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LA ANIMAL SERVICES

The Pet Rescuers

LA Animal Services' SMART rescue team helps the LAFD save a dog in the LA River.

Members of the SMART team involved in the rescue, from left: Animal Control Officers Carlos Villa, Vanessa Flores, Armando Navarrete (team leader), Tyger Rodriguez and Allyson Adriano. All five are Club Members. (The stuffed animals are rescue mannequins.)

SEE PAGES 10-13

Alive! photo by John Burnes

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From the River, a Cover



From left: Animal Control Officer Armando Navarrete, District Supervisor Danny Pantoja, and Animal Control Officer Alyssa Adriano, with Club CEO Robert Larios.

Like most of you, the Club took the day off on Monday, March 28, to honor civil rights hero **César Chávez**. But the persistent and occasionally energetic rain changed the nature of the day, for there on the TV, social media and pretty much everywhere, I watched a true-to-life drama unfold. Would the LAFD and LA Animal Services rescue **Scooby** the dog, Scooby's owner and another person out of the swift water? ¡Sí, sí and sí! Well done, all!

A few days later, we here at *Alive!* were immensely pleased to receive a note from Club Member Armando Navarrete, leader

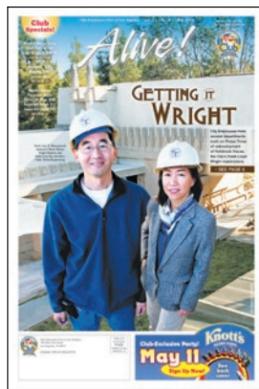
of LA Animal Services' SMART pet rescue team. Armando had a story to tell, and the photos to back it up!

We have covered the team previously, mostly while they training. This was actual heroism. We congratulate the SMART pet rescue team and thank them for their service. And we acknowledge the bravery of the LAFD's Swift Water Team, led by **Capt. Tom Henzgen**, for its parallel bravery.

By the way, I am pleased to report that all of the personnel of the SMART Team involved in the rescue of Scooby are Club Members. That was the passion and excellence of the Club down there in the LA River that day. You have my permission to be proud.

Officially Official: Last month, we published a photo of five leaders of LADOT's Traffic Division who were promoted to Lieutenants. One of those promoted was **Lt. Alden Marsh**. He wrote back, thanking us. He also gave us this quote from his wife, **Linda**: "It's not official until it's in *Alive!*" We love that!

Thank You, Kevin: *Alive!* had been working on a story – the restoration of the beautiful murals in City Hall, but we were paused due to the pandemic



Kevin Jew and Hsiao-Ling Ting from May 2012.

ROBERT'S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



preventing our access to the building. In the meantime, **Kevin Jew**, the Chief Operating Officer of Public Works' Project Restore and head of the murals project, retired after 32 years of service. Kevin, thank you for all you have done, and here we share a cover from our story on your Hollyhock House restoration. Be well!

Inspiration: On my LinkedIn account, I very much enjoy sharing pearls of wisdom and inspiration. Here's one: What's your favorite career-related quote? These come to mind:

"If you want to be successful, stop doing the things that got you there."
— **Gary Vaynerchuk**

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."
— **Lao Tzu**

"A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for."
— **John A. Shedd**

What's yours? Send it to me at rlarios@employeesclub.com. I would appreciate seeing and sharing them.

¡Gracias por leer!

Robert Larios

CLUB MOBILE TEAM

Site Visits Are Back!

Club Mobile Team is ready to visit City worksites safely with gear, tickets, insurance, more. Say hi to the Club ... in person again!

The Club never stopped working for its Members during the pandemic. But now that the coast is clearing, so to speak, it's time to revisit our Members and Members-to-Be at sites and yards.

The Mobile Team is ready to visit your worksite Tuesdays through Thursdays. We can't wait to see everybody again!

For your continued safety:

- The Mobile Team brings and wears safety gear.
- The Mobile Team is accepting only outdoor set-ups for now.

See you soon!



At a recent Mobile Team site visit.

Mobile Team Schedule

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

Harbor Boys and Girls Club

100 W. Fifth St., San Pedro

May 4, July 6, August 3 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Follow Club social media for Mobile Team site visit dates as they are scheduled.

Schedule A Mobile Team Site Visit

To schedule a site visit, contact **Lupe Lira, Club Store Manager:** (213) 819-0350, or mobile@employeesclub.com



ANIMAL SERVICES

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The Pet Rescuers

COVER STORY:

The Pet Rescuers 10-13

Meet the Animal Services SMART Team Officers who helped rescue a dog from the LA River – on live TV.

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

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NEW THIS MONTH ONLINE!

alive.employeesclub.com

Rest Insured

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



Insurance Claims

Library Top 10

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



John's Picture Perfect

All the winners from this month's contest on the theme "springtime."



Cooking with the Club

— with Chef Larios

Chef Larios savors Italian flavors with a recipe for one-pan trattoria tortellini bake with a crispy Parmesan panko topping.

On Web *Alive!*

aliveemployeesclub.com/cooking-trattoria-tortellini-bake





The Club Is Here to Help

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

Contact the Club

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

help@employeesclub.com
(800) 464-0452

Physical Club Store Hours:

Monday – Friday
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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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18 Sesame-Street-themed rides and water attractions - including a 500,000-gallon wave pool (one of the largest in Southern California), an engaging musical play area, an interactive Sesame Street Neighborhood complete with the iconic 123 Scoop, and more!

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"Wishing my hardworking dad a Happy Father's Day! We love you, grandpa. Love, Jeremiah."

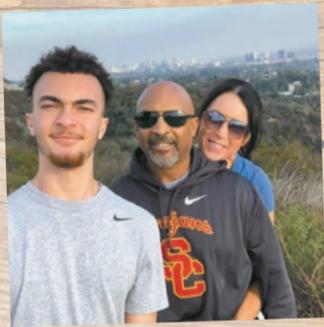
– **Stephanie Bernal, Rec and Parks**

Send in your Father's Day tributes!



"Watching you grow from my amazing little brother to the best daddy in the world fills my heart with joy and love. Happy Father's Day, Tito! Love, Tia Maggi."

– **Det. Sandra Platero, LAPD**



"We love and appreciate you every day! But Father's Day is a great day to celebrate you and all that you do for our family. Love, Marquas and Kim."

– **For Burt Smith, Public Works/Sanitation**

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.

Act quickly, as our June issue is fast approaching.

DEADLINES:

MAY 20:

published in print and online

JUNE 16:

published online only



"Happy Father's Day to the best dad and husband ever! We love you and hoping you rock on every day!"

– **For Chris Ewing, Housing**



To submit your Father's Day tribute, go to:

www.alive.employeesclub.com/fathersday

Goodbye, Paul

Paul Dominguez retires after 36 years of City service.

HARBOR : A retirement reception was held in late February for Alfonso "Paul" Dominguez, who retired as Sr. Construction Inspector at the Harbor.

Paul began his City career in 1985 with the LADWP as a Civil Engineering Drafting Technician in the Water Operating Division. He was promoted to Field Engineering Aide in 1988 and was assigned at the LADWP West Valley Water District.

He transferred to Public Works/Contract Administration as a Public Works Construction Inspector in 1992. He worked in a number of large projects, including the Hyperion Water Treatment Plant Expansion and Griffith Park Observatory Renovation.

Paul promoted to Sr. Construction Inspector in 1992 and was assigned in various municipal bond projects, including the L.A. City Hall seismic retrofit and L.A. Police Administration Building.

Paul transferred to the Harbor Dept. in 2015 to help the Port in their expansion to be one of the nation's largest port. He was recognized by his supervisors for his motivational leadership and "can do" spirit and going beyond the call of duty to actively support the goals of the Harbor Dept. and Construction Division.

Congratulations on your retirement, Paul! ■



Paul Dominguez (left) receives a proclamation from the Harbor Commission on his retirement.



City personnel (from left) Officer Sanchez, SLO Damaris Bonfill and Cynthia Hernandez prepare the "boutique" for Prom Closet.

Photo courtesy City Attorney

Prom Season

City Attorney, Police Dept. make dreams come true for underserved teens.

CITY ATTORNEY/LAPD : On April 4 and throughout the month, personnel from the City Attorney's Office and the LAPD Mission Area teamed up to help hundreds of students get ready for the prom.

In Prom Closet, the departments provided clothes, accessories, shoes and makeup for high-school students to get ready to attend their proms. Hundreds of prom dresses and tuxedos for the guys were provided to students from 15 LA-area high schools.

This is the 4th year the City Attorney's office has had this event providing prom wear for young Angelenos. The project was suspended the last two years due to the pandemic.

We say well done to all involved! ■



ABOUT JOANNIE MUKAI

Joannie Mukai was a pioneer as the LA Port's Director of Construction and Maintenance. A passionate supporter in the Employees Club and longtime Association Board Member, she died in March 2010. The Club's annual scholarship program was named in her honor. "She believed in education and training, and in preparing for success," CEO Robert Larios said. "That's what the Club Scholarship is all about, and we're delighted to name it after her. It's a perfect way to keep her memory alive."



Club Scholarship Deadline Next Month



Application is now available. Deadline is 11:59 p.m., June 30, 2022.



Apply Today
on the *Alive!* Website:
alive.employeesclub.com/scholarship

DEADLINE
11:59 p.m.,
June 30, 2022

an accredited college or university in Fall 2022. There is no age limit for Member or spouse, but all others must be under 25.

Deadline

All materials must be completed on the *Alive!* Website and submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. June 30, 2022. Winners will be notified by July 31 before school starts.

The Club Cares

"It is a vital part of the Club that we give back to support the future success of our treasured young people," said Robert Larios, Club CEO. "We encourage all those eligible to take advantage and apply."

"The Joannie Mukai Scholarship Program is one of the most important ways we celebrate the work and lives of municipal employees," said Association CEO John Hawkins. "Joannie would be delighted at the level of scholarship and volunteerism applicants show every year." ■

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- All Club Members and their spouses of any age; and children, grandchildren, step-children, foster children and nieces and nephews of Club Members under the age of 25; are eligible to apply. Club Members must be in good standing.
- The successful candidate must attend an accredited four-year college or university full time in the fall semester 2022. Current high school seniors matriculating to a four-year school in Fall 2022 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 and submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. June 30, 2022. 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.



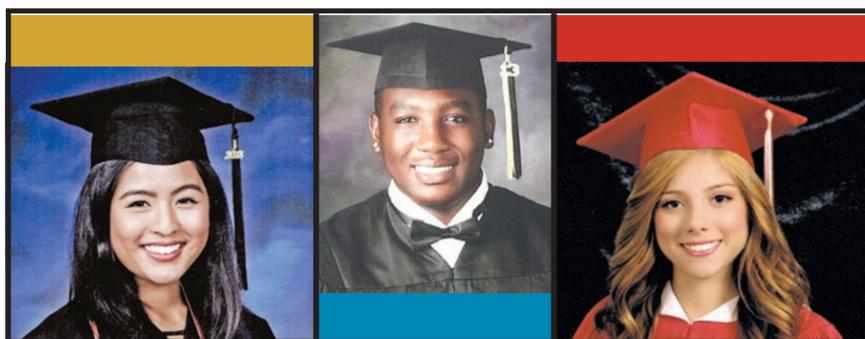
Cynthia Ozuna, daughter of Correctional Officer Marcos Ozuna, Retired, State of California, received a stipend last year as part of the Mukai Scholarship Program.

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

The 2022 Joannie Mukai Club Scholarship Program, which expects to grant 20 awards of \$500 each, is now accepting applications.

Application and Eligibility

The scholarship program has simplified the application process into one step to include determining of eligibility. Those eligible include Club Members; their spouses; their children, grandchildren, step-children, and foster children; and nieces/nephews who are in college or will be attending



Put your graduation photo in *Alive!*

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

Make sure you tell us:

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



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

The Fair Is Back!

Save up to \$12 per ticket to the LA County Fair, May 5-30 (and no fees!).

– Go to the Club Website for details:
employeesclub.com



Officer Efrain Moreno

The Champ

Officer Moreno boxes his way to the top.

LAPD: On April 2, LAPD/Rampart Gang Unit Officer Efrain Moreno took the UCA (United Combat Association) Jr. Light Heavyweight championship in a bout against Chris Romero, California Dept. of State Hospitals/Coalinga.

The title fight, part of the Central California Battle of the Badges, took place at the Visalia Convention Center.

The UCA is a ranking, sanctioning and promotional organization for Public Safety boxing.

Officer Moreno is part of the LAPD's boxing team.

Well done, Officer Moreno!



Officer Efrain Moreno



Happy Mother's Day

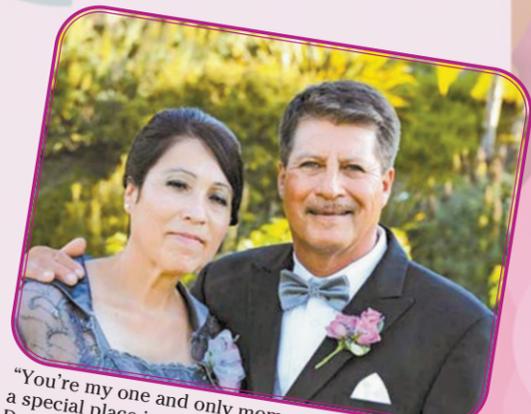
From the Club



"Shout out to my beautiful mother, Irma Mendoza. She is the pillar of the family. She raised four children to be responsible, independent thinkers. We love her."
Sandra Mendoza, Housing



"Happy Mother's Day to my beautiful wife, the most amazing mom to our daughter."
Rodney Gilbert, General Services



"You're my one and only mom, and I'll always have a special place in my heart for you. Happy Mother's Day! Eres mi única madre y siempre tendré un lugar especial en mi corazón para ti. ¡Feliz día de la madre!"
Robert Larios, Club CEO
(pictured: Robert's mom and dad)

More Mother's Day Messages on Web Alive!

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 6 will appear on Web Alive!

To submit, go to:
alive.employeesclub.com/mothersday



"Mothers like no other; we love you. Happy Mother's Day, Susan and Jovita."
Lorenzo Sandoval, LA County Probation



"Happy Mother's Day, Queen Esther. I'm the woman I am because of you. Thank you and I love you."
Lisa Edwards, General Services



"To the best mom, boss, friend and travel partner. Feliz Día de La Madre. ¡Eres la mejor! Love you!"
Det. Sandy Platero, LAPD



"We love our mother and grandmother with all our hearts. She is the best ever!"
Sarah Richardson, LAPD



"Happy Mother's Day to a woman who has endured so much. I thank you for all your sacrifices. We all love you."
Kelley Johnson, Airports



"Happy Mother's Day, Linda. You are amazing inside and out. Thank you for everything you do for our family. We all love you so much, today and every day."
Charles Garcia, Retired, Public Works/Sanitation



"A woman wears as many hats as she needs to, and I tip mine to my mother, a woman of all trades with the best hat collection this side of the Mississippi!"
Jessica Kellogg, County of Alameda



"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



"My mom, Realias Vercher, is always missed and remembered every day. A very creative and warm, loving mom. Quite the fashionista, and she enjoyed bowling. Love."
Thomas Vercher, Retired, Library



"Dearest Mom, remember when I was this little and you could carry me and feed me by just saying, 'Open your mouth'? I miss those days, too! Love, Aiden"
Submitted by Brian Szramowski, Public Works and Environment



"Happy Mother's Day to the greatest mom in the entire world! We love you soooooo much, Mommy!"
Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales

PART 26

Scenes From a Pandemic

Alive! continues its documentation of City employees as they take a multitude of measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are entries from the Club and the City Twitter feeds about City Employees and Club Members at work during this trying time.

City Attorney



"Our first PROM Closet of the season was a big success. Cynthia, Bella and Nicole – Community Specialists in our Neighborhood Prosecutor Program – worked with LAPD Rampart to get students at New Girls Village Academy ready for the prom with clothes and accessories. @LAPDRampart"

March 29

LAPD Centurions



"Extremely proud yesterday in helping to welcome back our LAPD Centurions Football team after 2 years of no games. It was a great game against the OC Lawmen, we came up a little short 26-20 but many more games to come."

March 27

Library Street Fleet



"Today we're at the Westlake/MacArthur Park Rental Assistance Clinic and Resource Fair hosted by the Central City Neighborhood Partners. Hoy estamos en la feria de recursos para inquilinos de Westlake/MacArthur Park."

March 26

LAPD Communications/Port Police



"Thanks to LA Port Police Captain Daniel Cobox, for your recent visit to @911lapd and the tour of the nation's premier gateway for International Commerce. We look forward to continued collaboration to achieve mutual LAPD and Port PD's security missions and community safety."

April 5

LAPD/Northeast Area



"We had a great time competing against Marshall High School softball team! They turned out to be victorious against Northeast Cadets and PAL. Great turnout, thank you for your support everyone that was there. @LabradaAI"

April 11

Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

Letter From Barbados

Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor, reports from the Caribbean.



Arriving in Barbados

Barbados, known as the Little Britain of the Caribbean, is situated northeast of mainland South America. An area of about 167 square miles, it features stunning sandy beaches, turquoise waters, sunshine, rum and the friendliest people of all the Caribbean islands.

Bridgetown, the capital, originally named St. Michael, before it was renamed for the 1673 Garrison Commander Colonel Sir Tobias Bridge. Once upon a time there were indigenous people living here, but they had abandoned the island by the time the first Spanish and Portuguese merchant ships dropped anchor on their way to Brazil in 1511.

A Portuguese explorer, Pedro a Campos, named the island Los Barbados (bearded-ones) presumably after the island's large fig trees that resemble a beard-like appearance. Campos introduced pigs to the island to supply meat for future travelers coming to the island.

Pedro a Campos did not stay on the island. English privateer Capt. John Powell arrived on the good ship *Olive Blossom* in 1625. Upon his arrival, Capt. Powell planted the British flag and claimed the island for King James I.

Two years later, his brother, Capt. Henry Powell, landed with a party of 80 permanent settlers and 10 slaves who were captured at sea and brought to Barbados to occupy and settle the island. This expedition landed in Holetown, formerly known as Jamestown, and within a few years much of the land had been deforested to make way for tobacco and cotton plantations.

As the Roman Catholic church continued expanding the Inquisition operation into Brazil, many Jewish merchants and plantation owners fled the country seeking safety with the English on the island of Barbados, bringing with them the first sugar cane plants. The rest is history.

In 1660, cultivating sugar cane occupied about 60 percent of the island's land and accounted for a whopping 90 percent of its total exports. The British Navy's tradition of a daily issue of rum to all its sailors accounted for some of that converted sugar wealth. However, on July 31, 1970, now known as Black Tot Day, British sailors had their last daily tot ration. Many wore black armbands and poured their ration into the sea as a symbolic "burial" of the much-loved tradition.

On Nov. 30, 1966, Barbados became an independent state and in 2021 a republic within the Commonwealth of Nations.

In all our travels, we have never met a more friendly and hospitable people. Exploring the island by public bus or smaller mini-buses, the price was the same, no matter what distance we were traveling. Bus stops around the island are very casual; we simply flagged down any passing bus, and if there was space, would squeeze in.

We visited the Four-Square Rum Factory, a bit off the beaten track but well worth the effort and the walk. There is no entrance fee and it is unlike the rum distilleries in town – guests are able to wander around to discover lots of interesting things. The tasting room is really cool. The place does not serve food, but a food truck comes at noon for the local workers, so if you have an adventurous palate, enjoy some real local food in the distilleries garden.

Barbados enjoys seven golfing

clubs, where you can even do like Tiger Woods and get married between holes at the Sandy Lane course. For those who like deep sea and game fishing, the waters off the coast of Barbados and neighboring islands Grenada, Tobago and St. Lucia are perfect.

For a more leisurely way to view of the local fish, take a Catamaran ride out to Carlisle Bay to snorkel or dive to see one of six shipwrecks. The 70-foot French tugboat Berwyn sits between seven and 10 feet below the surface (depending on the tide) and has lots of marine life, making it a great sight for photography. It is rumored that the crew deliberately scuttled her in 1916 to avoid



Riding the Sugar Train

the WWI marine conflict, and just opened her sea-cocks and let her slowly sink (which is why she is essentially upright today, though she's deteriorating fast). All on board including the ship's cat swam ashore to Browne's Beach, unharmed.

For cruise ship visitors who have only a short time on the island, do visit Mount Gay Visitor Centre and Distilleries. It's not cheap, but it's convenient. If you have more time, enjoy a day tour to explore Harrison's underground cave. Stroll the palm-lined beach of Bathsheba renowned for its surf, check out the Green Monkeys at the Barbados Wildlife Reserve, take a stroll through lush rainforest at the Hunt's Gardens, or explore the Flower Forest, teeming with tropical plants and flowers. Our favorite is the little steam train ride at the 17th-century sugar plantation of St. Nicholas Abbey up to the top of Cherry Hill, from where there is a great view of the island beaches.

For history buffs there is the Old British Garrison and grounds to explore, with its collection of canons and museums. There is also a house where George Washington was supposed to have stayed in as a young man, before he joined the British army the following year as an officer.

Sports fans will not be disappointed as there is an impressive horse race track and cricket venue called the Oval, home to the world largest bat and ball. (Cricket is like baseball but slower.)

There are more than 100 religious groups on Barbados, and their places of worship range from the majestic coral stone structures to the simple chattel house: Anglican, Roman Catholic, Apostolic Teaching Centre, Buddhist are represented, and there is also a Synagogue considered one of the oldest synagogues in the Western Hemisphere, complete with a mikvah.

As for the nightlife, check the Gap in St. Lawrence for loud music and fish market at Oistin's for inexpensive indigenous food.

We traveled to Barbados on JetBlue via Miami – lots of legroom, and JetBlue is the last airline to have seatback screens. The downside: if you fly cheap, carry-on is extra.

Remember: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do."

Cheers! — Capt. Michael Barnes



The One-eyed Jack Rum plantation.

Take *Alive!* with you, wherever you go!



- 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.

Otera to General Counsel

Steve Otera named General Counsel for Harbor Dept.



Steve Otera

CITY ATTORNEY: Steve Otera was named General Counsel to the Harbor Dept. by City Attorney Mike Feuer on April 11.

Otera will oversee the legal team advising on Port of Los Angeles operations and serve as in-house counsel to Port management and the Los Angeles Harbor Commission.

Otera has worked for nearly two decades at the Harbor Dept., most recently as an Assistant City Attorney. He replaces Janna Sidley, who retired earlier this year (*Alive!*, April 2022 edition).

As an Assistant City Attorney, Otera supervised staff providing in-house legal services at the Port, handled and oversaw major matters including container terminal leasing, and advised Port management and the Harbor Commission on a variety of other Port legal matters, including municipal governance, land use and development, contracting

and negotiation, litigation management, among other areas.

Prior to working in the City Attorney's Office, Otera spent more than a decade in private practice, including as director of legal compliance and education at LRN (formerly the Legal Research Network), where he managed development of web-based, multimedia workplace ethics and legal compliance training modules for clients including Ford Motor Co., Johnson & Johnson and Boeing. Previous to that, he served as an associate attorney for several local area law firms.

Otera earned his bachelor's degree from UCLA, and law degree from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

Congratulations on your appointment, Steve! ■

READY FOR RETIREMENT



Resources for Club Retirees or Those About to Retire



WELCOME TO THE CLUB'S NEW OUTREACH TO RETIREMENT

ARE YOU RETIRED OR PLANNING TO RETIRE SOON?



Noelle Kauffman
Manager of Member Services

The Employees Club of California can assist you in making the retirement process seamless.

Hi I'm Noelle Kauffman, the Club's Manager of Member Services with 12 years of insurance experience. We've set up this new page as a resource for you as you plan for retirement, or are living your best life in retirement already.

WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

If you have insurance plans with the Club, it is important that you speak with a Club Retiree Counselor to complete the correct paperwork to continue your deductions. The great news is that Club Membership for Retirees costs only \$4 a month and can be conveniently deducted from your pension. As a Retiree, you are entitled to group rated insurance benefits such as life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, long-term care, funeral pre-planning service, and our popular legal plan by MetLife.

Enjoy the most of your new beginning by allowing the Club to guide you through the retirement process. Make an appointment with our Retirement Specialists today!

Congratulations on your Retirement and be well!

Retired or retiring Soon?

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



Cheryl Martin
(800) 464 -0452, EXT. 136
Work cell: (213) 819-0794
23 years of insurance experience
CA LICENSE NO: 0C12823



Tiffany Sy
(800) 464-0452, EXT. 202
Work cell: (213) 440-8270
29 years of insurance experience
CA LICENSE NO: 0D75348

2022 Events

- June 1 **Annual Picnic** (LARFPA)
10 a.m. Almansor Court
700 S. Almansor St., Alhambra
Reservations:
events@larfpa.org
- June 4 **Annual Picnic**
(LADWP Association)
Canceled/pandemic
- Oct. 1 **Annual Fall Meeting**
(LADWP Association)
Canceled/pandemic
- Dec. 10 **Annual Holiday Celebration**
(LARFPA)
Sheraton Universal Hotel
333 Universal Hollywood Dr.
Universal City

LACERS LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS:

ARE YOU READY FOR RETIREMENT?

HERE ARE SOME CURRENT PROGRAMS TO HELP WITH YOUR PLANNING.

WEBINARS

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

- Thurs., May 12 (9 a.m.) (Tier 3)
- Tues., May 17 (4:30 p.m.)
- Sat., May 21 (9 a.m.)
- Thurs., May 26 (9 a.m.)
- Sat., June 4 (9 a.m.)

APPLICATION PORTAL DEMONSTRATION

Take time to learn about LACERS' exciting new Retirement Application Portal (RAP). Visit lacers.org/applying-retirement for more details and sign up for an upcoming RAP Demonstration webinar at 11 a.m. Tues., May 3 or noon Tuesday, May 31 via your MyLACERS account at mylacers.lacers.org.

APPLYING FOR RETIREMENT ONLINE

Members are encouraged to submit their retirement application 60 days before their retirement date when using LACERS' new Retirement Application Portal (RAP). The RAP is a great asset to LACERS Members that helps to streamline the retirement process. While the filing period is within 30 to 60 days of your retirement date, starting your application early and submitting it on the first day you can at the 60-day-prior mark, will allow for a couple of benefits. These include having ample time to discover any complications and address them without having to move your retirement date, as well as ensuring LACERS staff has time to meet your retirement date request.

For example, if your desired retirement date is Aug. 27, 2022, you would aim to submit your retirement application in the portal on June 23, 2022. For more information, please visit lacers.org/applying-retirement.

FOR RETIREES:

LACERS WELL EVENTS COMING UP

Register for these virtual events below through your MyLACERS account or by calling LACERS.

If you need assistance, email LacersWell@lacers.org Space is limited for each event so be sure to sign up early. To view additional dates and information, visit: lacers.org/lacers-well-events

KAISER WELL-BEING CLASSES ON HEALTHY EATING

Thurs., May 12, and Tues., May 17, 10 a.m.

MOM'S COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY CLASS

Wed., May 11, 3 p.m.

FITNESS MADE SIMPLE: EXERCISE CLASS

Wed., May 18, 9:30 a.m.

FINANCIAL SCAMS CLASS

Thurs., May 19, 10 a.m.

BRAIN HEALTH CLASS

Wed., May 25, 2 p.m.

AGING MASTERY PROGRAM

LACERS' five-week, twice weekly Aging Mastery Program is scheduled three times this year: at 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in June and September.

Contact Information

Employees Club of California

Club contact:
help@employeesclub.com

LA City Employees Retirement System (LACERS) (City Dept.)

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

LADWP Retirees Association

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

Fire and Police Pensions (City Dept.)

(844) 885-2377
pensions@lafpp.com

LA Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)

(888) 288-5073
membership@larfpa.org

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)

See page 16.

Members of the SMART team involved in the rescue, from left: Animal Control Officers Carlos Villa, Armando Navarrete (team leader), Vanessa Flores, Tyger Rodriguez and Allyson Adriano. All five are Club Members. (The stuffed animals are rescue mannequins.)



Specialized Mobile Animal Rescue Team

LA ANIMAL SERVICES

To Th

Photos by Alive!, LA Animal Services, the LAFD and courtesy Austin Gebhardt



LA Animal Services' SMART Team employs several vehicles, including this van, which carries a wide variety of rescue equipment.

SMART Team Dog Rescue

March 28, 2022 • LA River, Sherman Oaks, Calif.



Animal Control Officer Tyger Rodriguez walks Scooby to the department vehicle for transportation.



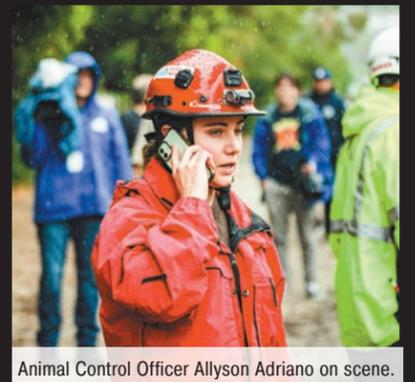
"Scooby"



Animal Control Officer Tyger Rodriguez brings Scooby to the department truck for transportation to the North Valley Animal Shelter.



Animal Control Officers (from left) Carlos Villa, Vanessa Flores and Armando Navarrete prepare a rescue rope for Scooby.



Animal Control Officer Allyson Adriano on scene.

ACES The Rescue



The recent rescue of a dog in the LA River brought attention to LA Animal Services' SMART team, which teamed with the LAFD to save the pet's life. Here's their story.

On March 28, a stormy César Chávez Day in the City, LA Animal Services' Specialized Mobile Animal Rescue (SMART) Team and the LAFD's Swift Water Rescue Team responded to a dog struggling in the fast, dangerous waters of the LA River. After a tense 30 minutes of critical actions followed by several hours of observation and medical attention for the pet, LA Animal Services reunited the

dog – Scooby – safely with his owner. Mission accomplished!

Few people know about the day-to-day operations of the SMART team, comprised of a small number of Animal Control Officers with specialty equipment and extensive training for a myriad of rescue scenarios. The team, led by Armando Navarrete, 23 years of City service, Club Member, operates 24/7 and is headquartered at the North Central Shelter.

Here, the team members who were involved in the rescue recount the actions of day, tell of their instant fame via the media covering the rescue, and why they do what they do.

Also, of course, the Club gives special thanks to the LAFD's Swift Water team, led by Capt. Tom Henzgen, for their heroic work during the same rescue (the dog's owner and a bystander were also rescued by the LAFD during the action). Well done to all. ●

ALIVE! INTERVIEW

Working Together to Save an Animal

On Monday, April 4 – one week after the team helped rescue a dog from the LA River – *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed members of the LA Animal Services SMART Team who did the rescuing. They are Allyson Adriano, West LA Shelter, 2 years of City service; Armando Navarrete, North Valley Shelter, 23 years, team leader; Vanessa Flores, North Central Shelter, 2 years; Carlos Villa, West Valley Shelter, 2 years; and Tyger Rodriguez, East Valley Shelter, 5 years. All are Animal Control Officers and Club Members. SMART stands for Specialized Mobile Animal Rescue Team.

The interview took place inside the West Valley Animal Shelter, with the interviewer masked due to City regulation and pandemic protocols.

Thanks for being here to tell our readers about the dog rescue you participated in.



Armando Navarrete

Armando Navarrete: Sure.

This isn't the whole SMART team, just those who helped in the rescue.

Armando: Right. We're all on the Specialized Mobile Animal Rescue Team, SMART. We have the Swift Water Division of the Team; everyone here is part of the Swift Water Division. This is a quarter of the members we have. We have 18 on the SMART team now.

I'd like to have 24 team members by the end of next year. We just added team members. Everyone here's been on the team for barely over six months. We started them into training right away, and they've already each logged about a dozen rescues of all sorts. The Swift Water Division handled the dog rescue with the LAFD last Monday.

Right. Before we get to that – how often is the team activated?

Armando: Roughly about every other day. Already today we've handled an animal stuck in a vent, and a cat, possibly injured, stuck in another vent. Sometimes we don't get a call for three or four days, but then we get a call on Friday and we have three,

four or five of them. And then Saturday comes and another two or three. We average a call every other day.

The Rescue

So let's get right into it – take me back to last Monday, when it rained in LA, and you had a dog to rescue.

Armando: Tyger was the one who actually got the initial call.

Was it a busy day before you got that call?

Armando: I was off duty. I was off doing nothing but watching TV.



Vanessa Flores

Vanessa Flores: It was César Chávez Day.

Tyger Rodriguez: Yes, it was. My district, which is East Valley, only had one Field Officer. It wasn't too busy. I received a call from LA Fire Dept.



Tyger Rodriguez



From left: Animal Control Officer Armando Navarrete, Club Member; Animal Services District Supervisor Danny Pantoja, Club Member; and Animal Control Officer Alyssa Adriano, Club Member, with Club CEO Robert Larios.

Dispatch, advising me that a woman was rescued from the LA River in my district, and LA Animal Services needed to go pick up the dog. I dispatched my Officer, thinking the dog was already saved and pulled out of the river, or never fell into the river. My Officer, Endy Carballo, got there and advised me that the dog hadn't been rescued yet. I advised the LAFD that the dog hadn't been rescued yet and we have a team that I can dispatch. We ended up agreeing to dispatch our rescue team, and I notified our SMART Team leader Nav, which is short for Navarrete. That's when Nav texted the team, asking who was available immediately.

Allyson Adriano: Tyger sent out a text to our team. Villa and I were working here [West Valley Shelter] that day. The dog was clearly in distress. I think at that point the owner was already out of the river. As we watched it live on TV, a member of the public jumped into the water to try to save the dog. He held on for a while and then the dog got away



Allyson Adriano



Animal Control Officers who took part in the dog rescue, from left: Allyson Adriano, Armando Navarrete, Vanessa Flores, Carlos Villa and Tyger Rodriguez being interviewed at the West Valley Shelter.

About the SMART Team

In February 2012, LA Animal Services consolidated its then-Small Animal Rescue Team (SMART), Dept. Air Rescue Team (DART), Wildlife Program and Permit Section into one Special Operations Unit. The Department further unified the Small Animal Rescue Team (SMART) and Department Air Rescue Team (Large Animal Rescue Team – DART) into one joint venture now called the Specialized Mobile Animal Rescue Team (SMART). This reorganization resulted in leveraging staff to do more than one function, as staff was cross-trained to support each other. The end result is more staff are available for emergency call-outs and Departmental field support. Most importantly, the Department is able to provide increased quality and improved services to the public while maximizing safety and support to the personnel.

The SMART team has a 100 percent save rate since they began using their specialized training, experience and knowledge for rescuing small and large animals in distress. The Special Operations Unit, including the SMART team, is under the command of the District Supervisor Danny Pantoja and being led by Animal Control Officer Armando Navarrete. The SMART team consists of 18 LA Animal Control Officers and two Registered Veterinary Technicians.

The SMART team trains extensively to be ready for action.



ALIVE! INTERVIEW

— Continued from page 11

from him. That was when we were dispatched from Nav. He sent out a text, "Who can be in the Valley in 30 minutes?" Villa and I called Officer Gabrielle Hartel, our swing Officer who lives really close to the shelter here. She was watching live, too. She came in to our shelter early so that Villa and I could head over to the river.

We jumped in Villa's truck and we put on all our lights and everything. We don't have sirens.

People actually pulled over for us!

When we got there, the first person we saw was Tyger. Nav and Flores were already suited up in their Swift Water gear. They had already scouted the situation.

Villa and I basically were in charge then – we had to get an animal control device, a catch pole, and nets, ropes, everything that we would need to rescue. We brought everything and ran to the scene.

By the time we got there, the Fire Dept. had already gotten the dog out of the water. But at this point it's crucial to be able to handle the dog. That's when we're needed most. We have experience handling the animal that the LAFD might not have.

The dog was obviously terrified. Trying to bite, and did bite. And it was a lot of dog – 107 pounds. That's a really hard dog to control if you don't have that experience. So Nav and Flores went down and took over the animal handling, directing the Fire Dept. It was really great that we had both teams. The LAFD helped handle the body of the dog while Nav placed a muzzle on him.



Carlos Villa

Carlos Villa: It was a relief to see that the Fire Dept. had already gotten the dog. But there was another problem getting the dog up the embankment. We're experienced with handling animals and it was perfect timing for us to assist with bringing the dog up.

Right. Did any of you get in the water with the LAFD?

Armando: We were going to go in the water. We were with the second team, which was downstream in case the dog bypassed the first team. We were prepared to get wet. But they got the dog ahead of us. They had him on makeshift tether leash. But at any moment he could get his spunk back and revive, and take off again.

The Fire Dept. is very well trained and has enough personnel. They had something like 20 people in the water or ready to go in the water, while we had two.

The Firefighter tried to secure the dog in a human harness, and I told the Captain, "We have these special K9 harnesses that are made for search and rescue dogs. We can put him in there and lift them like a suitcase." The harness needs to be put on in a special way. So I told Officer Flores to put the harness on him – she had done it before – and I would control him with the muzzle. He was snapping. We got it done.

Vanessa: When the LAFD finally gained control of the dog and we had put the muzzle and harness on him, the next obstacle was to get the dog up from the bottom to higher grounds. The dog was super nervous and scared. We all worked together, which was pretty nice to see. Even though we're from different departments, it was nice to see that we all had one purpose, one cause.

We were able to lift him up to higher grounds. At that point, Villa and Adriano and Tyger were up above to receive it.

Armando: The retaining walls are 15 feet high, and then another six feet of fencing. So that's easily a 20-foot drop, with a very big dog.

Getting the muzzle on him was important because they can squirm and then bite. We didn't want to lose him on the extraction going up the embankment. We're not done until that animal is safely back to its owner in our truck.

Right, of course.

Armando: It was going to start raining again, and if he got loose, he'd be going farther down river where it got deeper and deeper and

flowed into rapids. We had to rescue him there and secure him safely so that we could get him up the embankment to the receiving team and then onto medical treatment.

Vanessa: I put the harness on the dog, and then he was manually pulled up the embankment by LAFD Firefighters. The LAFD took control of that, once the dog was secured and wouldn't bite anyone at that point.

How long did it take from when you got there to the time dog was safely back in an LA Animal Services truck?

Armando: It seemed like it was only minutes. Everything happened so fast.

It was critical that my team handled our part down below and up above, and they did. Fire was great. They figured – let us do our job and we let them do their job, and it worked seamlessly. From our first minutes there to getting the dog into our truck took maybe about 30 minutes tops.

We took the dog to the East Valley Shelter for medical evaluation.

Did the dog settle down?

Carlos: Yes. He had been through a lot of stress, but he seemed calm. Maybe a little nervous. I started talking to him and petting him.

Our registered vets took a quick look at him. He got a little snappy, so we took off the harness. After that, he was completely fine.

The Reunion

Did you witness the reunion with the owner?

Armando: No. But she was very happy.

Tyger: Once the dog came back to the shelter, we got in contact with the dog owner that night. We scanned it for a microchip, and after a little bit of research and a few phone calls to some microchip companies, we did locate her contact information and advised her exactly where the dog was. Angela, the dog owner, came and got her dog later on that night. We waived the fees so that she could take her dog back. We wanted to get the dog back home. It didn't need to stay in the cold kennel after being in the river. We wanted them to go back home and be comfortable together.



Scooby and his owner, Angela Buono, safe and sound.

Armando: When we got to the river, we didn't know who she was. Our goal was just to help the Fire Dept. with the dog rescue. Once they got him, our job was to put him in a harness and get him out safely. After we were done and we took him to the shelter for a medical examination. We were happy to hear the owner was coming to pick him up. We didn't know the dog's name.

The next day we got an Instagram notification because we posted it on our social media for work, and the owner responded by saying, "Thank you, thank you, thank you. He means the world to me. I was so terrified that he was going to float downriver and die. They got me

ALIVE! INTERVIEW

— Continued from page 12

out, but I had to go to the hospital and I didn't know what was going on. I was watching the news, and when I saw that you guys actually got him up and out, it was just a sigh of relief. I just felt like my baby's coming home."

We reunite a lot of family members after a traumatic situation like that. It was just nice that she thanked us. We don't do it for the thank yous or the fame or the money, but it's nice when someone says thanks. We finally got to meet her, and Scooby – that's his name, Scooby – is back to being his normal self like it never happened.

A Big Moment

Was this your first major incident after you were trained for this sort of work?

Carlos: Definitely the biggest – the LAFD was involved, the media was involved, there were so many people around. It was definitely the first time for something that big, at least for me. There were at least four helicopters – it was just a little bit nerve wracking. There were so many people watching and I was trying to focus on getting the dog safe.

But we've been responding nearly every day since we did our training. We are trained to handle these situations. It was just the whole scene and the circumstances of the rescue that made it a little different.

Vanessa: This was my first big water rescue. It doesn't rain very often around here, right? It just so happened that it rained a lot. We were trained for it.

The whole scenario was very new. It was very chaotic, very hectic. You have to zone everything out and just focus on what we were trained to do, and forget it, right. We were trained properly. It was a great experience.

Tyger: It definitely wasn't the first big rescue that we've had. I consider every rescue that we do big because you're saving a life. But it was the largest in scale, just based on people involved – boots on the ground, news coverage and citizens standing by. That plays a role in how you approach the scene because the more eyes on you, you can feel that weight and that pressure of people watching you.

Luckily, we've had some pretty intense training. It wasn't anything we couldn't handle.

The Spotlight

That was a pretty intense day. Lots of media coverage from throughout the world. Were you prepared for the notoriety?

Allyson: Well, I wasn't in front in the camera, really. I was in the back, but my parents actually did notice. Usually I call them on my way home but this was two hours after it happened. They hadn't heard from me, and they saw me on the news. They said, "Oh, my gosh." I did get a call from them right way, from my best friend, other Officers, you know, everybody. My phone was just completely blowing up. Everyone was so excited and asking, "Were you guys there?" Obviously they know about our team.

Right.

Allyson: We talk about it. It's a highlight of our job, when it happens.

Vanessa: My brother called me. My mom saw it on the news. It's something new, right? When am I ever on TV? Never. It was kind of awkward at first, but at the same time it's nice that my family's proud of it. My friends are proud of it. It's nice to be a part of this team. I'm proud of what we do. We make a lot of animal owners happy, right? Not just anyone is willing to do these things for animals. It's nice that we can be a part of something so special.

Carlos: Last Friday [four days after the rescue], I was driving down the street comparing gas prices, because it's been so expensive. I park at one and I'm pumping gas. This car pulls in front of me – I'm not even paying attention and this girl comes up to me and says, "Oh, my God. Carlos." I looked up and it was a friend from high school friend. I hadn't seen her in eight years. She says, "How are you doing? I've seen what you're doing!" She says, "I'm so happy for you. What you're doing is so cool." It was just so random and it made me realize that we do have a pretty cool job. Not everybody gets to do what we do, and it's pretty awesome.

Tyger: Once we were done with the rescue and heading back to the shelter, there was

LA Animal Services addressed the media in the aftermath of the rescue.



At the press conference with LAFD Capt. Erik Scott (center) are Animal Control Officers Armando Navarrete and Vanessa Flores.

already, like, 30 text messages in our team group chat – work texts from all the Officers who are on the SMART team saying, "Hey, good job, guys. You guys are great. You guys look professional. You guys knew what you were doing."

And outside of that, I'm getting text messages from my wife saying, "I saw you on TV." My mom's calling me mid-rescue and I'm ignoring the calls. We got some photos from our team members from the news broadcast that was live and they posted that on the group chat as well, saying, like, "Look how good you guys look. Way to command the dog." Things like that.

And I took it upon myself to share on my social media some of the photos. "Hey, look. I had fun today at work. Look at what we did." Within 24 hours, there was like 100 comments like, "Oh, my God. I saw you. Good job. Thank God that the dog is safe." I didn't think it was going to get that sort of recognition because normally I might get four or five comments. It goes to show the meaning of what we do and why we do it. It's definitely nice to be reminded. That can get lost over time. You don't join the team to expect that reaction, but when it comes out of the blue like it did, it hits you and gives you like a radiating glow based on all the appreciation from people who weren't even involved. So it's kind of special to see that you have that kind of impact on the world just from one rescue.

Once the dog was brought up to the second level embankment where we were all on dry land, I reached for the dog and we started to

walk. And once Flores came up the ladder, I was controlling the dog and we were walking back to the rescue vehicle. Something like 100 people surrounded us, and they all just started breaking out in cheers, clapping and celebrating that the dog was safe. And that kind of – Although you don't try to buy into it, like I said, that's not why you do it –

Right.

Tyger: It kind of just gives you a warm fuzzy feeling inside, a breath of fresh air.

It's nice every once in a while to be reminded of the power of what you do.

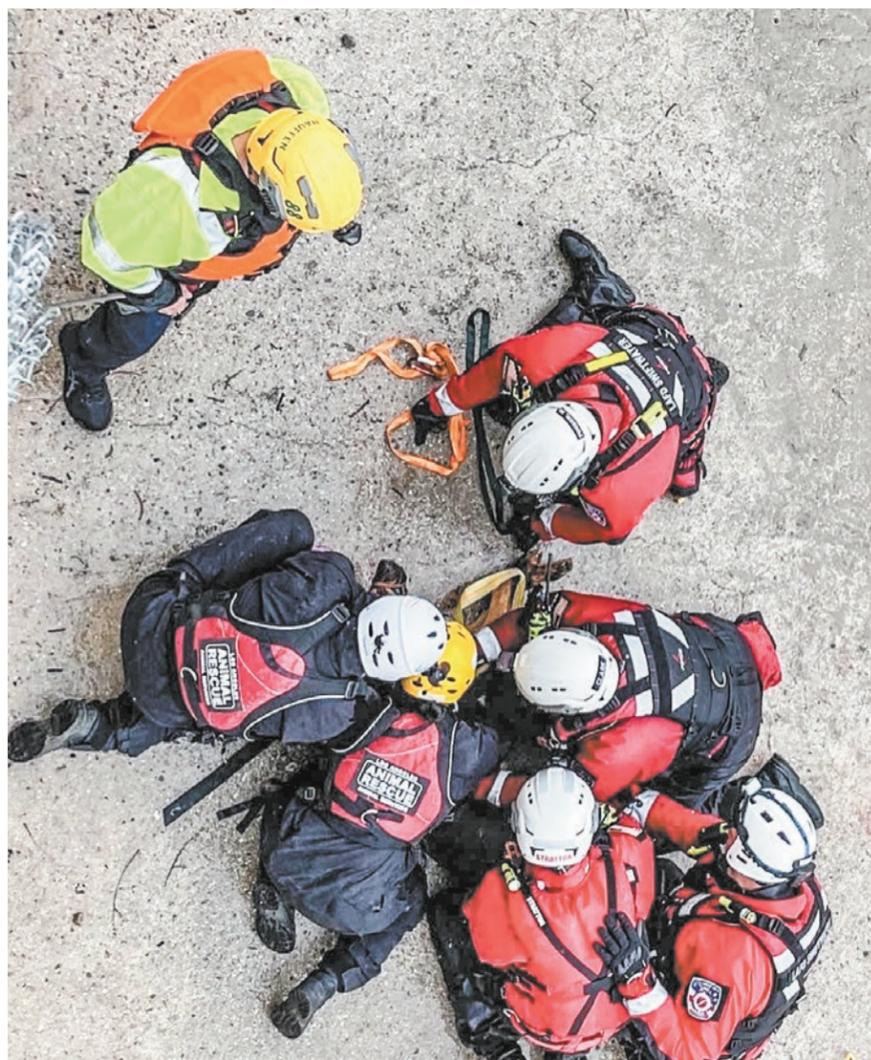
Tyger: Exactly.

Your emergencies haven't stopped. [In the middle of this interview, Allyson had to leave for an emergency call.] They just keep going on and on. There are no cameras or helicopters on most of what you do, yet you always respond.

Tyger: Right.

Thanks, everybody for speaking to us today, and congratulations on a great rescue.

Armando: Thank you! ●



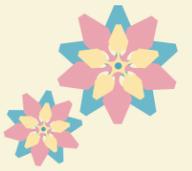
Teamwork – the LAFD and LA Animal Services worked together, as they were trained to do, to save the life of a dog in the LA River. The operation took 90 minutes near Studio City.



Club CEO Robert Larios holds a training mannequin the SMART Team has dubbed M.A.R.T.E.



Life's Important Moments



Share your news... and send in a photo!

Have you gotten married? Had a baby? Graduated? Is a family member in the military? Send in a photo and a paragraph, telling us the details. We love to share your good news.

- Births**
- Weddings**
- Graduations**
- Special Achievements**
- Military Service**
- Tell Their Story**

Send your photos and text online:
alive.employeesclub.com/lifemoments



Retirements

View retirements online at: alive.employeesclub.com/retirements-202205

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City in Mar. 2022. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Abalos, James T.	Ch. Personnel Analyst	Personnel	32	Gustafson, Jerome D.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Rios, Myra	Legal Secretary	City Attorney	5
Abercrombie, Linda	Admin. Clerk	Public Works	14	Guzman, Maria	Crossing Guard	Transportation	4	Rivera, Louis Reynaldo	Aquatic Facility Mgr.	Rec and Parks	31
Abesamis, Romeo A.	Sr. Detention Off.	LAPD	26	Halberg, Terry G.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Roberson, Nanette	Recreation Asst.	Rec and Parks	7
Afary, Frieda	Librarian	Library	10	Halstead, Jeffrey	Sr. Gardener	Rec and Parks	15	Rodarte, Guadalupe H.	Metering Svcs.	LADWP	N/D
Aguayo, Edgardo	Energy Dist.	LADWP	N/D	Hastings, Norene A.	EnvironmentalSup.	Airports	20	Rodriguez, Edward	Council Aide	Council	4
Aparicio, Robert S.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Hayes, Lisa F.	Security Svcs.	LADWP	N/D	Rodriguez, Leticia B.	Accounting	LADWP	N/D
Arimura, Tsukasa	Motor Sweeper Op.	Public Works	16	Henry, Phillip J.	Recreation Asst.	Rec and Parks	9	Rodriguez, Marcial	Special Program Asst.	Rec and Parks	6
Arrecis, Maria Herlinda	Prog. Asst.	Rec and Parks	5	Hernandez, Eddie	Police Sgt.	Harbor	23	Rodriguez, Mary Dolores	Council Aide	Council	13
Avery, Rebecca	Security Svcs.	LADWP	N/D	Holland, David Eugene	Traffic Off.	Transportation	15	Rodriguez, Sergio	Bldg. Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	33
Baldwin, Thomas Z.	Civil Engr. Asst.	Housing	6	Huntington, Gary D.	Asst. Park Svcs. Attend.	Rec and Parks	5	Romero, Maria S.	ITS	LADWP	N/D
Ball, Stacy Lynn	Police Service Rep	LAPD	32	Hyams, Michael Thomas	Police Admin.	LAPD	6	Salas, Heriberto M.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D
Barnes, Bridgette R.	Accounting Clerk	Airports	32	Jackson, Randall D.	Office of Safety	LADWP	N/D	Salehpour, Hamid R.	Asst. Insp.	Personnel	7
Bautista, Sandra	Principal Detention Off.	LAPD	29	Jew, Kevin	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Public Works	32	San Agustin, Meliton Y.	Power Executive Office	LADWP	N/D
Blessingham, Gary A.	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	N/D	Johnson, Carlton H.	Background Invest.	Personnel	14	Sepe, Angelo A.	Metering Svcs.	LADWP	N/D
Bonner, Alan M.	Wastewater Coll.Sup.	Public Works	35	Johnson, Michelle	Custodian	Gen. Svcs.	16	Settle, Andrew Thomas	Signal Systems Electr.	Transportation	10
Borchert, David O.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Jones, David M.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Shackelford, David O.	Security Off.	Airports	30
Borsaly, Khaled A.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Jones, Maurice Tiers	Police Off.	Airports	14	Sheedy, Eve F.	Deputy City Attorney	City Attorney	19
Brents, Karen L.	Police Service Rep	LAPD	30	Kimble, Bobby N.	Custodian	Gen. Svcs.	12	Sheeran, Margaret A.	Recreation Asst.	Rec and Parks	7
Briscoe, Wortham F.	Ref. Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	32	Kovara, Michael A.	Energy Dist.	LADWP	N/D	Sierra, Annette M.	Deputy City Attorney	City Attorney	28
Brown, Rhonda Lee	Police Service Rep	LAPD	18	Labrador, Manuel Frank	Sr. Equipment Mech.	Gen. Svcs.	18	Smith, Ava H.	Messenger Clerk	Library	15
Cachon, Phil Santiago	Equipment Mechanic	Gen. Svcs.	13	Lee McAdory, Auvia Pamela	Police Service Rep	LAPD	18	Smith, Darryl V.	Police Service Rep	LAPD	26
Calaycay, Lupo A.	Admin. Clerk	Library	22	Liang, Shan	Sr. Librarian	Library	18	Smith, Dawn M.	Ch. Comm. Oper.	Airports	31
Campana, Glenn A.	Facility Director	Rec and Parks	17	Lopez, Lawrence A.	Metering Svcs.	LADWP	N/D	Southall, Barry	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	N/D
Campos, Gabriel	Special Prog. Asst.	Rec and Parks	5	Lopez, Patricia Maria	Comm./Admin. Sup. Wrkr.	El Pueblo Hist. Mon.	10	Tamuri, Maureen Theresa	Asst. General Manager	Rec and Parks	2
Canning, Charles H.	Office Eng.ing Tech.	Bldg. & Safety	34	Luera, Roberto	Bldg. Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	28	Tan, Erkan Mark	Structural Eng. Assoc.	Public Works	35
Cappello, Joseph M.	Supply Chain	LADWP	N/D	Luna, M.L.	Accounting	LADWP	N/D	Tarnowski, John W.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D
Carr, Yolanda	Custodian	Gen. Svcs.	12	Macias, Richard	Pile Driver Worker	Harbor	18	Thomas, Dorine A.	Sr. Police Service Rep	LAPD	36
Castillo, Jesus A.	Animal Control Off.	Animal Svcs.	31	Marshall, Robert L.	Metering Svcs.	LADWP	N/D	Tilton, James M.	Env. Chem. Lab	LADWP	N/D
Castro, Viola M.	Admin. Clerk	Library	23	Martin, Booker	Custodian	Gen. Svcs.	16	Tirado, Elias Jose	Sr. Systems Analyst	LAPD	20
Caudillo, Jose A.	Special Prog. Asst.	Rec and Parks	9	Martinez Jr., Rodolfo	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Tongson, Henry Barroga	Accounting Clerk	Bldg. & Safety	21
Cavanagh, John V.	Construction Insp.	Airports	16	Mason, Pamela M.	Library Asst.	Library	32	Ulloa, Glafira	Crossing Guard	Transportation	14
Chacon, Alfred T.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	33	Matheney, Iris W.	Custodian	Gen. Svcs.	20	Unger, Bren I.	Law Clerk	City Attorney	5
Chang, Mark	ITS	LADWP	N/D	McCann, Jeffrey C.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Valenzuela, Phillip	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	31
Ching, Eugene I.	Land Surveying Asst.	Public Works	17	Meuwissen, Anthony P.	Security Svcs.	LADWP	N/D	Van Cise, Eugene A.	Mgmt. Analyst	City Clerk	16
Collins, Michael E.	Metering Svcs.	LADWP	N/D	Mihalevsky, Svetlana	Recreation Asst.	Rec and Parks	9	Vela, Norma E.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D
Cook, Beverly A.	Asst. City Attorney	City Attorney	28	Mohandie, Krishnan R.	Police Psychologist	LAPD	13	Vickers, James H.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
Cordon, John Thomas	Bldg. Mechanic Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	19	Montanez, Oscar J.	Heavy Duty Equip. Mech.	Gen. Svcs.	16	Villada, Carlos C.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Cutts, Stephen Paul	Environmental Spec.	Public Works	1	Navarrete, Georginnah F.	Chief Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	31	Villegas, Yolanda E.	Admin. Clerk	Library	15
Davis, Lawanda	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Nickelson, Bridget K.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	30	Viso, Tory P.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
Diaz, Jose C.	Light Equipment Op.	Rec and Parks	32	Nnuro, Augustine K.	Environmental Eng.	Public Works	32	Wahls, W. Dean	Sr. Real Estate Off.	Airports	15
Doughty, Thomas J.	Marketing Director	LADWP	N/D	O'Bryan, Patricia A.	Admin. Clerk	Library	21	Watson, Robert Craig	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	31
Doyle, Patrick A.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Oden, Sherri D.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Webber, Amy	Deputy City Attorney	City Attorney	18
Duval, Patrice A.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LADWP/PEO	N/D	Oke, Richard A.	Sr. Safety Eng. Elevators	Bldg. & Safety	34	Westling, Robert R.	Police Off.	Airports	24
Engel, Joseph William	Bldg. Operating Eng.	Airports	13	Olsen, Steven J.	Sr. Gardener	Rec and Parks	5	Whaley, Alan D.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D
Evangelista, Gary C.	Sr. Construction Insp.	Public Works	30	Ostby, Gary S.	Real Estate	LADWP	N/D	White, Kenneth J.	Fleet Svcs.	LADWP	N/D
Evans, Michael E.	Elevator Mechanic	Airports	5	Palmas, Cruz	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Williams, Anthony M.	Security Off.	Harbor	22
Ferreira, Robert	Sr. Construction Insp.	Public Works	20	Pau, Paul C.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Williams, Christopher	Museum Guide	Rec and Parks	4
Franklin, Kenneth L.	Water Biologist	Public Works	38	Peck, Norman P.	Construction Insp.	Public Works	14	Wong, Susanna	Sr. Legal Clerk	City Attorney	32
Franklin, Venus L.	Traffic Off.	Transportation	30	Perez, Bernardo J.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	22	Yapp, Kim Marie	EnvironmentalSup.	Environ. Affairs	18
German, Peter	Wastewater Coll. Wrkr.	Public Works	17	Ramirez, Raudel	Maintenance Laborer	Public Works	21	Yeganeh, Koorosh	Systems Programmer	ITA	22
Gonzalez, Patricia Debra	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Personnel	36	Reed, Leticia L.	St. Svcs. Investigator	Public Works	33	Zelaya, Edith M.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAPD	26
Granados, Lida C.	Mayoral Aide	Mayor's Office	10	Rice, Paula	Messenger Clerk	Library	2	Zermeno, Susan J.	City Planner	Planning	32
Gulke Jr., Roland C.	Env. Chem. Lab	LADWP	N/D	Ridder, Lymon J.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D				

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
ACTIVE							
Chun, Bobby J.	LAPD 5	Cruz, Rachel M.	LADWP 36	Levi, Herbert A.	N/D N/D	Sherman, Roger V.	LADWP 34
Juarez, Jose A.	LADWP 21	Dahlberg, Charles A.	N/D N/D	Leyva, Augustine G.	LADWP 33	Simpson, Wade	N/D N/D
Mabry, Christophe	Public Works 17	Davis, Donald B.	LADWP 44	Luke, Renee E.	LADWP 32	Smith, Kory R.	Housing 31
RETIRED		Dorrough Sr., Robert	LADWP 12	Mancini, Samuel F.	LADWP 29	Stockinger, Charles	N/D N/D
Abenoja, Reynaldo R.	Rec and Parks 16	Drohan Sr., Michael J.	LAFD 30	Moore, John	N/D N/D	Stoicof, Petre A.	LAPD 35
Antranig, D. Afarian	LADWP 10	Eggleston, Robert	N/D N/D	Munoz Jr., Henry	LADWP 32	Strasser, Thomas J.	N/D N/D
Bovitch, Henrietta S.	City Clerk 31	Forrest, David E.	Public Works 32	O'Connor, Michael J.	Planning 16	Titus, King H.	N/D N/D
Bowman, Alana L.	City Attorney 19	Fugate, Larry L.	LAPD 12	Okhanes, Bedros D.	LADWP 30	Trestik, Donald A.	N/D N/D
Brown, Jeweleen	N/D N/D	Garcia, Isabel	LADWP 24	Olivo, Sam	Transportation 22	Travali, Robert S.	LADWP 31
Burnett, Lonzell	N/D N/D	Gonzales, Deanna C.	N/D N/D	Pantaleon, D.G.	N/D N/D	Vasquez, Reginalda	Transportation 6
Chapman, Alan A.	Rec and Parks 14	Gonzales, Eliseo A.	Rec and Parks 24	Pino, Donald J.	Bldg. & Safety 7	Viera, Gerald A.	LADWP 27
Chong, Albert G.	LADWP 31	Healy, Dudley	N/D N/D	Ramirez, David J.	Public Works 37	Washington, George	N/D N/D
Collins, Donald E.	LADWP 23	Hodges, James H.	LADWP 30	Reynolds, Benjamin P.	Personnel 24	Watson, Zelia M.	LADWP 30
Cottrill, Larry L.	Harbor 21	Hull, Thomas E.	Airports 30	Richter, Fred L.	Airports 23	Weisenstein, M.G.	N/D N/D
Custodia, Marvin R.	Transportation 6	King, Roy C.	LADWP 29	Ruiz, Robert V.	LADWP 30	Weiss, Richard A.	Housing 30
		La Roux, William P.	LADWP 19	Sato, Sachio	LADWP 25	Wichser, Mary A.	Library 5
		Larson, Betty	Airports 3	Shadle, John P.	N/D N/D	Williams, Alvin L.	N/D N/D
		Lespron, Joe	LADWP 30	Shebanek, Louise M.	LADWP 30	Woods, Billie	N/D N/D

N/D = not disclosed



Class of 2022



Graduations

Isabella Bernaldo graduated from Immaculate Heart High School with the commencement at the Hollywood Bowl. She is on her way to Boston College. Isabella is the **daughter of Rodney Bernaldo, Public Works.**



Christopher Floyd Jr. graduated from Benedict College in South Carolina with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He's the **grandson of Cherry Slusher, Retired, Rec and Parks.**



Victoria Salas graduated *magna cum laude* from Cal State San Marcos with a degree in biology. She plans on applying to ABSN programs to become a nurse. Victoria is the **daughter of Edward Salas, Retired Firefighter, LAFD.**



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if they purchase
by May 31

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A FREE Benefit to members of the Employees Club

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.



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cheapest tickets in the state.



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presents

Forgiveness

IT'S FOR YOU
by LADY Y SMITH

**\$25
ADMISSION**

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022 • 3PM

WILLIAM & JANE BRISTOL AUDITORIUM
16600 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
BELLFLOWER 90706

FACE MASKS REQUIRED • ORGANIZER OF 10+ SPECIAL GIFT

John's Picture Perfect Contest

*The Club's online photo contest, organ
by Association CEO, John Haw*



This month's
contest theme:

On Two Wheels

WIN
\$25
Amazon
Gift Card

The Club's online photo contest, organized by Association CEO John Hawkins, has a monthly theme. For May, we're looking for images of objects with two wheels. Send us something awesome!

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

Club Members only.
Good luck!

DEADLINE:
May 12

Submit your photos online here:
alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect

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

2022 Executive Board of Directors

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

RLACEI DIRECTORS
Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

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

RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:
(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0

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

RLACEI WEBSITE

Visit the RLACEI website www.RLACEI.org to find the latest retirement 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 Ruth B. Perry, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717 or Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFUCU as applicable.



Send in your Interesting News Contributions!

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

RETIREE EVENTS

June 2, 2022 Tom Stemnock Annual Golf Tournament
Shotgun 7 a.m.
Alhambra Golf Course
630 S. Almansor St.
Alhambra

Aug. 11, 2022 Annual Picnic
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. *Grace E. Simons Lodge*
1025 Elysian Park Dr.

Dec. 15, 2022 Annual Holiday Party
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. *Friendship Auditorium*
3201 Riverside Dr.

Reservation Line:
RLACEI events (800) 678-4145, ext. 701

LACERS BOARD UPDATE

LACERS Increases Private Equity Maximums

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



Private equity is one of LACERS' most important investment classes and one we depend on to produce the returns needed to keep our plan strong. The Board of Administration has approved moving the maximum amount that our investment staff can approve without Board approval to a maximum of \$150 million.

As you know from my previous articles, LACERS has increased the allocation to private equity to 16 percent of the total fund. As of Jan. 31, 2022, the fund was valued at \$23.2 billion, so the amount targeted to private equity was \$3.7 billion.

The target allocation, the amount that

LACERS plans to commit to this asset class, has increased from 12 percent in 2017 to 14 percent in 2019, and then finally increased recently to 16 percent. The allocation target to private equity has increased, but the maximum deal size discretion delegated to staff has not kept pace.

The top performing funds are in hot demand, and LACERS must compete with other institutional investors for access to these highly sought-after funds. Many are oversubscribed, meaning more investors want to invest in them than there is room available in these funds.

In addition, many of these opportunities move quickly, and highly coveted opportunities become unavailable if additional time is required for prior Board approval.

So the LACERS Board delegates discretion to LACERS' investment staff, working in concert with the Board's external investment consultants, to evaluate, review and then make those investments that add value, always consistent with Board-adopted investment policies.

The new investment limit allows the \$150 million maximum without prior Board approval. That is an increase from \$50 million for first-time investments and \$100 million for follow-on funds. These larger investments maximums are needed both to keep up with the higher allocation targeted to private equity and to effectively compete with other institutional investors for highly-sought-after investment opportunities. ■



1st Annual Tom Stemnock Memorial Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 2, 2022

The 1st Annual Tom Stemnock Memorial Golf Tournament sponsored by the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc., will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2022 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. Free range balls at driving range until 7:15 a.m. • **SOFT SPIKES MANDATORY!**

- The tournament is open to retired and active employees and friends. The cost is \$75 for RLACEI & 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 Monday, May 23, 2022.
- Send check and registration form to Ruth Perry, RLACEI, Terminal Annex, P.O. Box 86264, Los Angeles, CA 90086
- For questions, call or text Ruth Perry at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717 or email: Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org

2022 Golf Tournament Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Amount Included \$ _____ \$75 for RLACEI and Employees Club Members
\$80 for all others
\$25 for luncheon only

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

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







RETIREES UPDATE



Tom Moutes

2 Things to Watch for In the Budget Process

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

Each fiscal year, the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee and City Council consider the mayor's proposed budget for the following fiscal year. By the time you read this article, the mayor will have proposed his budget to the City Council, and the budget hearings will be happening.

While the budget hearings are packed with information, here are two things to watch for in this year's budget process:

The Projections of City Retirement Contributions

Each year, the actuaries for LACERS and the Fire and Police Pensions (LAFPP) are asked to project the City's contributions to the systems for the next five or six years. There are quite a few factors and assumptions that go into these calculations. That said, there are only three sources of funding for the retirement systems: employee contributions, investment returns, and City contributions.

The employee contributions don't vary that much year-to-year. LACERS had a great investment year last fiscal year (29.30 percent gross of fees according to its website) and very strong average returns over the last five and ten years (11.45 and 9.29 percent). These strong investment returns should put downward pressure on the City's annual contribution.

Why this matters: The City's annual contributions to its retirement systems generally have been rising for several years. It would be a welcome relief to the City if the annual pension costs flatten out or decline a bit.

The Projected Budget Deficits for Fiscal Years 2022-23 and Beyond

Most years, the City has run budget deficits. This and last fiscal year, the City has been flush with cash thanks to the federal government. Much of that federal money may go away for next fiscal year, and the City may again be in a deficit situation.

City Controller Ron Galperin has expressed concern over next year's budget due to decreased funds from the federal government, the stabilization (not dramatically increasing) tax revenues, and an expected considerable increase in expenses.

Why this matters:

When the City experiences budget issues, it sometimes tries to get creative in how it would like to fund the pension systems. One hopes that next year's revenues will be looking better by the time the Council reviews the mayor's proposed budget, and this will be a moot point. The good news is that the City has always paid 100 percent of the contribution requested by the LACERS Board.

I hope to have updates next month on these two items to watch for in the City's budget process. ■

RLACEI 2022 Summer Picnic

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

Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022

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

Grace E. Simons Lodge
1025 Elysian Park Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Location may be subject to change.

WIN PRIZES!
WIN PRIZES!
WIN PRIZES!

RSVP to (800) 678-4145 EXT. 701

RSVP no later than July 27, 2022.

RLACEI member plus one (1) guest at no cost.

No additional guests allowed at this time due to attendance limitations and social distancing requirements

We look forward to seeing you!

RLACEI Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Number of Attendees _____

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

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

Follow RLACEI on Facebook



Connect to RLACEI on Facebook, and you'll be eligible to win a \$5 gift card for See's Candies or Starbucks or one RLACEI reusable cloth bag.

Prizes will go to the first 150 to like the RLACEI Facebook page.

YOU COULD WIN!



How to enter

CURRENT RLACEI MEMBERS: Follow us on Facebook

OTHER CITY RETIREES: Join RLACEI and like us on Facebook

April Winners

New RLACEI Members – Welcome!: Cheryl Fleming and Lily Wren

Following RLACEI Facebook Page: Gabriela Pacheco

Referral Winner: Paula Miuro. Thanks for the referral!

Congratulations for joining RLACEI and our Facebook page! Follow RLACEI here: www.facebook.com, and search for "RLACEI"

Looking for a Board Member With Computer Skills

Computer savvy RLACEI Board Director needed! Experience and skills in Webpage maintenance, Facebook management and extensive Microsoft Office proficiency particularly wanted. Other computer skills greatly appreciated.

If you enjoy working with and assisting City retirees, join us.

For more information on this position contact:

Dennis Harding at: (800) 678-4145, ext. 706

Email: Dennis.Harding@RLACEI.org or

Beverly Clark at: Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org

Refer a Friend, Get a \$25 Target Gift Card

Let your fellow City Retiree friends know about the great benefits of being an RLACEI member. Encourage them to call (800) 678-4145, ext. 717, or visit the Website at RLACEI.org, to join today!

- 100 gift cards are available to be won
- Refer a Friend Campaign begins January 1, 2022
- Once they join RLACEI and mention you, the gift card is yours!

What are you waiting for? Refer a friend today!

Become an RLACEI Member

RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. We are over 5,500 strong! Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. enjoy all RLACEI events such as the golf tournament, member picnic and holiday party with FREE membership to the Employees Club with access to all group benefits (insurance, discounts, etc.).

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

2 Execs Appointed

Airports appoints two to top executive level positions.

AIRPORTS: In March, Airports made two new executive appointments. Louis Gutierrez is the new Chief Human Capital and Equity Officer, and Martin Elam is the new Deputy Executive Director, Public Safety and Security.



Louis Gutierrez

Louis Gutierrez is an accomplished executive and attorney who has served in senior human resources, legal and other administrative roles for a diverse group of prominent organizations, including Paramount Pictures, the Walt Disney Company, Time Warner Cable, Turner Broadcasting, the Port of Long Beach, and AltaMed Health Services. In his new role, he will oversee all aspects of Airports Human Capital functions, as well as all Airports diversity, equity and inclusivity programs and initiatives. He previously served as special adviser for employee relations at USC. He has spent more than 20 years leading human capital and organizational effectiveness initiatives, creating organizations with high employee performance and engagement levels. He also has served as an adviser and coach to business leaders across multiple industries. Gutierrez has successfully managed multiple business functions, including employee compensation, employee benefits including retirement plans, human resources information systems, talent acquisition, employee learning and development, performance management, workforce planning including emerging talent pipelines, succession planning, labor relations, human resources legal, and diversity and inclusion. He is a graduate of the UCLA School of Law.



Martin Elam

Martin Elam is an accomplished homeland security executive with more than 20 years of experience leading personnel and operations in highly complex environments. In his new position, he oversees all local, state and federal law-enforcement partnerships, intelligence analysis, threat assessments, the Airports badging office and other critical safety and security initiatives. Elam will work collaboratively with the Chief of Airport Police, with both reporting to the Airports CEO. Prior to joining Airports, Elam was a member of the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Security Executive Service for the last decade, most recently serving as an Executive Director for Domestic Aviation Operations at TSA Headquarters in Virginia, where he provided leadership, direction and support for approximately one third of the nation's airports, including 25 Federal Security Directors. He has provided executive leadership of transportation security operations in major cities including Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston. He previously served with the TSA at LAX as the Deputy Federal Security Director. Elam is a graduate of several executive education programs, including the University of Virginia's Darden Business School, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, Tel Aviv University's Homeland Security Studies Program, and the Federal Executive Institute.

The Club welcomes Louis Gutierrez and Martin Elam to the City. ■

Celebrate With Cheryl!

Popular Club Counselor Cheryl Martin is turning 63 next year and celebrating in Greece. Sign up now to join the fun!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Travel dates: Oct. 13-21, 2022 (nine days)
- Starting price: \$4,069, double occupancy, including air and hotel
- Deposit: \$99 down with monthly payment arrangement, or \$500 down per person at the time of reservation.
- Final payment date: Aug. 4, 2022
- Important notes: Travelers must have their passport information at time of booking. First-come, first-served basis. Seats are limited.

Mykonos ... Santorini ... and mainland Greece! Head with Cheryl Martin for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Aegean in October 2022.

"Celebrate my 63rd with me in Greece!"

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To register and for more information, go to: www.grouptoursite.com/cherylmartin
Reservation tour number 70295428



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Shaving the Day

St. Baldrick's fundraiser is back at a new location.

LAPD/LAFD: The St. Baldrick's head-shave event – a fundraiser managed by members of the LAPD and LAFD – is back to being held live and in person this year. The annual fundraiser went virtual last year due to the pandemic.

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

Three virtual head-shave party has been scheduled for 8 a.m. – noon May 21 at a new location



Ashley Porter with Geo Mejia, Firefighter 103A.

2022 LAFD AND LAPD St. Baldrick's FOUNDATION

Shaving Our Heads to Conquer Childhood Cancer!

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.

To register as a Shavee or donator please visit: WWW.STBALDRICKS.ORG/EVENTS/LAFDLAPD

SATURDAY, MAY 21ST – 8:00AM TO 12:00PM

NEW LOCATION !!!
THE VINEYARDS AT PORTER RANCH
20065 W. RINALDI ST. PORTER RANCH #1326

Free Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
Blood Drive & Bone Marrow Registration
Facepaint/Caricature Artists & Magicians
Fire & Police Vehicles on Display to Explore
Free Kid's Toys, Live Music, DJ, VIP's & More...

THE VINEYARDS AT PORTER RANCH

SHEPHERD CHURCH

Dignity Health

JOHN LEE

KENK USA

THE MATCH

FirefightersFirst

– The Vineyards at Porter Ranch, 20065 Rinaldi St. The event includes a free breakfast, face-painting and rides for the family, live music, and more.

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

Local organizers say they have raised more than \$1 million over the previous 18 years. The local event is part of the nationwide St. Baldrick's Foundation. The Club has been an official sponsor annually.

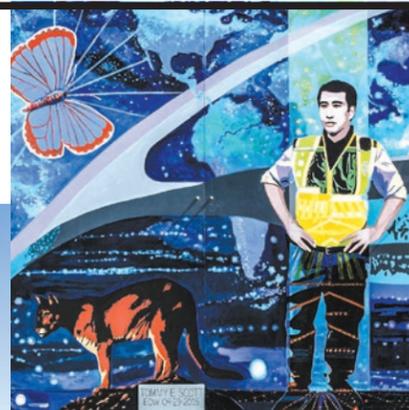
For further information on local interest, please contact LAPD Det. Nick Sinclair: 35147@lapd.online.



‘Into the Blue,’ on the Wall

Departments install mural on new Airport Police HQ.

Photos courtesy SKA Studios, LLC



Into the Blue, installed on the exterior of the new Airport Police headquarters building in Westchester. Detail above.



CULTURAL AFFAIRS/AIRPORTS: Cultural Affairs and Airports have completed the installation of a mural to adorn the new Airport Police headquarters in Westchester March 21.

In our January cover story on the new headquarters, we told you the mural was coming. It is now in place.

The mural reflects the history and significance of the surrounding community.

The mural, *Into the Blue* by Los Angeles artist Francisco Letelier in collaboration with Marybeth Fama, is featured at the front entrance of the Airport Police Facility, located on the northeast corner of Westchester Parkway and Loyola Boulevard. The art is composed of acrylic paint on aluminum composite panels and spans 105-feet wide by 10-feet high along a prominent exterior wall. Including a variety of flora, fauna and figures, the piece utilizes rich symbolism to highlight the history of the community and the Airport Police Department’s commitment to serving the public.

The mural, which blends imagery from the past and present, allows viewers to travel a visual narrative of the history of the airport and the land around it. The imagery can be categorized into three thematic groups: community, culture and place.

Community

Featuring a brilliant color palette, *Into the Blue* celebrates the neighboring community of Westchester, which is part of the Ballona Creek ecosystem. The indigenous Kizh-Gabrieleño people, who are depicted in the mural, lived along the Ballona Creek. Their characteristics as travelers and explorers are symbolic of the people who arrive and depart from LAX today. The depiction of a vaquero, or Mexican cowboy, is meant to represent the Machado family, who established the neighborhood’s early boundaries as Rancho La Ballona.

At the far-right end of the mural, a mountain lion is poised on a cliff. The large cat echoes the bronze lion sculptures at the National Law Enforcement Officers

Memorial in Washington, D.C. and symbolizes the protective role of police officers. Beneath the mountain lion appears the name of LAX Airport Police Officer Tommy Scott, who was killed while on duty at the airport in 2005. These elements emphasize deep connections within the law enforcement community and pay tribute to a fallen officer.

Culture

Historical and contemporary travelers are presented on the mural, illustrating how the region has long been a gateway for people of different cultures and backgrounds. Figures carry maps of the local area and flags of other nations. Other figures convey universal symbols for peace, justice and inclusion. The foreground of the mural depicts

emotional departures and reunions of passengers, while the image of a young Mayan girl represents the immigrants who continue to shape the identity of the City.

Place

The artist references the environmentally protected sand dunes located on the west side of the airport with imagery of a Great Blue Heron and pelican birds. Throughout the mural, colorful butterflies span the composition, calling attention to the endangered El Segundo Blue Butterfly found in the neighboring dunes, as well as the Palos Verdes Blue, another local endangered butterfly species. The butterflies seek food and shelter in the Coast Buckwheat, which is also depicted in the mural. ■

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Chilean-American artist, **Francisco Letelier**, is known internationally for his public works. His soaring sun and moon murals at the Westlake/MacArthur Park Metro Station celebrate the diversity of Los Angeles. The artist weaves history with contemporary experiences while building dialogues between nations, individuals and communities. **Marybeth Fama** is the daughter of a creative Italian immigrant family. Born in Boston and raised in Chicago, she has lived in Los Angeles for more than 30 years. Known for her commanding skill in human portraiture and landscape, Fama uses insights into history, geography and culture to create thought provoking experiences.



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Photos courtesy StreetsLA

A Marathon of a Cleanup

StreetsLA gets to after the LA Marathon.

PUBLIC WORKS :

The end of the marathon meant the beginning for the Public Works/Street Services cleanup team. Within hours, they had tidied up to the pre-race tidy condition.

The race was run March 20.

Thanks to the men and women of StreetsLA, who make world-class events like the LA Marathon possible!



The StreetsLA team moves in and tidies up along the LA Marathon route March 20.





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