



Serving over 50,000  
City, County and  
State Employees

# Alive!

The Club

## Rest Insured

As the Club's quiet but life-saving Claims Dept. surpasses an astonishing

**\$100 million**

**in insurance**

**benefits paid,**

it continues to advocate strongly for Club Members.

Cecilia Talbot, the Club's Director of Claims and Member Advocate, 21 years of Club service (seated); and Monica Zamudio, the Club's Claims Administrator, 9 years.

Alive! main photo by Summy Lam



**\$100 MILLION**  
in insurance  
benefits paid

SEE PAGE 8

Alive! is now a Website, too...

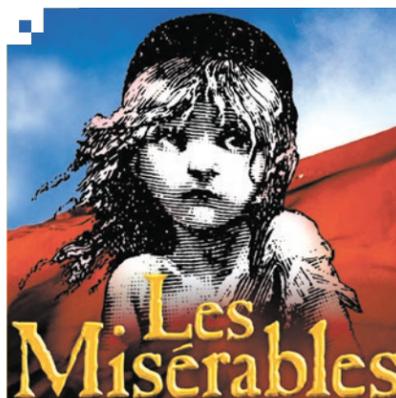
GO TO: [alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)

... for more stories, photos and videos!

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when you sign up for a  
United Agencies policy!



Note: The Club Store and headquarters will be closed Monday, May 27, in honor of Memorial Day.

### This Month At The Club Store

120 West 2nd Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012

The United Agencies reps are appearing at the Club Store on select Thursdays:



**Patty Pulido**  
Personal Insurance Agent

**May 2:** 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**May 16:** 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.



**Rosa Calderon**  
Personal Insurance Agent

**May 9:** 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**May 30:** 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.



## JOHN'S BLOG by John Hawkins, President and CEO, The Club

### The Club's Quiet Heart

We knew it was coming for at least a few months. We'd been monitoring it: When would we reach the awesome milestone of \$100 million paid in insurance claims?

But what wasn't in question was how we were going to memorialize it. We looked back over the years and realized we had never done a cover story on the Club's amazing Insurance Claims Dept., one of the quietest but clearly one of the most important parts of what the Club offers.

So we produced the story a month or two early, in anticipation, and then waited for the big moment when we hit the big milestone. This month's *Alive!* interview is especially good, so don't miss it.

The paperwork involved in issuing insurance claims can be daunting, and if helping our Members with Club insurance get through all of it at probably one of the worst times in their lives was all we did, that would be a lot. But Director of Claims and Member Advocate **Cecilia Talbot** and Claims Administrator **Monica Zamudio** go way beyond

that. They are nothing less than advocates for Club Members. They – and the whole Club, really – work hard, quietly but tirelessly, to take care of your needs at your very difficult times.

So, congratulations to Cecilia, Monica and those in the past who have brought us to this awesome milestone. You're at the heart of what we do.

(A quick note: Thanks, too, to those Club Members who have sent in testimonials about how good our Claims service is. It's not easy to say publicly that you've had a hard time in your life, but your words of encouragement about our service mean a lot to us.)

Moving on ... I hope you enjoy our annual tradition of publishing the Mother's Day greetings in this issue! We're learning what you want in print and online, and we've brought them back to our printed piece. (Still want yours published? It's not too late. Send it in by May 7 for us to publish them online – go to [alive.employeesclub.com/mothersday](http://alive.employeesclub.com/mothersday)). And don't forget to submit your Father's Day greetings, too, for our next issue.



Cecilia Talbot and Monica Zamudio of the Club's Claims Dept. with *Alive!* editor John Burnes.

With summer around the corner, don't forget about the great Club deals on water parks, theme parks and travel. **Lupe Lira** at the Club Store has all the details, or check out the specials at the Club Webstore online, arranged by the Club's **Mariana Guevara**.

Happy spring everybody!

**JOHN**

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you a  
boost



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BY NCUA





**The Club**

**PAGE 8**

Discussing the Club's insurance claims service are (from left) COO Robert Larios, Claims Administrator Monica Zamudio, and Director of Claims/Member Advocate Cecilia Talbot.

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## Mother's Day Tributes



*Tributes*

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**ALIVE! NEW THIS MONTH**

**ONLINE** 

alive.employeesclub.com

## Cooking with the Club

Salmon salad with quinoa and Dijon dressing.



## CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

Complete your applications online!

## John's Picture Perfect



**CLASSIFIED ADS \$\$\$**  
**Members Marketplace**

## People We See

Watch the latest video in our ongoing series.



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## The Club: Here to Help

Club staff is dedicated to helping our members receive the maximum benefit from their membership. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions about your Club, our counselors are ready to help.

**Email us at:**  
help@employeesclub.com

if you have an event you want an event covered in *Alive!* or if you have questions about insurance.

**Or call us at: (800) 464-0452**

### In-house Counselors

At Club Headquarters



**MaryAnn Urdiales**  
Member Services Counselor  
Ext. 159



**Cheryl Martin**  
Member Services Counselor  
Ext. 136

At the Club Store



**Tiffany Sy**  
Member Services Counselor  
Ext. 202

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## AIRPORTS

# Welcome, New Officers

**Airport Police welcomes four new Officers.**

Airport Police Chief David L. Maggard Jr. swore-in four new officers following a graduation ceremony held April 12 at the Los Angeles Police Academy in Elysian Park.

It was a proud day for the 44 new officers of LAPD Academy Class 10B-18, which

included four new Airport Police Officers. Officer Evan Baltierra, a former Marine, and Officer Christian Quinones, a former US Army paratrooper, bring their military experience, discipline and work ethic to the Airport Police. Officer Pablo Garcia, Academy Vice President,

Story courtesy Officer Robert Pedregon, Airport Police  
Photos by CSI Officer Shawn Smith, Airport Police



From left: Capt. Mike Scolaro, Officer Christian Quinones, Officer Oscar Ventura, Chief of Airport Police David L. Maggard Jr., Officer Evan Baltierra, Officer Pablo Garcia, and Assistant Chief Dan Llorens.

is already a member of the APD family and now makes the transition from civilian security to the sworn side of the division. Officer Oscar Ventura rounds out the graduates. Officer Ventura held the position of graduation class secretary, which comes as no surprise to those who know him. The graduate of Cerritos College and a former banking professional is no stranger to leadership roles.

The four new Airport Police Officers will now begin a six-month Field Training Program specific to aviation law enforcement under the guidance of a Field Training Officer. Upon completion, they will be assigned to the Patrol Services Section.

Congratulations to the new graduates!

## CLUB SPORTS

News from Sports Leagues sponsored by the Employees Club of California  
• March 2019



# Sign Up for Softball!

**New season expects to start in late June. What are you waiting for?**

Welcome to the new season of Club softball! This summer, we'll be starting the second season of the new North Division. Stay tuned for field locations and official game schedules. (This will be Club Softball's 11th season overall.)

### Who can join?

Managers of teams with at least nine players are welcome to register.

**Please note:** Time and space are limited for the North Division season of the Club Softball League. Once filled, we will keep your name for future seasons.

All new players must be Club Members and agree to all regular Club Membership rules and regulations. Players who

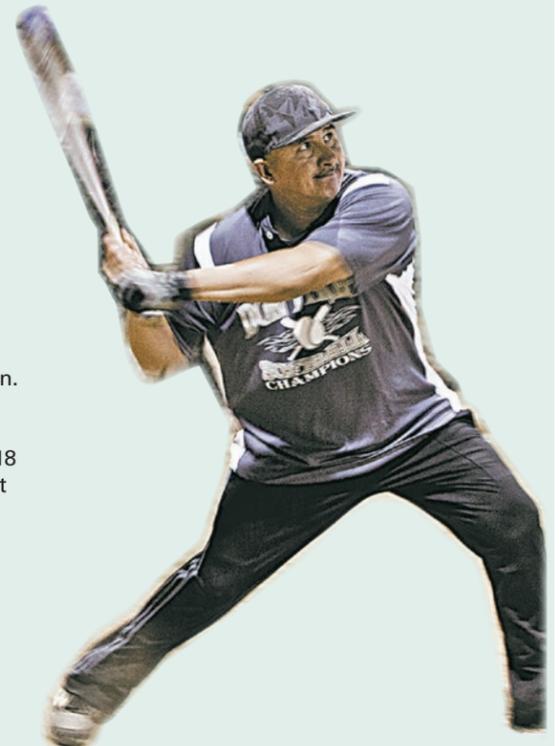
are not Club Members must join to play in the Club Softball League. Some exceptions might be made for specific relatives of Club Members. Contact the Sports Dude for more information. Exceptions to eligibility requirements are offered for relatives of Club members over 18 years of age. Players who are not eligible to play may cause forfeit of games and/or season.

All new players must be City, State or County employees.

**This is a co-ed league: for both men and women.**

### Registration

Registration forms and additional information is available on the Club Website: [www.employeesclub.com](http://www.employeesclub.com)



### South Division Forming

The Club Softball League's South Division, which plays its games in Inglewood, is forming and accepting new teams and players. Contact the Sports Dude:

[sportsdude@employeesclub.com](mailto:sportsdude@employeesclub.com)

*The Club Softball League is open to Members from the City, County and State. It is also open to their family members over 18 years old.*

**FREE AGENTS: Want to play but don't have a team?**

Are you a softball player who's not part of a team but would like to play on one? Contact the Sports Dude at (800) 464-0452 x 134, or via email [sportsdude@employeesclub.com](mailto:sportsdude@employeesclub.com)



### SOFTBALL PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK!

The Club has hundreds of great action shots from this season and last on our Facebook page, and a season video on the Club's YouTube channel. Enjoy!

**AVAILABLE NOW!**

**Club Member Discount DODGER HOME GAMES**

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[EmployeesClub.com](http://EmployeesClub.com)



# Happy Mother's Day

From the Club

## MOTHER'S DAY ON WEB ALIVE!

— COMING IN MAY —

It's not too late to publish a photo of you and your mom (or just your mom)... and a two-or three-sentence message of Happy Mother's Day. Submissions received by May 7 will appear on Web Alive!

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



"Proverbs 31:30: A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Happy Mother's Day to three great moms - Vanessa Bustamante, Cecilia Orozco and Odalys Ramos."

**Capt. Chris Bustamante, LAFD**



"Happy Mother's Day, Mom! I love you!"

**Robert Walters, Personnel**



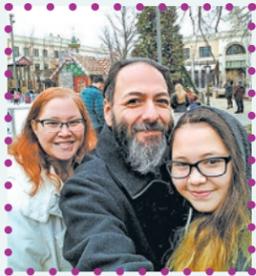
"Happy Mother's Day to the most wonderful and beautiful woman in our lives. Hope you enjoy your special day. Love, your family."

**Gabriel Leivas, DWP**



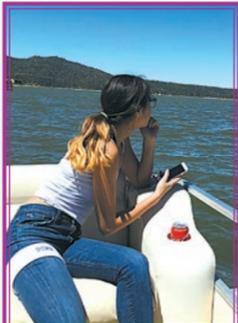
"Mom, whenever I am missing you, I also remember how fortunate I was that you were in my life. I wouldn't trade these moments for the world. Love ya."

**Priscilla Lopez, LAFD**



"Happy Mother's Day, Dezi! Hope your day is special. Enjoy your day!"

**Janet Torres Medina, Personnel**



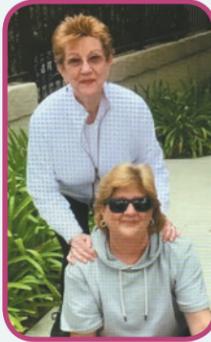
"Happy Mother's Day to the most loving, hard-working mother in the world."

**Mariela Saldana, LA County**



"For teaching me the love of food, style and community. Love you, Mom!"

**Monica Rodriguez, City Council**



"Happy Mother's Day to both my mom and sister, two of the best people on the planet. Love you both very much!"

**Larry Gates, LAPD**



"Happy Mother's Day, Mam, all the way over to Ireland."

**Dearbhla McNulty, Club Social Media Manager**



"Happy Mother's Day, Mom! What a year!"

**John and Dearbhla**



"Thank you for being the glue that holds our family together. Love you."

**Samantha Ramirez, DMV, State of California**



"Happy Mother's Day to the two most important women in my life - my mother and my sister."

**Chermaine Fontenette, Public Works/Sanitation**



"Happy Mother's Day, Mom! What a year!"

**John and Dearbhla**



"You have always been there for me! You are a wonderful mother! I am proud to be called your daughter. I love you, Mom, very much. Happy Mother's Day!"

**Charity Painter, State of California**

"To Kelley, the most awesome mother in the world! *Vous serez pour toujours dans mon coeur et celui de nos enfants.*"

**John Hawkins, Club CEO**

"Mom, every day should be Mother's Day! You taught all seven of your children to do the best they can, no matter what the job or status, and to treat people just as we would want to be treated. Thank you, Mom; you are my hero!"

**John Hawkins, President and CEO of the Club**



"Happy Mother's Day to Margarita from Personnel. Here she's with her two sons, Esteban and Vincent."

**For Margarita Guevara, Personnel**

"She is my true backbone. She's a God-fearing woman who never stops praying for me and over me. This is my super woman."

**For Linda Martin, Public Works/Sanitation**



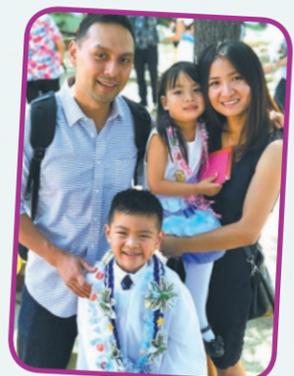
"Thanks for all your unconditional love. I pray every day to God to let you stay with us longer. Happy Mother's Day."

**Maria Chitay, LA County**



"Thank God for my mam, a special creature. I love her very much. The love she gave to me, I will keep it forever. Happy Mother's Day, Mam."

**Hector Garcia, DWP**



"Happy Mother's Day to my beautiful daughter-in-law, Mona! God gave us the gift of you. You are such a caring, loving woman who makes everyone smile!"

**Janet Torres Medina, Personnel**



"Happy Mother's Day to my amazing, supportive and loving mother."

**Marianne Angeles, Retired, Housing**



"Leslie, Happy Mother's Day to the woman and mother that I love that raised our three daughters - Alayna, Christine and Hannah!"

**Rolf Parkes, Personnel**



"Happy Mother's Day and birthday to my grandmother, who will be 99 years young in May!"

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



"Happy Mother's Day!"

**Robert Larios, Club COO**



"Happy Mother's Day to the best mom ever!"

**Eduardo Hernandez, Rec and Parks**



"To the best mother in the world, I love you so much. Thank you for your love and unconditional support. Happy Mother's Day!"

**Citlali Bon, Club staff**

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**PUBLIC WORKS**

# Open Houses Start This Month

Sanitation's popular open houses at six yards begin May 4.

Sanitation has released its schedule of popular open houses for 2019.

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



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

Last year, more than 6,000 residents attended the open houses with more than 230 City Employees who volunteered their time to give back to the neighborhoods they serve.

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

**TREES FOR ADOPTION**

Sanitation's Lopez Canyon Environmental & Education Center will host an information booth about the City's green bin recycling program and give away small vegetable plants with mulch and compost made from yard trimmings. Sanitation will also partner with City Plants to provide shade trees for adoption by City residents, on a first-come-served basis at each yard, while supplies last.

*(City residents must present valid identification with their city address or a current DWP bill to adopt a tree. Note: The limit is one tree per property address.)*



**Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

East Valley Yard	West Valley Yard	North Central Yard	South LA Yard (Expo Center)	Harbor District Yard	West LA Yard
<b>May 4</b>	<b>May 18</b>	<b>June 1</b>	<b>June 8</b>	<b>June 22</b>	<b>June 29</b>
11050 Pendleton St Sun Valley	8840 Vanalden Ave. Northridge	452 N. San Fernando Rd. Los Angeles	Expo Center 3990 Menlo Ave Los Angeles	1400 N. Gaffey St. San Pedro	2027 Stoner Ave. Los Angeles



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**Get a \$50 Arco Gas Card**  
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When it comes to their auto insurance, United Agencies has been serving hundreds of Club Members for years. We provide a high level of personal service, with some of the lowest rates in California. Come experience the difference in service you get when you say, "I'm with the Club!"

Take a look at how **United Agencies** stacks up against the competition!

	COMPANY	(91105 Zip Code)
<b>California Automobile Insurance Premium Survey</b>	Farmers	\$1,482
	State Farm	\$1,339
	Allstate	\$1,329
	Geico	\$1,311
	Auto Club	\$929
	<b>United Agencies</b>	<b>\$876</b>

These insurance products are brought to you by the Club's Partner, United Agencies, Inc. CA Lic. # 0252636 United Agencies represents Mercury Insurance Group, as well as Chubb Insurance, Hartford, Fireman's Fund, Progressive, Civil Service Employees Insurance, Allied, Safeco, Travelers, Unigard and Encompass.

**HARBOR**

# Michael Sails On

**Capt. Michael Barnes, Club Member, retires after 22 years of City service.**

A reception was held March 28, his last day on the job, to honor the career of Capt. Michael Barnes, Club Member, who retired after 22 years of City service.

Michael was the final captain of the *Angelena II*, the City's showcase vessel.

The retirement event, which included food, music, good friends and coworkers, took place on Berth 161.

**Here's an excerpt from Michael's farewell letter to his colleagues and friends:**

*It will not be news to you that I am retiring at the end of this month. My last day on the job will be March 28th. As the last Captain of the Angelena II, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your friendship and support over the years.*

*It has been a pleasure to work with you all. From the very talented team in marketing, the creative staff at Public affairs, and the hardworking and very supportive personnel in Construction and Maintenance. (I'm going to miss that espresso machine.)*

*I had the best job in the City, without a doubt. Out on the water every day in the sunshine, showing the Port to thousands of guests from all over the world. All good things come to an end, and it is now time in to move on.*

*Thank you all for making the last 22 years of my career the best!*

From all of us at the Club, congratulations on a great career, Michael, and we look forward to your continued travels in *Alive!*



From left: Jessica Barnes, Michael's daughter; Rebecca Barnes, Michael's wife; Capt. Michael Barnes, Retiree; Rachel Barnes, Michael's daughter; and Chris Tavlarides.



From left: Philip Pate, 33 years of City service; and Robel Afewerki, 27 years.



From left: Dwayne Boyd, Marino Paredes, Luis Villanueva, Rodolfo Gonzales, Daniel Case and Juan Vega.



From left: Capt. Michael Barnes, Retiree, and Club CEO John Hawkins (Sept. 2018)



Capt. Michael Barnes (left) and Club CEO John Hawkins, from our *Alive!* feature in October 2018.



From left: John Hawkins, Club CEO, presents Capt. Michael Barnes, Retiree, with the official Employees Club retiree plaque.



From left: Keith Gardner, 18 years of City service; Kenyatta Whitworth, 1 month; Jim McAfee, 10 years; and Philip Sandoval, 34 years.



Steve Mangold, Assistant Director of Construction and Maintenance (right), presents Capt. Michael Barnes, Retiree, with the Angel's Gate plaque from the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners.



From left: Alfred Reyes, 18 years of City service; Jose Guerrero, 13 years; William Guardo, 6 years; and Jose Luis Torres, 13 years.



Capt. and Dept. Manager Anthony Di Tucci (right) presents Capt. Michael Barnes, Retiree, with a plaque from Vessel Operations.



From left: Frank Albers; Otto Valencia, 16 years; Omar Rincon, 13 years; and Kenneth Heinsius, 33 years.



From left: Ray Escobar, 5 years of City service; and Marqus Brown, 3 years.



From left: Lil Bouchelle, 5 years of City service; Daniel Case; Rodolfo Gonzalez; and Gene Boudreau, 19 years.



From left: "Banks," 19 years of City service, and "Big Tony" Tony Seymore.



Glen Gabourel, 11 years of City service. Joseph Yutronich.



From left: Stephen James, 13 years of City service; and Rafael Diaz, 13 years.



From left: Rick Williams (of Jamnesia fame) and Capt. Michael Barnes, Retiree.



From left: Luis Villanueva, 7 years of City service, and Capt. Michael Barnes, Retiree.



From left: Miguel Rios, 13 years of City service, and John Faustino.



Band members of High Tide with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retiree.



From left: Jen Barrientos, 4 years of City service; Larry Freeman, 19 years; and Zonia Lima, 13 years.



Capt. Michael Barnes, Retiree, opens his gift from his co-workers – a cappuccino maker just like the one he used every day in their break room.



From left: Jim Olds, 12 years of City service, and Martin Lovato, 17 years.



From left: Nikola Jurat, Ervin Govic, Emma Gonzales, Retired, and Holly Carlson.



From left: John Radovcich, 18 years of City service, and Rick Blake, 29 years.



Anthony Di Tucci and Natalie Valenzuela.

Alive! Feature

The Alive! Interview

# Trust and Advocacy

**Thanks for sitting down to talk to Alive! today on this amazing moment – \$100 million in insurance claims paid back to Club Members by the Club. You’re in the paper and online every month with the claims updates, but this is the first time you’ve been featured. It’s about time!**

**Cecilia Talbot:** Right, thanks.

**But first, let’s go back and talk about your histories with the Club. We’ll start with you, Robert.**

**Robert Larios:** I was just out of the University of Southern California when I joined the Club. Had some part-time work and internships like Cannon Corporation. I even worked on a yacht as a chef for three months.



Cecilia Talbot, Director of Claims and Member Advocate



Monica Zamudio, Claims Administrator

**I didn’t know that.**

**Robert:** Yes. And then the opportunity to come to the Employees Club as a Member Services Counselor, an entry-level position, was available to me. I did that for a couple of years. I moved up to Marketing Coordinator and then a couple years after that to Sales Operations Manager, Director of Communications, Vice President of Operations and now Chief Operating Officer. All of that in 21 years.

**How about you, Monica?**

**Monica Zamudio:** I have worked in customer service since 1998, while I worked on getting my Bachelor of arts degree in child development with credentials. I graduated in 2003. I worked for a nonprofit organization with children with learning disability for a few years. I did interventions with the children to try to find the best way to help them learn, read and write. I also worked with the parents to help them work with the children in teaching them tools on how to help the children at home. I began working with the Employees Club in January 2010 as Claims Assistant, then Claims Coordinator. Presently I’m the Claims Administrator.

**Great. How about you, Cecilia?**

**Cecilia:** Before I came to the Club I was teaching Greek in a university in Argentina and in the San Francisco Theological Seminary.

**Interesting.**

**Cecilia:** I decided to look for a full-time job, so I came to work here as a substitute first. And then after three months, Brian Trent, the Club’s Chief Financial Officer, hired me. He said he didn’t have a better option!

*[The panel laughs.]*

My background is in theology, so I had to learn about insurance and claims. I thought we could do more than just help the members with the claim forms. I studied the City and DWP benefits and got familiar with City’s and DWP’s workers compensation plans. With that knowledge, I worked with the insurance companies to reduce paperwork, streamline the claim process and even re-interpret the policy to accommodate our members’ reality.

I remember one case where our Club Member had accidental death insurance, and because of

his situation, he was going to lose his house. He needed the claim money urgently. Robert—at that time in Member Services—went to the hospital so the Member could sign an authorization. Robert then went to the police office to get the police report. When Robert came to the Club HQ, I was waiting for him. It was Friday afternoon. I put the member’s claim together and faxed it to the insurance company. By Monday the claim was approved and sent electronically to the bank. And his house was saved.

**Wow.**

**Cecilia:** The different Club Departments worked toward a common goal of going above and beyond to serve our members

**Wow.**

**Cecilia:** The different Club Departments worked toward a common goal of going above and beyond to serve our members

**That kind of tells you all you need to know right there, doesn’t it?**

## The Milestone

**We are here this month specifically because the Club’s Claims Dept. has reached a remarkable milestone – \$100 million in claims paid to Club Members. Congratulations to you, and to Club Members, too. What does that milestone mean to you?**

**Monica:** It’s amazing. It shows all the people who were taken care of during the difficult times they were going through. It’s huge because our Members can have that confidence with our company – they can trust us to pay their claims, and work for them.

**Cecilia:** Approximately 50,000 people have received claims from the Club.

**50,000?**

**Cecilia:** Yes, many people might be afraid to apply for insurance. I remember a Member from the DWP, he didn’t want to apply for claims he had a right to. He said, “The insurance company won’t pay when it matters. They will find any excuse not to pay.” I challenged him to try the Club, and his insurance paid, of course. His disability claim helped him through the moments nobody plans for.

**Right.**

**Cecilia:** \$100 million is a lot of people helped. Many lives were saved through the Club. We are here to make sure our Members have a healing claims experience and get the money they expect.

Continued on web Alive!  
[alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)



From left: Club COO Robert Larios, Claims Administrator Monica Zamudio, and Director of Claims and Member Advocate Cecilia Talbot.



The Club’s Insurance products and w...  
critically import...  
families, quiet is nece...  
But Alive! thought...  
remarkable milestone...  
million in payouts to s...  
from the Club. That re...  
(The Club has been of...  
founding in 1928.)

**That’s right to insure**

The Claims Dept. –...  
years of Club service;...  
more than managemen...  
through the paperwor...  
their lives, and advoca...  
navigate the insuranc...  
in Club Members and...  
In this month’s Al...  
Monica, with Club Chi...  
**Larios**, talk about the...  
insurance is smart, an...  
about taking care of C...  
need.

**Congratula...  
Monica, for ye...**



**Monica Zamudio,**  
Claims Administrator

**Cecilia Talbot,**  
Director of Claims and  
Member Advocate

*Alive! photos by Summy Lam*

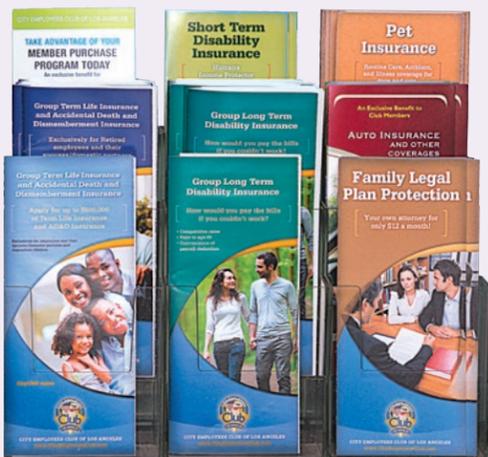
ance Claims Dept. works quietly, privately and professionally. In their  
tant task of taking care of Club Members who carry Club insurance  
who have experienced deaths, disabilities and sicknesses in their  
ssary, and quiet is good.

it was time to suspend the quiet for just one month, because a  
has been achieved: As of this month, the Club has returned \$100  
some 50,000 Members who hold or have held insurance products  
remarkable total is just since 1992, for when the Club still has records.  
ffering insurance products to its Members since the association's

**ght, \$100 million returned back  
d Club Members who needed it.  
IMPRESSIVE!**

- **Cecilia Talbot**, Director of Claims and Member Advocate, 21  
and **Monica Zamudio**, Claims Administrator, 9 years – is so much  
ent. Cecilia and Monica are member advocates, helping Members get  
rk at perhaps the worst time in  
ating for the Members as they  
e claims process. They believe  
work tirelessly on their behalf.  
ve! Interview, Cecilia and  
ief Operating Officer **Robert**  
e milestone, why buying Club  
d why they're passionate  
Club Members in their time of

tions, Cecilia and  
our awesome work!



**CLUB MEMBERS' PRAISE**

Here are just some of the hundreds of testimonials from actual Club insurance claims recipients on their experience working with the Club's Claims Dept.



The Club's claims service "was great. Losing my husband was very hard, and having your representative be sympathetic to my loss was appreciated. Your representative explained what would be needed to file the claim. Also, the forms were very straightforward and easy to fill out. I liked how the book [The Fall of Freddie the Leaf, given to all life insurance recipients] shows that we are part of a bigger picture, and we make others stronger by our presence."

— **Roxana Robles, February 2019**

The Club's claims service is "the best! You helped me so much. I appreciate all your help, Monica Zamudio! You were so understanding at this difficult time."

— **Ida Dalcour-Sambrano, October 2018**

The Club's claims assistance was "timely and excellent. Monica Zamudio was there when I needed the assistance the most. The benefit is very helpful."

— **Josefina Sison, February 2018**

"I received excellent attention and service. Thank you for caring. After I did not remember my paperwork in a timely manner, Monica Zamudio went above and beyond to see that I receive my benefit. Her kindness and sensitivity were deeply appreciated. A special thank-you to Monica."

— **Sara Cook, October 2017**

The Club's claims service was "very good, excellent. I was treated with courteous, professional and compassionate service from beginning to end. Each representative felt my pain and was extra patient with me. The benefit was received in a reasonable time, much sooner than I expected."

— **Louan Clark, March 2017**

"The help you gave me when my husband died gave me the information I needed to settle the financial and insurance questions. It was a relief to know that everything was taken care of."

— **Nadia Myers, October 2016**

"Coping with the loss of my wife of 35 years was made a little easier by the Employees Club's Claims Dept. I appreciated the sincere help I received regarding the required documentation and the explanation I received regarding my wife's life policy benefit. The death benefit check was paid very quickly."

— **Kim Arthur, January 2016**

The Club's claims service was "very professional and accommodating. They handled a delicate and painful situation with class throughout. I was very pleased with the humanism from the Club. Thanks a lot."

— **Richard Benavides, July 2015**

"I cannot speak more highly of the excellent service Monica Zamudio gave to our needs. Monica was thorough and compassionate, answering questions for me and my five siblings who were named as beneficiaries. May God bless you in many and special ways as you carry out you work for the Lord."

— **Theodora Leilani McGeoghegan, November 2014**

"You couldn't do anything better than you did for my circumstances. Don't change anything! Monica Zamudio was so helpful. It's good to know that people actually care on the other side of the phone line. I had no idea where to start after my father/best friend passed. I was crying when I first spoke with Monica. You spoke to me like I was your friend. You put me at ease for those few moments with your assurance that we were going to be okay. Thank you for your calmness, your kind words and your shoulder that I cried on over the phone. My father always had good things to say about the Club when he was alive. Now I do, too. Thanks, Monica."

— **L.A., November 2014**

"Monica Zamudio was very professional and efficient. I was very grateful. At this difficult time in my life it meant so much. It is very hard to adjust to life when you lose your spouse of 64 years. I really miss my husband. By the grace of God I will adjust. The Fall of Freddie the Leaf to me is a very good way to explain to your loved ones about life and death when we lose a loved ones in death. I am very grateful to the Employees Club."

— **Luberta Cliff, July 2010**

"Your service was prompt and professional. Cecilia Talbot is a very considerate person. She really showed concern and listened to me when I explained to her the loss of my mom. I appreciate her services to my siblings and me."

— **Myra Matthew, December 2009**

"My experience was really good. In a time of overwhelming shock and sadness, everyone I dealt with was outstandingly compassionate and supportive."

— **Mary B. Morris, January 2009**

"Your excellent service began with the sympathy card we received from your office. Cecilia Talbot and her staff were so nice and helpful to our family with the questions we had. Cecilia was a great help during this very difficult time."

— **Christiane Alzner, June 2008**

The Club's claims service is "the best! Cecilia Talbot was so helpful; she was great! In the most difficult time in my life, she came through. The Club helped save me. I am very lucky I had my insurance. God bless you."

— **Mark Monez, May 2007**

The Club's claims service was "excellent. Everyone was very helpful and caring during this difficult time."

— **Melissa Gorlick, September 2006**



Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.

# RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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



### RLACEI DIRECTORS

Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

Mary Beetz, Director, Ext. 711

Cliff Cannon, Director, Ext. 715

Beverly J. Clark,  
Publicity Director, Ext. 716

Hal Danowitz,  
Secretary/Treasurer, Ext. 707

Dennis Harding,  
Entertainment Director, Ext. 704

Ed Harding,  
President Emeritus, Ext. 703

Michael Karsch,  
Legislative Representative, Ext. 706

Phil Orland, Health Director, Ext. 709

Ruth B. Perry,  
Membership Director, Ext. 717

Neil Ricci,  
Nominations Director, Ext. 714

Tom Stemnock, Audit and Golf, Ext. 708

Michael Wilkinson,  
LACERS/Representative, Ext. 712

### RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:

(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0

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

### RLACEI WEBSITE

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

### MAILING ADDRESS:

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

or

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.  
1100 S. Flower Street, Suite 3300  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

### Change of Address?

Please notify Ruth B. Perry, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717 or Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFUC as applicable.

## Send in your Interesting



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

## 2019 RETIREE EVENTS

**June 6:** RLACEI golf tournament and general meeting

**Aug. 8:** RLACEI annual picnic and general meeting

**Dec. 5:** RLACEI annual holiday party and general meeting

### RESERVATION LINES:

RLACEI: (800) 678-4145, Ext. 701

## Meet Your Board:

A look at RLACEI Board Members

### Cliff Cannon RLACEI Board Member

Submitted by Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director



Cliff Cannon

Cliff Cannon has been a member of RLACEI since January 2012. His vision involves making our organization truly interactive with our members. Currently we have three major annual events: a golf tournament, a picnic, and a holiday party. He would like to expand this through input from our general membership. He feels this can be accomplished by member participation in surveys and/or focus groups.

Cliff retired from the City after 32 years. The first 12 years was with the then Data Service Bureau as a Sr. DP Analyst. The last 12 years was in the Controller's Office as a Fiscal Systems Specialist II, responsible for managing the citywide payroll system.

Cliff is a four-year Air Force veteran with special assignments to NATO. He is a native of New Orleans and has been married for 53 years with two children, three grandchildren, and one daughter-in-law.

He feels his retirement has been very fulfilling and active.

Cliff is also a founding member of the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel (LAABP), the first ethnic organization recognized by the City under then Mayor Tom Bradley.

For the past 30 years Cliff has served on the Board of the Los Angeles Federal Credit Union, serving in all executive positions, including Board Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

From July 2009 to June 2018, Cliff served on the City's Board of Deferred Compensation Administration. The Deferred Comp Board was unique because all the City's departments are represented (e.g. City, Fire, Police, and Water and Power).

As a nine-year member of the Board of Directors of Cal State

University Dominguez Hills Foundation, he chaired the Finance Committee, and in September 2015, Cliff was made Director Emeritus by the Foundation.

In Carson, Cliff had the longest tenure (20 years) on the City's Planning Commission. Additionally, the Carson City Council awarded Cliff with the key to the city.

Cliff is also a Founding Board Member of the Holman United Methodist Church Permanent Endowment Committee. Holman is one of the largest United Methodist churches in Los Angeles.

Cliff's relaxation and entertainment activities include attending concerts, plays and sporting activities, and traveling. He enjoys season tickets to the Hollywood Bowl and the Pasadena Playhouse. Cliff, along with other City employees who are now retired, formed a Fantasy Football league 38 years ago. It's one of the oldest leagues in the country.

He has enjoyed traveling throughout the United States, Europe and Africa. When asked which locale he enjoyed most, he quickly responded Africa, from Cape Town to up the coast to Victoria Falls. ■



The Los Angeles Federal Credit Union board of directors, on which Cliff also serves.

## Public Concern Over Govt. Pensions Eases



Michael Karsch

### LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Pension Law and Policy, By Michael Karsch

The *Sacramento Bee* recently (end of March) reported that California public opinion polls about government pensions in our state indicate that public pensions are not as much of a "big problem" or "somewhat of a problem" as they were in 2011, when 83 percent said so; today those holding similar negative views of pensions is 63 percent. The *Bee* noted that the year after the earlier polling was when Gov. Gerry Brown got his pension reform (not all of his original proposal, but it did include hikes in what government employees must pay into their pensions with CalPERS) passed by the Legislature, and this may have signaled greater confidence. More recently the State Supreme Court threw out the "air time" add-on to benefits with CalFire, making another reform. But the U.S. Supreme Court also recently refused to hear the appeal by the City of San Diego to California rulings that this city's attempted reform of its pension system in 2012 by voter initiative to convert its pension to a 401(k) for new hires. Also, it should be noted that the CalFire case showed confidence that the California Rule will continue. There are other cases coming before the State Supreme Court that address other changes in public pension law; these will be considered later this year.

The related issue of pension funding levels and unfunded liabilities are food for the skeptics. Connecticut has the lowest pension funding in the country, per

YankeeInstitute.org. Wisconsin is number one, and California is 30. Connecticut's unfunded pension liability is 45.13 percent of its gross state product, according to a report by the American Legislative Exchange Council. The state has only 20.28 percent of the money needed to keep its future promises to state employees and teachers.

Most financial advisers to pension plans used by government agencies across the country report concern about the viability of such plans due to their high unfunded liability levels. As I have reported in the past, there is another way to look at such funding liabilities. The *Wall Street Journal* reported on April 1 that the theory about how government agencies can pay for such over-indebted pension funds is voiced by a professor, Stephanie Kelton, at Stony Brook University (the State University of New York at Stony Brook) on Long Island. Since the 1990s she has promoted modern monetary theory (MMT). As I read it, this means that government agencies do not cease to exist, close down, move, etc. when finances get tight. They are not like a private business that can go bankrupt. Governments can go into debt, print money and straighten out their finances, according to the theory. Some cities have gone bankrupt, but these are unusual. "With inflation and interest rates now very low, the government has plenty of room to borrow and spend more, MMT advocates say." Yes, mainstream economists are reconsidering the danger of deficits, Dr. Kelton says. Democrats, like Sen. Bernie Sanders and Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have been consulting with Professor Kelton on how MMT can be useful in expanding government spending more for their goals. Is MMT an answer for escalating unfunded liabilities in government pensions? ■

## RLACEI Mission

**RLACEI has been 'Protecting Retirement Benefits Since 1973.'**

The Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) was established in 1973 as an advocate for Retired City employees. Its goal is to maintain current benefits and look forward to assisting in the changing needs and concerns of its retired community. It works closely with the City Council and LACERS (Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System) on the behalf of its members.

RLACEI keeps members up to date on actions of the RLACEI Board, state and local legislation and LACERS by publishing monthly articles in the Employees Club of California's *Alive!* newspaper.

Members of RLACEI are entitled to apply for group life insurance, auto insurance, pet insurance and home insurance through the Club. Members may also purchase discounted tickets to amusement parks, movie theaters and other places of interest, and certificates to See's Candies.

RLACEI is dedicated to a stable retirement for retired City employees. Your membership strengthens its collective voice.



# RLACEI

## Retirees on the Move

Submitted by Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director

### Meet Michael and Carol Portnoff



Michael and Carol Portnoff

Michael and Carol Portnoff both retired in 2010. Michael worked with Public Works, the LAPD and the LAFD for a total of 35 years. Carol worked for 10 years with the LAPD.

They both have different activities and hobbies but also enjoy being able to share activities together as a couple. They enjoy dancing and visiting with family and friends. Michael loves to read and walk while Carol enjoys painting, concerts movies and day trips. They are both members of AARP and are involved in church activities.

Michael's words of wisdom for retirees are, "You may be surprised with the lack of time you have for recreational activities."

Carol agrees and adds, "You will be busier than when you were working and getting paid!"

Michael says the smartest thing he did to prepare for retirement was to take advantage of Deferred Comp and to increase his IRA contributions. Carol, on the other hand, says she didn't prepare, she just jumped at the opportunity to be on vacation for the rest of her life!

Michael and Carol both agree that they miss many of their co-workers. Carol says the only other thing she misses are the holiday parties.

Would either of them have done anything differently in their City career? Michael says he would have kept a low profile. Carol says she would not have changed a thing.

Michael fills his days reading on his Kindle, walking and playing with the dog. Carol says she does not have to fill her days – each day comes with plenty to do and enjoy.

Michael's desire in his retirement is to make continued improvements (which he says he has) in supporting Carol. And Carol says she is very happy and thankful to be retired, as every day is "my day!" ■



### Congratulations, Annie Chao



Congratulations to Annie Chao, from RLACEI on her re-election to the 2019 LACERS Board Of Commissioners. Annie has vowed to represent LACERS members with integrity, responsibility and with only their interest in mind.

She expressed that "this win signals that the majority of members care about the longterm health and security of their retirement plan." Annie thanks everyone for their vote, support and help throughout the campaign.

### RLACEI, Working for You



On April 11, RLACEI Vice President Beverly Clark (right) visited with Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, to represent the Retirees Association and the needs of City Retirees to the LA City Council. Monica Rodriguez represents the City's seventh district in the Northeast Valley.

### Membership Dues: An Update

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, RLACEI membership dues are now \$3 per month. This new fee includes free membership to the Employees Club of California for all RLACEI members. RLACEI members who carry insurance products with the Club will soon receive a reduction in their payroll contributions for the Club membership.

LACERS and the Club are working to process the appropriate reduction for all applicable RLACEI members. RLACEI has been informed that the correct deduction should be reflected on your payroll statement in the next few months. All RLACEI members will be reimbursed for Club dues deducted from January through the effective date of the correct payroll processing.

Please contact RLACEI Membership Director Ruth Perry at (800) 678-4145, ext. 717, should you have any questions.



### Our Pension Avoids Lump-Sum Bad Deal



Michael R. Wilkinson

#### LACERS Board Update By Michael R. Wilkinson

Every now and then I like to write an article covering the pensions offered in private industry and look at the rules that give small protections to employees working in the private sector compared to what we take for granted working in public service.

It used to be common for large public companies to provide traditional pensions to their employees. The company would reward employees who devote a career of service for a guaranteed pension. No longer: Most firms that provide pensions have closed the pensions to new hires and provide only 401(k) plans, also called defined contribution plans. The key difference between a traditional pension (a defined benefit pension) and a 401(k) plan is that all the risk of having a continuing stream of income in retirement is on the retiree in the 401(k) plan.

A recent change by the U.S. Treasury Dept. allows companies to offer one-time lump-sum payouts to retirees who give up their guaranteed pension. Although the lump-sum payment may look like a generous offer, experts from the AARP, representing seniors, say that it is a bad deal for seniors because most retirees do not have the financial expertise to know that it is not a favorable trade for the retiree.

A research study done by MetLife in 2017 found that one in five retirees who took lump sums spent them down in less than six years, and nearly a third regretted using money for short-term needs like home improvements. Many people look at the money right in front of them and find the lure to cash in instantly to be too tempting. They take the deal to use their lifetime pension even if it might be far wiser to take the annuity payments that might pay out much more but require patience. The buyout is voluntary, but many retirees take the bait to cash in the pension that they may regret later.

All this gives us a chance to be thankful that we have a solid pension that has a guaranteed payout formula for the member's life and that of a surviving spouse and even provides a cost of living adjustment. ■



## 41st Annual Retirees Invitational Golf Tournament Thursday, June 6, 2019

The 41st Annual Retired Los Angeles City Employees Invitational Golf Tournament will be held Thursday, June 6, 2019 at the Alhambra Municipal Golf Course with a "Shotgun Start" at 7:30 a.m. The course is located at 630 South Almansor Street, Alhambra, CA 91801. Check in is at 7:00 a.m. SOFT SPIKES MANDATORY!

- The tournament is open to retired and active employees and friends. The cost is \$70 for RLACEI & City Employees Club members. All others pay \$80, which includes greens fees, carts, prizes and lunch at the Alhambra Court restaurant. Lunch only is \$25.00.
- Those interested in participating must complete the reservation form and mail it with your check made payable to: **RLACEI** by Thursday, May 30, 2019.
- Send to Tom Stemnock, Chairman, 4040 Vineland Avenue, Suite 108, Studio City, CA 91604. **For any questions, call Chairman Tom Stemnock at (818) 487-6789.**

#### 2019 Golf Tournament Reservation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Included \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$70 for RLACEI and City Employees Club Members  
 Luncheon Only: \$25 \$80 for all others

**Make checks payable to RLACEI. NOTICE: SOFT SPIKES MANDATORY!**

FOURSOME		Member RLACEI	Member City Club	Guest
Name	Golf Shirt Size (Circle Size)	<b>(check all that apply)</b>		
1. _____	S M L XL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. _____	S M L XL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. _____	S M L XL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. _____	S M L XL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## Long-Term Disability Insurance



### Did you know?

- Every 90 seconds, someone files for bankruptcy in the U.S. because of a serious illness.
- More than 25 percent of today's 20-year-olds will become disabled before they retire.

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



**Cheryl Martin**  
Member Services Counselor  
cmartin@employeesclub.com  
Ext. 136



**Tiffany Sy**  
Member Services Counselor  
tsy@employeesclub.com  
Ext. 202



**MaryAnn Urdiales**  
Member Services Counselor  
murdiales@employeesclub.com  
Ext. 159

Phone appointments and walk-ins available.



# (800) 464-0452

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

## AIRPORTS

# Thanks for Your Service!

On April 8, Airports honored its employees celebrating 35- and 30-year employment milestones with the City.

The event took place at the Flight Path Museum on the grounds of LAX. Many of the employees had worked their entire careers for Airports (some at Ontario before the City sold it), and some employees had worked at other City departments.

The employees were recognized for their dedication, commitment, loyalty, knowledge, experience, hard work, helpfulness and reliability. In total, 85 employees were honored; 33 were able to attend the ceremony.

Airports Chief Executive Officer Deborah Flint welcomed and thanked all those who were being honored for their service.

Congratulations to the honorees for your dedicated service!

The Club thanks Adriana Vidal, CASW Program Coordinator, Airports, for her assistance in producing this article.



Most of the honorees in attendance at the event gather for a group photo.

### HONOREES IN ATTENDANCE

(All are 30-year honorees except as noted)

#### Planning and Development

Tadesse Bezabeh  
Cathy Craven  
James Littleton  
Jignasha Pandya  
Mark Vicelja  
Gary Yamamoto (35 years)

#### External Affairs

Philip Goodman  
Shezzell Johnson

#### Administration

Vanessa Barbee  
Minerva Gutierrez  
Melanie Torres  
Donna Williams

#### Operations and Emergency Management

John Moran  
Lawrence Rolon

#### Information Management and Technology

Shahla Dallalzadeh  
Jacquelyn Mijares

#### Public Safety and Security

Kayley King  
Rhonda Maxey  
Bruce Minton  
Belinda Nettles  
Tyrone Stallings  
Kimberly Tolson

#### Facilities Maintenance and Utilities

Albert Duenas  
Annette Goffney  
Ali Hadary

#### Finance

Clara Hendricks  
Randolph Nero  
Ira Patterson  
David Pro  
Philip Siping  
Vanessa Kjeller (35 years)

#### Chief Operating Officer

Pedro Lara  
Elizabeth Hair (35 years)

### HONOREES UNABLE TO ATTEND

The following employees were not able to attend the ceremony, but were recognized:

#### 30 YEARS

Andrew Allen, Tracy Baker, Munroe Barnett, Wendell Callaway, Louis Claverie, Van Cleese, Robert DeLeon, Jamal Ford, Javier Gomez, Edward Goodman, Anita Hearn, Cynthia Hemsley, March Kapoh, Daniel Keehne, Tyrone LaFrance, Arthur Limon, Miranda Lucas, Carol Moody, Alexis Oliver, Angelia Simpson, Jerome Smith, Kelly Washington, Loksum Yim, Michael Allen, Joseph Banda, David Breedlove, Idella Charles-Banks, Sharon Clarke, Richard Croul, Angela Falls, Adrian Gomez, Rafael Gomez, Darrell Gully, Robert Hebert, Kim Johnson, Pinchieh Kamikubo, Curtis Kirkpatrick, Helen Liao, Kimberley Louie, Timothy Lue, Jose Reyes, Deanna Smith, Jeffery Turner, and Richard Yakel.

#### 35 YEARS

Jeffrey Baldwin, Richard Connolly, Vivian Howell, Bridget Laday, Russell Lewis and Kevin Schrock.



At the service honors event.



# 2019 DWP Retiree Campout

Wed., Sept. 25 – Wed., Oct. 2



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(818) 429-1522 (cell)

Trailers are available for rent.

Who are the people you see every day?

Shelterless in Los Angeles.

No. 102  
in a series.



# People We See

## Meet Jonathan Brooks

Former linebacker in the NFL. Former homecoming king and class president, now a street artist and philosopher. Here's his journey.

**Age:** 61

**Came to L.A.** "Eight years, off and on."

**Family:** Married/separated, with children and grandchildren.

**Education:** Attended Clemson University. "I was one of the adventurous ones who experimented. I got introduced to drinking and smoking marijuana and other drugs from my first day in college, and I kind of yielded to the peer pressure more than I should have. I got drafted by Detroit into the NFL in the fourth round, and never went back to finish my degree. That's one of the reasons that my life has been kind of helter-skelter since, my fatal mistake."

**Military:** U.S. Army, dishonorably discharged.

**See More of This Interview**

Jonathan has prepared an art sketchbook that he plans to enter into an international competition. See his art – and hear him discuss a lot more of his thoughts – in the People We See video, which can be viewed now on the Club's YouTube channel.



**NFL career:** "I was with the Detroit Lions first. Then the Atlanta Falcons, then the Cardinals out of St. Louis. Then Philadelphia in the USFL. Then I ended up getting married and having a family, and that kind of changed things."

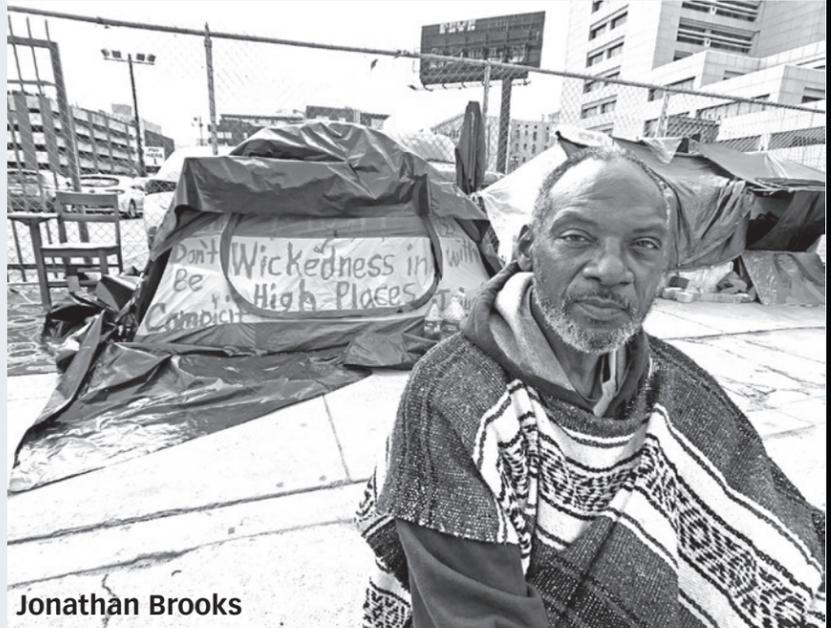
**Other jobs since:** Construction, auto sales.

**Prison:** "I did a little prison time in Phoenix. I studied science and history the whole time I was there."

**Religion:** Humanitarian Faith, his own spiritual organization. "During my research [in prison], I came to the conclusion that the major religions were just fake, especially Christianity and Islam. They had no foundation in the history of science. So I started my own, to just believe in mankind to do the right thing, to make the world better for each other. It's not enough to criticize something, you've got to have something to fill in. It's all on my Facebook page."

**If you were mayor:** "I have a plan. I call it co-op investing, a dollar-a-day plan. You take 40 million poor people in America, and have everybody [in the country] [invest] a dollar a day in businesses, job creation ... and that's the people's money. That's the poor people's money. You give 40 million people the interest off that, and they'll be financially secure."

**Favorite candy:** "Snickers."



Jonathan Brooks

**Discovering art:** "I started promoting myself. I was a walking billboard, mostly with philosophy at first. Then I met this girl last year, and she gave me a lot of paint brushes and markers and stuff. I started working with it, and I found myself liking it ... loving it!"

"I've got a painting in my tent now that reads, 'Fight Wickedness in High Places.'"

**Viewing the poor:** "You see so many homeless people go through so much money buying drugs. I'm not trying to judge them or look down on them for it, because of the situation they grew up in, we can't relate to it."

You can't judge them until you've been in their situation. They've been through a lot, and a lot of them just called it quits."

John Hawkins of the Club gave Jon bottled water and \$20 for food. The interview, conducted by John Hawkins, took place in March 5, 2019 on Main and Third Streets downtown.



Club CEO John Hawkins (left) with Jonathan Brooks

In this feature, the Club introduces you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell.

## Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

### Monterey



"Instead of leaving California, we explored, as Huell Howser would say, 'California's Gold' – the Monterey Bay Aquarium."

– Robert Pena, Retired, Animal Services

The Club Store offers discounts to the impressive Monterey Bay Aquarium, for all those who want to take Robert's lead and visit. – Ed.



Take Alive! with you, wherever you go!

- Bring your recent copy of **Alive!** with you when you travel.
- Snap a **high resolution** photo of you **holding Alive!**
- Go to: **alive.employeesclub.com** and click "SEND TO ALIVE!" in the menu. You'll find a convenient online form to send your text and pics for publication.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Roshan Retires

Roshanak Aflaki, Glendale and Tillman Manager, retires from Sanitation after 29 years of City service.



Roshanak Aflaki

A retirement ceremony was held April 10 for Dr. Roshanak Aflaki, the Plant Manager for the Los Angeles Glendale Water Reclamation Plant and the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant. Roshan retires with 29 years of City service.

Roshanak Aflaki was a true innovator. She was instrumental in managing a significant amount of Los Angeles' valuable water resources. She also led state-of-the-art upgrades at Sanitation's facilities that are producing purified water for potable reuse, important for LA to meet its water needs. While managing the upgrade and expansion of TIWRP facilities for groundwater recharge, Roshan developed an Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP), from treatability testing to full-scale implementation. This AOP will be the first of its kind in the world and save the City millions of dollars.

Her willingness to look beyond the status quo and her ability to see better ways of solving challenges have significantly improved the potable reuse industry, and the AOP she developed is being specified for a number of future potable reuse projects in California and beyond.

Additionally, Roshan led a state-of-the-art potable reuse pilot-scale project. This pilot-scale project examined and compared seven different treatment trains simultaneously and includes such cutting-edge technologies as ceramic membranes, ozone-enhanced biologically active filtration, enhanced reverse osmosis recovery to minimize brine generation, and soil aquifer treatment. Under her leadership, this pilot project not only produced an optimal full-scale design compliant with direct potable reuse criteria, but also provided the water reuse industry with more innovative solutions to make water reuse safer and more sustainable.

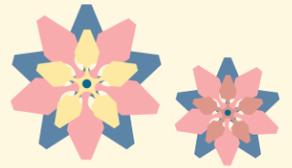
Congratulations on your stellar City career, Roshan!



LA's Board of Public Works honored Roshanak Aflaki April 10 for her retirement.



# Life's Important Moments



## Retirements

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City this month. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Abner, Eric	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Hannum, Fred J.	Building Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	30	Osborne, Leonard	Water Supply	DWP	N/D
Alberto, Manuel	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Hernandez, Daniel	Sr. Gardener	Rec and Parks	25	Patton, Vicki L.	Accounting Clerk	Airports	38
Arroyo, Felix John	Building Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	12	Herron, Stephanie L.	Sr. Manage. Analyst	LAPD	31	Pegues, Morris D.	Construction Insp.	Public Works	16
Beckles, Rodney	New Business Dev.	DWP	N/D	Hidalgo, Anthony	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Perelman, Glen G.	Administrative Clerk	LAPD	14
Benitez, Raul	Metering Services	DWP	N/D	Hughes, Lisa Ann	Exe. Legal Secretary	City Attorney	35	Perez, Ademar	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	30
Berggren, Barry G.	Wastewater Manager	Public Works	36	Huizar, Jose	Welder	Gen. Services	10	Perez, Jaime R.	Sr. Detention Officer	LAPD	20
Bieganski, Paul L.	Equipment Mechanic	Gen. Services	16	Hutchens, Stephen	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D	Phipps, Joseph	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D
Book, Langford	Water Quality	DWP	N/D	Inez, Gregory	New Business Dev.	DWP	N/D	Pobanz, Mark Alan	Wastewater Treat. Op.	Public Works	30
Brink, Michael	Chemical Lab	DWP	N/D	Jackson, Michael	Water Operations	DWP	N/D	Polee, Alan Lynn	Truck Operator	Rec and Parks	30
Brooks, Kenneth R.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	30	Johnson, Francisco	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D	Rago, John T.	Comm. Eng. Associate	ITA	30
Bustos, Oscar	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D	Johnson, Steve	Customer Service	DWP	N/D	Rangel, Sandra	Systems Programmer	ITA	31
Camello, Francesco	Security Officer	LAPD	10	Juan, Venus Rosa Dela	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAPD	35	Rendon, Joy P.	Legal Secretary	City Attorney	34
Campadonia, Frank	New Business Dev.	DWP	N/D	Kanu, Sam James	Trans. Eng. Assoc.	Transportation	39	Riebeling, Michelle	Emerg. Manage. Coord.	Em. Preparedness	18
Campos, Teresa Pena	Sr. Manage. Analyst	Housing	28	Khajavi, Mohammad	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Rowghani, Morteza	Engineer	Harbor	39
Carrasco, Ricardo	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Public Works	37	Kwong, Virginia	Pr. Clerk	City Attorney	30	Salgado, Oscar D.	Building Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	14
Che, Paul Shih Kang	Traffic Officer	Transportation	16	Lage, Adriana	Special Programs Asst.	Rec and Parks	3	Siegel, Maureen R.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	30
Cheng, Patricia Pai Li	Pr. Civil Engineer	Public Works	30	Ledesma, Arthur	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D	Sanchez, Joey	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D
Choi, Myung Suk	Sr. Real Estate Officer	Public Works	37	Lairson, Terry Allen	Plumber Supervisor	Gen. Services	10	Schilling, Louis S.	Automotive Supervisor	LAPD	17
Claiborne, Nancy L.	Hearing Reporter	LAPD	36	Lemus, Raul Aguirre	Asst. General Mgr.	Personnel	30	Schwartzman, Rachelle	Librarian	Library	21
Clark, Brandt	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D	Levy, Julius E.	Police Officer	Airports	29	Seller, Wilaiwan	Water Engineering	DWP	N/D
Colleran, James J.	Street Lighting Elect.	Public Works	38	Lin, Ding Jen	Systems Programmer	ITA	31	Shahmirzadi, Reza	Pr. Civil Engineer	Public Works	34
Contreras, Madeline	Sr. Property Officer	LAPD	31	Lincoln, David	Ch. Custodian Super.	Gen. Services	29	Sibille, Warren Todd	Tax Compliance Off.	Finance	24
Cornell, David	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D	Lind, William D.	Construction Inspector	Public Works	10	Sinclair, Mortimer	Sr. Asst. City Attorney	City Attorney	42
Correa, Robert	Security Services	DWP	N/D	Lopez, Virginia	Water Operations	DWP	N/D	Smith, Jerome M.	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D
Cox, Brian E.	Sr. Recreation Dir.	Rec & Parks	29	Loreto, Zenaida F.	Administrative Clerk	Housing	19	Smith, Greg M.	Sergeant	Airports	30
Cuevas, Jose	Police Service Rep	LAPD	33	Luevano, Carlos	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D	Staar, Greg M.	Captain	Airports	32
Curup, Sara E.	Administrative Clerk	Library	35	Lystarczyk, Jerry T.	Comm. Info. Rep.	Transportation	16	Stewart, Thomas	Electrical Mechanic	Harbor	33
Czyznik, Jeffrey	Metering Services	DWP	N/D	Ma, Chi Chia	Programmer/Analyst	ITA	20	Thomas, Louyda	Detention Officer	LAPD	21
David, Richard	Chemical Lab	DWP	N/D	Maalouf, Elie N.	Building Electrical Eng.	Bldg. & Safety	36	Torres, Jose E.	Equipment Operator	Public Works	30
Davis, Craig	Water Engineering	DWP	N/D	Mack, Darryl E.	Electrician Supervisor	Rec and Parks	31	Vanegas, Maria R.	Street Lighting Eng. Ass.	Public Works	30
De Leon, Roberto	Airport Engineer	Airports	30	Madison, Emanuel	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	35	Vasquez, John	ITS	DWP	N/D
De Santos, Miguel	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D	Mallon, Michael	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Vaughn, Monica D.	Security Officer	Airports	10
Desverney, David L.	Custodian	Airports	18	Malvino, Richard J.	Pre-Press Operator	Gen. Services	19	Villalobos, Ralph D.	Heating/Refrig. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	30
Dickson, Clifford R.	Custodian	Gen. Services	30	Marquez, Jaime	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Villanueva, Ramon	Window Cleaner	Airports	30
Doris, Richard P.	Sr. Automotive Super.	LAPD	30	Marquez, Louis A.	Irrigation Specialist	Zoo	31	Wang, Jennifer	ITS	DWP	N/D
Dunham, Janet	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D	Marquez, Paul A.	Wastewater Treat. Elect.	Public Works	35	Weaver, Eric	Administrative Clerk	Transportation	29
Ehrlich, Virginia A.	Carpenter Supervisor	Airports	23	Mcelhaney, Todd	Painter Supervisor II	Harbor	30	Wellik, Lisa K.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	32
Fair, Jeremy Alan	Heavy Duty Equip. Mech.	Harbor	10	Merriweather, Marion L.	Maint. & Constr. Helper	Airports	18	West, Douglas	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D
Feulner, Steven	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D	Montalvo-Jimenez, Cynthia	Customer Service	DWP	N/D	West, Judy A.	Recreation Assistant	Rec and Parks	8
Field, Tracie L.	Sr. Recreation Dir.	Rec and Parks	30	Mora, Gerardo D.	Electrician	Rec and Parks	10	Will, Cheryl Ann	Supervising Criminalist	LAPD	35
Flores, Frank	Heavy Duty Equip. Mech.	Gen. Services	34	Morales, Jaime	Park Ranger	Rec and Parks	24	Williams, Henry	Power Supply	DWP	N/D
Fonseca, Henry	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Mullins, William F.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Public Works	20	Williams, Hubert	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	32
Frazier, Kevin D.	Equipment Operator	Public Works	30	Nademlynsky, Jan	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	15	Williams, Hailu	Planning Associate	Transportation	17
Garcia, Noemi	Administrative Clerk	LAPD	38	Nguyen, Hung Gia	Equipment Mechanic	LAPD	28	Wright, Levon	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	39
Gipson Conerly, Rhonda	Custodian	Airports	20	Nguyen, Quan Anh	Wastewater Treat. Op.	Public Works	33	Young, Scott Dayton	Animal Care Tech.	Animal Ser.	30
Gutierrez, Gabriel R.	Delivery Driver	Harbor	18	Nishina, Wesley H.	Comm. Eng. Assoc.	ITA	5	Zapata, Wilfredo	Construction Insp.	Airports	30
Gutierrez, Juan J.	Sr. Gardener	Rec and Parks	12	Odegaard, John I.	Sr. Comm. Electrician	ITA	39	Zoller, Jay	Metering Services	DWP	N/D
Hanami Cummings, Lynn	Environ. Eng. Assoc.	Public Works	31	Orshan, Victor Z.	Survey Party Chief	Public Works	29				

N/D = not disclosed

## In Memoriam

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the following current and retired City employees who have passed away.

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
<b>Active</b>		<b>Active</b>		<b>Active</b>		<b>Active</b>	
Betancourt, Rene	LAPD 33	Chen, Maria	Personnel 28	Higa, Clifford	DWP 40	Payne, Gladys	DWP 14
Bland, Martin	LAPD 29	Chu, Allen	Airports 30	Huerta, Rafael	Public Works 21	Pettengill, William	General Services 29
Gunzberg, Milton	Airports 11	Clark, Ronald	General Services 33	Hughes, Duncan	Public Works 37	Phillips, Paul	DWP 34
Hardisty, James	DWP 9	Contreras, Rachel	DWP 32	Ingram, James	Transportation 22	Recendez, Robert	Public Works 37
Lamug, Gregorio	Animal Services 4	Costley II, William	DWP 30	Ishigame, Seiji	DWP 12	Rodriguez, Julio	DWP 30
Lozano, Jaime	Public Works 14	Davis, Thomas	Public Works 32	Johnson, Alvin	Public Works 8	Ronge, Stephen	Transportation 15
Rodricks, Tracy	Transportation 5	Delianedis, John	Transportation 47	Joichin, Victor	General Services 31	Scranton, Eddie	DWP 31
Spangle, Charles	DWP 19	Diaz, Guadalupe	Rec and Parks 11	Kistner, Roger	DWP 28	Snyder, Stanley	Convention Ctr. 22
Tsai, Tom	Finance 24	Dixon, Howard	DWP 29	Layson, Celestino	DWP 13	Sobel, Kenneth	Personnel 33
<b>Retired</b>		Doolittle, Ed	Harbor 35	LePore, William	Rec and Parks 32	Sykes, Everett	DWP 15
Allen, Cornelius	DWP 27	Feddersen, Bruce	DWP 30	Limbourne, Jerry	Airports 21	Tanori, Edward	Rec and Parks 25
Batiste, Clabert	Public Works 31	Fuchino, Wallace	Airports 22	Martinez, Daniel	LAPD 30	Thomas Sr., Clarence	DWP 27
Bloom, David	General Services 8	Gaddis, Mae	Personnel 36	Mata, Samuel	Rec and Parks 20	Thompson, Leward	DWP 8
Borchers, Harold	DWP 28	Gantt, Lynnda	LAPD 21	McIntosh, Richard	General Services 30	Todd II, Rezell	DWP 31
Branstad, Lawrence	Library 14	Garcia, Pablo	Rec and Parks 3	Moore, Lee	General Services 33	Tokuyama, Masao	Transportation 30
Brown, Cecil	DWP 30	Garcia, Rodolfo	Public Works 29	Moxley, Telesha	LAPD 6	Vorwerk, Vernon	Transportation 38
		Hamaguchi, Shoji	DWP 31	Nakata, Albert	DWP 30	Wagner, Caroline	LAPD 16
		Hazyme, Rose	Housing 31	Nihei, George	Public Works 32	Wherley, Marilyn	Library 14
		Hernandez, Edward	Transportation 30	Palmer, Joe	DWP 24	Williams, Thaddeus	General Services 41

## Graduation



Erika Danielle Rodgers graduated from Seattle University with a Bachelor of science degree in liberal studies and a minor in business. She also played four years of softball. Erika made the record books for the school with 1,000 percent fielding all four years (that means no errors in four years!), and she was the first African American on the team. Erika lives in Seattle and plans to work for Amazon. She is the daughter of proud Retired DWP parents, Earl Rodgers and Zebbra Corbin-Rodgers.



## Put your graduation photo in Alive!

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

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

To send a digital photo and your message, go to: [alive.employeesclub.com/graduations](http://alive.employeesclub.com/graduations)

# Larios In the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Operating Officer



## Congratulations!

Robert Larios, the Club's Chief Operating Officer, honors Club members with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.



**Nancy L. Claiborne**

Retired from the LAPD with 37 years of City service.



**Katie O'Kelley-Hendricks**

Retired from Rec and Parks with 32 years of City service.



**Bruce Collins**

Retired from the DWP with 31 years of City service.



**Del San Juan**

Retired from the City Attorney's Office with 30 years of City service.

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**CLUB ANGELS**

# Apply for Club's Mukai Scholarship **NOW!**



Joannie Mukai.

Applications for Club Scholarship are available for completion on the *Alive!* Website. **Deadline is 11:59 p.m., July 31, 2019.**

Fill out your application now for the Joannie Mukai Memorial Club Scholarship on the *Alive!* Website.

The 2019 Mukai Club Scholarship Program, which expects to grant 20 awards and is named after the late Club Board Member Joannie Mukai, is now accepting applications.

Club Scholarship applications have been simplified, for greater ease in filling them out. And they are now available for completion directly on the Website – no more downloading a lengthy application form. We've made it easy!

All materials must be completed on the *Alive!* Website by noon, July 31, 2019.

The Club expects to give each recipient a stipend of \$500.

Those eligible include Club Members, their spouses and their children who are in college or will be attending an accredited college or university in Fall 2019.

"The Club family all over California includes some amazing students who are smart and hard-working, and who love giving back to their communities," said John Hawkins, Club CEO. "The Club loves recognizing them. We're all about giving back, too."

The Joanie Mukai Club Scholarship program is part of the Club Angels outreach, which reflects the scholarships' nature of giving back.

Applications are available for

online completion directly on the *Alive!* Website at:

**alive.employeesclub.com/mukaischolarship**

**Eligibility requirements:**

- All Club Members and their spouses, and children of Club Members under the age of 25, are eligible to apply. Club Members must be in good standing.
- The successful candidate must attend an accredited four-year college or university full time in the fall semester 2019. Current high school seniors matriculating to a four-year school in Fall 2019 are eligible.
- Candidates will be judged for academic excellence, community service and financial need.
- Scholarships are expected to be awarded in equal amounts of \$500 (each).
- Deadline: Applications must be completed online at the *Alive!* Website by 11:59 p.m. July 31, 2019. All applications must be completed in their entirety and submitted at that time to be eligible. Sorry, but the Club is not responsible for delays in delivery.
- Decisions will be made by Club personnel and will be considered final.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

# Send in your Father's Day tributes!

**High-Fives for Dad!**  
Pay tribute this Father's Day ... with a photo and message of respect, honor and love, published in *Alive!* in print and/or online.

In our June issue, we'll print a photo of you and your dad (or just your dad) ... and a two- or three-sentence message of Happy Father's Day from you. Then you can take your copy of *Alive!* and show him what he means to you.



To submit your picture and text online, go to: **alive.employeesclub.com/fathersday**

**DEADLINES:**  
**MAY 16:** to appear in print and online  
**JUNE 7:** to appear online only



**20<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

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Please see the Club's website for details.  
Discount tickets can be purchased at [www.EmployeesClub.com](http://www.EmployeesClub.com).

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