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Alive!



CITY LEGENDS

Cora, to the Core

Laryngeal cancer nearly cost Cora Jackson-Fossett, Retired, Public Works, her voice and her life. She had other ideas.

- SEE PAGE 12

Cora Jackson-Fossett, Retired, Public Works, 36 years of City service, Club Member, photographed outside Club Headquarters downtown.

Alive! photo by Summy Lam. Photo illustration by JLA Associates.



Celebrating the work and lives of public employees.

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An Unstoppable Voice

Something told me that interviewing **Cora Jackson-Fossett**, Retired from Public Works and proud Club Member, would be a worthy endeavor. About halfway through our delightful chat, my intuition was confirmed.

"You deal the cards you're dealt," Cora says in this month's inspiring feature interview. "That's my philosophy." That is wisdom borne of surviving a serious cancer scare that threatened to take her voice away from her, and even her very life. But Cora, one of the most popular City employees at her retirement in 2014 and still today, had other ideas.

Cora is more than a survivor; she is triumphant, yet still humble, funny, insightful and gracious. She also gives back to mentor others going through the same diagnosis.

Of course her doctors were incredible in treating her. Of course her family and friends could not have been more supportive. We all need a team, don't we? But her survival began and was eventually secured, I am certain, because of her attitude. It can move a mountain. This month's interview is proof positive of that.



Cora Jackson-Fossett, Retired, Public Works, with Club CEO Robert Larios.

Life lessons have a way of sticking with you, if you only hear and embrace them. I humbly suggest you do, too. Thank you, Cora, for your courage and your affirmations.

I also send a note of gratitude to the Keck Medicine at USC communications team, which was only too happy to let us reproduce their images.

Nominate the Stars

Who is the star public service employee in your life? Who is that stellar colleague or family member who stands out for their complete dedication to serving the City, County or State? We want to know!

Nominate that person as Employee of the Year. Help us honor and thank them in a way they deserve. See how to nominate them on page 9.

ROBERT'S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



Library Holidays

As this is October, we begin our series of holiday book suggestions from our friends at the Los Angeles Public Library. This month is Halloween; then comes Thanksgiving/harvest themes, and then Christmas/Hanukkah and winter season themes. I know readers really appreciate these recommendations. Nowhere else can you find these – they're a unique feature of *Alive!* and brought to you through your Membership fees.



Worth Considering

No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world. Every great movement in history began with a single idea, a spark that ignited change. Your voice has the power to inspire, uplift and transform the world around you. Here at the Club, we work to do exactly that every day for you and all public employees.

Enjoy your Fall, the best time of the year.

¡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

Monthly Anchors

North Central Sanitation
452 N. San Fernando Rd., 6 - 11 a.m.
The first Monday of every month:
Mon., Oct. 7 and Nov. 4

Van Nuys City Hall
6262 Van Nuys Blvd., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
The first Tuesday of every month:
Tues., Oct. 1 and Nov. 5

Harbor
100 W. Fifth St., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
The first Wednesday of every month:
Wed., Nov. 6

West Valley StreetsLA
9324 Topanga Canyon Blvd., 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
The first Thursday of every month:
Thurs., Oct. 3 and Nov. 7

Additional Visits

City Hall – Courtyard
200 N. Spring St.,
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 2

LADWP – Ripple St.
2333 Ripple St.,
7 - 8 a.m.
Wed., Oct. 9

LADWP – Sun Valley
9983 Glenoaks Blvd.,
7 - 8 a.m.
Thurs., Oct. 10

Rec and Parks – Cheviot Hills
2459 Motor Ave.,
7 - 8 a.m.
Wed., Oct. 16

PW/Sanitation – Cazador
2110 N. San Fernando Rd., 2 - 4 p.m.
Thurs., Oct. 17

Airports – LAX Admin West
7301 World Way West,
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 30

ATTENTION SUPERVISORS: Raise employee morale! 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:



Alive! photo by Summy Lam



COVER STORY:

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Catching up with Cora Jackson-Fossett in her retirement and on her journey back to health.

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

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CLUBDEALS

FROM THE CLUB DEAL DESK



Oct. 13 – SEE AD PAGE 5



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Coloring art on page 18.

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if you have an event you want covered in *Alive!*
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Alive!

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

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

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The Heat Was On

CREWS BATTLED THE ELEMENTS AS THE CITY BAKED IN RECORD HEAT.

LADWP: Let's hear it for the LADWP crews that worked tirelessly, around the clock on 16-hour shifts in record heat last month to keep the power flowing in most cases ... and restored it quickly, in others.

They were literally lifesavers in critical situations.

We thank you, crews. We honor you and we celebrate you for your dedicated public service!

LADWP crews hard at work around the clock, sustaining and restoring City power.



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— Robert Larios, Publisher, September 30, 2024

BREAKING NEWS!



Robert Larios (third from left) accepting the G.O.L.D. honor Sept. 13., at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



The G.O.L.D. Alumni Award.

Larios Is G.O.L.D.

CLUB CEO ROBERT LARIOS NAMED THE MICHIGAN ROSS GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE. IT'S A WIN FOR THE CLUB.

THE CLUB: On Sept. 13, the Club's Robert Larios was honored as the University of Michigan Ross School of Business' Graduate of the Decade (G.O.L.D.), an impressive national honor not only for himself but also for the Club.

Mentioned in the honor is the Club's high level of service to its Members, the Club's amazing staff and the Club's prominent status as one of the top independent associations serving the public sector in the United States.

Robert is the first Latino to receive this nationwide honor. His narrative is one of resilience, shaped by the determination of his immigrant parents, Rafael and Carmen Larios.

The accolade from Michigan Ross is a testament to Larios's commitment to excellence and serves as an inspiration to many.

"At the Ross School of Business, leadership is about making a real difference, guiding my dedication to public service employees and reflecting values of sustainability, social responsibility, and community engagement," remarked Robert.

Well done, Robert and the Club!

We'll have a more complete story in the November issue.



Dinner & Show

Vampirates

at

Pirates Dinner Adventure

The Club's Exclusive Halloween Event!

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by Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales



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OCTOBER HIGHLIGHT

Life Insurance Facts and Statistics

Achieve Your Best Life: Discover the Lifelong Security of the Perfect Insurance Plan

Stay Ahead: Why Critical Illness and Cancer Insurance Coverage is Essential.

While many government employers offer health insurance coverage, it's important for employees to consider the additional benefits of a Critical Illness and Cancer insurance policy, which can provide crucial financial support during some of life's most challenging moments.

Decoding Critical Illness and Cancer Insurance: What Public Service Employees Need to Know

Critical Illness and Cancer Insurance offers a single-payment benefit if you're diagnosed with a condition such as a heart attack, stroke, major organ failure, or cancer. This lump-sum benefit can be used for things such as medications, alternative therapies, daily living expenses, home care services, lost income, or wellness and recovery.

Unpacking the Numbers: Insights into Supporting Statistics

Rising Incidence of Cancer: According to the American Cancer Society, approximately 1.9 million new cancer cases were expected in the United States in 2023. With increasing survival rates, many individuals will face long-term treatment costs.

Financial Impact of Critical Illness: A study by the American Heart Association revealed that nearly 50 percent of heart attack survivors experience significant out-of-pocket costs. On average, these expenses can reach upwards of \$28,000, putting immense financial strain on families.

Survival and Treatment Costs: The National Cancer Institute states that the average cost of cancer treatment can exceed \$150,000 over a patient's lifetime, depending on the type and stage of cancer. Health insurance often covers a portion, but out-of-pocket expenses can still be substantial.

Why You Can't Skip Insurance: Crucial Reasons for Employees Like You

Peace of Mind: Knowing that you have a financial safety net allows you to focus on recovery rather than worrying about mounting medical bills.

Comprehensive Support: These policies can cover various expenses, including deductibles, co-pays, and non-medical costs such as transportation to treatment, home care, or even lost income during recovery.

Rising Medical Costs: Healthcare costs continue to climb, with a report from the Kaiser Family Foundation indicating that annual family premiums for employer-sponsored health coverage increased by 4 percent in 2023. Critical illness insurance can help bridge the gap.

The Club's Solution

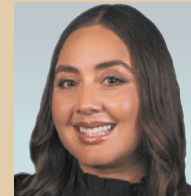
In a world where health challenges can arise unexpectedly, Critical Illness and Cancer Insurance coverage is not just an option—it is a necessity. By investing in these policies, you safeguard your financial future and ensure that you and your loved ones can focus on what truly matters: recovery and well-being. As the statistics show, being prepared can make all the difference.

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

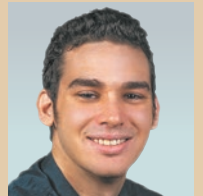
This article is inspired by insights from Bankrate and authored by Ashlyn Brooks. The link is: <https://www.bankrate.com/insurance/life-insurance/life-insurance-statistics/>



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: Oct. 31, Nov. 21, or Dec. 19)

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 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



More than
\$130 MILLION
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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	AUGUST	TOTAL SINCE 1992
Life/Accidental Death and Dismemberment	\$80,057	\$75,021,439
Disability Insurance	\$186,661	\$36,367,438
Long-Term Care Insurance	\$154,588	\$14,467,299
Cancer/Critical Care Insurance	\$10,250	\$5,135,250
Accident Plan	\$2,485	\$141,877
Totals	\$434,042	\$131,133,305

CLUB MEMBERS' PRAISE

The Club's claims service was "excellent, with a wonderful staff during a difficult time. They answered questions and gave easy instruction."

— **Lorraine Opper, July 2023**



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



**Be Celebrated.
 Be Honored.
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Calhoun to Lead Admin. Bureau

ERICA CALHOUN PROMOTED TO DEP. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

HARBOR: On Aug. 22, the Harbor Dept. appointed Erica M. Calhoun as its Deputy Executive Director overseeing the department's Administrative Bureau. In this new position, Calhoun is responsible for the planning, direction and management of several key divisions at North America's leading trade gateway and busiest container port in the Western Hemisphere. Calhoun has served as Interim Deputy Executive Director of Harbor Administration since May.

"Erica is an incredibly talented professional and valuable member of our Harbor Department team," said Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka in a statement. "Her dedication, leadership and hard work over the past two decades with the City of Los Angeles have paved the way for this new role, a well-earned and deserving promotion. I couldn't be more excited for her."

As Deputy Executive Director of Harbor Administration, Calhoun now oversees the Port's human resources function for the Department's nearly 900 employees, as well as Risk Management, Contracts and Purchasing and the Commission Office. In Seroka's absence, she will serve as Acting Executive Director of the Harbor Department.

Calhoun first joined the department in 2012 as a Sr. Management Analyst in the Grants Unit, where she identified and managed grant funding opportunities. She joined the Port's Executive Office in December of that same year, and in 2015 was appointed Chief of Staff to the Executive Director, the first African American woman to hold that position at the department.

With more than 23 years of service with the City of Los Angeles, Calhoun previously served as Assistant Officer in Charge in the LAPD's Budget Section, where she aided in the preparation, dissemination and management of the department's \$1.3 billion adopted budget. Her tenure also included serving in a civilian oversight capacity in the Los Angeles Police Commission's Office of the Inspector General and as a grants manager with the City's Housing Dept.

Calhoun has an undergraduate degree in Spanish language and literature from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of science degree in public administration from Cal State Los Angeles.

Congratulations on your new position, Erica, and thank you for your service to Los Angeles. ●



Erica Calhoun

Well Done, Sgt.!

OMAR CUEVAS, CLUB MEMBER, BECOMES NEWEST SERGEANT.

HARBOR: On Sept. 9, Omar Cuevas, Club Member, was promoted to Sergeant, LA Port Police.

Sgt. Cuevas has almost 18 years of City service with the Port Police in various units. He's a former U.S. Marine.

He will be assigned as a field supervisor in Patrol Operations, according to a Port Police posting.

Congratulations, Sgt. Cuevas, and thank you for all you do for the City. ●



Swearing the Oath.



From left: Sgt. Omar Cuevas and Port Police Chief Thomas Gazsi.



Way to go!

Certified!

3 HIRES GET THEIR CLASS B LICENSE AND ARE GOOD TO GO.

PUBLIC WORKS: The Club congratulates three new hires at Public Works/Sanitation and Environment on getting their Commercial Class B licenses! Each is a Clean Water Conveyance Operator I.

The proud licensees are:

- **Jared Scher Jr.**
- **Isaiah Freeman**
- **Raul Arredando**

Well done Jared, Isaiah and Raul. We look forward to seeing you driving safely on the grateful streets of Los Angeles. We thank you for your public service and dedication. ●



Raul Arredando



Isaiah Freeman



Jared Scher Jr.

READ ALL ABOUT IT:

It's Halloween!

We asked Librarians to recommend some scary Halloween stories. You are warned!



It's that time again to get reading and get scared! And courtesy of the Librarians at the Los Angeles Public Library's Central Library.

The last few years, *Alive!* has reached out to Librarians at our favorite library, Los Angeles Public Library, for their recommendations for awesomely scary Halloween reads and watches. We're excited for another go-round in 2024. Here are fresh recommendations for you and your family this Halloween, traditionally the first event of the holiday season.

Thanks to the Librarians for their suggestions, and for their service and dedication to the City.

(Some recommendations are available via digital download; some are physical books available for checkout. Search at lapl.org)

Recommendations by: *The Librarians of Teen'Scape, Central Library; The Librarians of the Literature and Fiction Dept., Central Library; The Librarians of the Children's Literature Dept., Central Library; Compiled by Susan Lendroth, Los Angeles Public Library*

For Adults

The September House

Carissa Orlando

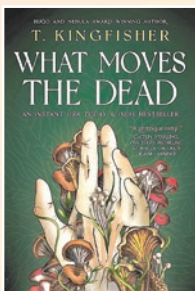


When Margaret and Hal bought the large, gorgeous Victorian house of their dreams for a steal, they couldn't believe their luck. But then September came around. That's when they discovered the ghosts, the bleeding walls and the terrifying presence in the basement. That would be enough to send anyone running. But Margaret is not one to let a single bad month out of the year ruin her dream. But when Hal goes missing and their adult daughter insists on a visit, in September of all months, Margaret will need to confront these horrific hauntings if she wants to save her family.

What Moves the Dead

T.K. Kingfisher

When soldier Alex Easton visits the home of their dear friends, Madeline and Roderick, in the rural countryside of Ruravia, they are shocked by the overgrown and decrepit nature of the estate. Mysterious fungi, seemingly possessed wildlife and a foreboding lake haunt the area, while excessive nerves and troubling night walks possess the homeowners. With the help of a nearby mycologist and an American doctor, Easton must try to solve the mystery of what ails this house in this eerie retelling of Edgar Allan Poe's *The Fall of the House of Usher*.



Incidents Around the House

Josh Malerman

Young Bela lives at home with her mother, father and grandmother. But there's also another family member who only Bela can see: Other Mommy, a scary presence who pleads with Bela, "Can I go inside your heart?" The longer Bela holds out, the stronger and scarier Other Mommy gets. As things around the house get worse and worse, Bela knows she will need to give Other Mommy an answer soon.

Just Like Home

Sarah Gailey

Despite their terrible past and the long years of silence between them, Vera returns home when her mother asks. But her mother isn't the only one there. There is the alarming artist, intent on using their family trauma for his work, and the strange presence in her room that keeps her awake at night. Vera thought her family's dangerous secrets were all exposed when her serial killer father went to jail, but it turns out there are more to be uncovered.

The Bad Seed

William March

The *Bad Seed* is William March's greatest novel in a career noted for fine works. The 1956 film based on the book is a cult classic today, due in large part to the Academy Award-nominated performances of three of its four featured actresses: Nancy Kelly (Best Actress) and both Patty McCormack (who portrayed eight-year-old psychopath Rhoda Penmark) and future Oscar winner Eileen Heckart for Best Supporting Actress. March developed his characters and the backdrop of his story so well that despite its unusual subject matter (a cold-blooded child serial killer), this 1954 book became an immediate bestseller and remains a must-read for fans of socio/psychological horror.

For Teen/Young Adult Readers

Malicia

Steven dos Santos

On a stormy Halloween weekend, Ray enlists his best friends to help him make a documentary of Malicia, the abandoned theme park off the coast of the Dominican Republic where his mother and brother died in a mass killing thirteen years ago.



It Came from the Trees

Ally Russell

The legend of Bigfoot gets a bone-chilling update in this scary story about a young girl and her scout troop who are willing to brave the woods to find her missing friend when no one else will.

Grave Things Like Love

Sara Bennett Wealer

This narrative, a modern young adult romance with a paranormal twist, centers on Elaine, who learns that her family's funeral parlor may be haunted. Elaine must face the secrets of her home and the kindred spirit that might occupy it as she navigates her feelings for two boys: Miles, her childhood friend, and Xander, a newbie ghost hunter.

The Mary Shelley Club

Goldy Moldavsky



A group of terrified high school kids creates a covert organization known as the Mary Shelley Club. When one of their own is the target of a ghostly figure, their horror-themed practical jokes take a sinister turn. The narrative honors vintage horror clichés while delving

into issues of terror, friendship and the effects of trauma.

The Dead and the Dark

Courtney Gould

After their father disappears, the adolescent sisters in this eerie story decide to return to their homeland. They learn dark mysteries connected to the town's ghostly past as they investigate the mystery surrounding his disappearance. The story combines supernatural thriller with aspects of LGBTQ+ representation and family issues.



She Is a Haunting

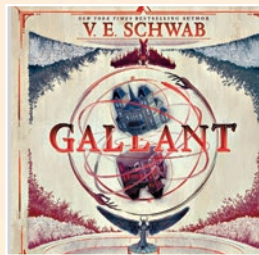
Trang Thanh Tran

Upon arriving at the house, Jade quickly realizes that it is not just old and creepy; it is haunted. Night after night, she experiences sleep paralysis and encounters unsettling phenomena, including strange sounds and ghostly apparitions. One particular ghost, a beautiful bride, warns her cryptically not to eat. Despite her alarming experiences, neither Ba nor her younger sister Lily believes her claims about the haunting.

Gallant

V.E. Schwab

Olivia Prior, the protagonist of this Gothic story, was raised in an orphanage and has no other means of ties to her past save her mother's journal. She learns that her family's mansion, Gallant, is haunted by ghouls and shadow people when she gets an invitation there.



What Big Teeth

Rose Szabo

After spending years away, Eleanor Zarrin goes home to face her evil family and its sinister past. In this book, horror and fantasy coexist as Eleanor deals with her family's eerie presence and learns to accept their strange powers.

Within These Wicked Walls

Lauren Blackwood



An exorcist named Andromeda is hired to purge a haunted home, but she quickly becomes caught in its sinister mysteries. As Andromeda discovers the house's secrets and navigates its terrible manifestations, this narrative seamlessly blends romance and horror.

Grimoire Noir

Vera Greentea

In the town of Blackwell, all the girls and women are witches. Bucky, the son of the town sheriff, secretly investigates the disappearance of his little sister with the on-and-foe help of Cham, the girl who used to be his best friend before she became a witch.

The Weight of Blood

Tiffany Jackson

This clever, modern homage to Stephen King's *Carrie* also opens in the aftermath of a horrific prom night, with witnesses in social media messages, found footage, and podcast interviews all stating the same thing: "Maddy did it." Forced to pass as white by her white-supremacist father, shy, bullied, biracial Maddy Washington is both the heroine and the monster of this chilling tale of a Southern high school's first desegregated prom gone



horribly wrong.

For Young Readers

Trick-or-Treating in the City

Tiffany D. Jackson; illustrated by Sawyer Cloud

What's the best way to celebrate Halloween in the city? With some help from her friends, Janelle finds a way to create a new tradition in her neighborhood.

¡Vamos! Let's Celebrate Halloween and Día de los Muertos: a Halloween and Day of the Dead Celebration

Raúl the Third

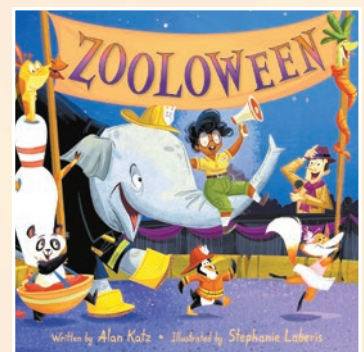
In the border town of the ¡Vamos! picture books, neighbors and friends celebrate two holidays in two languages. On Halloween night, they go trick-or-treating in their scariest costumes. The next day, they put together a community altar to remember their loved ones on Día de los Muertos.



Zooloween

Alan Katz

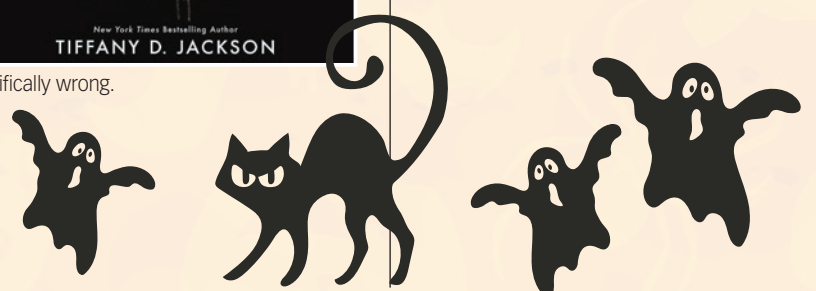
A cat appears in Benjy's front yard on Halloween and he is certain it is meant to be his, but his parents say no pets. Turns out the cat belongs to his next door neighbor's granddaughter, Erika, who stays with her grandma during the week to attend a local school for the deaf. Erika and Benjy strike up a friendship and together they take care of her cat Fluffy.



Deja Ross Speaks to Freaks

Lisa Naffziger

On a road trip, seventh grader Deja Ross (dedicated cryptozoologist) meets El Chupacabra, who connects her to other legendary cryptids. When the owner of a local cryptid attraction and teen monster hunters put her new friends in danger, Deja has to figure out how to protect them.





Nominate a Club Member as THE CLUB Employee 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 and Retiree of the Year
- LADWP Employee of the Year and Retiree of the Year
- County of Los Angeles Employee of the Year
- State of California Employee of the Year
- LAUSD Employee 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



LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

LACERS Open Enrollment Starts Oct. 15

LACERS' annual Open Enrollment period will be held beginning this month; 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 are posted below. 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.

You may register to attend through your MyLACERS account or by contacting LACERS at (800) 779-8328. Space is limited, so register now!

IN-PERSON MEETING SCHEDULE

- San Fernando Valley:** Tues., Oct. 29, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Airtel Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys
- LA Metro Area:** Mon., Nov. 4, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., California Endowment Center, 1000 N. Alameda St. downtown
- Inland Empire:** Tues., Nov. 5, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., DoubleTree Hotel, 222 N. Vineyard Ave., Ontario
- Southern LA County:** Thurs., Nov. 7, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., The Centre in Lakewood, 5000 Clark Ave., Lakewood

VIRTUAL MEETINGS (VIA ZOOM)

- Anthem Blue Cross HMO, Anthem PPO, Anthem Medicare Preferred (PPO), Anthem Life and Health (Medicare Supplement), and Blue View Vision: Wed., Oct. 16, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
- Kaiser Permanente (under 65 and Senior Advantage): Thurs., Oct. 17, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
- SCAN and UnitedHealthcare: Wed., Oct. 23, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
- Delta Dental (DPPO and DHMO): Thurs., Oct. 24, 10-11:30 a.m.

ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS

LACERS Appointment-Based Service Is Now in Operation

LACERS uses 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 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, 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.

Retirement Prep: Get Ready. Get Happy!

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT



Alive! AROUND THE WORLD



Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor

Danube Cruise



David and Rosalia Rojas, both Retired, LAPD, took an 11-day Danube River cruise and visited Budapest, Hungary; Vienna & Krems, Austria; Passau and Regensburg, Germany; and Prague, Czech Republic. Photos were taken at the Astronomical Clock and Love Locks Gate overlooking the Vitava River, and Prague Castle.

Letter From Texas The Wurst Salute in Texas



Capt. Barnes having a great time at the Wurstfest in New Braunfels."

Deep in the heart of Texas Hill Country, located between San Antonio and Austin, is the historic town of New Braunfels. It was founded by German immigrants in 1845 and built on the Cornal River, one of the world's shortest rivers – it only winds three miles through the town before meeting the Guadalupe River. It is a trendy place for families wanting to enjoy watersports like innertube rafting during the summer! Every year, the citizens celebrate their European heritage with a ten-day salute to German sausage called Wurstfest, with beer and lots of Volkstümliche (Oompah) music.

Once the nationwide annual Oktoberfest celebrations are over in Germany, German bands travel from all over the United States to perform on one of the festival's four stages during Wurstfest. The bands range from those dressed traditionally and playing all the old classic Bavarian and German drinking songs to more youthful bands playing more modern tunes. There is even a very attractive female band that wears very short lederhosen while dancing and singing to a lively audience! All this fun and merriment attract thousands of visitors, who drink gallons of beer and devour all kinds of strange and wonderful sausage creations. It really is a fun event.

Consuming alcohol onsite is not straightforward and involves buying a drink ticket from one of the ticket booths dotted around the grounds—unsurprisingly, there is always a queue. These tickets are then presented to any on-site bar in exchange for an ice-cold adult beverage – yet another queue.

To allow more time to enjoy the shows and avoid standing in line, purchase a large souvenir jug of beer (\$30) with plastic cups to share. This is a place for adult merriment, so please leave your kids at home. It's no place to push strollers or walkers while strolling through crowds of happy people drinking beer.

If the music gets too loud, or you need a rest from too

much dancing, check out one of the picnic benches around the perimeter. Here, you can spend a little time people-watching while you catch your second breath, ready for the next round of dancing and merry-making.

Local history: In 1836, Texan colonists defeated Mexico and founded the independent Republic of Texas. Nine years later, in 1845, nobleman Prince Carl Solms-Braunfels and a group of 21 aristocrats known as the Noblemen's Society (Mainzer Adelsverein) from Biebrich on the Rhine near Mainz arrived in Galveston on four sailing ships full of German artisans and tradesmen.

Prince Carl had purchased 1,265 acres of land by the Comal and Guadalupe rivers from Spanish landowners Maria and Jose Garza. Upon fording the river, they established a colony there and laid the cornerstone for Fort Sophienburg (Sophie's Castle), which was named in honor of the prince's fiancée, Lady Sophia, Princess of Salm-Salm.

Five years later, New Braunfels had become the fourth largest city in Texas. The New Braunfels Schuetzen Verein, the oldest continuously active shooting club in the United States, was founded for security and pleasure. For moral and spiritual support, St. Martin's Lutheran Church was also established; it is now the oldest Lutheran church in Texas.

With the changing times, New Braunfels is no longer a powerhouse for the cotton industry. Today, it is a popular tourist destination, with its salute to the sausage and preserved architectural icons of an earlier historic era, where you can dine in the ruins of the original gristmill or enjoy live music at Gruene Hall (claimed to be the oldest dance hall in Texas).

This is a great place to visit for a long weekend or a planned family vacation. Direct flights go from LAX and Long Beach to Austin, and from there you can rent a car and drive across the prairie toward the beautiful foothills around the wonderful town of New Braunfels.

Have fun before it's too late and you retire and go to bed at 9 p.m.!

Prost!

— The Captain



Enjoying a sausage and an icy cold adult beverage with the wife, at the New Braunfels Wurstfest



Cheers at New Braunfels Wurstfest

CLUB MEMBER - TRAVEL DEALS

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



EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM

More pictures on Web Alive!



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.



Just for Kicks

PARKS FOUNDATION'S LA CUP INVITED ELECTED OFFICES TO A TOURNAMENT.

COUNCIL/CITY ATTORNEY: On Sept. 1, Council Districts, the Mayor's Office and City Attorney's Office took to the turf in Griffith Park in the Los Angeles Parks Foundation's first- LA Cup soccer tournament and resource fair.

Staff members from 10 City Council offices, the Mayor's Office and the City Attorney's Office competed on the field, whereas on the sidelines, organizers held a resource fair for community members to engage with City officials.

Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez and Team CD13 took the first Cup.

The LA Parks Foundation geared this event toward raising awareness of and encouraging donations for its ongoing mission to enhance and promote City parks, recreation and open space in the City.

Well done, all! ●



City Attorney Hydeec Feldstein Soto joined members of Team City Attorney as they competed in the first-ever LA Cup soccer tournament, hosted by the LA Parks Foundation.

Noelle Kauffman,
Club Sports
Commissioner



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!

Sign Up!

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

Now is the time to BE CLUB!

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!



Club Sponsored Softball Tournament

Nov. 10 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: \$69.99

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



Turkey Trot 5-K

Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving morning)
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!

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)

Sign Up!

To participate in any of these events, please contact the Club Sports Director, Noelle, at nkauffman@employeesclub.com.

Story and photo courtesy Engineering

Engineering Honors Training Grads

PROJECT-DELIVERY TRAINING PROGRAM HONORS 35 GRADUATES.

PUBLIC WORKS: Public Works' Bureau of Engineering offers a unique program to train employees on how to successfully complete and deliver complex projects. On Aug. 8, the bureau honored 35 graduates.

Certificates were presented at the Management Team Meeting to the employees who successfully completed the Bureau of Engineering's Project Delivery Fundamentals Training Program, which includes the following major subject areas:

- Introduction to Project Management
- Bid and Award Process
- Scheduling
- Project Planning and Pre-Design
- Construction Management
- Presentations Skills
- Project Design
- Negotiation Skills
- Client Relations
- Managing Money

The three-month program of weekly classes began March 27 and involved a significant time commitment by all participants. Passing the final exam is required to receive a certificate of completion.



Graduates of Engineering's recent Project Delivery Fundamentals Training Program.

Congratulations go to all who successfully completed the course: Somayah Abbasi, Jesus Abril, Ulysses Aparicio, Jorge Arreola, Abel Casillas, Vanessa Chavez, Catherine Chen, Joshua Diaz, Brent Eckerman, Llanet Gomez, Dagoverto Guerrero, Roman Gutierrez, Wei Hu, Safa Javanmardi, Amir Kashfi, Ryan Kim, Nam Kim, Valerie Lai, Larry Lee, Amaan Malik, Lucia Mercado, Luis Muñoz, Mahmood Nabils, Alyssa Narciso, Lawrence Pickett, Lauren Rhodes, Vi Tonnu, Roshanak Varjavand and Parisa Zahabi.

Graduates from other departments and Public Works bureaus were Edwin Avetyan, StreetsLA; Prime Hein, Street Lighting; Jerry Jimenez, General Services; Troy Ezeh, Sanitation and Environment; Brett Perry, Sanitation and Environment; and Jeasmin Lopez, Sanitation and Environment.

Many thanks go to the many presenters and support staff that made this training program possible.

Congratulations to those who earned certificates! The Club thanks you for your public service. ●

**You Are
Appreciated
At the Club**



ABOUT Cora Jackson- Fossett

Retired, Public Works

Cora Jackson-Fossett, Club Member, retired from the City of Los Angeles in January 2014 after 36 years of City service.

As the Public Affairs Director for Public Works, Cora directed 14 staff members in the development and implementation of strategic corporate communications programs.

Under her leadership, the Public Works Public Affairs Office received nine industry awards for its outstanding, creative and effective communications programs. In addition, Cora received five Los Angeles Emmy nominations for producing videos/DVDs about Public Works activities and operations.

She served as vice president of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Professional Managers Association, the bargaining unit representing the City's top-level employees and was president from 2006 to 2012 of the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel, the official representative for City employees of African-American heritage.



Cora with (from left) former Mayors Richard Riordan and Tom Bradley.

In 2010, Cora was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Public Works Association as Director — Public Works Management and Leadership. She was the first African American woman to serve on the National Board of the 28,000-member organization.

Before she transferred to Public Works, she began her City career as Principal Public Relations Representative for Los Angeles International Airport.

Cora was featured in the publication, *Who's Who in Black Los Angeles* for three consecutive years. In 2008, she was recognized by *the Los Angeles Business Journal* as one of LA's most successful women and in 2009, she was inducted into the National Association of University Women's Hall of Fame.

A member of Brookins Community A.M.E. Church since 1987, Cora served as a Sunday school teacher, chaired the Public Relations Commission, and was a member of the Steward Board. In her retirement, she is the Managing Editor for the Los Angeles *Sentinel* newspaper, the largest African American weekly paper on the West Coast.

Before joining the City of Los Angeles, she served as newsletter editor and public affairs specialist at the Gary, Indiana; Chicago; and Long Beach postal facilities.

A native of Gary, Indiana, Cora earned a Bachelor's degree from Indiana University and completed graduate courses at Columbia College in Chicago. Also, she holds certificates in marketing management and standardized emergency management.

*Contributed by Enrique C. Zaldivar,
Retired, Public Works*



CITY LEGENDS

Photos by Summy Lam, Club COO; and USC/Kremer Johnson Photography

Cora, to the Core

Laryngeal cancer nearly cost Cora Jackson-Fossett, Retired, Public Works, her voice and her life. Cora, a proud Club Member, had other ideas.

When she Retired in 2014, Cora Jackson-Fossett needed two retirement parties, including one in front of the Board of Public Works, to provide enough opportunities for everyone to say goodbye.

In her memorable 36 years working at Airports and as the head of Public Affairs at Public Works, she met presidents, celebrities, mayors, civic boosters, and countless regular citizens.

As president of the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel, she guided many young professionals to successful careers.

And during all of it, she used her brain, her heart ... and her voice. Constantly.

But little of that prepared her for her greatest challenge: beating cancer.

Read about her career, her view on working for the City, her love of the Employees Club, and the battle that ultimately may define her, a battle she has prayerfully and thankfully won.

In this month's feature, we honor, thank and celebrate Cora and her commitment to living her life fully and unobstructed. And we thank USC/Keck School of Medicine for their images. ●



Top: Cora accepts the National Public Works Week Award on behalf of her Public Works/Public Affairs Office staff (behind her). Behind the award is Cynthia Ruiz, former Board of Public Works President.



Middle: Cora receives a proclamation from the Board of Public Works at her retirement.

THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW

'Make the Best of It'

On Sept. 18, Club and Association CEO Robert Larios and Alive! editor John Burnes interviewed Cora Jackson-Fossett, Retired, Public Works, 36 years of City service and longtime Club Member. To survive cancer, Cora had her tumorous larynx – her voice box – removed. The surgery also separated the windpipe (trachea) from the food pipe (esophagus) and totally changed how she breathes, swallows, smells and speaks. For example, before surgery, she breathed through her nose and mouth, but after surgery she breathes through an opening in her neck called a stoma. Also, she now speaks using a voice prosthesis placed in the stoma, which enables her to create voice sound. In addition, Cora uses a heat moisturizer exchange (HME) to humidify and filter the air that she breathes, which her nose previously did before the surgery.

Cora sat down with Robert and John to share the ups and downs of her career and cancer journey. The interview took place at Club Headquarters downtown.

It's so good to see you again, Cora. How are you feeling?

Cora: I feel great. I hate the fact that my voice is limited, but I can't change that, so I just continue to deal with that. But physically, I'm doing fine.

That's great to hear. We'll talk about that in a few minutes. But let's talk about your career first.

Cora: Sure.

You started at Airports before transferring to Public Works, right?

Cora: I was very fortunate. I started with the City at Los Angeles International Airport in Public Affairs, and I was there for nine years before I went to Public Works. I had such a great experience and opportunity to do so much at LAX.

And your pathway from there was?

Cora: At Airports, I came in as a Public Relations Specialist in December 1990, and they gave me an in-house title as Media Relations Coordinator. That gave me a really great opportunity to do a lot of public speaking on behalf of the airport. I was the first Black PR. specialist at LAX. Also, I had a chance to work directly with the Board of Airport Commissioners, including the late Attorney Johnnie Cochran, who served on the board, as well as the LAX Police dignitary protection group. I represented the airport for all the dignitaries who came through LAX and required media. That gave me access to meeting the presidents and the other celebrities.



Cora Jackson-Fossett

I even met Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip and other people whom I've termed celebrities, so that was really a lot of fun. After about six years, I was promoted to Principal Public Relations representative overseeing passenger relations and working closely with the community relations team.

A great advantage working at LAX was the airport made its own money, had a big budget and was promoting LAX as an international cargo hub. I had a chance to go to conferences in Japan, Jamaica and Germany as well as in the United States. And in addition, Airports was really big on education; they were always sending us to training classes and things.

When did you move to Public Works?

Cora: In 2000, I went to the interview at Public Works. I really talked big in the interview! Lo and behold, I got the job. I was really stunned. I inherited about 18 employees who were not very happy. And then, of course, I didn't have a budget, so that was very disappointing, too. But as I got to learn the department and realize all that they did, and got to learn the people and realize all of the talent that they really had – it took about three or four years, but once we started gelling and coming together, we were able to make a big difference.

Editing the Sentinel

And you're now the Managing Editor of the Los Angeles Sentinel. How did that come about?

Cora: I started with the Sentinel while I was still working for



Club CEO Robert Larios interviewing Cora Jackson-Fossett.

the City, as their religion editor. That was in maybe 2011. All they required was for me to write about the faith community in Los Angeles, so I could do that and still do a full-time job. A few years later, they asked me, "Would you come on full-time?" I said, "No, I'm still working, I can't do that." And then, once I retired, I said, "Okay, I could do a little bit more."

They said, "Why don't you just write about more things than just the faith community?" I was elevated to a staff writer. I enjoyed that because it gave me something to do in retirement. In January 2022, the Managing Editor quit, and I told the Executive Editor that I could temporarily manage the production until a new managing editor was hired. After about a month, the executive editor said, "I found somebody." I said, "Who?" He said, "You." I said, "I can barely talk." This occurred after my surgery, but I've been doing it ever since, and I enjoy it.

The Diagnosis

In the City, you used your voice all the time. You presented to the Board of Public Works. You presented to the City Council. You met dignitaries. You ran the Public Affairs Office. How scary was it to think that you might lose it, or even your life, after your diagnosis?

Cora: Robert, it was very frightening. It all happened so fast. It started with an earache in January 2020. I had been going to my primary care doctor to try to get some relief for the earache, and she was prescribing all sorts of medicines, and I wasn't getting any relief. The primary care doctor referred me to an ENT (ear, nose and throat specialist). This was around March. Of course, then the pandemic closed everything down, so that got delayed until May. First, the ENT took me to an outpatient center in an attempt to remove the tumor through a slit in my throat. But it proved too large. So the ENT referred me to a surgeon at Keck Medicine of USC. And he said, "We'd better do this right away," or I might not live. It all happened during the course of three or four weeks, and I really didn't even have time to get

CITY LEGENDS

Cora to the Core

Cora Jackson-Fossett with Club CEO Robert Larios.



THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

scared or upset. I did not recall that surgeon telling me I would not be able to talk like I used to. He might have, but everything was just a blur. My husband remembered the surgeon saying, "There are alternative ways of talking." I was very shocked and surprised after surgery and opened my mouth and nothing came out. It took a lot of mental brainwashing to get through that crisis.

I never even knew about this type of surgery, laryngectomy, until it happened to me. All I knew about was those commercials on TV where they show those people who have it. It's so important that people know there's life after a laryngectomy, and that you can survive the mental challenge that it puts on you.

How are you adjusting?

Cora: Pretty good. When I first learned to talk, I used an electrolarynx device that you put up to your chin and talk, but that wasn't working very well for me. Then I got the voice prosthesis device, which I use with an HME or a heat moisturizer exchange to filter and humidify the air that I breathe. But to talk with my first prosthesis, I had to depress the HME to speak and my vanity wouldn't let me stick with that; I cannot be pushing the button when I'm talking to people because I'm so dramatic and expressive. My speech therapist said, "Okay, try this. This is a hands-free HME." It's pretty good. It's got limitations. I can't holler, I can't scream, and I can't even laugh like people do. But because I can still talk, I have learned to be even more expressive, so people know I'm laughing. You deal with the cards you're dealt. That's my philosophy — make the best of it.

That's a great philosophy. But it couldn't have been easy.

Cora: No. In the first surgery, the surgeon takes skin from your wrist and your thigh to rebuild your neck. I made the mistake of looking it up on Google! But the skin did not take, so I had to have a second surgery to rebuild my neck using skin from my chest which did work out. Then I had a series of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. After that, I was given a prosthesis to enable me to learn to talk.

It took a lot of prayer and positive thoughts. I had a great support system with my family, with my church family, my former coworkers, and my close friends. What really helped me the most, Robert, is that nobody would come to my pity party. Every time I felt sorry for myself, they'd say, "Oh no, you can make it, I don't want to hear that." So, I gave up on that line.

Was your cancer potentially life-threatening?

Cora: Definitely. At first, when I went to see the surgeon at Keck, he did some MRIs. He looked at it in a preliminary way and told me, "Okay, we'll try to do the surgery in a couple of weeks." By the time we got home, the surgeon had called my husband and said it was a lot worse, bring me back. That we had to do it that week. It was such a big tumor. They ended up taking out my larynx and 44 lymph nodes. I've lost 20 percent of my taste. It was pretty life-threatening.

Speaking Again

How did you learn to speak again?

Cora: I had a speech therapist. I was determined to talk again. I've talked all my life. I just can't stop talking. I had to find a way, and after the electrolarynx wouldn't work for me, I really didn't want to talk. The speech therapist really helped me a lot to learn to speak with a voice prosthesis and hands-free HME. I'm very fortunate in that. I had so many years of public speaking, so I do know how to project, how to bring air up from the diaphragm. Even about 40 years ago, I could sing, and I knew about it then. Those things help.

What has it taught you?

Cora: It has taught me to be a lot more appreciative of life and of the blessings and the abilities that I have. One of the greatest things this whole experience has taught me is to think

before I speak. Before this, I've always considered myself to be very witty and charismatic, not realizing I've probably been obnoxious and getting on people's nerves. A lot of people were not amused by what I'd been doing and saying things just off the top of my head. But now, because it takes a little bit more effort to talk — it doesn't hurt or anything — but because I can't project, I can't just interrupt people or cut people off if it's in a noisy environment. I really think about what I've got to say and use my words a little bit more wisely and stop trying to be so cute and witty.

This journey has been very good about teaching me to be very appreciative of life. It could have been so much worse. There are so many people who have it so much worse than me. They've gone through the surgery, they can't talk, or they have a lot of problems with mucus and swallowing, because it does affect how you swallow and how you eat. It's made me not like to go out to dinner a lot and eat because people want to talk when you're eating. It's a little difficult to do with the surgery because it takes so much water to push the food down. You always have to make adjustments in life. If it wasn't this, it could be something else.

Mentoring

Talk about your mentoring of others who are going through this surgery.

Cora: I try to keep them encouraged and challenged. I am a mentor with this organization called Imerman Angels Cancer Support. It's headquartered in Chicago. I mentor people from all over the country; the organization matches us up with our age group. We're not allowed to give them any medical advice, but I just try to keep them encouraged and to let them know that there is a life after the surgery because at first, it's so overwhelming after the surgery. If you've talked all your life one way and now all of a sudden you can't, that can be really mind blowing. And if you don't have a strong support system that's really encouraging you and telling you can do it, you can make it, then you can tend to feel like you can't make it. I try to keep my mentees encouraged and stay in touch with them on a regular basis.

I'm also a member of Nu Voices Los Angeles, which is a support group sponsored by Keck Medicine for head and neck cancer patients. Occasionally the doctors will ask me to speak with people who are having a laryngectomy to reassure them that there is life after this surgery. In addition, I'm heading this initiative with Nu Voices to educate people in general about laryngectomees. We've launched this video campaign on YouTube (**scan the QR code to view video**) to briefly show people how laryngectomees still enjoy life.



Wisdom in Retirement

How is retirement?

Cora: Retirement is great because I have a part-time job, but it takes up only maybe two and a half days a week. So, I have the rest of the time to do what I want, get my nails done, get my hair done, get massages, travel a little bit. I enjoy that a lot.

Looking back on your career, how would you evaluate it?

Cora: It was a valuable period in my life that I'll always appreciate. I learned so much working for the City. I learned a lot about the airport when I was there; I learned even more when I came to Public Works. And I've come to see how committed and dedicated City employees are to doing a good job and meeting the needs of the public. Before I came to Public Works, I never gave the trash men a second thought. Once I got there and I came to see how important it was, and I met the people operating the trash trucks, I saw how committed they were to their job. It gave me a whole different perspective.

What are you most proud of about your career?

Cora: I am really proud of the fact that the people I worked with, whether they were my staff or my superiors or colleagues,



Cora on the cover of the Keck Medicine of USC's magazine. Photo courtesy USC/Kremer Johnson Photography



Cora (second from left) with Enrique Saldivar, then-Councilwoman Jan Perry and Public Works staff.



Cora with attorney and then-Airports Commissioner Johnnie Cochran.



Cora as a nominee for an LA Business Journal honor.



Cora with President Bill Clinton at LAX.

Alive! Feature

Cora in the pages of *Alive!*

Trailblazers Honored

Black employees associations honor those who have made a difference.



APRIL 2010

From left: Cora Jackson-Fossett, LAABP President, Joseph Ruzan and Karran Rouzan.

Cora Retires!



MARCH 2014

were all committed to doing the best job and representing the City as best we could. In addition, we were all committed to meeting the needs of the people. In my position, we would get phone calls from all across the City from people who needed things, like, "My trash hasn't been picked up. Potholes on my street need to be filled. Can you get rid of the graffiti?" We would work hard to respond to those needs. I'm very proud that we gave people a more positive impression of City departments and what civil servants are trying to do.

What do you wish you knew then?

Cora: I wish I knew this [surgery] was going to happen. No, maybe not ... I wish I knew to shut up sometimes and listen a little bit more and be a little more kind and encouraging to people. When you're young, you're so full of it and think you know so much and are so ultra-confident, so I wish I had been more considerate. I was never a mean person, but I could have been kinder and gentler.

Public Service

What would you tell a City employee whose first day is today?

Cora: I would tell them to try to learn as much as they can, and that they're in such a wonderful organization. The great thing about the City is that you can do anything, and you don't have to always have a lot of degrees to be able to qualify to do it; there's a wealth of opportunity.

Another great aspect of the City is that it pays a living wage. You can take care of yourself and your family with the money that you make. So, take advantage of all of the opportunities that the City offers, and to consider the type of career that they want to have in 20 years and work towards it. There's very little that you cannot do in the City.

How do you feel about public service?

Cora: It is so unappreciated, I believe. But if it's not done, when the trash is not picked up or the potholes are not filled, everybody goes nuts. But up until then, they don't even think about it. I'm just as guilty. I'll never forget when I was working for Public Works, and I was getting briefed on a sewer project. I was always getting briefed on a sewer project because we were doing sewer work all over the City. And I admit, I was half-way listening until they said, "And then we're going to be on Buckingham Road." I said, "What? Buckingham? That's where I live. What are you talking about?" I went bonkers.

Seriously, a lot of people never think about the contribution that public servants make to their quality of life. But the overwhelming majority of City employees are very committed to doing a good job and want to be sure that at the end of the day, that they feel good about meeting the need, about staying within budget, about meeting the timeline, whatever it is. Civil servants should be very proud of the contributions they're making to help everybody.

One thing I learned, especially in Public Works, was that no matter where the community is, everybody wants the same thing. Whether it's an affluent community or a lower-income community, everybody just wants the trash picked up, they want the graffiti removed, they want the potholes filled. They want a good quality of life, and that happens only because we have public servants in those departments making sure it happens.

Club Membership

You've been a Club Member for many years. It's the Club's mission to celebrate, honor and express our gratitude for the dedication and service that employees like you and others have provided for the City, and now the County and the State. The dignity of public service is a topic that's really close to our hearts, so thank you for bringing it up.

Cora: You all do a great job. Every month in *Alive!* I learn about people and the different projects that are going on. I live in

Council District 10, not far from the Vision Theater in Leimert Park. When I read about that project last year, I'm like, "Oh my God, it's getting closer to opening, thank goodness." It's right there near me. I was very excited.

What's your favorite part of the Club?

Cora: I love those discounts!

Everybody does.

Cora: The amusement parks and the movies and everything. I like that. My son likes the jewelry and things that you can get at a discounted price.

From Corporate Jewelers, a great partner of ours.

Cora: I also like the insurance offerings. I think they're a pretty good deal. I already had some insurance through the Club, but I thought, well, I'll add some more.

We're here to celebrate, honor, and express gratitude to public service employees for their dedication and service. We just happen to be experts at insurance, at discounts, at custom merchandise, and at communication with *Alive!* But truly, our purpose and mission is to recognize those who have dedicated their hard work to make the City a great place.

Cora: You all are doing a good job at all of that.

Thank you. What do you love about your life?

Cora: I like that I always have the potential to do more and fulfill whatever I desire to do. I was fortunate when I was in the City. I had great mentors and very encouraging women who were very supportive, executive women like Valerie Shaw, who was a Public Works Commissioner; Delphia Jones, a Chief Management Analyst at Community Development Dept.; and Rita Robinson, a General Manager at several City departments who is also on the Club Board. We all still go out and have lunch on a regular basis. Anyway, I've always felt like I could do whatever I wanted to do, as long as it was legal, you know! And I still feel that way.

I want to stress what a good employer the City of L.A. has been for me and for thousands and thousands of other people, and how it has afforded so many people the ability to have a good quality of life. It has been filled with many great employees who are committed to their job.

I also want people to know that the Employees Club of California has been right here for us, and *Alive!* has done a great job of telling our stories and offering us a whole lot of different products to help make our lives even better. Without somebody telling our stories, nobody would ever know about us. I hope that people will remember that next time they read about a public servant in *Alive!*

What's at the heart of Cora?

Cora: I try to guide my life by four things: Approach life with enthusiasm. Treat others with respect. Have faith in God. And never stop learning. I try to live by that. No matter what thing happens to you, if you stop and take a minute, you can figure out a way to deal with it. If you have a positive attitude, you can accomplish a whole lot and enjoy life a lot more.

Cora, we are delighted you are thriving again, and we thank you for sharing your thoughts with us.

Cora: Thank you, Robert and John! ●

Read and share this story on Web *Alive!*



Cora (second row, third from left) as part the American Public Works Association Board of Directors.



Cora at the Hyperion Treatment Plant.



Cora at her retirement party with (from left) Delphia Jones; Rita Robinson, Club Member; Cora; and Valerie Shaw.

Black History Luncheon



■ Bureau of Street Services Black History Committee holds fourth annual Black History luncheon.



MAY 2005

Honoring the Trailblazers

Black Personnel honors six City employees at reception in recognition of African American Heritage Month.



MARCH 2009



Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

CONTACT INFORMATION

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



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



Beverly J. Clark

Send in your Interesting News Contributions!

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

RETIREE EVENTS

Dec. 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@rlacei.org

Due to staffing, telephone confirmation cannot be provided.



Beverly J. Clark

By Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director
Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org or
(800) 678-4145 ext. 716

Fiesta!

RLACEI hosts an end-of-summer party for the beginning of Latino Heritage Month.

The RLACEI's end-of-summer Fiesta on Sept. 12, was a delightful event for all attendees. Despite some of us who woke up to shaking and rattling from an earthquake centered in Malibu, the weather was cooler, setting the stage for a fantastic day at the Friendship Auditorium, with approximately 160 Retirees joining in the fun. As always, attendees enjoyed mingling with friends, meeting new friends and socializing with other Retirees.

The RLACEI Board, especially Entertainment Chair Vicki Keoseian, beautifully decorated the venue to enhance the festive atmosphere. Retirees enjoyed taking photos with a "fiesta" backdrop and dancing to the lively music provided by the mariachi band, Mariachi Fina Estampa.

The event featured a delicious, boxed meal catered by Mr. Ardi's Catering, offering a choice of beef tacos, chicken tacos, or cheese quesadillas, accompanied by beans and rice, and churros for dessert.

Guest speakers included Robert Aguirre, Social Media Coordinator for the Los Angeles Federal Credit Union (LAFCU), who expressed

gratitude for the members' continued support, and Noelle Kauffman, Director of Sales for the Employees Club. Noelle updated members on the new relationship between the Club and RLACEI. The previous five-year contract between RLACEI and the Club, which provided RLACEI members with Club Membership at no additional cost, ended in December 2023. But rising costs have necessitated changes. RLACEI's membership dues remain at \$3 per month, while the Club now charges \$4 per month (a significant discount for Retirees) for Club membership, which includes the *Alive!* newspaper, benefits like the Retirees Plaque (for longtime members) and numerous discounts.

RLACEI Membership Director Ann Seales clarified the new relationship with the Club and emphasized that RLACEI is the only organization dedicated to monitoring and protecting Retirees' pensions. She highlighted the substantial benefits of RLACEI membership.

Over the past year, RLACEI has actively advocated for retirees, addressing the Los Angeles City Council to support the 2.6

percent discretionary COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) and the IRMAA (Income-Related Monthly Adjusted Amount), both of which significantly impact Retirees financially.

After lunch, Retired board director Tom Moutes took over as the master of ceremonies. Attendees had the chance to win prizes provided by RLACEI, the Club, and the Los Angeles Federal Credit Union.

Also enjoying the festivities was Carrie Gabriel, our 102-year-old Retiree who has been featured in *Alive!* and occasionally writes for the "Carrie's Corner" section. Carrie is an inspiration to all Retirees.

Special thanks go to each Board Director and the special assistance team, including honorary member Anna Osborne, Nancy Hammoudian's sisters Barbara and Cathy, *Alive!* Editor in Chief John Burnes, and American Sign Language Interpreter Natalie Westfall, who assists Retirees needing sign language support.

As always, everyone had a wonderful time.



The RLACEI Board of Directors at Fiesta, from left: Joe Quan, Ann Seales, Beverly Clark, Nancy Hammoudian, Vicki Keoseian, Beverly Anderson, Lucy Artinian and Leonard Torres. (Not pictured: Mark Blunk and Ruth Perry)



Fiesta! RLACEI Board Members pose with the afternoon's entertainment, Mariachi Fina Estampa.



From left: Jannette Allen, Retired, LADOT/LAPD, 32 years of City service; Eric Oppong, guest; and Tracie Edwards, Retired, Airports, 35 years.



From left: Lisa Smock, Retired, LAPD, 30 years of City service; Jill Woo, Retired, LAPD/Communications, 32 years; and Gailanne Noyes, Retired, LAPD, 20 years.



RLACEI Board Vice President Beverly Clark (center) with Bonnie and Joseph Zamora.



Becky Bookman (right), Retired, LADOT, 39 years of City service; with (from left) Ana Osborne and American Sign Language Interpreter Natalie Westfall.



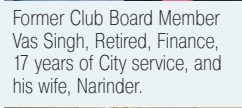
From left: Chris Beatty, Retired, LAPD, 37 years of City service; Gloria Ojeda, Retired, LAPD, 32 years; and Angela Perez, Retired, LAPD, 32 years.



RLACEI Board Vice President Beverly Clark and Club Director of Sales Noelle Kauffman.



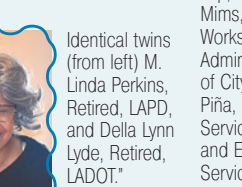
Top: Derrick and Ellaina Smith, Retired, Finance, 37 years of City service.



Former Club Board Member Vas Singh, Retired, Finance, 17 years of City service, and his wife, Narinder.



From left: Stephanie Herron, Retired, LAPD, 29 years of City service; Ted Fernandez, Retired, Harbor, 32 years; Julie Jaramillo, Retired, LAPD, 27 years; and Dan Trask, LAPD, 23 years.



Identical twins (from left) M. Linda Perkins, Retired, LAPD, and Della Lynn Lyde, Retired, LADOT.



Gerald Smith Sr., Retired, Public Works/Sanitation, 34 years of City service.



Bottom: Olga Houston, Retired, Personnel, 30 years.



Ofelia and Hank Murakami, Retired, LAFD, 33 years of City service.



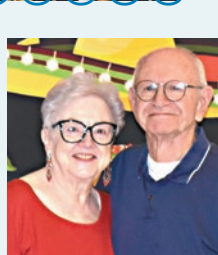
From left: Stephanie Herron, Retired, LAPD, 29 years of City service; Ted Fernandez, Retired, Harbor, 32 years; Julie Jaramillo, Retired, LAPD, 27 years; and Dan Trask, LAPD, 23 years.



Top, from left: Charley Mims, Retired, Public Works/Contract Administration, 44 years of City service; Terry Piña, Retired, General Services, 15 years; and Ed Piña, General Services, 35 years. Bottom: Angelica Navarro Rios, Retired, General Services, 33 years, and her mom, Yolanda Navarro, Retired, Finance, 35 years.



At the registration table, from left: RLACEI Board Directors Lucy Artinian, Beverly Anderson, volunteer Barbara and Nancy Hammoudian.



Esther and Elliott Porter.



From left: Ira Starks with guest Stephanie.



Board Directors Vicki Keoseian and Lucy Artinian surround Carrie Gabriel, 102, Retired, LAPD/Personnel.

For Retired Club Members



Arnette Travis

GET HAPPY SERIES

By Arnette Travis

Author/Activist/Advocate, RLACEI Contributing Author

Aging

With the advent of retirement, aging can take up a lot of space in our mind. While the only alternative to aging is death, the reality is that all around us the effects of aging on people we know (and ourselves) are a fact of life, whether they be good or bad. What are your thoughts about aging? Are you looking at a glass half empty or a glass that is half full?

If your glass is half empty, your negative thoughts are likely rooted in ageist beliefs. Ageism is expressed in many ways. From attributing the failure to remember something as a “senior moment,” to the replacement of a 60-year-old manager with a younger person because “fresh ideas are needed,” ageist beliefs exist throughout our society.

Ageism marks older people with the same negative stereotyping that is found in racism and sexism. And like the other “isms,” ageism is often characterized by injustice and harm, limited power and opportunities, even deprivation of rights, such as the denial of certain medical procedures or treatments to elderly patients.

The half-full glass exemplifies the only aspect of life that is under our control: our attitude. The choice to put a positive spin on aging supports the goal of living longer, healthier and happier lives.

According to Dr. Becca Levy, a leading expert on the psychology of successful aging, having a positive attitude toward aging can extend life expectancy an average of 7.5 years. Levy examines the mind-



body connection, wherein health problems that were thought to result from the aging process (including the way genes operate), are directly influenced by negative thoughts about aging and can be improved upon by positive age beliefs.

In her groundbreaking book, *Breaking the Age Code: How Your Beliefs About Aging Determine How Long and Well You Live*, Dr. Levy recommends a three-pronged ABC method to adopt positive age beliefs:

Awareness — Identifying where negative and positive images of aging are found in society.

Blame — Understanding that health and memory problems can be the result, at

least in part, of the negative age beliefs we acquire from society.

Challenge — Take action against ageism so that it is no longer harmful!

Aging.

It beats the alternative.

The ability to control your attitude is the ultimate self-empowerment tool. Taking action to think positively about aging will lead you to a longer, healthier, happier life that no one can take from you or use to exercise undue control over you.

Happily yours,

Arnette Travis



RLACEI Members:

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

RLACEI Members: 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 was your final one. But don't worry—the Club plans to continue publishing RLACEI news and features, just for you!

Easy Sign-Up Process

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

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.

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

*If you prefer to pay by credit card or be billed monthly, your membership will be \$7.50 per month.



Join the Club!

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

Or use the QR code to join online.



Noelle Kauffman
Director of Sales

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.



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!**

LACERS BOARD UPDATE

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

LACERS Board Approves Health, Dental, Vision Renewals



Michael R. Wilkinson

Each year, the Benefits Administration Committee, which I chair, reviews the available health plans and approves the plans and premiums for the upcoming year.

There are no changes to the plans for health, dental and vision for the 2025 plan year starting Jan. 1, 2025. Members with Medicare Part A and B interested in an Anthem Blue Cross plan will continue to have a choice of the Anthem Medicare Preferred (PPO) plan or the Anthem Medicare Supplement plan.

This coming year will bring additional hearing aid coverage for the Anthem Medicare Preferred (PPO) plan. Members may use an outside vendor for hearing aids and will have coverage like Anthem's hearing aid supplier. This was not previously covered.

The overall cost for the health, dental and vision plans increased by 6.38 percent for the year. The Anthem plan for those under 65 years old (and Medicare Part B only) PPO and HMO plans increased by 8 percent. The Anthem Medicare Supplement plan (those over 65 years old increased by 6 percent, while the Anthem Medicare Preferred (PPO) plan increased by 9.50 percent.

Kaiser's rates include a vision plan and increased by 3.99 percent for the HMO for those under 65 and Medicare Part B only while the Kaiser Senior Advantage (Medicare) HMO increased by 5.84 percent.

SCAN's premiums were unchanged while United Health Care (UHC) increased by 50.83 percent. The UHC increase is subject to further negotiation with the LACERS General Manager, who is authorized to use the IRC Section 115 healthcare trust fund to reduce the member impact on any increase.

Delta Dental PPO and the Anthem Blue View Vision premiums are unchanged. Delta Dental HMO will increase by 3.97 percent.

Now, what will these changes mean to you out of pocket? Your net cost depends on your subsidy amount. If the premiums are less than the subsidy amount, you will pay nothing; otherwise you will pay the amount due after reducing it by the subsidy amount. Please refer to the materials from LACERS and attend one of the Open Enrollment meetings this fall to get all the details. The Open Enrollment dates have not been set as I write this column. Materials will be mailed out in October. Please check www.lacers.org/health-benefits for the latest information on Open Enrollment.

Just a reminder on Open Enrollment. This is the time to make any changes to your health, vision or dental coverage. If you are happy with your plans, no change is necessary. ●

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



The Alive! Kids' Coloring Contest

Coloring

with **The Club**

Deadline for submission:

Nov. 8, 2024

Compiled by:



Guadalupe Lira
Retail Operations
Manager



DeAngelo Thompson
Mobile Operations
Representative

Mail completed coloring art to:

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

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

Kid's Coloring Contest Schedule

In the printed *Alive!* and on *Web Alive!*:

- **April** (winners published in June)
- **October** (winners published in December)



SCAN TO
DOWNLOAD ART



Download Coloring Art From the Web

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



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

Your name _____ How old are you? _____

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

What is your favorite snack? _____

What is your favorite television show? _____

Why do you want to go to the San Diego Zoo? _____

For parents/guardian to complete:

Name of parent/guardian: _____

Job title and department with the City: _____

Parent/guardian phone number: _____

Child's address/city/zip: _____

Club Membership number: _____



KID'S NAME:



Family Deals: Raise Your Family. Save Money.

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT

Welcome New Officers!

AIRPORT AND PORT POLICE WELCOME NEW PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS.

AIRPORTS, HARBOR: As part of the recent LA Police Academy graduation Class 3-24, Airports and Harbor welcomed new Officers.

The Airport Police Division proudly welcomed Officers Yosmar Vela and Officer Shawn Sokolsky during a swearing-in ceremony at the LAPD Academy in Elysian Park. These new Officers will embark on a comprehensive six-month Field Training Officer (FTO) program, where they will be paired with experienced mentors. Throughout this period, they will gain in-depth knowledge of policies and procedures, and develop the skills necessary to effectively handle calls and assist citizens. This rigorous training ensures they are well-prepared to serve and protect the community with professionalism and dedication.

Meanwhile, the Port Police welcomed Officer Richard Gurule, who also graduated from the Academy class. Prior to joining the Port Police, Officer Gurule was a collegiate wrestler at Menlo College, where he received a Bachelor's degree in business management. He was also a wrestling coach for Los Alamitos High School. Congratulations on your graduation and welcome aboard, Officer Gurule!

The Club welcomes Officers Vela, Sokolsky and Gurule, and we thank you deeply for your decision to enter public service and dedicate your careers to keeping the City safe. ●

AIRPORTS



From left: Airport Police Officers Yosmar Vela, Chief Cecil Rhambo and Officer Shawn Sokolsky.

HARBOR



From left: Port Police Deputy Chief Greg McManus, Officer Richard Gurule and LAPD Chief Dominic Choi.

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, 2024.



DEADLINES:

In print and online: Wed., Oct. 16

Online only: Wed., Nov. 6



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



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Another Great CLUB BENEFIT

Meet the Recruit Grads

LAFD WELCOMES NEW PROBATIONARY DEPT. MEMBERS.

LAFD: The LAFD's next Recruit Training Academy Class celebrated its graduation Sept. 6, as the members became proud probationary members of the LAFD.

Friends and family of the 52 graduates were joined by Fire Chief Kristin Crowley and civic and community leaders, in congratulating and welcoming these newest members of the dept. in a ritual filled ceremony at the Orpheum Theatre downtown.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Noe Araujo-Silva | Isaac W. Garcia | Cole Pofek |
| Rolando De Jesus Axume Jr. | Robert Gomez | Reginald Pope |
| Ron Ben David | Paige Gurich | Matthew Ramos |
| Zoe Berube | Isaiah Hale | Roberto Raygoza |
| Christian Boewe | Joshua Hernandez | Nathan Reynolds |
| Trevor Braff | David Hu | Rachel Rhee |
| Asa Bravo | William Kissel | Chase Rodriguez |
| Melvin Brown III | Kevin Landaverde | Victoria Roman |
| Soren Brown | Jorge Lupian Jr. | Andrew Rosales |
| Aliaya Carillo-Guerra | Jason Ly | Luis Sedano |
| Tristan Chance | Moises Martinez | Samuel Silveyra |
| James R. Conley | Conell McKinney | Zachary Sprague |
| Andrew Cox | Myles McKnight | Taylor McMorrow |
| Adrian Escobar | Luis Mejia | Jackson Ritchie Villa |
| Jacob Espinoza | Wesley Nash | Daniel Williams |
| Robert Jacob Ferdan | Ramon Olmos-Ortiz | Owen Yoshimoto |
| Kory Figueredo | Kyle Oyama | |
| Ernesto Gallo | Alonso Perez | |

The Club congratulates all the new probationary members and thanks them in advance for their future service to the City of LA!



The latest graduating class of probationary members of the LAFD.

Scary Fun From the Deep!

SEA SCARE RETURNS TO CABRILLO AQUARIUM OCT. 19.

REC AND PARKS: A fun City-sponsored Halloween party is back!

Every October, a strange fog transforms Cabrillo Marine Aquarium into a family-friendly theater of discovery. This year, there have been reports of unexplained mutations among local marine life. Scientists suspect something coming from the deep, but the situation is changing too quickly to draw any firm conclusions.

Help unravel the mystery by finding clues hidden throughout the Aquarium, including the dark corners of Skull Alley, the Mad Scientist's Lab, Trick or Treat Trail and Haunted House. Take the chance to win prizes in the carnival game area, or create goodies at the arts and crafts tables and visit the Trunk or Treat zone. If you're lucky, the clues you find may lead you to our Secret Glow Zone before algae mutations completely take over the Aquarium!

Admission for Aquarium Members is free with valid Aquarium membership; reservations are recommended.

Sea Scare: Oct 19

Schedule:

- 5 p.m. Food trucks open
- 6 p.m. Members-only early entry
- 7 p.m. Sea Scare starts
- 8 p.m. Costume contest
- 8:30 p.m. Bring a Bag opportunity drawing (bring your own treat bag to be entered into a drawing)
- 9 p.m. Final entry into Aquarium

Cost:

- Pre-Sale:** \$12 adults, \$8 children
- At the Gate:** \$16 adults, \$12 children

Information:

<https://cma.recreation.parks.lacity.gov/events/sea-scare>



At last year's Sea Scare.

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DIRECT LINE FOR CLUB MEMBERS

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

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

We also have great rates on Homes, Boats, Motorcycles, RV's, Rental Properties and Apartment Buildings.
A FREE Benefit to members of the Employees Club

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Life Insurance

FROM THE CLUB

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

Get Life Insurance today. Here's why:

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

Phone and virtual meeting appointments available.
help@employeesclub.com
Or call: **(800) 464-0452**

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

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

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



Noelle's Picture Perfect Contest

Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales



SEPTEMBER HOLDOVERS

Here are a few from last month – theme: summer's golden days – that are worthy of Picture Perfect!



"A touch of summer golden colors."

– **Jill Weiszmann, wife of the late Club Member Robert Weiszmann**

Noelle's comment: I love this touch of golden summer. Thanks, Jill!



"Taken July 1, Jalama Beach Campground, Lompoc, California. Taken by drone looking north toward Pt. Concepcion."

– **Alex Andrews, Building and Safety**

Noelle's comment: A breathtaking shot, Alex. Thanks for submitting!

This month's theme was: *Pets Doing Homework*



"This is our dog, Charlie. We trained him to do our grocery shopping. Twice a week he also works as an Uber driver."

– **Yves Didier, Airport Police**

Noelle's comment: We will rate this dog-trip with a full five stars, with a nice tip, of course. Thanks for submitting, Yves!



"Studying for my Dog-trin."

– **Dennis Eigel, Retired, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment**

Noelle's comment: This one goes above and beyond, Dennis! I hope you didn't bother your dog too much – that's some serious studying!

DON'T FORGET THE CLUB'S PET INSURANCE!

Pet insurance makes planning for your pet's healthcare easy! It's coverage for dogs and cats that can really help you prepare for unexpected vet costs. Learn more here!

https://employeesclub.com/LACEA/ins_Pet.aspx

"My dog, Mia, is continuing her fun 'homeschooling' journey, studying human vocabulary using the names of her favorite plush toys: Bear, Pepper, Sushi, Wasabi and Donut. Her endearing overbite complements her smile, adding so much to her cuteness!"



– **Felice Chen, Housing**

Noelle's comment: That homework is very fetching, Felice! We give her schooling high marks. Thanks for submitting!

The next photo contest theme:

The Bounty of the Earth

DEADLINE: **October 15**

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

The Club's online photo contest, organized by Director of Sales Noelle Kauffman, has a monthly theme. For the next contest, the theme is "the bounty of the earth" – for Thanksgiving.

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



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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/lifsmoments



- 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
Bacica, Stephanie I.	Admin. Coordinator	City Attorney	33	Haggerty, Donald V.	Construction Inspector	Public Works	20	Niscior, Ryszard	Photographer	LAPD	18
Baker, Arley M.	Second Dep. Gen. Mgr.	Harbor	20	Hall, Donald L.	Supply Chain	LADWP	-	Nishime, Melanie L.	Administrative Clerk	LAPD	32
Becker, Paul R.	Sr. Bldg. Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	21	Harley, Paul R.	Refuse Collection Sup.	Public Works	25	Perez, Angela R.	Management Analyst	LAPD	32
Bellay, Timothy J.	Civil Engineering Ass.	Public Works	33	Hernandez, Maria G.	Police Officer	Harbor	41	Perez, Javier F.	Fleet Services	LADWP	-
Berry, Willie	Metering Services	LADWP	-	Herrera, Timothy	Power C&M	LADWP	-	Perez, Maria E.	Special Prog. Assistant	Rec and Parks	18
Borchers, Brian E.	Power Transmission	LADWP	-	Howard, Preston O.	Supply Chain	LADWP	-	Pirozzi, Cindy	Principal Clerk	City Attorney	39
Breedlove, David O.	Sup.	Airports	35	Hui, Jacqueline Y.	Supply Svc. Pay. Clerk	Gen. Services	39	Quichocho, Frank	Power C&M	LADWP	-
Bryant, Gwendolyn A.	Sr. Traffic Sup.	LADOT	23	Hwang, Lingying	Sr. Accountant	ITA	10	Ramirez, Bernardita R.	Workers' Comp Claims Asst.	Personnel	25
Byrd, Antonio M.	Storekeeper	Gen. Services	20	Johnson, Cleo H.	Security Officer	Airports	20	Rivera, Daniel A.	Motor Sweeper Op.		33
Cardoza, Jose A.	Power C&M	LADWP	-	Juliano, Richard N.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	38	Rodriguez, Jorge F.	Electrical Craft Helper	Airports	9
Carreon, Dante B.	Sr. Data Process. Tech	ITA	31	Kemp, Brandon	Police Service Rep II	LAPD	24	Saclolo, Dante D.	Instrument Mechanic	Public Works	19
Carter, Ronald J.	Advanced Tech	LADWP	-	Koontz, John P.	Sr. Mngmt. Analyst	LACERS	25	Sampson, Cedric E.	Sr. Security Officer	Airports	29
Carvalho, Cecilia M.	Sr. Legal Clerk	City Attorney	22	Lai, William W.	Water Engineering	LADWP	-	Sanchez, Armando M.	Transport. Engin. Aide	LADOT	25
Chaffin, Michael J.	Water Operations	LADWP	-	Laing, James T.	Corporate Services	LADWP	-	Sanchez, Felix B.	Solid Resource Supt.	Public Works	34
Chapetta, Anthony M.	Equipment Operator	Public Works	25	Lamarr Hamilton, Joann	Customer Service	LADWP	-	Sharghi, Susan	Airport Guide	Airports	8
Collins, Camden L.	Utility Rates/Policy Spec.	Public Works	20	Lee, Peter H.	Security Services	LADWP	-	Shufeldt, Robert	Sr. Constr. Estimator	Public Works	18
Craig, Dana M.	Worker's Comp. Analyst	Personnel	25	Lewis, Michael	Light Equip. Operator	Public Works	23	Smith, Stacy L.	Street Services Sup.	Public Works	32
Crassweller, Sandra L.	Supply Chain	LADWP	-	Loehner, Mark R.	Equipment Mechanic	LAPD	19	Sohna, Musa E.	Detention Officer	LAPD	23
Del Mundo, Jean P.	ITS	LADWP	-	Lowry, Richard A.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	36	Sunseri, Robert A.	Sr. Bldg. Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	21
Dockus, Richard C.	Building Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	23	Magana-Patterson, Gloria	Workers' Comp Analyst	LAPD	25	Takayama, Carrie C.	Power C&M	LADWP	-
Edwards, Althea D.	Property Mgr.	Airports	31	Magana, Maria C.	Custodian	Airports	21	Taren, Richard	Power Transmission	LADWP	-
Ellis, Quintin H.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	34	Magilnick, June K.	Assistant City Attorney	City Attorney	29	Ting, Louis C.	Power System	LADWP	-
Erives, Maria G.	Administrative Clerk	Library	18	Manford, Robert K.	Environ. Affairs Officer	Housing	7	Vanduzer, Monica A	Animal Keeper	Zoo	27
Favarote, Regina R.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Gen. Services	35	Martinez, Sandra	Legal Secretary	City Attorney	36	Washington, Lynell	City Planner	Planning	6
Floyd, Tracy F.	Sr. Traffic Sup.	LADOT	35	Matturi, Tamba F.	Sr. Security Officer	Airports	25	Williams, Mark D.	Crossing Guard	LADOT	6
Fonti, Jonathan B.	Power C&M	LADWP	-	Miranda, Jesus J.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	13	Woersching, Marcus B.	City Planner	Planning	46
Fuentes, Ruth	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	-	Miranda, Mark A.	Energy Distribution	LADWP	-	Zandi, Mehdi	Electrical Eng. Ass.	Bldg. & Safety	39
Gardner, Leonard	Housing Inspector	Housing	17	Miya, Gayle H.	Administrative Clerk	Library	11	Zuniga, Josue	Irrigation Specialist	Public Works	21
Godoy, Cecilia	Energy Support	LADWP	-	Muff, James A.	Mech. Repair Shop	Rec and Parks	33				

* 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					
Davis, Won T.	Airports	18	Carrillo, Andrew P.	LADWP	29
Houze, Megan B.	Public Works	4	Clemens, David H.	LADWP	45
Higgins, Theodore	Public Works	22	Correia, Patricia Ann	Council	10
Little, Polly M.	Rec and Parks	18	Espinoza, Adrienne A.	LADWP	28
Melvin, Robert A.	LADWP	15	Fayehun, Olu B.	Public Works	21
Ozer, Onder	LADWP	9	Fernandini, Eduardo I.	Gen. Services	17
Sak, Edward P.	LAPD	26	Fletcher, Bennie	LADWP	30
Weinroth, Zachary M.	Public Works	5	Fry, Kenneth O.	LADWP	13
RETIRED					
Abdullah Hasan, Vickie	LAPD	31	Gill, Diane V.	-	-
Alatorre, Richard	-	-	Guadalupe, Glenn D.	Public Works	13
Alexander, James J.	LADWP	35	Haldiman, Peter J.	-	-
Almond, Robert G.	Harbor	33	Heyl, Karin K.	-	-
Alvarez, Pedro	Harbor	37	Highlander, Sherry A.	-	-
Arsharuni, Stepan	LADWP	10	Hoag, Michael D.	Gen. Services	33
Bahn, Ronald R.	Gen. Services	24	Holbrook, John P.	LADWP	37
Balah, Rostyslav	-	-	Joe, Johnny	Bldg. & Safety	30
Baldwin, John M.	Public Works	30	Johnson, Steven F.	Public Works	30
Baechle, Kenneth C.	LADOT	20	Kennedy, Wesley J.	Airports	16
Bernaldo, Ryan	-	-	King, Aubrey A.	Personnel	17
Burnett, Daniel A.	Gen. Services	32	La Riccia, Joseph	LADWP	27
Burt, Brian D.	Public Works	33	Lujan, Carlos F.	Public Works	16
Busk, Dorothy M.	LADWP	14	Lyons, Byrdia M.	-	-
Cardenas, Andres	LADWP	22	Milemore, Carole L.	LAFD	30
			Miyamura, Chieko	-	-
			Montez, Alfred J.	LADWP	30
			Mouton, Charisma D.	Airports	10
			Ortiz, Ernest	Public Works	29
			Pilotin, Arturo A.	Public Works	20
			Richardson, Elizabeth	LADWP	16
			Riffel, Ronnie G.	LAPD	20
			Riillera, Percival P.	LADWP	22
			Russell, J.G.	LADWP	15
			Shea, William P.	Public Works	24
			Sims, Roy L.	Gen. Services	9
			Smith, Charlotte A.	LAPD	4
			Smith, Clayton L.	LADWP	27
			Smith, Royal L.	LADWP	25
			Sneed, Mary L.	LADWP	35
			Soto, Fausto	Airports	20
			Sottile, Bruce J.	-	-
			Starkey, Carl J.	LADWP	33
			Stauffer, David A.	LADWP	39
			Stel, Marleen F.	-	-
			Velez, Ana R.	LAPD	34
			Villalobos, Manuel	-	-
			Watson, Jeanette M.	LAPD	35
			Wilson, Mark E.	Rec and Parks	19
			Yco, Gloria G.	Public Works	32
			Young, John W.	Gen. Services	31

Graduations



Matthew Ponce de Leon from UCLA and has started his career as a software engineer with Stripe in San Francisco. He's the son of Sophia Ponce de Leon, Retired, LAPD. "I am one proud Mama," she says.

Celebrating the Past and Present

ANNUAL PICNIC FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT RETIREES RETURNS.

LAPD: More than 100 people gathered for the annual Ebony Reunion Picnic, held each September primarily for African American former LAPD employees. The picnic was held Sept. 14 in Kenneth Hahn County Park in the Burke-Roche picnic area.

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

Seeing old friends and colleagues generated lively conversation and laughter. Everyone had a great time catching up with each other and reminiscing.

Alive! editor John Burnes and Club Social Media editor Dearbhla McNulty represented the Employees Club of California and graciously provided raffle giveaways.

The Ebony Reunion Picnic Committee is a community of Retired Los Angeles Police Dept. sworn and civilian employees brought together by a shared commitment to celebrating the past and the present. The annual picnic serves as a joyful occasion to reconnect with former co-workers, ex-partners and friends, reminiscing about their shared experiences over the years.

The committee is dedicated to fostering camaraderie and wellbeing among its members, ensuring that everyone stays informed about each other's welfare. Gatherings provide a platform to share stories, successes and the latest activities of fellow Retirees. The committee believes in cherishing these moments of togetherness during retirement, far removed from the somber occasions of funerals that used to be their primary reunions.

Additionally, the committee aspires to bridge the generational gap by connecting Retired members with the new generation of LAPD Officers and support personnel. Through these interactions, the committee's aim is to pass on the wisdom and legacy of service

while embracing the innovations and progress of the present.


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

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

The Ebony Reunion Picnic Committee looks for ways to increase the participation of current and former LAPD civilian employees at the picnic each year. Feel free to contact the committee at: ebonyreunionpicnic@gmail.com.



The Ebony Reunion Committee, front row, from left: Dep. Chief Maurice Moore, Retired, LAPD, 40 years of City service; Det. Ken Alexander, Retired, LAPD, 26 years; Beverly Clark, Retired, LAPD, and Vice President, RLACEI, 32 years; Det. Yvonne Parker, Retired, LAPD, 28 years; Jeanetta Adams, Retired, PSR, LAPD; Dep. Chief Ron Banks, Retired, LAPD, 32 years; Capt. Evangelynn "Van" Nathan, Retired, LAPD, 34 years; and Commander Harlan Ward, Retired, LAPD, 37 years. Back row: Lt. 1 Gregory Hoyte, Retired, LAPD, 32 years; Dep. Chief Willie Pannell, Retired, LAPD, 33 years; Assistant Chief Julius "J.I." Davis, Retired, LAPD, 36 years; and Lt. Don Ferrell, Retired, LAPD, 20 years



THANK YOU!

The Club honors and thanks all current and former LAPD employees for their public service; the Ebony Reunion committee for its hard work in producing this event; and Beverly Clark, Retired, LAPD and Vice President, RLACEI, for inviting the Club.



From left: Det. Yvonne Parker, Retired, LAPD, 28 years of City service; and Vera Chevalier, guest. Vera's father, Albert Williams, worked in communications for the City, and helped set up the Emergency Centers. Her mother, Catherine Williams, set up the block parties, which Vera attended as a child.



From left: Della Lynn Lyde, Retired, LAPD/LADOT, 29 years of City service; Sam Dacus, Retired, LAPD and LA County Sheriff, 51 years; M. Linda Perkins, Retired, LAPD, 32 years; and Motor Officer Harold Hills, Retired, LAPD, 32 years. Yes, Della Lynn and Linda are identical twins.



From left: Motor Officer Kevin Payne, South Traffic Division, with his dad, Sgt. Edgar Payne, Retired, LAPD, 32 years of City service; and Motor Officer Brandon Pollard, South Traffic Division.



From left: Bob Felix, guest; Det. III Charles Bennett, Retired, LAPD, 33 years of City service; and P3 Pro 1 Charles Howard, 38 years,



From left: Maj. Gen. Peter Gravett, Retired, U.S. Army, and Watch Commander, Retired, LAPD, 22 years of City service, 20 years in the National Guard, with his wife, Blanche. Peter wrote a book titled *Battling White Black: General Patton's Heroic African American World War II Battalions*. The book is available at Amazon.com, or at his website: petergravett.com



From left: guest Vilma Edwards; Margaret and Det. Willie Tusan, Retired, LAPD, 20 years of City service; and Lt. Don Ferrell, Retired, LAPD, 20 years.



Steve Adams with Sandra Johnson, Retired, LAPD, 36 years of City service.



Det. III Kenny Bryant, 32 years of City service.



Assistant Chief Julius "J.I." Davis, Retired, LAPD, 36 years of City service; and his wife, Billie.



From left: Lt. Jimmy Grayson, Retired, LAPD, 40 years of City service; Capt. Bill Williams, Retired, LAPD, 37 years; Lt. Kevin Williams, Retired, LAPD, 20 years; Sam Dacus, Retired, LAPD and LA County Sheriff's Dept., 51 years; and Det. II Lloyd Scott, Retired, LAPD, 27 years.



From left: Beverly Clark, Retired, LAPD, 32 years of City service, with Carrie Gabriel, Retired, LAPD/Personnel, 32 years. Carrie, 102 and featured in previous issues of *Alive!*, joined the LAPD in 1946.



From left: Lt. II Otis Dobine, Retired, LAPD, 38 years of City service, with Lt. Jimmy Grayson, Retired, LAPD, 40 years.



Top right: Marion Johnson, Retired, LAPD, 20 years of City service, with (from left) his great-grandson, Devon Thomas; his grandson, Brandon Johnson; and (below) his wife, B.J. Johnson, Retired, LAUSD.



Det. III Tanya Bobo, Retired, LAPD, 33 years of City service.



From left: Lt. Jimmy Grayson, Retired, LAPD, 40 years of City service; Det. II Marcella Winn, Retired, LAPD, 29 years; Sgt. II Steve Adams, Retired, LAPD, 31 years; Dep. Chief Willie Pannell, Retired, LAPD, 33 years; and Simeon Greene, LAPD/DEA, 3 years of City service.



From left: Capt. Bill Williams, Retired, LAPD, 37 years of City service; with Det. II Lloyd Scott, 27 years.



From left: Sgt. Sterling Gordon, LAPD, Retired, 27 years of City service, and younger brother D3 Connie Gordon, 30 years.



From left: Jeanetta Adams, PSR, Retired, LAPD; P3 Ed Cook, Retired, LAPD, 13 years of City service, the first Black SWAT Officer and author of a book about it, *From Black to Blue*; Denise Dobine, guest; Lt. Jimmy Grayson, Retired, LAPD, 40 years; and Lt. Ron Brown, Retired, LAPD, 34 years.



Herman Landry, Retired Sgt.-at-Arms for the City Council, LAPD, 40 years of City service.



From left: Lt. Kevin Williams, Retired, LAPD, 20 years of City service, then Chief of Police at Mt. St. Mary's College; with Lt. 1 Gregory Hoyte, Retired, LAPD, 32 years.

Club Retiree Plaque: Be Honored for Your Career!

Another Great CLUB BENEFIT



The installation of the Olympic and Paralympic flags in City Hall, from left: then-City Council President Paul Krekorian, Mayor Karen Bass and LA28 President Casey Wasserman.

Flags and Poems Fly

PARALYMPIC FLAG ARRIVES FROM PARIS, JOINS OLYMPIC FLAG IN CITY HALL; POETRY SLAM CONNECTS TWO CITIES.

CITYWIDE OLYMPICS UPDATE: On Sept. 12, Mayor Karen Bass installed the Olympic and Paralympic flags at Los Angeles City Hall alongside Olympic and Paralympic athletes, civic leaders and LA28. The flag installation ceremony celebrated the return of the Olympic flag for the first time since 1984, and the arrival of the Paralympic flag for the first time, as Los Angeles prepares to host its first-ever Paralympic Games.

The Olympic and Paralympic flag display is complemented by displays of memorabilia commemorating the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Angelenos from all corners of the City are encouraged to visit the exhibits at Los Angeles City Hall, which will celebrate L.A.'s history as part of the Olympic and Paralympic Movement through the 100th anniversary of City Hall in 2028.

LIBRARY/CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Los Angeles Public Library, Cultural Affairs and Venice-based Beyond Baroque literary society held "Catch the Mic: Paris to Los Angeles" at Central Library Sept. 7. "Catch the Mic" featured performances by more than 30 Los Angeles poets commissioned to write on the theme "Art + Sports," and also included a live streamed event from Paris.

The finale of an international Poetry Marathon, the event celebrated the cultural handover from the Paris 2024 Olympics to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. ●



From Aug. 11: Airport Police Officers were on hand at LAX to ensure the safety and organization of Mayor Karen Bass' return with the Olympic Flag. They hold the Olympic flag.



At the "Catch the Mic" poetry slam livestreamed between Central Library and Paris.



Mayor Karen Bass in Paris for the closing ceremony of the Paralympics.

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