periodically at LACERS.org, contacting LACERS by email at lacers.services@lacers.org, and by phone at (800) 779-8328. ●

Updating a Beneficiary for Your LACERS Benefits

When is the last time you reviewed your beneficiary on file with LACERS? Maybe your situation has changed since you last looked, such as getting married or becoming a child's legal guardian. Be sure to log into your MyLACERS account at <https://mylacers.lacers.org> to view your beneficiaries on file. If you do need to make an update, visit our Forms webpage at lacers.org/forms to access the necessary forms. ●

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

LACERS Open Enrollment For 2025 Is Coming Soon

LACERS' annual Open Enrollment period will be held in the fall, and materials will be mailed in October. Materials will also be available online at lacers.org/health-benefits.

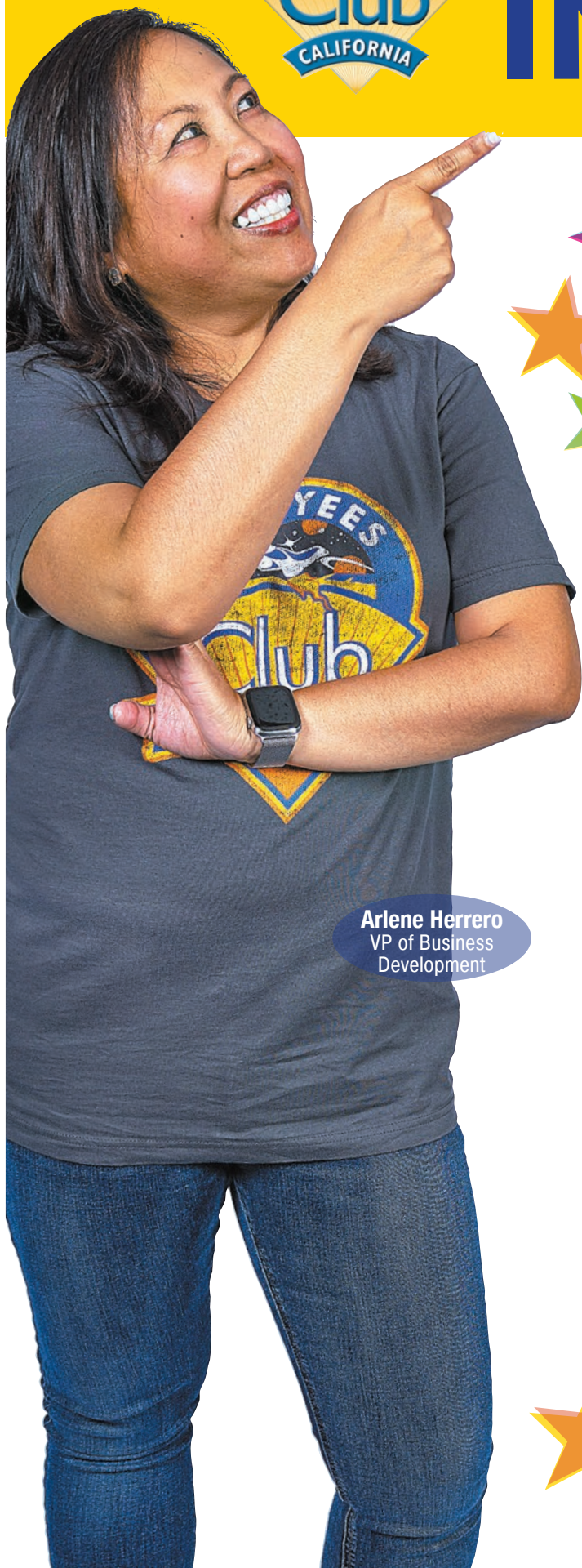
- **For Members under age 65 and non-Medicare,** your packet will include a Health Plan Statement, Open Enrollment Overview, and instructions to access the 2025 Health Benefits Guide online.
- **For Members aged 65 and older with Medicare,** your packet will include a Health Plan Statement, Open Enrollment Overview, and 2025 Health Benefits Guide. If you do not receive your packet by the end of October, please visit LACERS.org for the Open Enrollment materials.

This year, Open Enrollment meetings will be held both in-person and virtually. Meeting dates and locations will be posted on LACERS.org in September. If you are considering changing your medical or dental plan, LACERS encourages you to attend these meetings to learn more about our health plan benefit offerings and ask questions directly to the health plan carrier representatives. These meetings are also great opportunities to become more acquainted with your LACERS' health benefits. Once registration begins on September 12, you may register to attend through your MyLACERS account or by contacting LACERS at (800) 779-8328. ●



THE BENEFITS ISSUE

INCREDIBLE CLUB



Arlene Herrero
VP of Business
Development

Photos by Summy Lam, Club COO



MEMBERSHIP THAT HONORS YOU!

Celebrate Your Dedicated Service With Incredible Club Benefits!

You work hard for LA. You serve in your career for a better LA. The Club sees you, recognizes your dedication, and ensures you are honored for that.

The Club does that through offering you amazing benefits that make a great life for you and your family more affordable. They are for you!

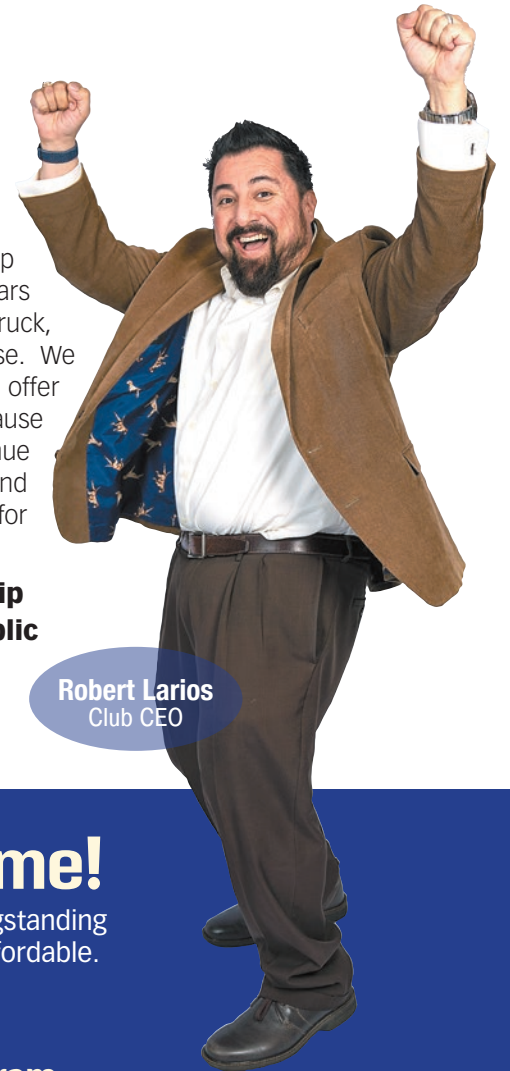
The last few years, the Club has ramped up those benefits with new opportunities for service, merchandise, career recognition, nice perks, and so much more. And we have more planned for next year and into the future.

Live your best life with Club benefits. Be celebrated. Be honored. Be thanked!

MORE MEMBERSHIPS MEANS MORE INCREDIBLE BENEFITS

The Club works hard to reward your membership with incredible benefits. We put your Membership dollars to work to create and manage the Incredible Club Truck, revolutionizing how you shop for Club merchandise. We pay for your parking and fees as often as we can. We offer beautiful and substantial Retirement Plaques because that's how much we value your careers. We continue to invest in *Alive!*, which brings you stories you'll find nowhere else. We're planning more exciting benefits for the future, too.

More Members means more Membership benefits. Encourage your fellow public employees to join the Club!



Robert Larios
Club CEO



Explore More Benefits, and more to come!

The Club is always developing new benefits to honor and celebrate your lives. But our longstanding deals – they made the Club famous! – are very much still in operating, making your lives more affordable.

Here are the categories of the thousands of Club deals available to you:



Club Retirement Plaque

Honor your dedication with a personalized Club Retirement Plaque, presented to members with 5+ years of continuous membership (a \$499 value).



Club Cash Program

Through our partner, SFCU, get instant financial relief with a pre-qualified \$500 cash advance, low interest rates, and convenient payroll deductions.



Club Scholarship Program

Supports higher education with \$750 stipends for college-bound students through the Joannie Mukai Memorial Club Scholarship.



Club Sponsored Sports

Join fellow members in friendly competition across various sports such as Basketball, Softball, obstacle course races, 5-Ks, and more fostering teamwork and camaraderie.



Fees Back Program

Enjoy affordable tickets without hidden fees. We'll reimburse you for eligible convenience, processing, or handling fees charged by our ticket partners. Lookout for special promotions such as our exclusive members-only refund for Disneyland Parking, Universal Studios Hollywood Parking, and other fun and exciting limited time special promotions.

Be Celebrated. Be Honored. Be Thanked.

SEE
NEXT
PAGE



UB BENEFITS!

DeAngelo Thompson
Mobile Operations
Representative



MEMBER BENEFIT

The Incredible Club Truck!

Legendary Club merch right to your worksite. An instant favorite!

Last year we introduced the Club Truck, an amazingly versatile Sprinter Van equipped with Club merchandise, gifts, insurance information, account reviews, and many other services. And you've responded with requests for visits. The Club Truck's schedule continues to expand.

Club Truck visits bring fun, friendship and connection to City worksites. The visits are a great way to build team morale!

Request the Club Truck at your worksite, and say hello to Lupe, DeAngelo, Eddie and Dalila!

Schedule a visit.
See page 2 for schedule.

Eduardo Escalona
Mobile Operations
Representative



'TRUCK WHISPERER'

MEMBER BENEFIT

NO TICKET FEES Fees Back!

We'll pay your ticket fees!

Nobody likes ticket fees.
The Club doesn't, either.

That's why the Club created the Fees Back program – keep your receipt, upload it to the special Club Fees Back website, and we'll reimburse you.

What a benefit! Tickets are suddenly more affordable!

The Club takes pride in offering a Zero Fee policy for all discount tickets purchased through the Club, which includes fees charged by our ticket partners.

Certain exclusions apply: To qualify, members must be in good standing with the Club. We are unable to refund taxes and fees associated with travel such as auto rentals, airline, government, and/or city taxes, hotel/resort, accommodations, or surcharges and upgrade fees for IMAX, 3D, 4D, and other premium movie theater formats.

Noelle Kauffman
Director of
Sales



Join the Club!

Be honored. Be thanked. Be celebrated for your dedicated public service. The Club recognizes all that you have accomplished in ways no other organization can.

The Club honors you with benefits that make your life more affordable and fun, your finances more secure.

Join the Club, if you already haven't. Invite your fellow public employees to join. The more Members, the more benefits you and your family can enjoy.



SCAN ME



Free Notary Public Service

Have your documents notarized through the Club or receive reimbursement up to \$15 per document.



Dining and Shopping Discounts

Unlock savings at over 75,000 dining and shopping establishments across the US and Canada.



Group-Rated Insurance

Secure your financial future with exclusive group-rated insurance options tailored for Club Members.



Authentic Club Merchandise and Apparel

Show your pride with exclusive Los Angeles City and California State merchandise, available only to Club Members.



Discount Tickets

Save big on theme parks, attractions, movie theaters, sporting events, ski lift tickets, and more. Enjoy affordable leisure time with your loved ones.



The *Alive!* Newspaper and Website

Stay informed with our monthly publication, featuring news, events, and department spotlights. Available online and in print, included with your Membership.



THE BENEFITS ISSUE

INCREDIBLE CLUB



Cynthia Ha
Member Services
Counselor

MEMBER BENEFIT

Private Parties Return!

You love them. The Club loves arranging them for you!



Earlier this past year, the Club brought them back with a sold-out performance at Medieval Times. Everybody had fun.



Here comes another private party:

Pirates Adventure, coming Oct. 13!

– SEE AD, PAGE 5

Private Party!



MEMBER BENEFIT

CLUB SPORTS

Now more sports: Get in the game!

Like in the rest of the country, participatory sports took a hit during COVID – they ended.

So did Club Sports, for everyone's safety.

It's now roaring back ... with lots of new options for athletes of all skill levels.

Check out what sports are coming:

- Softball
- Basketball
- 5K runs (we'll reimburse your entrance fees for select events (including two Turkey Trots on Thanksgiving))
- Mudders Run
- And more!

For More Information, See the Club Sports story on page 11.



MEMBER BENEFIT

Club Scholarships

Money for college!

With college costs rising to the point of being nearly outpriced for working families, the Club steps in to help. Each year, the Club's Joannie Mukai Scholarship Program awards stipends of \$750 to members of the Club family who attend or are entering a four-year college. Eligible Club family members includes Club Members, their spouses, children, stepchildren, grandchildren, and nieces and nephews up to the age of 24.

Earlier this year, the Club honored 32 college students with Mukai Scholarships.

Look for announcements to begin in January 2025 for next year's program.



Full rules can be found by scanning the QR code.



2024 Scholarship Recipients

MEMBER BENEFIT

Guadalupe Lira
Retail Operations
Manager

Club Service Pins Coming in 2025!

We value longtime Club Members and look to rewarding you. Look for more details on this exciting and valuable benefit program to be revealed next year. Stay tuned!



EXPLORE BENEFITS NOW
EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM/REGISTER

Be Celebrated. Be Honored. Be Thanked.

BENEFITS!

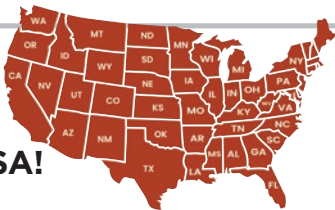
Arlene Herrero
VP of Business Development



MEMBER BENEFIT

Events Anywhere

Sports/concert tickets across the USA!



You love following your favorite NFL team ... even if they are playing in a different city, or state.

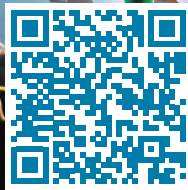
You love following your favorite band ... even if they're next concert is across the country.

Can you still get a Club discount?

Most likely yes! Your discounts aren't limited to Los Angeles or even California.

The Club partners with Member Deals for excellent discounts throughout the United States. The list of available games, concerts and theatrical events is enormous.

Take advantage and enjoy your favorite attractions ... wherever they happen to be!



SCAN ME



Join the Club!

Be honored. Be thanked. Be celebrated for your dedicated public service. The Club recognizes all that you have accomplished in ways no other organization can.

The Club honors you with benefits that make your life more affordable and fun, your finances more secure, and your accomplishments more celebrated through *Alive!*, our monthly newspaper and website.

Join the Club, if you already haven't. Invite your fellow public employees to join. The more Members, the more benefits you and your family can enjoy.

Be honored for your public service. Join the Club!



SCAN ME

MEMBER BENEFIT

Free Notary Public Service

Have your documents notarized through the Club or receive reimbursement up to \$15 per document.



MEMBER BENEFIT



Retirees Plaque Be honored for your City service!

You worked hard for many years. You've given your professional life to the City and people of Los Angeles. Maybe this moment in your career has faded over time or was never acknowledged properly to begin with. You deserve to be recognized and rewarded in a very special way. Your hard work matters to us.

Let the Club recognize your sacrifice and hard work. The Club is delighted to honor Retired Club Members with a beautiful and substantial retirement plaque to show you how much we appreciate your dedication to public service. It's a beautiful plaque, presented in a beautiful service that is open to your family and friends to attend. Many do.

There is no additional cost for Club Members to receive this coveted Retirement Plaque. We reserve this honor for those who have been Club Members for at least five consecutive years.

Let us honor you. If you're Retired or soon will retire, and you meet the criteria, contact us to begin the process.

FREE!* CLUB RETIREMENT PLAQUE

Retired or Retiring Soon?

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

***a \$499 value!**

Get started here:



EXPLORE MORE BENEFITS ONLINE

Register your Club membership account online and unlock all your Club Member perks!



EXPLORE BENEFITS NOW
EMPLOYEECLUB.COM/REGISTER

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, <i>Nominations Chair</i>	Ext. 702
Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, <i>Treasurer</i>	Ext. 718
Mark Blunk, <i>Audit Chair</i>	Ext. 704
Beverly J. Clark, <i>Publicity Director</i>	Ext. 716
Nancy Hammoudian, <i>Secretary</i>	Ext. 705
Vicki Keoseian, <i>Entertainment Chair</i>	Ext. 719
Ruth B. Perry, <i>President</i>	Ext. 717
Joe Quan, <i>Technology Director</i>	Ext. 703
Ann Seales, <i>Membership Director</i>	Ext. 706
Leonard Torres, <i>Director</i>	Ext. 707

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.



Beverly J. Clark

Send in your Interesting News Contributions!

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

RETIREE EVENTS

Sept. 12, Summer Fiesta 2024
Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Dr.
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Dec. 12, Holiday Party 2024
Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

RLACEI EVENTS RESERVATION LINE

Call: (800) 678-4145, ext. 701
or Email: contact@lacei.org

Due to staffing, telephone confirmation cannot be provided.



Noelle Kauffman
Director of Sales

Join the Club!

Call (800) 464-0452 to join the club.

Or use the QR code to join online.



Be celebrated.
Be honored.
Be thanked.

RLACEI Members:

Stay Connected With Alive! and the Club: Join Today!

Do you love reading heartwarming stories about Retirees just like you in *Alive!*? Do you enjoy all the fantastic Club benefits that save you money? Don't miss out – join the Club and keep the connection alive!

An Important Update

The Club's agreement with RLACEI is changing. If you receive *Alive!* through your RLACEI membership, your subscription is ending; the September 2024 issue will be your final one. But don't worry—the Club plans to continue publishing RLACEI news and features, just for you!



Easy Sign-Up Process

Cost: Just \$4 per month for Retirees, conveniently deducted from your LACERS pension payment.

If You Were a Club Member: Simply re-register by scanning the QR code. Or go to employeesclub.com.

If You Were Not a Club Member: Join the family for the first time! Call (800) 464-0452 to join the club. Or use the QR code to join online.

It's easy to sign up for the Club and continue to receive *Alive!* and all Club benefits. Here's how:

Why Join the Club?

Retirees get an incredible value for their affordable Club Membership fee:

- **Exclusive City news and features:** *Alive!* keeps you informed and entertained with news and stories about fellow Retirees, and the In Memoriam and Retirees lists, delivered right to your home.
- **Fantastic Benefits:** Enjoy a range of great discounts and perks that save you and your family money every day.
- **Incredible Club Retirement Plaque:** Celebrate your service with a handsome plaque valued at hundreds of dollars, available to Retired Club Members in good standing for at least five consecutive years.
- **Access to Club Signature Events:** Members gain access to Club Signature events exclusive to Club Members, allowing them to reconnect with co-workers.
- **And so much more!**

Don't miss out on all the joy and benefits the Club has to offer. Reconnect to Club membership today—it's truly worth it.



RLACEI MEMBERS

Not an RLACEI member?

Join and like us on FACEBOOK

Call (800) 678-4145 x706 or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG



Become an RLACEI Member!

RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. We are over 6,300 strong! Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. enjoy all RLACEI events such as, member picnic and holiday party with FREE membership to the Employees Club and access to all group benefits (insurance, discounts, etc.).

Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 706, or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG and join today!



Arnette Travis

GET HAPPY NOW

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

When We Plan to Retire

We are urged to start planning for retirement almost from the time we begin work. In fact, for many people the retirement benefits offered by a company, institution or agency weigh heavily on whether they go to work there.

We can all agree that finance is essential to retirement planning and that there are many resources available to us. You can talk to a financial adviser, read books and articles, or use online tools.

But there is another key element that is often omitted or taken for granted in our retirement plans: Happiness. Why is happiness important? For starters, it can improve our physical and mental health, relationships, and overall quality of life.

SPECIFICALLY:

- Physical health is improved by reducing stress, boosting the immune system, and protecting against heart disease and other chronic illnesses.
- Mental health is improved by reducing anxiety and depression, increasing self-esteem and optimism.
- Relationships are improved because happy people are more likable and supportive, and as a result, they have more positive relationships with other people.
- Happiness improves the overall quality of life by making people more productive at work and school and increases their satisfaction with life.



WHAT DOES RETIREMENT PLANNING FOR HAPPINESS LOOK LIKE?

During their work years, people who plan for happiness prioritize spending time with loved ones, pursuing their passions and helping others. Coincidentally, this doesn't mean that they are less successful in their careers than those who spend 60-plus hours a week working. It does mean that they are more likely to live longer, healthier, happier lives and spend their time with meaning and purpose when they retire. ●

RLACEI Board Vacancy

Qualifications:

- Retired City Employee
- Enjoy working to improve and maintain City Benefits
- Want to make a difference
- Enjoy being involved

Contact :

Beverly Anderson
at Beverly.Anderson@RLACEI.org or leave a message at (800) 678-4145 ext. 702

Join us for a -

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

Join today!

Thursday, September 12, 2024

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027

RSVP to (800) 678-4145 Ext. 701

RLACEI Fiesta – September 12, 2024, Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Number of Attendees: 1 2

Meal Selection: Carne Asada Tacos Chicken Tacos Cheese Quesadilla

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

** Only RLACEI members will be eligible to win prizes. **

RSVP no later than September 6, 2024.
RLACEI member plus one guest at no cost.
To join RLACEI, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 706.
Only RLACEI members will be eligible to win prizes.

LACERS BOARD UPDATE

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

LACERS Reports on Private Equity Returns



Michael R. Wilkinson

Now is the time to look again at our Private Equity program since it is a vital part of our investment portfolio at LACERS. As you know, LACERS invests in widely diversified products so that the plan reduces the risk of loss by not putting all our capital in one investment or asset class.

LACERS investment staff and the Board of Administration are always working toward hitting our long-term goal of an assumed rate of investment return of seven percent for the total fund.

Private Equity is an asset class that can produce high returns, but it is also volatile, and returns can vary greatly from year to year. Aksia, LACERS' Private Equity consultant, reported on the most recent performance of the program for the period ending Dec. 31, 2023. LACERS' investment allocation target for Private Equity is 16 percent of the total plan assets, but our actual invested amount was 18.8 percent because distributions from the investments have been slower than expected, causing the exposure to increase.

The Private Equity program returned (internal rate of return, IRR) the following:

- 8 percent for 1 year
- 14.5 percent for 3 years
- 16.3 percent for 5 years
- 13.2 percent for 10 years
- 13.1 percent for 20 years

The one-, three-, five- and 20-year returns beat the benchmark, while the 10-year returns trailed the benchmark slightly.

LACERS Private Equity program has been cash flow positive for most of the past ten years as a mature plan. This means that the distributions have been more than the contributions during this period. Some of the advantages of being cash flow positive are having extra funds to make the pension roll, making new investments and paying other pension expenses. By comparison, new Private Equity plans tend to be cash flow negative since they are making contributions to long-term investments that will pay off later. ●



Photos courtesy LAPD, Harbor



SOUTHWEST DIVISION

"A true National Night Out builds trust and strengthens Community relationships. Having a Community Leader host the LAPD Southwest event is a true sign of engagement."



A Night Out to Build Community

POLICE DEPT., PORT POLICE TOOK PART IN NATIONAL NIGHT OUT.

LAPD/HARBOR: On Tues., Aug. 6, several divisions of the LAPD and the Port Police took part in National Night Out, a nationwide event that brings community and law enforcement together for building the neighborhood, sharing crime prevention tips, and having some family fun.

In the past, more than 32 million people nationwide were reported to have participated in 9,600 communities in all 50 states.

Many LAPD areas and divisions took part. Here are some images from the evening. ●

HARBOR DIVISION

"Harbor City on the Gateway embracing culture for National Night Out. Great to meet our youth members at this event."

"What a great start for LAPD Harbor Division National Night Out event at Wilmington Waterfront Park. The engagement with our Community members and stakeholders was fantastic. Thank you all who came out."

"Thanks Harbor for a great National Night Out! Five events across all four communities really showcased the beauty and diversity of the Harbor area. Thanks for all the love and support tonight."



LA PORT POLICE

"Thank you to everyone who came out for National Night Out! We are blessed to serve such a wonderful community!"



VAN NUYS DIVISION

"National Night Out 2024 - Van Nuys Division at the Sherman Oaks Farmers Market."



HOLLYWOOD DIVISION

"Thank you to everyone who came out to Hollywood Division's National Night Out 2024!"



CENTRAL BUREAU

LAPD Outreach: "National Night Out 2024 was extra special because of the support of LAPD Cadets, LAPD Central and LAPD Outreach. It was a fun time for community members and LAPD Officers to spend time with one another."

77TH STREET DIVISION

"Another great community National Night Out for LAPD 77th St. Thank you Home Depot for providing the space for us to engage our community members."



WEST LA DIVISION

"It's National Night Out in LAPD West LA. LAPD Outreach Officers and Cadets spent time meeting with community members to discuss public safety, crime prevention and get to know one another."



TOPANGA DIVISION

OPERATIONS/ VALLEY BUREAU



Travel Deals: Savings the World Over.

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT



Two Awards for Excellence

PLANNING WINS FOR PUBLIC OUTREACH, COMMUNITY PLANNING.

PLANNING: City Planning recently received two prestigious awards from the Los Angeles section of the American Planning Association (APA LA). The Department won the Award of Excellence in the Public Outreach category for its work on the Citywide Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) Community Based Organization (CBO) Outreach. The Department also received the Award of Excellence for the Downtown Community Plan in the Comprehensive Plan (Large Jurisdiction) category.

The CHIP outreach conducted with community-based organizations was recognized as a model effort to amplify the voices of those traditionally underrepresented in the planning process through collaborative, inclusive and creative events amidst a historic effort to rezone the City for increased development of affordable housing. The project team included staff from the Housing and Environmental Justice teams in Citywide Planning.

The Downtown Community Plan envisions a sustainable, equitable and inclusive future for downtown. The goals and policies described in this plan seek to address many of the challenges facing downtown and the larger region, such as climate change, housing demand and affordability, and a shifting economy, through strategies that guide thoughtful growth

through 2040. The plan includes a comprehensive rezone of more than 15,000 parcels and the implementation of the City's New Zoning Code. The project team included staff currently and formerly in the Central/East Community Planning Division with support from GIS and Graphics.

Additionally, the Black Planners of Los Angeles (BPLA), whose membership includes many Planning staff, received an Award of Excellence in the Advancing Diversity and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff. Leading up to the award, BPLA received an official designation as an employee organization within the City of Los Angeles during Black History Month. Moreover, they were recently recognized during Juneteenth by Mayor Karen Bass, Council President-Elect Marqueece Harris-Dawson, and Councilmembers Imelda Padilla and Eunisses Hernandez for their exemplary work representing the interests of Black city employees within the field of planning. BPLA continues to expand professional development opportunities available to City employees and is planning further community engagement events to elevate the interests of BIPOC communities.

All teams were honored at the APA LA 2024 Awards Gala June 25 at the California Science Center.

Here are the staff contributors for the CHIP Community Based Organization Outreach, Public Outreach Award of Excellence and Award of Merit by APA LA and APA California:

Staff Contributors

- Blair Smith, Sr. City Planner
- Wajiha Ibrahim, City Planner
- Alisanne Meyers, Planning Assistant
- Abigail Thomas, Planning Assistant

Community-Based Organization Contributors

- SAJE
- Pacoima Beautiful
- Esperanza Community Housing
- CHIRLA
- LA Forward
- Abundant Housing
- ACT-LA
- Korean Immigrant Workers Alliance, KIWA

Here are the staff contributors for the APA LA and APA California Advancing Diversity and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff Award of Excellence. The BPLA executive team and board positions can be found here: <https://blackplanners.la/meet-the-board/>

Staff Contributors

- Kyle Winston, City Planner
- Terri Osbourne, Council Aide VI
- Joe Luckey, City Planning Associate
- Theodore Irving, Principal City Planner
- Umaymah Rashid, Public Relations Specialist
- Walidah Williams, Planning Assistant
- Leitha Young, Administrative Clerk
- Jason Douglas, City Planner
- Lamont Cobb, Council Aide VII
- Angela Williams, Planning Assistant
- Kidada Malloy, Mayoral Aide VI

Here are the staff contributors for the Award of Excellence for the Downtown Community Plan in the Comprehensive Plan:

Staff Contributors

- Craig Weber, Principal City Planner
- Brittany Arceneaux, Sr. City Planner
- Veena Snehansh, City Planner
- Clare Kelley, City Planner
- Tal Harari, City Planner
- Alice Okumura, City Planning Associate
- Dominick Ortiz, City Planning Associate



APA LA Awards, from left: Anna Vidal, Sr. City Planner; Abigail Thomas, Planning Assistant; Alisanne Meyers, Planning Assistant; Kevin Umana, Student Professional Worker; Walidah Williams, Planning Assistant; Kyle Winston, City Planner; Terri Osbourne, Council Aide VI; Hakeem Parks-Davis, Council Aide VI; Jason Douglas, City Planner; Cameron Carrasquillo, City Planner; Wajiha Ibrahim, City Planner; Blair Smith, Sr. City Planner; and Isaiah Ross, City Planning Associate.

Photo courtesy Planning



Noelle's Picture Perfect Contest

Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales

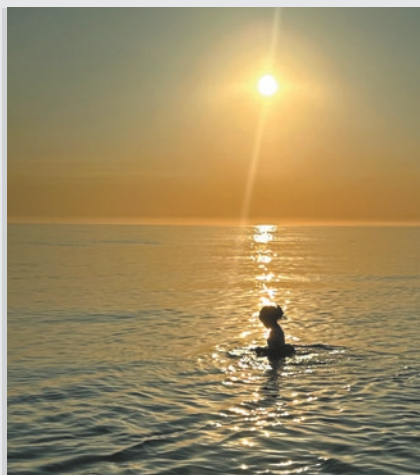
This month's theme was: **Summer's Golden Days**



"A summer evening stroll through the Huntington Gardens, my favorite place to visit in LA County."

- Shaudi Pishvaie, LAPD

Noelle's comment: Hi Shaudi, what a glorious shot that blends both the subject – the flowers at Huntington Gardens, and the golden sunlight. That is exactly what I had mind with this month's theme. Dream-like and full of life. Thanks for submitting!



"I took my five-year-old granddaughter to our beach in La Ribera, Baja Sur, at 5:30 in the morning to catch the sunrise. She couldn't help it and jumped in the warm waters of the Sea of Cortez." - Rose Serrato, LAPD

Noelle's comment: Hi Rose, I love that it's just a hint of your granddaughter silhouetted in the morning goldenness. It's mythical and very well framed. Perfect!



"Summer golden day – a dragon fruit bloom in my garden!"

- Elizabeth Lee, Retired, Finance

Noelle's comment: Beautiful capture of nature, Elizabeth! The golden floral hues highlight the bright white expanse, giving just a hint of contrast and subtlety. Thank you for submitting!



"Toasting marshmallows over an open fire while camping in England's New Forest."

- Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor

Noelle's comment: The flame is playing in the light, almost delighted to have given what your young subject needed – the melting heat for the marshmallows. I can taste them, and remember the feeling from years ago. Evocative and excellent. Thank you for submitting!



"Four years ago, my wife's niece (left) and her friend finally achieved their dream. What better way to complete summer than feeling high above the sand with a backyard overlooking the ocean. Beach house property and palm trees not included."

- Dominique Daito, LAPD

Noelle's comment: The golden light of the end of summer softly illuminates their faces and their spirit here, Dominique. You couldn't have added flash that high up, so I presume that light is sunset-driven. The split-second moment of the exposure captured a joy that might not be remembered four years later as crisply as it is here. Very well done, as always!

The next photo contest theme: **Pets Doing Homework**

DEADLINE: **September 16**

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

Let's go back to school – with your pets! The Club's online photo contest, organized by Director of Sales Noelle Kauffman, has a monthly theme. For the next contest, the theme is "pets doing homework" – send in a photo featuring your favorite scenes of pets studying hard.

ENTER TO WIN \$50 AMAZON E-GIFT CARD



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

Fees Back: Your Fun. We Pay the Fees!

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT



Story by and photos courtesy of Retired Sr. Lead Officer Cheryl Morris, Retired, Club Member

A Pioneer Retires

PORT POLICE OFFICER MARIA HERNANDEZ, PORT'S FIRST FEMALE K9 OFFICER, RETIRES.

HARBOR: K9 Officer Maria Hernandez, Port Police, 41 years of City service, Club Member, a trailblazer who paved the way for other female Officers by being the first female K9 Officer in Port Police history, retired July 26 after a long and trailblazing career. She was a pioneer in maritime law enforcement.

Maria, with 34 years as a Port Police Officer (and 41 years overall with the City), made history when the LA Port Police hired her as the first female K9 Officer. Maria's career trajectory within the City of Los Angeles was remarkable. She started as a Security Officer for the Los Angeles Public Library and later transitioned to the LADWP and Cabrillo Marine Aquarium before joining the Port Police.

Maria's impact as the first female K9 Officer in the L.A. Port Police cannot be overstated. She has shattered glass ceilings and paved the way for other women in law enforcement.

The challenges Maria faced as a Police Officer were already demanding, but being the first female K9 Officer presented additional obstacles due to its uncharted territory. Long hours, grueling calls and witnessing people at their worst moments are all part of the job for those who wear the police uniform and are "Sworn to Protect and Dedicated to Serve." However, Maria's unwavering perseverance and resilience in the face of adversity have been truly inspiring. Her life reflects what can be achieved with determination and courage.

Despite receiving little support and being treated indifferently at times, through her hard work and dedication, she earned the respect and support of the general public and many of her peers. Along her journey, Maria has formed lifelong friendships that she considers family. She draws strength from her unwavering faith in God and the guidance of positive role models.

As an Explosive K9 Handler, Maria worked with outside agencies and was requested to assist on many occasions. Port Police K9 handlers might be involved in searches of buildings, structures, open areas, vehicles, vessels, containers, special events, VIP visits, restricted areas, unattended bags or articles at the cruise terminals, and throughout the Port to ensure no one attempts to bring any explosive devices or weapons onto the property.

Maria's career as a K9 Officer has been both rewarding and fulfilling. The ability to have a K9 partner respond effectively to various situations and to understand and read her dog has made Maria and her K9 partner, Emir, an exceptional team. The unique and unbreakable bond they shared is unparalleled, serving as a testament to the special relationship essential to Maria's career and daily life. This bond is one that we can all admire.

The tragic events of 9/11 led to the need for more K9 Officers. Maria seized the opportunity to become an Explosives Detection K-9 Handler in 2007, solidifying her place in history.

Her expertise and dedication in this role made her the longest-serving K9 Officer currently in the Port Police K9 Unit. Maria's contributions extended beyond the Port of Los Angeles, as she collaborated with outside agencies and conducted searches to ensure the community's safety. The bond she shared with her K9 partner, Emir, was not just strong; it was unbreakable, and together, they proved to be an exceptional team.

Maria received her Associate of Arts degree in the administration of justice from Citrus College in Glendora in 1982. While attending Cal Poly Pomona in 1978, she was a track and field / cross country athlete, competing and winning a myriad of medals and was selected to attend a running camp at the United States Olympic Training Center, Squaw Valley. She graduated from the Sheriff's Academy in 1990.

Maria says she would like to see more women in law enforcement and become K9 Officers/Handlers. She firmly believes that whatever law enforcement job you choose, you should do it to the best of your ability. Officers must remember that honesty is saying what you mean, and integrity means what you say! She believes law enforcement organizations must remember when Police Officers retire or leave the profession entirely, they take with them a wealth of generational and institutional wisdom. The wealth of knowledge, experience and training needs to be passed on years before an Officer retires, and organizations should utilize the talent of each sworn Officer in their organization.

Maria's advice to Officers is to approach their jobs with honesty and integrity because these qualities define true professionalism. These qualities made her who she is. Being a Police Officer and wearing the Police Badge did not define her; instead, her work ethic and hard work did.

Congratulations to K9 Officer Maria Hernandez on her retirement, and she is commended for 41 years of dedicated service with the City of Los Angeles. Her unwavering commitment to the community, her trailblazing legacy, and the lasting impact of her contributions to law enforcement will be remembered and appreciated for years to come. ●



Officer Maria Hernandez and her K9, Emir.



Maria, soon after joining the Port Police as an Explosive K9 Handler.



Port Police Explosive K9 Handler Maria Hernandez, now Retired.



Maria and her K9, Emir.



From left: Officer Maria Hernandez and Retired Sr. Lead Officer Cheryl Morris.



Councilmembers and representatives of Public Works celebrate National Public Works Week in Council Chambers May 23.

National Public Works Week

COUNCIL RECOGNIZES NATIONAL AWARENESS WEEK.

PUBLIC WORKS/COUNCIL: On May 23, the City Council recognized Public Works during the National Public Works Week, intended to highlight the hard work that Public Works employees perform all year in support of their constituencies.

At the recognition event, Public Works expressed its thanks to all who work every day to keep this City going, from maintaining LA's streets to enhancing public spaces. Each individual's hard work makes LA a better place to live every day—they are the backbone of our City!

Held annually in May, National Public Works Week recognizes and highlights the important and outstanding work efforts by thousands of hard working Public Works professionals.

The City's Public Works Dept. has more than 6,000 employees who are responsible for the construction, renovation and operation of City facilities and infrastructure, as well as the delivery of public safety and environmental programs. They are a leader in innovative programs and projects that enhance the quality of lives for all Angelenos.

"This week is for us to thank, recognize and celebrate the incredible employees in the Dept. of Public Works who work on a daily basis to provide and maintain core services and to enhance the quality of life for the residents and businesses of Los Angeles," said Board of Public Works President Aura Garcia, who retired Aug. 16.

Thanks, Public Works employees for the incredible job you do behind the scenes to make LA work. We honor you and salute you! ●

More than
\$130 MILLION
in insurance benefits paid!

Your Insurance at Work

When Members purchase insurance through the Club, they trust the insurance will help them in times of need. Below are the monthly amounts of claims paid back to Members. Club insurance plans will be there when you need them.

INSURANCE PLAN	JULY	TOTAL SINCE 1992
Life/Accidental Death and Dismemberment	\$527,992	\$74,941,382
Disability Insurance	\$527,992	\$74,941,382
Long-Term Care Insurance	\$183,343	\$14,312,711
Cancer/Critical Care Insurance	\$50,100	\$5,114,750
Accident Plan	\$1,585	\$139,392
Totals	\$921,270	\$130,689,013



Dulce Lopez
Claims Administrator



Mikayla Sprague
Claims Administrator

Trust the Club's insurance and claims services when you need them the most. Contact a Claims Administrator today:

(800) 464-0452

CLUB MEMBERS' PRAISE

"Because of [Club Claims staffer] Mikayla Sprague, I was able to read my Long-Term Disability benefit! After 32 years of paying my premiums, I could have missed out on reaping my benefit from my long-term disability policy if it had not been for LACEA Claims Administrator Mikayla Sprague! She noticed I had a policy when I called in with another insurance inquiry. Immediately she began the process. Later, she was additionally instrumental in what became the long and difficult process of getting my medical records from my former Workman's Compensation doctor. Her tireless efforts finally paid off and she was able to submit all of the forms to MetLife. Mikayla was professional, thorough, kind and patient! I would recommend her to anyone including fellow employees, friends and family members. In a business I would hire her in a minute, and promote her quickly. Thank you, Employees Club of California."

— Isaac Fresquez February 2024

THANK YOU! The Club extends its heartfelt thanks to Retired Sr. Lead Officer Cheryl Morris for her assistance in producing this story. Her contributions are deeply appreciated.





Family Deals: Raise Your Family. Save Money.

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT

Flag Bearer

MAYOR KAREN BASS BRINGS THE OLYMPIC FLAG TO LA.

MAYOR'S OFFICE: The Olympics have arrived in LA! At least the flag has. The rest is yet to come.

At the conclusion to the Games of the 33rd Olympiad – the Paris Olympics – Aug. 11, LA Mayor Karen Bass accepted the Olympic Flag from Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo. Mayor Bass carried to Los Angeles to accept the proclamation that Los Angeles is the next host of the Summer Games in 2028, as we all know.

Catch your breath, everyone, it's going to be an amazing four years, and the best Summer Olympics yet! ●

Photos by International Olympic Committee, Mayor's Office, and Airports



Mayor Karen Bass accepts the Olympic Flag from Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo at the conclusion of the Summer Games 2024 in Paris. Between them is President of the International Olympic Committee Thomas Bach.



Mayor Karen Bass holding the Olympic Flag on the tarmac at LAX. With her are several US Olympic and Para-Olympic athletes, members of the LA 28 organization, dignitaries and others.

Blades of Bronze

AIRPORT POLICE/CHP HOCKEY TEAM TAKES BRONZE AT POLICE TOURNAMENT.

Photo courtesy Airport Police

AIRPORTS: The Club congratulates the Airport Police hockey team, comprised of dedicated officers from both Airport Police and the CHP, which showcased its athletic prowess by winning the bronze medal at the Nevada Police and Fire Games, held July 23-28.

The Nevada Police and Fire Games is an annual event in Las Vegas that brings together members of the police, fire and active military communities from around the world to participate in athletic and other competitive events.

Thanks to Lt. Rob Pedregon, Airport Police, for assisting us in producing this article. ●



The Airport Police/CHP hockey team, from left: Officer Zach Ritter, CHP; Airport Police Officer Lenard Mendez, Airport Police Officer Sylvia Arriola, CHP Officer Mike Ritter, Airport Police K9 Officer Roger Denniston, Airport Police K9 Officer Efrén Orlanes, and Airport Police Officer Justin Torres.

SALUTE TO VETERANS

Honor the Veteran in your life – family, friend or yourself – for Veterans Day!



In our November issue, we plan to post your photos and messages of the person in your life who has served our country (in uniform, if possible), to honor them for their service. We'll publish in print and online for Veterans Day, Mon., Nov. 11, 2023.



DEADLINES:

In print and online: Wed., Oct. 16

Online only: Wed., Nov. 6



Send in your images and messages at: alive.employeesclub.com/veterans/



Thank you for your service!

Looking for Promotional Products?

Print your logo on anything:

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



ROSEBUD Marketing Group

(800) 426-0174
rosebud@getpromos.com

www.RosebudMarketing.com

Office Depot

Save up to 40% off

Register your credit card to receive the best price on select products.



SAVE AT EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM





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*

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!

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

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Aitken, Keith W.	Tile Setter	Airports	29	Jamerson, Michael	Wastewater Conv. Op.	PW	38	Phillips, Alois M.	Deputy City Attorney	City Attorney	32
Alvarez, David S.	Power Trans.	LADWP	—	Jewett, Paul K.	Air Cond. Mech. Sup.	Rec and Parks	11	Pierce, Ruth Ann	Commun. Info Rep	LADOT	29
Archibald, Douglas C.	Power Trans.	LADWP	—	Jimenez, Julissa C.	Customer Service	LADWP	—	Rabulan, Gerardo B.	Mgmt. Analyst	PW	17
Austin, Ben B.	Asst. City Attorney	City Attorney	4	Judilla, Edgardo G.	Materials Testing Tech.	Gen. Services	19	Ramirez, Ignacio	Sr. Detention Officer	LAPD	34
Bailon, Elvira	Accounting Clerk	LAPD	35	Kiely, Susanna C.	Correctional Nurse	Personnel	6	Riley, Julie C.	Sr. Asst. City Attorney	City Attorney	29
Brooks, Sandra Y.	Librarian	Library	20	Klundt, Michael W.	Police Service Rep.	LAPD	20	Rodriguez, Carlos A.	Roofer	Gen. Services	31
Buluran Lavilles, Janet P.	Mgmt. Analyst	Library	42	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Airports	20	Rounds, Steven	Civil Eng. Associate	PW	1	
Calderon, Alfred G.	Maintenance Sup.	Airports	33	Land, Douglas L.	Water Distribution	LADWP	—	Santa Ana, Glen R.	Power System Eng.	LADWP	—
Calderon, David V.	Metering Services	LADWP	—	Lau, Philip K.	Water Engineering	LADWP	—	Sarigumba, Richard M.	Street Lighting Eng.	PW	31
Camou, Bridgeen M.	Risk & Insurance Asst.	Airports	35	Lawson, Errol R.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	LAPD	29	Sauer, Paul B.	Carpenter	Rec and Parks	29
Cannon, Christopher D.	Traffic Manager	Harbor	13	Le, Todd P.	Water Engineering	LADWP	—	Seto, Jack W.	Power Trans.	LADWP	—
Caperton, William	Develop. & Mrkting Dir.	Cultural Affairs	21	Leon, Maria R.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	20	Shimabukuro, Amy M.	Power Trans.	LADWP	—
Cardenas, Irene	Traffic Officer	LADOT	23	Lepe, Dora M.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAPD	35	Shoda Perea, Lynn M.	Metering Services	LADWP	—
Cazarin, Mario	Animal Care Tech	Animal Serv.	23	Lotter, Edward	Programmer/Analyst	PW	17	Shu, Susan Shang Shi	Sr. Civil Engineer	PW	37
Ceja, Rafael V.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	PW	34	Lynn, Christopher J.	Power CM	LADWP	—	Simons, Richard W.	Build. Mech. Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	21
Chambers, David M.	Power CM	LADWP	—	Magallanes, Alfredo	Principal Environ. Eng.	PW	32	Spears, Timothy T.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	PW	33
Chan, David W.	Building Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	23	Martinez, Martha	Exec. Admin. Asst.	Fire/Police Pen.	35	Stepp Jr., Doyle G.	Power Supply	LADWP	—
Civitate, Anthony G.	Police Service Rep	LAPD	26	Martinez, Tony	Metering Services	LADWP	—	Stone, Shawn P.	Custodian Sup.	Airports	25
Cox, Michael	St. Services Sup.	PW	35	Mathias, Benedict	Building Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	22	Sue Yokoyama, Shirlene	Airports Manager	Airports	33
Craddolph, Barry	Principal Inspector	Housing	18	Mays, Gill A.	Power Trans.	LADWP	—	Tam, Willie S.	Power System	LADWP	—
Davis, Richard L.	Equipment Mechanic	Gen. Services	22	McKenna, Michael	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	28	Tan, Karin E.	Aquarium Educator	PW	10
Declue, Jacqueline R.	Energy Support	LADWP	—	Miranda, Valerie A.	Human Resources	LADWP	—	Taylor, Jill F.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Harbor	37
Douglas, Chalton	Mgmt. Analyst	Harbor	36	Mitchell, Georgianna	Programmer/Analyst	ITA	37	Thomas, Deatrice	Sr. Personnel Analyst	LAPD	34
Escutia, Eric	Library Asst.	Library	36	Montenegro, Gary	Supply Chain	LADWP	—	Thomas, Stephanie Jo	Criminalist	LAPD	27
Eskandari, Reza	Power New Business	LADWP	—	Nagdimon, Jay M.	Police Psychologist	LAPD	18	Truong, Sandy H.	Street Lighting Eng.	PW	32
Firestone, Carrie Lyn	Mgmt. Analyst	LAPD	31	Ngo, Thu Thanh	Commun. Electrician	ITA	21	Tsang, Joseph	Commun. Eng. Assoc.	ITA	26
Floyd, Lisa K.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	30	Nguyen, Uyen Linh Thi	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	16	Valmores, Merlita Dy	Financial Manager	Airports	24
Flynn, Beverly P.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	LADOT	34	O'Kelly Green, Marie R.	Airports Manager	Airports	34	Vega, Tiofilo L.	Power CM	LADWP	—
Fong, Cindy	Admin. Clerk	Library	37	Ortega, Rosa I.	Exec. Admin. Asst.	LAPD	39	Venegas, Julio E.	Water Engineering	LADWP	—
Freire Reyes, Mariella	Asst. General Manager	Aging	26	Payne, James E.	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	—	Villero, Anicia Rodriguez	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	21
Garcia, Jorge R.	Maintenance Laborer	PW	25	Perez, Alexander T.	Asst. City Attorney	City Attorney	25	Walters, Matthew J.	Police Officer	Airports	33
Garganta, Loida K.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	City Clerk	30	Perez, Ignacio	Water Distribution	LADWP	—	Weston, Doris D.	Crossing Guard	Transportation	31
Gomez, Clemente	Program Asst.	Rec and Parks	8	Perez, Miguel	Sr. Traffic Sup.	LADOT	36	Williams, Stephany D.	Police Service Rep.	LAPD	27
Gonzales, Jaime C.	Metering Services	LADWP	—	Peterson, Kory R.	Supply Chain	LADWP	—	Wooten, Wendy J.	Supply Chain	LADWP	—
Gonzalez, Maria C.	Special Programs Asst.	Rec and Parks	7	Pezzelli, Marc I.	Librarian	Library	3	Yamzon, Anne Marie J.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	PW	25
Grabatin, Jimmie R.	Sr. Safety Eng., Elev.	Bldg. & Safety	15								
Gray, Adriene L.	Sr. Real Estate Officer	Airports	36								
Guy, Leroi J.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	PW	25								
Hanna, Paul O.	Power Trans.	LADWP	—								
Harvey, Thomas P.	Mgmt. Analyst	PW	24								
Hill Paul, Rochelle	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LADOT	30								
Hillman, Steven K.	Chief Mgmt. Analyst	Gen. Services	31								
Hollomon, Kevin E.	Criminalist	LAPD	34								
Huynh, Su Y.	Programmer/Analyst	LAFD	17								
Hyett, Maurice C.	CM Sup.	Gen. Services	35								
Ilomin, Melchor A.	Council Aide	Council	10								
Island, Laura T.	Principal Rec Sup.	Rec and Parks	36								

* NOTE: If you wish to have a listing deleted from our online posting of Retirement notices, please email us at admin@aliveemployeesclub.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.

FREE!* CLUB RETIREMENT PLAQUE

Retired or Retiring Soon?

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

***a \$499 value!**

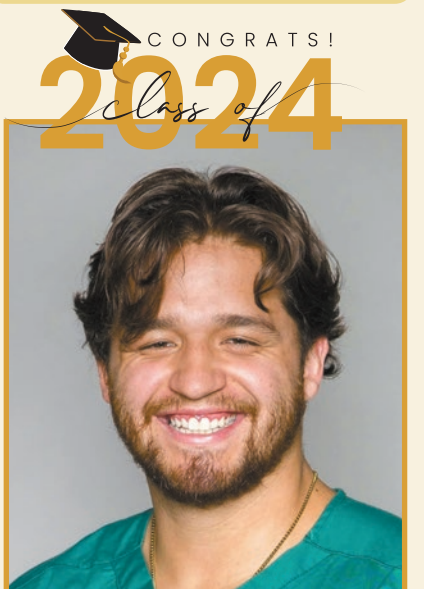
Get started here:

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					
Beck, Thomas A.	Airports 10	Havis, William E.	LADWP 23	Peoples, J.W.	LADWP 18
Cox, Craig	Public Works 18	Hegenbart, Joseph L.	LADWP 36	Pierce, Elizabeth A.	LAPD 25
Fountain, Kelvin L.	Airports 2	Honda, Michael I.	LAPD 27	Pini, Ronald P.	—
Hahn, Kenneth	Rec and Parks 7	Iri, Ayako K.	LADWP 27	Ramos, Romulo V.	Airports 10
Macias, Mario	Public Works 17	Johnson, David L.	—	Rams, Egon A.	—
Ponce, Joe R.	Public Works 22	Johnson, Emerson	Airports 32	Robertson, Bruce W.	LADWP 31
RETIRED					
Adams, Willard	—	Johnson, Hollis L.	Harbor 30	Rodriguez, Christopher	LADWP 36
Alvarado, Ernesto P.	LADWP 11	Kelly, John D.	LADWP 24	Savage, Lee Roy	LADWP 30
Baer, Dennis E.	LADWP 29	Kilgore, Willis J.	Zoo 43	Sawamura, Fumiko	LADWP 4
Benjamin, Selma	—	King, Robert G.	—	Scott, Charles L.	LADWP 26
Bernard, Charles E.	LADWP 40	Koranye, Ruth T.	LADWP 30	Slater, Joyce D.	LADWP 26
Bloch, George E.	LADWP 46	Leon, Fernando A.	Rec and Parks 26	Spina, Pasquale	Gen. Services 15
Caballero, P.	—	Lilly, Albert	Public Works 31	Stevenson, Joe	Public Works 33
Corona, Mark W.	LADOT 21	Lisenko, Andre S.	Public Works 20	Streeter, Vernon	Rec and Parks 26
Decker, Rebecca L.	LADWP 10	Lloyd, Debra A.	LADOT 28	Tejeda, Jesus R.	Public Works 25
Di Sano, Paula A.	LADWP 32	Mann, Hattie L.	LADWP 25	Thornburg, Luther L.	LADWP 35
Dietz, Kenneth F.	—	Marilao, Danny S.	LADOT 21	Tsunokai, Theodore N.	—
Eidem, Jay C.	LADWP 14	Matsuoka, Akira	—	Tung, Guang M.	Bldg. & Safety 23
Gant, Melvin C.	LADWP 33	McKay, James L.	Public Works 17	Uyemura, Raymond	Finance 33
Gardner, Baxter B.	LADWP 24	Misenhimer, Michael	LADWP 32	Wagner, Yolanda N.	—
Hatch, Frank D.	LADWP 30	Morgan, Merrill H.	—	Williams, Delma L.	LADWP 30
		Morris, Thomas G.	LADWP 30	Wolf, Sarah D.	—
		Negandhi, Nitin J.	Public Works 17	Wood, Quintin R.	—
		O'Donnell, David D.	Public Works 10	Wooden, Michael J.	Rec and Parks 32
		Parra, Alfonso M.	LADWP 36	Yanakeff, Venelin J.	LADWP 32

Graduations



David Kempton II graduated from the University of Alabama Birmingham with a Bachelor's degree in nursing. He plans to work as a pediatric cardiac ICU nurse and will continue his education in pursuit of a CRNA. He's the son of Diana Kempton, Traffic Officer, LADOT.

Club Retiree Plaque: Be Honored for Your Career!

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT



IN MEMORIAM

Photos courtesy Public Works and the California Water Environment Association

Theodore Higgins

*Chief Environmental Compliance Inspector
22 years of City service*

Theodore at the Mayor's Office in LA City Hall.



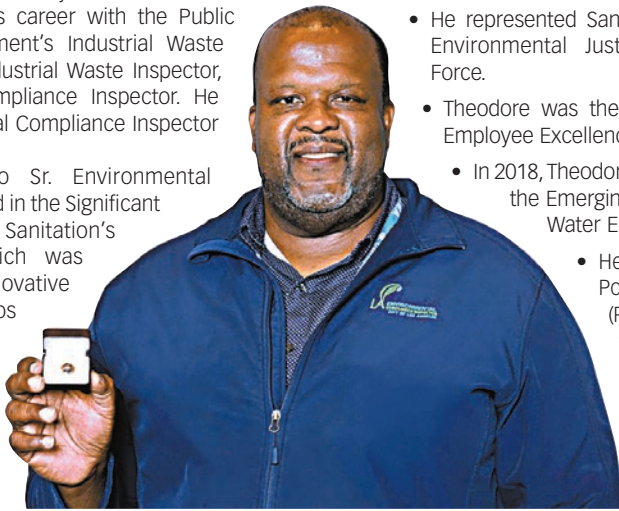
THEODORE HIGGINS, CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE INSPECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS/SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENT, PASSED AWAY JULY 22.

PUBLIC WORKS: A Memorial Service was held Aug. 14 at Forest Lawn in Cypress.

"I truly appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with Theo on conferences," remembered Amy Lai, Director of Education, the California Water Environment Association, in which Theo was active. "I will always remember him as a humble chair with a great sense of humor, and who was well liked and supported. Theo's laugh was loud and infectious, and he added an element of fun to the conference planning meetings. The P3S Community has lost a wonderful leader who will be greatly missed, and I know he'll be with us in spirit at next year's conference."

Theodore Higgins began his career with the Public Works/Sanitation and Environment's Industrial Waste Management Division as an Industrial Waste Inspector, now called Environmental Compliance Inspector. He worked as a Chief Environmental Compliance Inspector at his death.

After being promoted to Sr. Environmental Compliance Inspector, he worked in the Significant Industrial Users group and Sanitation's new RECYCLA Program, which was Sanitation's exciting new innovative program designed to move Los Angeles closer to achieving "zero waste" through pioneering waste reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery programs. Theodore was promoted to Chief Environmental Compliance Inspector I in 2017.



Theodore receives the City of LA service pin in recognition of his 22 years of service.

Theodore's past City activities and recognition included (but are not limited to):

- Serving the division as a Sector Champion for the Car Wash Industry, where his role was to maintain collaborative partnerships with the car wash business sector and to strategize how to make businesses grow and become more sustainable.
- He represented IWMD by participating in a national focus group on micro beads/micro plastics pollution with the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable.
- He represented Sanitation on the SCAQMD Environmental Justice Inter-Agency Task Force.
- Theodore was the recipient of the IWMD Employee Excellence Award 2012.
- In 2018, Theodore was honored as one of the Emerging Leaders by the California Water Environment Association (CWEA).
- He received the Pretreatment, Pollution Prevention and Stormwater (P3S) Person of the Year Award by the LA Basin Section of the CWEA in 2019. He served as the Chair of the Pretreatment, Pollution Prevention, and Stormwater (P3S) Committee of the CWEA.
- Theodore played a key role as part of a team in creating



Theodore at the 2022 P3S Conference.

LA Sanitation and Environment's Environmental Compliance Inspector Professional Development and Work Exposure Program (ECIPDWEP), known as the ECI Rotation Program.

- He was part of the LA Sanitation and Environment's Clean Up Green Up (CUGU) Implementation Plan Working Group, where he played a role in the department's strategic goals to ensure the health and well-being of disadvantaged communities.

The Club sends its condolences to his colleagues, family and friends. ●

DISCOVER MORE

MEMBER SAVINGS WITH CLUB DISCOUNTS



SAVE ON WATER PARKS

Dive into fun without diving into your wallet!



SAVE ON ATTRACTIONS

Enjoy endless adventures at Club Member prices!



SAVE ON MOVIE TICKETS

Catch the latest blockbusters without breaking the bank!



SAVE ON THEME PARKS

Experience thrills and chills at unbeatable prices!



EXPLORE MORE SAVINGS ONLINE

www.EmployeesClub.com

Club Scholarships: Funds for School!

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT



Photos courtesy LAFD/Gary Apodaca

LAFD Lifesavers

FIRE COMMISSION HONORS SEVEN WHO SAVED A HIKER'S LIFE.

LAFD: On Aug. 6, the LA Fire Commission recognized the six LAFD firefighters for their dedicated efforts and skillful handling of a hiker whose life was in the balance.

THE SEVEN HONORED WERE:

Pilot IV Rickey Wheeler, Retired

Pilot I Scott Keelin

Capt. I/Paramedic Michael McIndoe

Firefighter/Paramedic Jesse Beck

Firefighter/Paramedic Dominic Marquis

Firefighter Patrick Mandich

Firefighter/Dispatcher Anthony Zermeno

HEROISM ON DISPLAY

In June 2023, three friends went hiking the Temescal Canyon Trail above the Pacific Palisades coastline. It was a warm, humid day and as the group returned to the trailhead, one hiker felt weak and dizzy, unable to continue walking. His friends were concerned and called 9-1-1, triggering the dispatch of a hiker rescue response.



Honored Aug. 6 for saving a life were (from left) Capt. I/Paramedic Michael McIndoe, Firefighter Patrick Mandich, Pilot I Scott Keelin, Firefighter/Paramedic Dominic Marquis, Firefighter/Paramedic Jesse Beck and Firefighter/Dispatcher Anthony Zermeno. Not pictured: Pilot IV Rickey Wheeler, Retired.

Task Force 69 and their paramedic rescue ambulance, RA69, made their way to the canyon while LAFD Air Operations dispatched two helicopters (hoist aircraft and command aircraft). Engine 69 and RA69 members arrived and began an arduous hike up the canyon with the necessary equipment and supplies. The topography made radio communications difficult, and the Metropolitan Fire Communications (MFC) 9-1-1 call-taker remained on the phone with the hikers and relayed information to the Incident Commander to help the crews locate the group. The Engine 69 Captain was also experienced in the area and used his expertise to find a better line-of-sight to the command airship to improve their radio communications.

Through their teamwork, the firefighters were able to locate their patient, a 55-year-old male complaining of dehydration, dizziness, nausea and difficulty walking. The Firefighters took note of his worrying vital signs, started an IV and administered

fluids, along with various cooling measures. The crew recommended a hoist operation.

The Incident Commander and helicopter pilots assessed the situation and concurred. After a successful hoist, the patient was onboard Fire-1, and an ECG measured further serious complications and an ongoing heart event. He was then swiftly flown via air ambulance to an appropriate medical facility.

The LAFD crew identified the severity of his condition and ensured his safety by hoisting him out and quickly getting him to advanced medical care. The coordinated efforts of the members from Fire Station 69, the diligent 911 call-taker and the talented Air Operations not only resulted in the successful hoist rescue of a hiker in distress but also saved the life of a man.

The Club congratulates the six Firefighters for their heroic action in saving a life, and honors and celebrates them for their critically important public service. ●

Lift your Savings yield

with a Savings Certificate

Click wpccu.org/rates for more details



Ask us for details

Call our special hotline at 213-451-4738 or leave a message at wpccu.org/contact



800-300-9728

wpccu.org

@wpccu

Water and Power Community Credit Union

FEDERALLY INSURED BY NCUA