



# Alive!

**ITA**

# On the Rise

On the ground and high above LA, ITA's growing **Microwave Service** unit maintains and repairs the City's critical communications network.

- SEE PAGE 8



High above San Pedro City Hall are Microwave Radio Group Communications Electricians (clockwise from top left) David DiLullo, Supervisor; Johnny Gomez; JonPaul Palacio; and Michaelangelo Garcia. All are Club Members.

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Alive! photo by Summy Lam



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## JOHN'S BLOG

by John Hawkins,  
President and CEO,  
The Club

# Connecting Ground and Sky

I can tell by seeing your jaw on the floor that you've already checked out this month's cover photo of the ITA Microwave crew. It's a stunner! (It was taken by our outstanding photographer, **Summy Lam**, who's also our Director of Marketing, and finished by *Alive!* designer **David Jamgotchian**.)

What they do is critically important to the function and safety of our City of Los Angeles.

ITA's Microwave Service Group maintains, fixes and restores the incredibly important City communications infrastructure, but especially the microwave system that sends City radio signals over long distances before bringing those signals back to the ground, and then out to the City two-way radios. The City departments that rely on their service include the LAPD, LAFD, Emergency Services, Harbor, Animal Services, and on and on. When a Police Officer in the Port can talk on his or her radio to an LAFD Firefighter at Hansen Dam, that's because of the system that's kept in tip-top shape by this crew.



JonPaul Palacio

They climb tall towers; solder tiny wires in their Piper Tech shop; design systems to triangulate signals to set up emergency communications; and on and on, to keep you safe.

We can thank Club Members **Johnnie Gomez** and **Michael Garcia**, ITA Communications Electricians and Tower Climbers, for letting us know about their crew. They came to the Club Store about a year ago and told our **Tiffany Sy**, In-House Club Counselor, about what they do. She relayed the info to our editor, who eventually got the okay from ITA Microwave Supervisor and Club Member **David DiLullo**, and we were on our way. (So let us know about what cool stuff you're doing in the City!)

I'm glad we could bring you this dramatic story to kick off the New Year.

And a quick word about ITA Communications Electrician and Tower Climber **JonPaul Palacio**, Club Member – while the team was doing regular maintenance on the tower above City Hall in San



From left: Club CEO John Hawkins and Microwave Group Supervisor David DiLullo, Club Member.

Pedro, he volunteered to climb higher than the others and photograph them for us. Thanks, JP!

Moving on ... have you heard about our upcoming Pre-Retirement Expo that we're producing with the RLACEI? Save that date! ... And as we begin our second year of producing an *Alive!* in print and online (make sure to visit us there for lots of great stuff), let us know how we're doing, what you're enjoying, and what we could do better. Submit those coloring contest artworks, those Picture Perfects and travel photos, and so forth. Don't forget the Valentines, one of my favorite features of the year!

I wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year, and I'll see you again soon here in print, and online.

*—JOHN*

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Atop San Pedro City Hall are Microwave Radio Group Communications Electricians (from left) Jon Paul Palacio; Michaelangelo Garcia; David DiLullo, Supervisor; Johnnie Gomez; and Eric Milholland. All are Club Members.

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*Valentines*  
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A fun-filled private event exclusively for members to enjoy with friends, families, and other club members.  
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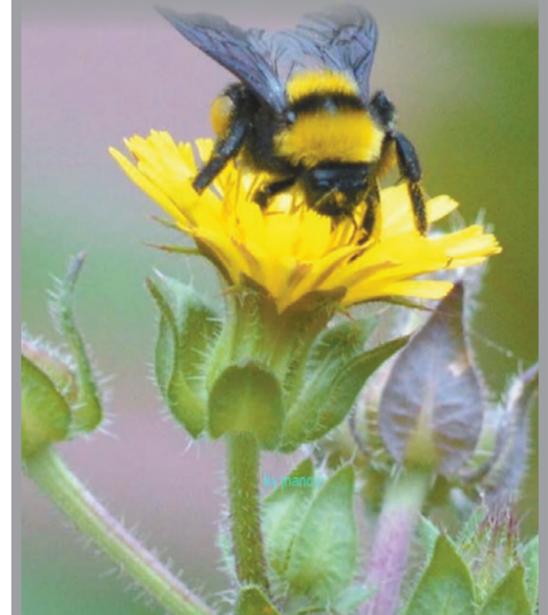
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## JOHN'S Picture Perfect

See the best entries from 2019.



## Whales!

Cabrillo Aquarium's annual Whale Fiesta set for Jan. 26.



## Airport Police

Cecil Rhambo named new Chief of Airport Police.





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



**Rosa Calderon**  
Personal Insurance Agent

**Jan. 9:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



**Lulu Cruz**  
Personal Insurance Agent

**Jan. 23:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Member Services Counselor  
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### At the Club Store



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

### Jan. 2020 • Volume 19 – No. 1

*Alive!* is the official publication of the

#### Employees Club of California

120 West 2nd Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

TELEPHONE: (800) 464-0452

CONTACT US: admin@aliveemployeesclub.com

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

**ALIVE! EDITORIAL OFFICES:** 311 Spring Street, Suite 1300, Los Angeles CA, 90013 • (800) 464-0452

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

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

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

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# Alive! AROUND THE WORLD



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Capt. Michael Barnes

## Dubrovnik, Croatia

Intrepid and colorful traveler Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor, writes from Dubrovnik.

### Dubrovnik: 'The Pearl of the Adriatic'

This beautiful medieval walled city is a pleasure to explore, especially when the cruise ship season is over and the city is free of the daily thousands of passengers crowding its narrow streets.

There are two entrances to Old Town Dubrovnik: Pile gate and Ploce gate. The Pile gate and its steps take you into the city via the lovely highly polished limestone central Placa (Stradun) walkway.

If you look closely on either side of the walkway you will see a slight indentation in the surface to carry away the rainwater. Local folklore says that if you deliberately walk in this gutter you will never get married.

Just inside the gateway to the right is the large Onofrio's Fountain, built to supply the city with fresh drinking water. On the left is the 1317 Franciscan Church and Monastery complex, which consists of a monastery, church, library, pharmacy and museum. To the left of the church entrance steps you will see, just above the ground, a small stone owl head worn very smooth along its outboard side. Again, local folklore has it that if you can stand on this stone owl head and remove your shirt without falling off, you will be lucky in love!

As you walk its narrow limestone streets and pass its baroque buildings, mighty walls and stone towers, it is easy to see why Dubrovnik is a popular location for so many historical films. The Minceta dominates the entire fortification system, while the Bakar fortress gives splendid views of Pile Gate, the old harbor and Lovrijenic Island.

If you are a Game of Thrones fan, you may already have seen come of these landmarks: Kings Landing, Red Keep, and Iron Throne, to name but a few, that were filmed here.

Our apartment was high up overlooking Gundulic Square and the Jesuit stairs, made famous as the ones used in Cersei's Walk of Shame in Game of Thrones. This has now become a big embarrassment for the Jesuit community at the top of the stairs, as many hardcore Game of Thrones fans try to reenact the Walk of Shame, often beating loud gongs.

— CONTINUED ON WEB *ALIVE!* [alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)



## The Middle East

Alfredo Fajardo, Library, recently visited Egypt and the Holy Land.



"Petra, Jordan is half-built, half-carved into the rock, and is surrounded by mountains riddled with passages and gorges. It is one of the world's most famous archaeological sites, where ancient Eastern traditions blend with Hellenistic architecture."

"A Sphinx is a mythological creature with the body of a lion and the head of a person. The Egyptians built sphinx statues to guard important areas such as tombs and temples." (Egypt.)

"We enjoyed a camel ride at Giza Pyramids through the desert during the sunset." (Egypt.)

For more pictures and story,  
[alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)

## Galway, Ireland

Here's *Alive!* editor John Burnes at the Christmas market in Eyre Square in Galway, Ireland in December.



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# Larios in the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Operating Officer

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



**Nancy Cammarata**  
LAPD, Retired after 32 years of City service.



**Christy Sherrod**  
DWP, Retired after 36 years of City service.



**Sonia R. Robinson**  
Rec and Parks, Retired after 35 years of City service.

## Congratulations!

Larios in the City is also available on the *Alive!* website for viewing and sharing:

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## THE CLUB/RLACEI

# Save the date!

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Friendship Auditorium  
near Griffith Park

## Plan Your Retirement – the Right Way

**Club, Retirees Association plan an innovative expo for pre-retirees. Coming in March!**

If you're starting to think about retiring from the City of Los Angeles, or well along the way, the Club and the RLACEI (Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.) have scheduled the first of its kind – an innovative expo focusing not just on forms and schedules, but **how** to retire. It's all about living a fulfilling life in your retirement.

The expo will feature presentations by life experts and retirement advisers. Topics will include retirement strategies and asset protection. Come with your questions; our experts will answer them. Club vendors will be on site, offering discounted products and services.

The day will also include free lunch and parking. Admission is free.

**Stay tuned for more information!**

See  
Page 13  
for details

## PUBLIC WORKS



# Hundreds of Toys

**West Valley Sanitation collects more than 300 toys for children in need, a 50 percent increase.**

West Valley Sanitation culminated its hugely successful 2019 toy drive with a crew lunch and holiday party Dec. 11.

The drive, featured on the December 2016 cover of *Alive!*, collected an estimated 300

toys. That's 50 percent more than the yard collected last year.

"That's approximately 300 kids or more who will get something for Christmas," explained Brian Sibert, Refuse Collection Truck Operator II, who spearheads the annual drive. "Thanks to all Club Members who contributed."

As in previous years, the toys were donated to the Guadalupe Center, a Catholic Charities operation in the West Valley, which adds hot meals to the package when delivering the goods to the needy.

The Club donated raffle prizes to the West Valley holiday luncheon.



Just some of the haul of toys collected and given to needy area children.



The West Valley crew's holiday luncheon.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Story and photos courtesy Pamela Perez, Sanitation

# Thanks, Employees!

Sanitation honors its best and brightest.

On Dec. 3, Public Works/Sanitation held its annual employee recognition and appreciation event, honoring 25 employees for their excellent work.

The event, hosted by Director and General Manager Enrique Zaldivar, was held at Sanitation's atrium downtown.

Each division nominated two employees they felt were deserving. Here's the list of those honored:

EMPLOYEE	TITLE	DIVISION
James Mauldin	Environmental Specialist II	SRCRD
Mariellah De La Rosa	Environmental Compliance Inspector	SRCFD
Jasmine Peña	Administrative Clerk	CCD
Bernadette Halverson*	Sr. Environmental Engineer	Support Svcs.
Jose Lozano	Video Technician II	Exec. Office
Leon Ho	Management Assistant	LSD
Lou Glover	Acting Crew Instructor	SRVCD
Mark Delgado*	Maintenance Laborer	SRPCD
Manuel Rodriguez	Refuse Collection Truck Operator	SRSCD
Jackie Alexander	Payroll Supervisor II	Admin.
Quyen Doan	Sr. Management Analyst II	FMD
Michelle Barton*	Environmental Specialist	RAD
Lupe Gonzalez	Emergency Management Coordinator I	ISCD
Minh Nguyen	Environmental Compliance Inspector	IWD
Rea Crinklaw	Water Biologist III	EMD
Samra Varesanovic	Systems Programmer II	ICSD
Cesar Najarro*	Wastewater Collection Worker II	CWNCD
Ammar Ettawil	Civil Engineering Associate IV	WPD
Regidia Voong	Environmental Engineer	WESD
Charles David*	Instrument Mechanic	CWSCD
Albina Sviric	Electrical Engineering Associate II	WRID
Mitzi Minamide*	Environmental Engineering Associate II	WRID
Miguel Medina	Wastewater Treatment Operator I	DCT
Paul Wautlet	Wastewater Treatment Operator III	LAG
Nabor Espino	Mechanical Helper	TIWRP

\*photo not available for this story

Congratulations to those honored, and to all Sanitation employees!



**REC & PARKS**

# Learn About Wet Plate Photography

**Banning Residence Museum to host historical lecture on vintage technique.**

**ALCHEMY AND ART:  
An Exploration  
Into Wet Plate  
Photography**

**Jan. 11, 2020**

**Banning Museum Residence**

Friends of Banning Museum invites the community attend its next "Keeping History Alive" lecture at the Banning Museum, 401 East "M" St. in Wilmington.

The lecture and demonstration by hobbyist Matthew Schnittker, "Alchemy and Art," is set for 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, in the museum's historic stagecoach barn.

Mr. Schnittker will talk about his journey of learning the wet plate process as well as give a live demonstration of the process from a technical perspective. There will be a question and answer period after the lecture and demonstration.

**Admission to the event is free for Friends of Banning Museum members and children under 12. Non-members pay \$5. For more details about this event or to RSVP, please contact Friends of Banning Museum at (310) 548-2005. Information on the Museum can also be found at [www.thebanningmuseum.org](http://www.thebanningmuseum.org).**



The Banning Museum, a Rec and Parks facility, is operated in cooperation with Friends of Banning Museum, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to "Preserve History, Promote Education, and Inspire Entrepreneurial Spirit."



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# CLUBFEST!

A MEMBER EXCLUSIVE EVENT

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FROM 10 AM TO 2 PM

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**COUNCIL**

## Hollywood on Parade

88th Hollywood Christmas Parade rumbles down the boulevard with City Council sponsorship.

TV host Mario Lopez was the grand marshal of this year's Hollywood Christmas Parade, held Sunday, Dec. 1 in Hollywood. The parade was also scheduled to be aired on the CW Network Dec. 13.

The annual parade is presented in association with the City. This year's parade included a long list of performers from TV and popular music. More than 100 celebrities from film, television and stage and other VIPs were seen in the parade. More than a dozen award-winning bands from around the country were featured. The parade encouraged viewers to give back to the community via the Marine's Toys for Tots program.

Photos courtesy Hollywood Christmas Parade.



Mayor Eric Garcetti.



Councilman Mitch O'Farrell.



Councilman David Ryu and family members.



Grand marshal Mario Lopez and family

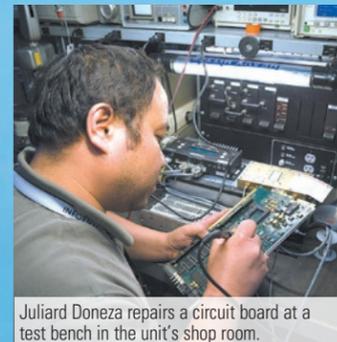
Photos by the Club's Summy Lam and John Burnes, and JonPaul Palacio, Michaelangelo Garcia and Johnnie Gomez of ITA's Microwave Service Unit.

**ITA** *Alive! Feature*

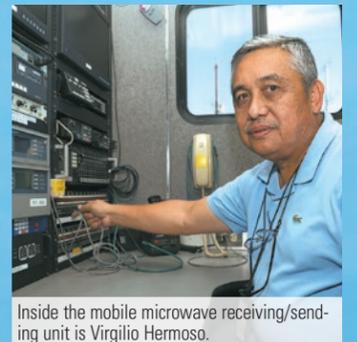
# On the

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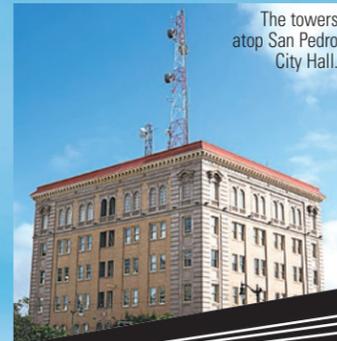
High above San Pedro City Hall are Microwave Radio Group Communications Electricians (clockwise from top left) David DiLullo, Supervisor; Johnny Gomez; JonPaul Palacio; and Michaelangelo Garcia. All are Club Members.



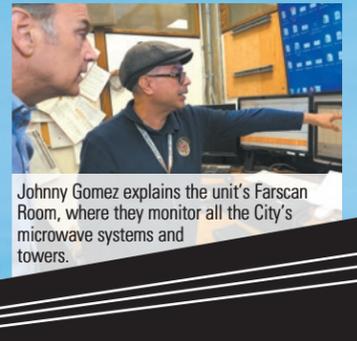
Juliard Doneza repairs a circuit board at a test bench in the unit's shop room.



Inside the mobile microwave receiving/sending unit is Virgilio Hermoso.



The towers atop San Pedro City Hall.



Johnny Gomez explains the unit's Farscan Room, where they monitor all the City's microwave systems and towers.

On October 24, Club CEO John Hawkins and *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed nearly ITA's entire Microwave Radio Group, which is part of ITA's Field Services unit. Included in this big *Alive!* interview were:

- **Rito Cisneros**, Sr. Communications Electrician Supervisor, 33 years of City service, Club Member;
- **David DiLullo**, Communications Electrician and Supervisor of the Microwave Radio Group, 33 years, Club Member;
- **Daniel Cabrera**, Engineer Associate;
- **Eric Milholland**, Communications Electrician, 1 year, Club Member;
- **Michaelangelo Garcia**, Communications Electrician, 2 years, Club Member;
- **JonPaul Palacio**, Communications Electrician, 1 year, Club Member;
- **Virgilio Hermoso**, Sr. Communications Electrician, 18 years, Club Member;
- **Juliard Doneza**, Communications Electrician, 3 years, Club Member; and
- **Johnnie Gomez**, Communications Electrician, 19 years, Club Member.

The interview took place in the team's headquarters space in Piper Tech downtown.



Atop San Pedro City Hall are Microwave Radio Group Communications Electricians (from left) JonPaul Palacio; Michaelangelo Garcia; David DiLullo, Supervisor; Johnnie Gomez; and Eric Milholland. All are Club Members.

**More story and pics on Web *Alive!***  
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# Rise

City crews can be found just about everywhere from on the streets, in helicopters, in sewers, in offices high and low, in animal enclosures, and on an on.

But for this crew, you need to look ... up.

The City's Information Technology Agency has a Microwave Service Unit tasked with maintaining and repairing much of the City's critically important long-distance communication system (the DWP maintains its own network). The system is a vast network of high towers with microwave dishes bouncing and relaying signals from City Hall to Sylmar, and from San Fernando to San Pedro, and then bringing those signals closer to the ground for hand-held radio connections. A lot of the crew's work goes on in labs in Piper Tech building or repairing circuits, or in mobile command centers wherever there are big crowds or events to manage.

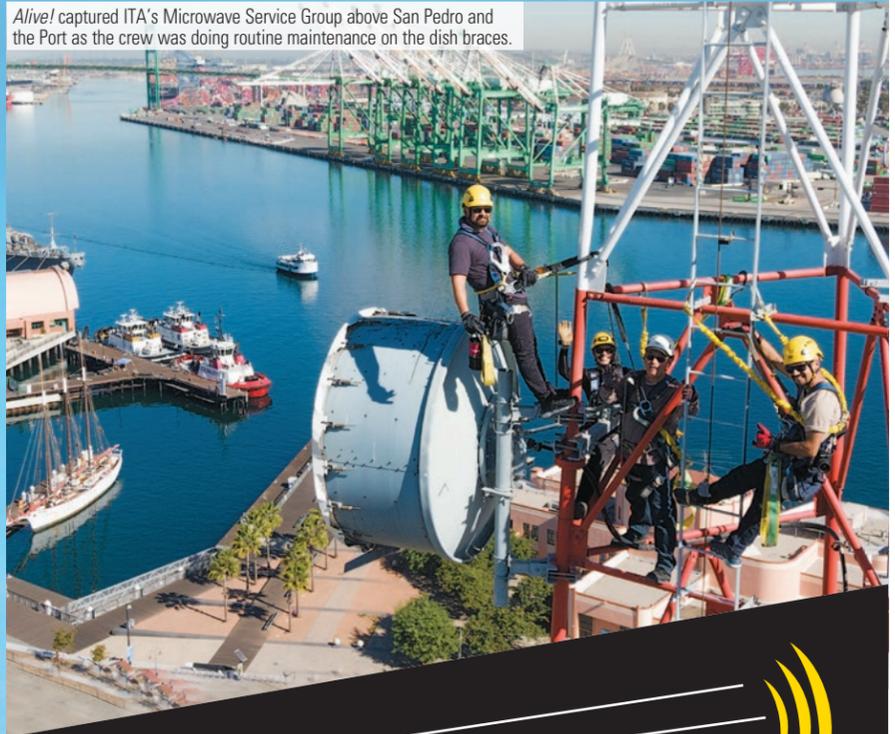
But to find their most dramatic regular work, you'll have to look way up. Like 350 feet in the air, climbing high on one of the City's more than 30 microwave towers. The most well recognized microwave towers are atop City Hall, above the Hollywood sign on Mt. Lee, and in San Pedro.

The small band forms the City's primary certified tower climbers. They get to see the City from a vantage that almost no one else gets to see.

The ITA microwave service section under David DiLullo performs various services that install and maintain the microwave links that connect public safety and City department communications. Microwave is used to transport data point-to-point using the

circular, shrouded microwave antennas at the top of the tower. The section handles all things microwave, including responding to critical outages, performing regular preventative maintenance and handling assigned projects across 34-plus sites. The equipment at these sites requires high climbing and dangerous work around high electrical voltage.

**In this month's feature, learn about what they do, whether they get scared up there, and just how important their task is.**



*Alive!* captured ITA's Microwave Service Group above San Pedro and the Port as the crew was doing routine maintenance on the dish braces.



## The *Alive!* Interview

# Sky-High Service

**Wow, this is great having so many of you in the interview. This might be our biggest *Alive!* interview yet! Before we begin, we have Johnnie Gomez and Michaelangelo Garcia to thank. You two walked into the Club Store downtown and talked to Tiffany Sy, our Club Counselor there, and you told her that this unit would be good to feature in *Alive!* So thank you for that.**

**Now, who here are certified to be tower climbers?**

**Rito Cisneros:** Our tower climbers are



In front of one of the Microwave Radio Group's mobile microwave receiving/sending units parked at Piper Tech are (front row, from left) Eric Milholland, Johnnie Gomez, Virgilio Hermoso and Juliard Doneza. Back: JonPaul Palacio, Michaelangelo Garcia and David DiLullo.

David DiLullo, Eric Milholland, Michael Garcia, J.P. Palacio and Johnnie Gomez.

**Talk about the structure of the microwave unit. What are your responsibilities?**

**David DiLullo:** We handle all of the microwave communication within the City boundaries – Police, Fire and any agency within the City.

**Not just Fire and Police?**

**Virgilio Hermoso:** All parts of the City communication.

**Johnnie Gomez:** Sanitation, too.

**Rec and Parks?**

**Johnnie Gomez:** Rec and Parks. The Park Rangers. The Zoo. Animal Services.

**David DiLullo:** Transportation. Anything under the City umbrella.

**Juliard Doneza:** The lifeguards too.

**Virgilio Hermoso:** Right. At Rec and Parks.



In the Microwave Radio Group's repair and maintenance shop room in Piper Tech are (front row, from left) Juliard Doneza, Communications Electrician, 3 years of City service; Johnny Gomez, Communications Electrician, 19 years; Virgilio Hermoso, Sr. Communications Electrician, 18 years; and JonPaul Palacio, Communications Electrician, 1 year. Back: Rito Cisneros, Sr. Communications Electrician, 33 years; Michaelangelo Garcia, Communications Electrician, 2 years; David DiLullo, Communications Electrician and Supervisor, 33 years; and Eric Milholland, Communications Electrician, 1 year. Not pictured: Ted Cheang, Communications Electrician. All are Club Members.

Daniel Cabrera, Engineer Associate.

**By maintain, you mean climb the towers to get at the equipment at all the City's microwave towers, and fix, repair and upgrade here on the ground, too.**

**David DiLullo:** Right. Within my group, we maintain the LAFD voice radio system and the Fire MDT [mobile data terminal] system Citywide. We had only two climbers in the past, now we have five in the group. We needed more people to go up to work on a tower. If there is a problem with the microwave equipment, we have to be able to climb and repair or replace that equipment, or make adjustments to it. Our group here is broken up into Police and the Fire specialists because of the workload.

**Oh, right.**

**David DiLullo:** The systems are so large and complex that they're specialized. If there's a problem with the Fire channels, then we'll have the Fire guys take care of it. If there's a Police microwave problem, then the Police guys will take care of it.

**Got it. How many towers do you have? How many towers are you responsible for?**

**David DiLullo:** All of them!

[Laughter in the room.]

**Daniel Cabrera:** We have about 30.

**David DiLullo:** We have mobile microwave.

**For movable command**

**centers, things like that.**

**Daniel Cabrera:** Yes. That's way in the future. Way in the future.

**David DiLullo:** We have three mobile micro-

wave vehicles and two portable hops that we can set up.

**Michaelangelo Garcia:** In the current *Alive!*, you feature LAPD's Air Support. Their sky video footage from the helicopters to the ground goes through our system as well.

**What's the height of your towers? What's the tallest one you maintain?**

**David DiLullo:** Probably Mount Lee. What is it?

**Daniel Cabrera:** There's a certain threshold we can't go above.

**Michaelangelo Garcia:** Mt. Lee is 360 feet, including the manifold at the top.

**That's where the beacon light is?**

**JonPaul Palacio:** The beacon and the receive antennae.

**How many of you have climbed to the top of the Mt. Lee tower?**

**JonPaul Palacio:** Just Johnnie, in this group.

**You have, Johnnie?**

**Johnnie Gomez:** Yes.

**Is that something that all of you will eventually do? Or is it just left for someone who thrives on it?**

**Michaelangelo Garcia:** I want to do it just to do it, too. To say I conquered it.

**David DiLullo:** We don't climb just for climbing. We climb for a purpose.

**Michaelangelo Garcia:** Right, of course.

**David DiLullo:** The light bulbs are changed annually and they contract that out, so that's why only one person in this group has climbed to the top on that tower.

**Johnnie Gomez:** We actually had a job one time at the top. David and I had to replace a down converter.

**Continued on Web *Alive!***  
Go to: [alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)



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

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

Tom Moutes, Director, Ext. 708

Phil Orland, Health Director, Ext. 709

Ruth B. Perry,  
Membership Director, Ext. 717

Neil Ricci,  
Nominations Director, Ext. 714

### 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](mailto: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



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

## 2020 RETIREE EVENTS

RLACEI event dates for 2020 coming soon!

### RESERVATION LINE:

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

## Success in 2019 Builds Toward a Great New Year

By Ruth B. Perry President, Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

Happy New Year! It is with an enthusiastic outlook that I begin my second year as RLACEI President in the good company of my fellow directors. It is my honor to be entrusted to serve in this capacity. Let's pause a moment to remember former directors Garry Mattingly and Tom Stemnock, who both passed away this year. Their contributions will not be soon forgotten. We hope to carry on in their memory by continuing to serve all RLACEI members to the best of our abilities.



Ruth Perry

Directors assuming offices on January 1 are Ruth B. Perry, President; Beverly J. Clark, First Vice President; Phil Orland, Second Vice President; Hal Danowitz, Secretary/Treasurer; along with all continuing RLACEI Directors: Cliff Cannon, Edward Harding, Dennis Harding, Michael Karsch, and newly appointed Tom Moutes. Neil Ricci will be departing our Board in the next few months and we would like to take a moment to thank him for his many years of devoted service to RLACEI. He currently stands as the longest serving member of our Board. His directorship vacancy will be opened for application. If you are interested in joining the RLACEI team, please contact Beverly Clark, Publicity Director at (800) 678-4145 ext. 716 for additional information.

All RLACEI Directors make every effort to make themselves avail-

able to our members. We ask that you join us at sponsored RLACEI and LACERS events to inform us of your thoughts, suggestions, and otherwise, regarding your pension benefits and interests. Visit our Website at [RLACEI.org](http://RLACEI.org). Contact us at (800) 678-4145. Help us develop a forward-thinking vision and allow us to communicate your concerns to and engage our politicians and City administration in the preservation of our benefits. If you haven't done so already, join RLACEI. With your membership and support we continue to advocate on all retirees' behalf to protect our retirement fund.

I would like to close out by thanking everyone who attended the 2019 RLACEI golf tournament, summer picnic and holiday party. The turnouts this year were fantastic, and we hope to increase those numbers in the future. I was glad of the opportunity to personally thank those in attendance for their continued membership. We also thank John Hawkins, Robert Larios and all the staff of the Employees Club. Your support, generosity, and partnership mean the world to us. Let's continue our mutual goal of maintaining the welfare of our members and their dependents. Here's to a bright 2020!

## Meet Your Board: A look at RLACEI Board Members

Submitted by Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director

### Tom Moutes RLACEI Board Member Welcome Tom!

The RLACEI Board nominated and voted in Tom Moutes as a newly elected Board member. Tom's term will begin Jan. 1.

Tom grew up in the San Fernando Valley and is a Los Angeles native. He and his wife, Trina, have three children, all of whom are involved in sports and music. He and Trina were married at one of the most magical places on earth, Walt Disney World. Trina is also employed with the City of Los Angeles. Tom's amazing achievement is that he started his City career as a Messenger Clerk at North Hollywood Regional and retired as a General Manager.

Tom retired from the City in 2018 as the General Manager of LACERS. He previously held positions as Assistant General Manager and Chief Management Analyst.



Tom Moutes

During his 35-year career with the City, Tom has worked at several departments including City Clerk, LAPD, ITA, Personnel and Library.

Tom is a graduate of Cal State Northridge with a Master's degree in public administration and a Bachelor's degree in business and organizational systems management.

He serves as the Vice Chairperson of the City of Los Angeles Board of Deferred Compensation Administration and as a member of its Investment and Administrative Committees. He also serves on the Executive Board of the Fathers' Club at his daughters' school.

The Board looks forward to having Tom serve as we continue to support the Los Angeles City retirement community. ■

## 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 soon will 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 Membership Director Ruth Perry at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717, should you have any questions.**

## Board Has Vacancy, Seeks New Director

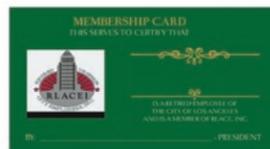
The RLACEI Board of Directors is looking for members to serve on the Board. The Board ensures that our retirement benefits are protected.

### Qualifications:

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

Please email Beverly Clark at [Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org](mailto:Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org) or leave a message at (800) 678-4145, ext. 716.

## Are you an RLACEI Member?



Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. are invited to attend all RLACEI events, such as the annual member picnic and holiday party.

Check your pension statement for the "Retired LACEI" \$3 monthly deduction. If it's there, you are an RLACEI member!

If not a member, call (800) 678-4145 x717 or visit our website at [RLACEI.ORG](http://RLACEI.ORG) and join today! Don't miss out on RLACEI events!

## Actuary Reports Funding Level Increase

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

LACERS' actuary, Segal Consulting, reported to the LACERS Board that the funding level has increased for both the retirement and the health plan. LACERS reports the funding separately for the health plan and the retirement plan.



Michael R. Wilkinson

The funded ratio for the retirement plan increased from 70.1 percent to 71.3 percent, and for retiree health benefits, the funded ratio increased from 80.7 percent to 84.4 percent. This ratio compares the actuarial value of LACERS assets to its actuarial value of its liabilities.

The funded ratio is used for many purposes, including setting the contribution rate of payroll for the City to pay its share of the pension. The pension promise is paid by employee contributions by the active members, investment returns and City contributions. The City contribution rate (percentage of payroll) went down from 24.75 percent to 24.63 percent for the retirement fund and from 4.91 percent to 4.49 percent for the health fund. These are the combined rates

for Tier 1 and Tier 3.

The City is legally obligated to pay the total cost of employee contribution and has always paid 100 percent of the required contribution. However, when you look around the country to see some of the public retirement plans that are in dire financial straits, there is one

problem that repeats – a failure of the employer to pay the required contribution.

The pension plans for two of the worst funded states – Illinois, 38 percent funded, and New Jersey, 36 percent funded – had other problems as well, but both regularly failed to make full required contributions. This lack of needed contributions led to a devastating underfunding of the plans. The City has always paid its full obligation on time when it was due. Proper funding from the employer is critical so that the funds will be there to run the plan and to make investments, since the investment returns make up the largest share of plan assets. ■

## Increased Taxes Might Have To Pay for Future Pensions



Michael Karsch

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

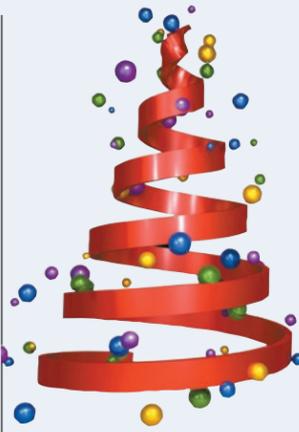
Marketwatch.com had a cute title in late November: "Why Millennials should care about government pensions – even if they don't have one." Most younger adults in the millennial cohort don't think about retirement or pensions, at least not for awhile. Any fiscal problems will hopefully be worked out by the time they retire. Then the article plunges into the dismal dollars that are not available

to back up promised pensions. Across the country, state and local government pensions are 73 percent funded. More funding must be invested in the pensions, and that new funding will come from taxes. Increases in taxes will affect this cohort indirectly by making their cost of living increasingly costly. Public debt will be paid off by increased taxes, but this could mean cuts in public services, no new hiring of public employees, whether as police, firefighters, healthcare, etc. Marketwatch says, "This is not a red or blue state issue." The writer for Marketwatch cites the states of Kentucky and New Jersey. Kentucky is near the bottom of states for worst-funded pensions (they have 16 cents of each dollar owed to fully fund their pension system). New Jersey is \$48 billion short of fully funding its public pensions.

Illinois continues to have similar fiscal stress in its pension systems (there are 5 groups: suburban/downstate teachers, state employees, university employees, judges and the General Assembly). The debt is estimated at \$133.5 billion; the funded ratio is 40.2 percent, and the reform of the systems to solvency by 2045 when it should be 90 percent funded. This reform however, is not accounting for the decrease in future employee buy-in to the pension system since those future employees will be receiving less take-home pay and possibly other benefit reductions.

Connecticut joins New Jersey and Illinois as the top three most indebted states. It's funded at 38 percent of the expected demands of its pension promises. Their total liabilities work out to \$21.2 billion. In all of these three states, the problem is not financial crises. They have always been poorly funded, according to Forbes.com. Officials reportedly claim that the system is "functionally pay-as-you-go." While this sounds depressing, there is some truth in this, and it is not totally wrong. Municipal and state governments hardly ever go broke and into bankruptcy. They are able to meet the demands each year for their pension systems. A smoothing of financial risk for 15 or 20 years can restore some financial responsibility. With a strong economy, some financial assurance seems to continue with public pension funds. Detroit and several California cities have experienced bankruptcy, but most of the pensions in those cities survive, but at a lower rate. Bankruptcy in the private sector can lead to major layoffs and litigation over the pension funds. The multi-employer pensions in select industries like coal and trucking are seeking federal bailouts. FedEx has just announced closing its pension plan to new hires.

The *Press Democrat* of Santa Rosa recommends a "fair solution...locking into place benefits already earned while establishing a lower level of benefits going forward. This could be produced through collective bargaining but there's a big obstacle: the California Rule." The State Supreme Court earlier this year struck down add-ons to pensions such as Air Time purchases, but did not suggest changing the California Rule. Another appeal in this area will come again to that court in the near future. ■



## RLACEI Holiday Party

Photos by Robert Larios, Club COO

### PART 1

This year's annual RLACEI holiday party enjoyed great friendships renewed, good food, big attendance prizes – and tons more people! The attendance more than doubled this year, to 230 from 120 last year, according to RLACEI President Ruth Perry.

The holiday party was held Dec. 12 at the City of Los Angeles' Friendship Auditorium near Griffith Park.

The event also featured the swearing in Board Members entering new terms, and the introduction of new Board

**More Pictures On Web Alive!**  
[alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)

Member Tom Moutes, Retired, LACERS.

The Club Store on Wheels was well presented, custom-making Retirees hats, shirts and other cool Club gear. Club COO Robert Larios greeted the partiers, and he swore in the new RLACEI Board Members.

The Club thanks Ruth Perry, RLACEI President, and Beverly Clark, RLACEI 2nd Vice President, for inviting the Club to this excellent holiday party.



From left: Roobik Gorjian, Retired, Public Works/Engineering, 24 years of City service; with Robert Larios, Club COO.



From left: Shirley Maxie, guest; Brenda Combs, Retired, Finance, 31 years of City service; and Barbara Niles, guest.



Tariq Shah, Retired, Library, and his wife, Arleta.



RLACEI Directors (from left) Phil Orland and Cliff Cannon.



From left: Joe Zamora, Retired, Public Works/Contract Administration, 25 years of City service; and Anthony Vann, Retired, Harbor, 18 years.



From left: George Gonzales, Retired, Rec and Parks, 42 years of City service; and Robert Larios, Club COO.



Bernadette Arzu, Retired, Council, 24 years of City service, and her husband, Sid Arzu.



From left: Pam Cruz, Retired, Airports, 32 years of City service; and Paula Miura, Retired, Airports, 26 years.



From left: Socorro Velmontes, guest; Angelica Rios, General Services, 29 years of City service; Theresa Pina, Retired, General Services, 16 years; Ed Pina, Retired, General Services/Construction, 35 years; and Yolanda Navarro, Retired, Finance, 30 years.



From left: Dave Griffith, Retired, Rec and Parks, 40 years of City service; John Pierce, Retired, Rec and Parks, 36 years; Greg Perkins, Retired, Rec and Parks, 30 years; and Nick Buckoff, Retired, Rec and Parks, 34 years.



From left: Guest with Beverly Clark, Second Vice President, RLACEI.



From left: Lois and Henry Starks. Henry had 40 years of service with Public Works/Street Maintenance.



Lorenzo Porter, Retired, Public Works/Street Maintenance, 35 years of City service.



Ruth Perry, RLACEI President, hosted the event.



The swearing-in of new Officers, from left: Hal Danowitz; Neil Ricci and Tom Moutes alongside Robert Larios, Club COO.



From left: The RLACEI Board of Directors – Hal Danowitz, Dennis Harding, Ed Harding, Neil Ricci, Beverly Clark, Tom Moutes, Ruth Perry, Cliff Cannon and Phil Orland.

# City Holiday Guide

There are a few events and dates remaining for the list of City holiday activities. They are:

## LA Zoo Holiday Lights

The after-hours attraction, which requires a separate ticket from the Zoo's regular day hours, is a self-guided 90-minute walking tour of tens of thousands of LED lights, flurries of illuminated snowflakes, 3-D animated projections, a musical light-and-water show and glittering light tunnels. Animal characters brought to "life" include mischievous animated monkeys, a gigantic glowing snake coiled on a roof, animated elephants and much more.

When: 6-10 p.m. nightly, through Jan. 5  
 Where: LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Griffith Park, 5355 Zoo Dr. Free parking.  
 Cost: \$12-\$21.95 (daytime Zoo admission extra)  
 City sponsor: LA Zoo.  
 Information: (323) 644-6042 or www.LAZoolights.org



## Holiday Ice Rink



When: Various times through Jan. 20.  
 Where: Pershing Square downtown, 532 S. Olive St. Take Metro Red/Purple Line to Pershing Square, or park in nearby facilities (fee).  
 Cost: Starting at \$5, more for special times and events. Skate rental extra.  
 City sponsor: Rec and Parks.  
 Information: (213) 624-4289; holidayicerinkdowntownla.com

The City's largest outdoor ice rink features entertainment focused on the musical *Frozen* every Tuesday; DJ spotlights every Thursday; and a learn to curl event on Saturdays.



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# The City Parties!

**It's an annual *Alive!* tradition!**

Every year, City Departments put aside their hard work and come together for fun and socialization at their festive holiday parties. And *Alive!* publishes as many of your party pics as we can, in print and online. Starting this month, we cover the City Parties. And we'll continue in the next months as the photos come in.

Story and photos by Dylan Noel, Club Counselor, and Cesilee Castillo, Club Customer Service Rep

## General Services Holiday Party

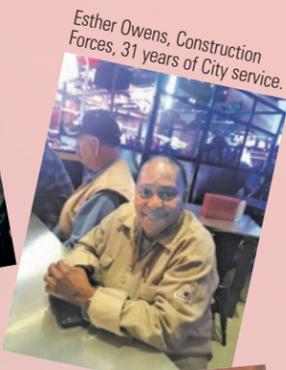
The City of Los Angeles' General Services held its department-wide holiday party Dec. 3 at Two Bit Circus, a virtual-reality event space.

Upon entering the Two Bit Circus, we discovered a world of amplified fun where ol' timey arcade games such as balloon darts and Skee-Ball met in the middle with state-of-the-art virtual-reality games for the ultimate bundle of modern nostalgic fun.

Wall to Wall, the enormous neon-lit warehouse-sized arcade was filled with General Services Employees celebrating another solid year of hard work completed across the board.



Christal Chacon, Sr. Management Analyst, 13 years of City service.



Esther Owens, Construction Forces, 31 years of City service.



Aaron Mayagoita, Sr. Administration Clerk, 3 years of City service.



Joey Limbo, AC Supervisor, 13 years of City service.

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



From left: Betty Urena, 12 years of City service; Aram Salmasi, Sr. Personnel Analyst, 23 years; Kathy Yamaguchi, Safety Engineer, 5 years; Val Meloff, Assistant General Manager, 30 years; and Cristina Flores, Executive Administration Assistant, 14 years.



From left: Travis Ryan, ESG Electrician, 1 year of City service; and Albert, CCA, 7 years.



From left: Kelly Cooper, Director of Construction Forces, 20 years of City service; Loretta Quenon, Director of Custodial Services, 25 years; and Cynthia Griffin, Director of Building Maintenance, 27 years.



From left: Terra Jones, Sr. Admin. Clerk, 19 years of City service; and Angie Rios, Accounting Clerk II, 29 years.



# It's Party Pix Time

*Did your office have a holiday party?*

**Submit your photos online.**

It's easy! Submit them at:

[alive.employeesclub.com/partypix](http://alive.employeesclub.com/partypix)

HARBOR

# A New Deputy Chief

Port Police swears in Dep. Chief Michael Hyams.

On Nov. 25, Michael Hyams was sworn in as the new Port Police Deputy Chief. He was sworn in by Port Police Chief Tom Gazsi.

"Please join us in welcoming Deputy Chief Michael Hyams," Chief Gazsi said in a Tweet. "Deputy Chief Hyams represents remarkable professional accomplishments at a variety of levels and exemplifies decades of exceptional leadership."

Congratulations on your new appointment, Dep. Chief Hyams.



Port Police Chief Tom Gazsi (left) swore in Michael Hyams (right) as the new Deputy Chief of Port Police.

# Welcome Officer Corralez

Port Police welcomes Officer Karissa Corralez.

On Nov. 22, Officer Karissa Corralez graduated from Class 6/19 at the LAPD Academy and became the newest Port Police Officer.

Officer Corralez formerly was a Port Police Cadet.

Congratulations, Officer Corralez!



Port Police Officer Karissa Corralez with Chief of Port Police Tom Gazsi.

FOR ACTIVELY WORKING LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES

# (PRE) RETIREMENT 2020 EXPO

LEARN HOW TO HAVE A HAPPIER AND MORE ENJOYABLE RETIREMENT!

PLEASE JOIN US

Los Angeles City and DWP Employees are invited to attend the 2020 (Pre)Retirement Expo hosted by the Employees Club of California (the Club) and the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

It's never too early to start planning your retirement. Designed specifically to help you plan for your retirement, the 2020 (PRE) Retirement Expo will help you navigate the tough decisions that affect your future retirement plans, and give you greater insight on how to better prepare for your retirement with the City of Los Angeles.

PREPARE YOUR FUTURE AND LEARN MORE ABOUT RETIRING FROM THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES.

- **Talk with Experts** - Get hands-on experience and insider tips from people who understand the inner workings of the retirement process.
- **Seminars and Presentations** - Listen to speakers talk about retirement strategies and asset protection.
- **View and Compare Options** - Listen to speakers talk about various options you might not be aware of such as how to have a purposeful retirement, how to save money and have fun, and other resources to help you have a more enjoyable retirement



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- ➔ LUNCH PROVIDED
- ➔ FREE PARKING

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020 FROM 10 AM - 2 PM



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- ✓ Deferred Comp
- ✓ Los Angeles Federal Credit Union
- ✓ and more!



Hosted by the Employees Club of California (the Club) and the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



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RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW. SPACE IS VERY LIMITED

# Introducing Bulls Bikes

THE CLUB



World leader in e-Bikes strong enough for the LAPD are now available to Club Members at an awesome discount!

The LAPD's e-Bike unit has been using world-leading Bulls Bikes since 2018. The Bulls Bikes are *that* good.

And now you can buy your own at an amazing discount ... thanks to the Club!

The Club has partnered with Bulls Bikes USA to offer 14 percent discounts to Club Members when they purchase using a Club-exclusive discount code.

Bulls Bikes is one of the largest e-Bike companies in Europe and is based in Germany. The LAPD has been using them for its e-Bike patrols since 2018.

Electric bikes make pedaling easier and bike riding more fun. With powerful motors, extended battery life, powerful brake discs and comfortable suspensions, Bulls e-Bikes open up whole new worlds to explore!

Take advantage of Club purchasing power and discounts when you purchase this live-changing e-Bike.

For more information on Bulls Bike:  
[bullsbikesusa.com](http://bullsbikesusa.com)



Watch Club CEO John Hawkins demonstrate the power of Bulls Bikes:  
<https://employeesclub.wistia.com/medias/0s0zmjvihu>

### The *Alive!* Kids' Coloring Contest

# Coloring with The Clubs

Deadline for submission:

**Feb. 5, 2020**

Compiled by Club Customer Service Associates:



Guadalupe Lira



DeAngelo Thompson

**Submit to:**  
Club Coloring Contest  
Employees Club of California  
120 West 2nd Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

#### Print and Online Schedule

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

#### In the printed *Alive!*:

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

#### In the online edition of *Alive!*:

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



#### Download Coloring Art From the Web

You can download and print art from *Alive!* on the web:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest](http://alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest)

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

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_

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

What is your favorite snack? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite television show? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to go to this park? \_\_\_\_\_

#### For parents/guardian to complete:

Name of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Job title and department with the City: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's address/city/zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Membership number: \_\_\_\_\_





# Life's Important Moments

**Share Your Life's Moments** Submit digital photos and text online:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/lifes-important-moments](http://alive.employeesclub.com/lifes-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
Aduato, Margaret	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Meda, Socorro C.	Crossing Guard	Transportation	7
Belcher, Patricia D.	Admin. Clerk	Public Works	41	Meglierino, Debbie M.	Systems Analyst	LACERS	28
Bonfiglio, Tania	Water Operations	DWP	N/D	Miller, Ron D.	Equipment Op.	Public Works	25
Bourne, Lynette	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D	Montagu, Valentina D.	Airport Guide	Airports	7
Buchanan, Sheila	Supply Chain Svcs.	DWP	N/D	Moore, Patrick	Power Const./Maint.	DWP	N/D
Cash, Glynnis Jean	Sr. Pers. Analyst	Airports	36	Nejad, Azar	Transp. Eng. Ass.	Transportation	13
Couch, Ace D.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	31	Nguyen, Clara P.	Physician	Personnel	21
De Nunez, Kenneth	Sr. Electrical Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	31	Paladugu, Babu	Power Supply	DWP	N/D
Delacruz, Eliazar S.	Sr. Bldg. Op. Eng.	Airports	37	Pendergrass Ametu, Cynthia	Police Service Rep	LAPD	22
Eastenson, Shannon	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Public Works	27	Perez, Ben	Sr. Storekeeper	Gen. Services	35
Edwards, Brad G.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec & Parks	19	Petty, Linda Evette	Traffic Officer	Transportation	30
Edmiston, Donna M.	Asst. City Attorney	City Attorney	27	Phillips, Eric S.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec & Parks	17
Galassi, Nick	Metering Services	DWP	N/D	Pyros, Julie	Internal Audit	DWP	N/D
Garikian, George	Deputy City Attorney	City Attorney	11	Ramadan, Suhair B.	Airport Guide	Airports	10
Gibson, Ernest	Truck Op.	Public Works	32	Ramirez, Gustavo A.	Refuse Col. Truck Op.	Public Works	29
Godinez, Maria H.	Admin. Clerk	Animal Svcs.	35	Ramos, Romulo V.	Airport Guide	Airports	7
Gonzalez, Miguel A.	Animal Control Off.	Animal Svcs.	31	Rapko, Darrell	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D
Gonzalez, Sonia P.	Admin. Clerk	Library	29	Raudales, Fernando	Maint. Laborer	Public Works	19
Harris, Bobby	ITS	DWP	N/D	Scott, Carl	Maint. Laborer	Public Works	31
Harris, Richard B.	Golf Starter	Rec & Parks	32	Sherman, Kevin L.	Refuse Col. Truck Op.	Public Works	26
Hartono, Tony Fadjarmart	Sr. Building Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	20	Smith, Leslie E.	Sr. Police Serv. Rep	LAPD	30
Hernandez, Jose	JFB/Facilities Mgmt.	DWP	N/D	Smith-Waison, Paul	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Humphries, Robert	Water Operations	DWP	N/D	Solaiman Tehrani, David	Planning Asst.	Planning	30
Johns, Donald	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Tham, Patrick	Power Planning	DWP	N/D
Johnston, Robert	Power Const./Maint.	DWP	N/D	Thompson, Henry	Str. Services Super.	Public Works	31
Kantor, Leah H.	Sr. Systems Analyst	Gen. Services	31	Torres, Aldo	JFB/Facilities Mgmt.	DWP	N/D
Kim, Steve S.	City Planner	Planning	30	Tung, Louisa O.	Admin. Clerk	Rec & Parks	9
Kung, Gregory Kin Pong	Director of Systems	Housing	30	Tyler, Mary Frances	Librarian	Library	10
Leawprasert, Nantaporn	Programmer/Analyst	ITA	29	Valenzuela, Arturo	Bldg. Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	35
Lien, Frank M.	Special Prog. Asst.	Zoo	4	Van Gerpen, James A.	Director of Systems	Planning	31
Lucas, Lee J.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	30	Ward Wallace, Joseph R.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAFD	11
Luong, Cu An	Matl. Test. Eng. Ass.	Gen. Services	34	Wax, Nancy E.	Deputy City Attorney	City Attorney	13
Martinez, Michael	Security Services	DWP	N/D	Wells, Pamela Sue	Police Service Rep	LAPD	33
Mastro, Edwin J.	Marine Aquarium Exh. Dir.	Rec & Parks	35	Yoon, Robert Y.	Sr. Safety Eng. Press Ves.	Bldg. & Safety	16
McGrath, Terrence	Accounting Clerk	LAPD	28	Yousif, Zubair	Security Services	DWP	N/D

N/D = not disclosed



## Share Your Life's 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.

**Submit digital photos and text online:**  
 (as high a resolution as you can send)  
[alive.employeesclub.com/lifes-important-moments](http://alive.employeesclub.com/lifes-important-moments)

- Graduations
- Births
- Weddings
- Military Service
- Special Achievements

## Special Achievement

**Congratulations, Genesis and Ezequiel!**



### Go Genesis! Go Ezequiel!

Club staff members Genesis Martinez-Flores, Customer Service Rep, and Ezequiel Martinez participated in the Turkey Trot LA Nov. 28. They ran a 5K. This event supports the Midnight Mission, and funds go toward helping the homeless.

## 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		
<b>Active</b>					
Harrell, Tammy	General Services	19	Jordan, Jackie	N/D	N/D
Rudek, John	DWP	30	Kellerman, Brent	DWP	42
Salinas, Kenneth	DWP	19	Kidd, Felcie	Public Works	7
Torres, Albert	Rec and Parks	45	Kobayashi, Chiaki	DWP	22
Vavra, Don	DWP	20	Manalac, Alberto	Public Works	13
<b>Retired</b>					
Banks, Morris	N/D	N/D	McIntyre, Robert	Rec and Parks	25
Beavers, Jacqueline	Transportation	9	McKee, Patricia	DWP	24
Berlant, Evelyn	DWP	27	Myers, Ruth	N/D	N/D
Bertrand, Norma	DWP	42	O'Connor, Maureen	Personnel	28
Carter, Camille	Library	34	Payne, Howard	LAPD	30
Charbonnet, Warren	DWP	32	Peshkin, Grace	N/D	N/D
Chuatoco, Rosalina	Airports	29	Pintar, Gary	DWP	31
Clark, H.B.	DWP	26	Robinson, Delbert	N/D	N/D
Comley, Marthell	N/D	N/D	Romine, Glenn	DWP	37
DeLay, Glen	DWP	25	Sakemi, Kiyoshi	DWP	22
Dennis, Bruce	DWP	40	Sandoval, Gilbert	N/D	N/D
Dojilo Jr., Isidro	DWP	33	Scott, Marvin	DWP	26
Dunn, Mary Ann	ITA	5	Scott, William	Public Works	37
Edmiston, Donna	City Attorney's Office	27	Singleton, Glen	DWP	50
Englebach, Jean	Library	18	Sironen, Robert	N/D	N/D
Garrett Jr., Marion	DWP	30	Smith, Alonzo	DWP	35
Garza, Kate	N/D	N/D	Sugar, Vincent	N/D	N/D
Gellis, Selma	N/D	N/D	Sumpter, Edgar	N/D	N/D
Grigsby, Luckie	N/D	N/D	Taylor, Lennox	DWP	21
Hubbard, Jackaline	N/D	N/D	Tensfeld, Henry	DWP	28
Huntley, Jonathan	DWP	29	Tesfai, Fessehaie	Public Works	32
			Vidato, Nathan	N/D	N/D
			White, Walter	Airports	30
			Woods, Thomas	DWP	33

N/D = not disclosed

• A 'PICTURE' OF 2019 •

# John's Picture Perfect

Alive! presents our favorite winners from 'John's Picture Perfect' contest from 2019.

Do you like "John's Picture Perfect" contest? Well, so do we!

For the contest's 10th anniversary in January 2015, we printed our favorite photos from contest's entire span. Readers liked it so much that we decided to run an annual recap.

In 2019, Club Members submitted hundreds of entries and many dozens of winners. Here are some of them.



Photos compiled by John Hawkins, Club CEO

As we begin 2020, we publish this look back at the images taken by Club Members who in 2019 pushed their shutters at exactly the right moment, along with the original comments by John Hawkins.

Enjoy, and keep sending in those images!



**WINNER**

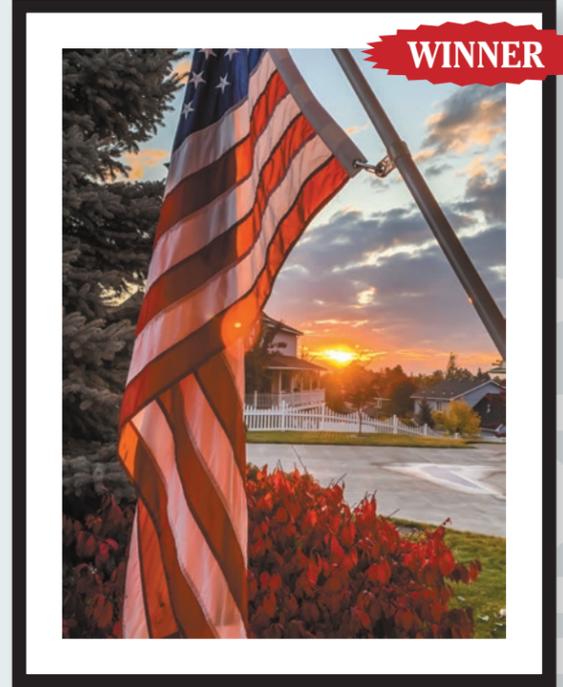
"It has been maybe 10 to 15 years since I have seen bumblebees. Maybe all the rain we had [has brought them out]. Maybe a good environmental sign?"

— **John Nance, Retired, DWP**

**John's comment:** John, bees have been having a hard time of it lately. For whatever reason, one has come back for your photograph! Nature close-ups are never easy, but you seem to pull them off with delicacy and clarity. Nice shot!

**MORE WINNERS**

**On Web Alive!**  
[alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)



**WINNER**

"I'm usually capturing the sunsets, but this sunrise was spectacular."

— **Jill Weismann, Retired**

**John's comment:** Jill, with your photos, you're creating some real mythmaking about life in Cheney, Wash. This photo has a great sense of layers – foreground, middle ground and background. My eye started at the sun, then back to the flag, then the house, and then ending on the sun again. Great balance and organization. Thanks!

## Be My CLUB Valentine

**CLUB MEMBERS:** Send your loved one a special Valentine... to be published on web Alive! in February.

*Here's how it works:*  
 Send us a favorite photo (high-resolution digital preferred) of you and your loved one(s) (could be a romantic partner, a parent or child, etc.) and two or three sentences declaring your special bond.

**Deadline: February 7**

To send digital photos and your message:  
 Go to [alive.employeesclub.com/valentines](http://alive.employeesclub.com/valentines)





