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LAPD

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Police Dept.'s
innovative
eBike program,
the biggest in
the country, is
revolutionizing
urban policing.

SEE PAGE 8



Sgt. Gordon Helper
aboard his Bulls Bike
Sentinel outside the
Central Police Station.

Alive! photo by Summy Lam

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JOHN'S BLOG

by John Hawkins, President and CEO, The Club

Policing Charges Ahead

Listening to **Sgt. Gordon Helper**, head of Central's bike unit talk about the tactical advantages of using electric bikes impressed me on at least a couple of fronts: One, the dedication of our police department to using new technologies to keep us safe; two, his passion for police work; and three, he had exactly the same reaction to riding an electric bike that I did when the Club purchased them to run our errands downtown.

E-Bikes are incredible. I think everyone should have a chance to ride one, whether you do it professionally, like Sgt. Helper does for the LAPD, and I do for the Club or recreationally.

Sgt. Sam Gong, who began the eBike program and worked with manufacturers to

meet LAPD's stringent requirements, connected us to this story. (Both sergeants are Club Members, as are quite a few of the department's bike unit.)

If you see the eBike Officers patrolling the Central, Hollywood, North Hollywood or Pacific areas or any of the City's special events, tell them we said hello, and thanks for the service.

Speaking of electric vehicles in the City, while we were working on this story, we ran across a Tweet from LAFD **Chief Ralph Terrazas**. Seems that LA is going to be another leader – the first in North America to have an electric fire engine. "We look forward to adding it to our fleet next year." I can't wait to do a story on that vehicle!



North America's first electric fire engine is coming to the LAFD next year.



Riding e-Bikes are (from left) Club CEO John Hawkins and LAPD Sgt. Gordon Helper.

Meanwhile ... in Club news, note that our **Joannie Mukai** Scholarship schedule has moved up a month to better accommodate the honorees before they head off to school in the late summer. Applications are available now on the *Alive!* Website. Deadline is noon June 30, 2020 ... be sure to submit your Mother's Day greetings. It's an *Alive!* annual tradition. Submit on the *Alive!* Website starting now ... and a quick note on the passing of Robert Jones, DWP. I didn't know Robert, but he worked at the DWP for more than 50 years. That's incredible. Rest in peace, Robert.

If you're planning your travel for spring break, or this summer and beyond, use the Club discounts that **Mariana Guevara** has arranged. Save money while you're having fun!

Talk to you again here and in my online blog.

—JOHN

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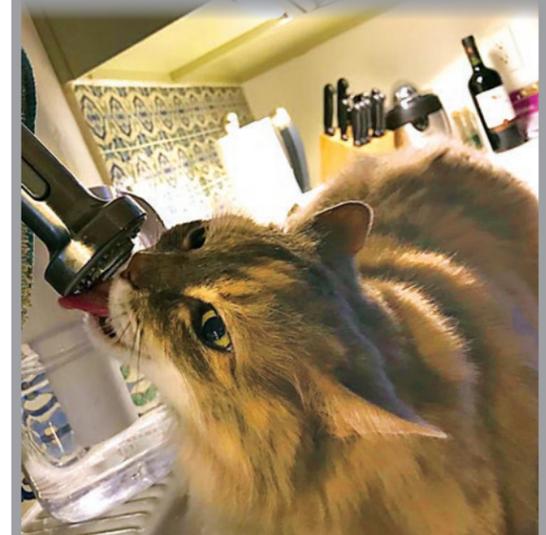
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NEW THIS MONTH
ONLINE
alive.employeesclub.com

JOHN'S
Picture Perfect

See great new winners this month!



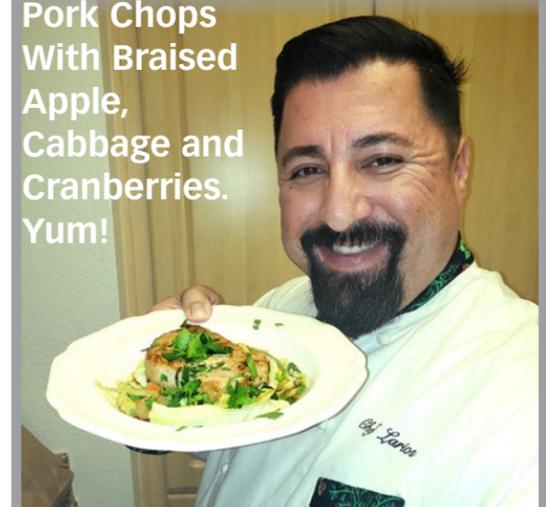
People We See

Watch this month's interview at youtube.com/cityemployeesclub



Cooking With the Club

Chef Larios takes you through the steps to prepare Spiced Pork Chops With Braised Apple, Cabbage and Cranberries. Yum!



Deadline Soon for Grown-Up Coloring Contest

Entries due March 12

DOWNLOAD THE ART AT:
alive.employeesclub.com/coloring-contest-for-adults/

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Note: The Club Store will be closed Monday, March 30, in honor of César Chávez Day.

This Month at the Club Store

120 West 2nd Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012

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



Rosa Calderon
Personal Insurance Agent

March 5: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Lulu Cruz
Personal Insurance Agent

March 19: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Club: Here to Help

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

Email us at:

help@employeesclub.com

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

Or call us at: (800) 464-0452

In-house Counselors

At Club Headquarters



MaryAnn Urdiales
Member Services Counselor
Ext. 159



Cheryl Martin
Member Services Counselor
Ext. 136

At the Club Store



Tiffany Sy
Member Services Counselor
Ext. 202

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Who are the people you see every day?

People We See

Shelterless in Los Angeles.

No. 109
in a series.



Meet

Julian Harold Lopez

They raised the rent. He's living in an RV. Here's his story.

Hometown: Burbank.

Family: "I was raised by my grandparents. My mom didn't have the means to raise a kid. I got a lot of my morals from them."

Friends: "I knew pretty early on that a lot of the people who were my friends really weren't. They were more like acquaintances. After high school, everyone drifts apart."

Story to the Street: "I didn't even get to finish high school. I ended up having to

go to an adult school so that I could work and pay rent. I got an apartment and I was working and going to night classes. But they ended up kicking me out before I could finish my class. That was only after a couple of days. They said I smelled like weed.

"About six months ago I lost my apartment. I was staying over on Balboa, and the dude we were renting from raised the rent too high, and I couldn't afford it.

"And then it was too far for me to commute, so I'd end up showing up too late [for work] too many times, and eventually I just had to go."

What Would Help:

"When you live in an RV, there are not very many places you can park it and live out of it. Everyone's main concern when they're parked somewhere is the cops showing up,

and everyone's terrified of the cops for some reason. Maybe some understanding would be nice.

"It's nice here. The other night we all had dinner together."

Favorite Place in LA: "The Wisdom Tree in Griffith Park, over by the Griffith Observatory. You get a 360-degree view of LA County. I like nature – you can't not like it."

In Five Years: "Well, that depends on whether you want me to be optimistic or pessimistic. Optimistic? Working, in a house."

Advice for everyday people:

"Hardships build character. The struggles you go through define who you are in the end. If you struggle, you'll be quite the character."

There's a lot more to this interview online at:

youtube.com/cityemployeesclub

The interview, conducted by guest interviewer Shawn Dworkin, took place last October across from Woodley Park.



Guest interviewer Shawn Dworkin (left) with Julian Harold Lopez.

See this interview on



The Club posts our "People We See" video interviews online. See them on the Club's YouTube channel:

youtube.com/cityemployeesclub

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



Ben Truong presented the General Manager's Certificate.



Retiree Andrew Virzi Jr. (left) receives the Club's Retirement Recognition Award from Club COO Robert Larios.



From left: Andrew Virzi Jr. and Club CEO John Hawkins.



Lori Hesgard presented the Payroll Office appreciation.



Nancy Swan presented the DWP Employees Association Certificate.



Kathy Fong talked about Andrew's job history and presented the Mayor's Certificate to Andrew.

DWP

Photos by Robert Larios, Club COO



Thanks, Andrew!

Club Board Member Andrew Virzi Jr. retires from DWP after 32 years of City service.

A retirement open house and program was held Jan. 28 for Andrew Virzi Jr., Assistant Controller, DWP, and longtime LACEA Board Member and Chairman. Andrew retires after 32 years of service to the City of Los Angeles.

Andrew was an LACEA Board Member since the 1990s and was part of the leadership team that oversaw the rise of the Employees Club and the *Alive!* newspaper and Website. He will now transition to the LACEA Insurance Services Board.

His entire family was present at the event, held at the John Ferraro Office Building. In celebration of Andrew and his career, the room was packed for the event, with more than 100 people attending.

On behalf of all Club Members, the Club thanks Andrew for his service to the City, and to all Club Members for keeping the association strong and responsive in serving City Employees.



John Chen presented the MEA Certificate.



Andrew Virzi III, Club Board member (right), spoke on behalf of the Virzi family.



Send in your Mother's Day Tributes

CLUB MEMBERS: Pay tribute to your mom this Mother's Day with a photo and message of lifelong love, published in *Alive!*

In our May print issue and online, we'll publish a photo of you and your mom (or just your mom)... and a two-or three-sentence message of Happy Mother's Day from you. Send it in now!

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

DEADLINES:
APRIL 20: to appear in print and online
MAY 5: to appear online only



Alive! AROUND THE WORLD



New York

"I went to New York and took my *Alive!* with me."

– Valerie Lockhart, Retired, LAPD



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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.



Congratulations!



Ruben Zari, DWP,
Retired after 36 years of service to the City of LA.



E. Elaine Williams, Airports,
Retired after 35 years of service to the City of LA.



Theresa C. Tsai, DWP,
Retired after 38 years of service to the City of LA.

Larios in the City is also available on the *Alive!* website for viewing and sharing:
alive.employeesclub.com/lariosinthecity

THE CLUB/RLACEI

Updated Schedule for Pre-Retirement Expo



The event this month is **COMPLETELY FULL**. Register now for future priority.

(PRE) RETIREMENT 2020 EXPO

FOR ACTIVELY WORKING LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES

Schedule (updated) MARCH 19

Speakers and topics subject to change.

MORNING	9:30 – 10	Registrant Check-In
	10 – 3	Member assistance from Mom's Computers
	10 – 10:20	Welcome from the Employees Club and RLACEI
	10:20 – 10:50	Purposeful Aging LA Laura Trejo, General Manager City of Los Angeles, Department on Aging
	10:50 – 11:20	Legal Considerations Janet Morris, Esq., JSA Consultants
11:20 – 12:30 Lunch, exhibitor tables		
AFTERNOON	12:30 – 12:50	Long-Term Care Cheryl Martin, Employees Club
	12:50 – 1:10	Deferred Compensation Presenter to be announced.
	1:10 – 1:30	Savvy Tax Planning Stu Johnson, Cetera Investors
	1:30 – 1:50	LAFUCU and Travel Agency Presentation
	1:50 – 2	Closing, Raffles
All Day		Member Assistance from Mom's Computers

The Pre-Retirees Expo set for March is completely full (thanks for the incredible response!). Below is an updated schedule and list of exhibitors.

Exhibitors*

Enjoy access to a number of great exhibitors, with more to come!

- Bull's Bikes
- Costco
- Employees Club
- Foresters Financial
- JSA Consultants
- Los Angeles City Deferred Compensation
- Los Angeles City Department on Aging
- Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System (LACERS)
- Los Angeles County Aging and Community Services
- Los Angeles Federal Credit Union (LAFUCU)
- Mom's Computers
- Montrose Travel
- Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)
- Sprint

*Exhibitors subject to change.

Get priority for future events!
Register now to reserve a seat.

Sign up for priority for future events:
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INAUGURAL Pre-Retirement 2020 Expo
(event is now completely full)

Thursday, March 19
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Presentations Exhibitors Raffles

- Free Admission
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LAFD, LAPD

Shave the Date

March 14, 2020

St. Baldrick's local event
March 14 marks 18 years of fighting childhood cancers.

On Sat., March 14, LAFD and LAPD personnel, and other City Employees, too, are hosting their 18th annual combined St. Baldrick's fundraising event. Participants, or "shavees" as they are known, collect pledges from friends and family in exchange for shaving their heads. The bald heads signify solidarity with child victims of cancer, who often lose their hair while undergoing treatment. All money raised goes to the St. Baldrick's Foundation and is distributed to doctors and other researchers on the front lines of the war on childhood cancer.

Local organizers say they have raised more than \$1 million over the previous 17 years. The local event is part of the nationwide St. Baldrick's Foundation.

This year's location is again Fire Station 89, 7063 Laurel Canyon Blvd. in North Hollywood. The event is set to begin at 7:30 a.m. and runs to 1 p.m.

Once again, the Club is an official sponsor and will be present with a booth, Club gear and Club staff.

The event will feature a raffle, a free pancake breakfast, blood and marrow drives, face painters, balloon artists, free kids' toys and entertainment, and more. Fire and police apparatus are expected to be present for children to explore and for photo opportunities.

Participants and helpers are needed to staff this event. If you are able to help, please contact Lt. Greg Doyle at (818) 634-6127; or Firefighter Danny Wu, Club Board Member, at (626) 590-6240. If you would like to be a "shavee" or if you are interested in pledging, you can sign up at www.stbaldricks.org/events/LAFDLAPD

WHO: LAPD and LAFD Personnel (all are welcome, though)

WHAT: Fundraiser for childhood cancer research

WHEN: Sat., March 14, 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: LAFD Fire Station 89, 7063 Laurel Canyon Blvd., North Hollywood

WHY: To raise money to fight childhood cancer

HOW: Sign up or donate at: <http://www.stbaldricks.org/events/LAFDLAPD>

For more information, contact
Lt. Greg Doyle, (818) 634-6127; or LAFD Firefighter Danny Wu, (626) 590-6240.



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LAPD

Photos by Summy Lam, Club Director of Marketing; John Burnes, Alive! editor; and courtesy the LAPD.

Pedal POWERED



The Bulls Bike Sentinel, the police model designed by the LAPD that is now the default eBike used nationwide.

Police Dept.'s innovative eBike program, the biggest in the country, is revolutionizing urban policing.

The LAPD has a new and better way to police the streets of downtown and surrounding areas – eBikes, in which electric motors powered by batteries assist the pedals, bringing the bikes up to 28 miles an hour almost instantly. Perpetrators escaping via narrow stairs or alleyways, or up ramps – all of which were problematic for naturally pedaled mechanical bikes – are being relegated to the past. Patrol cars that cannot get through LA's notoriously dense traffic can be backed up with Officers on powered bicycles who can get through the traffic without delay. And Bike Officers at the end of their shifts are as fresh as they were when they started.

This increased effectiveness of urban policing is, in the Department's words, radical.

That's all thanks to a pilot program started in 2017 in partnership with eBike manufacturers to test the new technology. That program proved so successful that it was expanded dramatically in 2018 with the purchase of 20 additional eBikes from Bulls Bikes, a German manufacturer. The eBikes, which have been distributed and are in service in the Central, Hollywood, Pacific and North Hollywood Areas, form the country's largest fleet of police eBikes.

Read all about this nationally leading program in this month's feature.

More story and pics on Web Alive!

Go to: alive.employeesclub.com



The current eBike unit in the Central Division's Bicycle Unit, photographed in Central bike shack, from left: Officer II Kyle Leighton, 4 years of service to the City of LA; Officer II William Ynsfran, 6 years; Officer II John Guerra, 4 years; Officer II Manuel Melgoza, 22 years, Club Member; Officer II Jose Figueroa, 4 years, Club Member; and Sgt. Gordon Helper, 22 years, Club Member.



Central Division's dedicated bike repair shop maintains mechanical and eBikes for the entire LAPD. Left: Lloyd Brewer, Equipment Mechanic, 3 years of service with the City of LA, Club Member (back); and Paul Arrendondo, Equipment Mechanic, 33 years, Club Member. Right: Sanford Young, Sr. Equipment Mechanic, 15 years, Club Member (back); and Andrew Powell, Automotive Supervisor, 11 years, Club Member.



The original eBike crew, from left: Officer II John Darrah, 28 years of service to the City of LA; Officer III Jennifer Bernardino, 6 years, Club Member; Sgt. Gordon Helper, 22 years, Club Member; Officer Alexander Vilaseca, 6 years; Officer III Monica Lopez, 7 years; Officer Jose Figueroa, 4 years, Club Member; and Officer Manuel Melgoza, 22 years, Club Member.



The press conference in 2018 where then-Chief Charlie Beck announced the expansion of the LAPD's eBike program.

Alive! Feature



Sgt. Gordon Helper on his eBike patrolling Central Area downtown.



Bike Officers Manuel Melgoza (left) and William Ynsfran on patrol in the Central Area downtown.



Sgt. Gordon Helper (left) and a commercial bike messenger downtown.

The Alive! Interview

Here to Stay



Sgt. Sam Gong



Sgt. Gordon Helper

On Feb. 5, Club CEO John Hawkins and *Alive!* editor John Burnes sat down with LAPD Sgts. Sam Gong, 30 years of service to the City of LA, and Gordon Helper, 22 years. Sgt. Gong is the Assistant Project Manager for LAPD's eBike program; Sgt. Helper is the lead Bicycle Officer on the Central Station bike platoon, including electric and mechanical (pedal) bikes.

Thanks for giving us a tour of the LAPD bike shack and repair unit. Give us a quick career recap of how you got to where you are.

Sgt. Sam Gong: Initially, I worked in Central Division. I got involved with the bicycle program in about 1992 or '93. I started riding bicycles here at Central Division for about three or four years, then I was promoted. I came back full circle about three years ago. Chief (Charlie) Beck said to me, "Hey, we need to look at this technology, and I understand that you're one of the eBike riders of the department." So I was recruited into developing a product that was viable for the department for the Chief to look at.

Sgt. Gordon Helper: I came onto the job in 1998. After I got off probation, I wheeled out to Wilshire Division. I was working patrol there and I immediately went into the Bike unit. I've been involved either with the bicycle program or

on an active bicycle unit since 2000.

You started out on what I would call a pedal bike, a mechanical bike?

Sgt. Gordon Helper: Yes, a mechanical bike. We had them in Wilshire Division. I was there for six and a half years working there, the Mid-City area, the Beverly Center. At that time Wilshire



Alive! staff interviews the LAPD eBike unit, from left: *Alive!* editor John Burnes; Sgt. Sam Gong, 30 years of service to the City of LA, Club Member; Club CEO John Hawkins; and Sgt. Gordon Helper, 22 years, Club Member.

Division was really big. It went all the way out from Vermont to La Cienega, and from Beverly all the way to the 10 Freeway. It was a huge division. That really got me into a lot of riding; we used to ride out to the East side, to the West side and to the North side, from where Wilshire Division was.

Advantage: Personal

How many miles a day or a week were you riding?

Sgt. Gordon Helper: We were putting in maybe 50, 60 miles a week. At least.

Sixty miles a week!

Sgt. Gordon Helper: On mechanical bikes. With 60 pounds of gear. Everything. The gear hasn't gotten any lighter.

Sgt. Sam Gong: If anything, heavier.

Sgt. Gordon Helper: The eBikes are getting faster, but the gear's not getting any lighter. We're having to carry more.

We at the Club have been riding eBikes all over downtown to do our daily service to Club Members, to stock the Club Store, and so on for the last six months. One of the advantages of an eBike is the weight. We have cargo to carry around. With the eBikes, suddenly weight isn't a problem. That's got to allow you to perform better as a cop – you're not worrying about carrying the weight of the equipment.

Sgt. Sam Gong: In addition to that, it's the daily riding of the bike. Our Officers patrol 365 days a year. Some of those summer months are very hot. The Officers wear their bulletproof vests, and that in itself adds another 10 or 15 degrees to the core temperature. If you could get the Officers to ride a little bit faster and get some air underneath their vests, that helps with the Officers' longevity and stamina. They're working these 10-hour or 12-hour shifts, and it gives them a little bit more air. That keeps them fresher for a little bit longer.

And no more head winds. Those can be tough.

Sgt. Gordon Helper: Right. There's no more head wind, there's no more tail wind, there's no more height. You'll get a little bit more speed going downhill, because the bike's a little bit heavier, but that's okay with me.

Advantage: Tactical

What kind of capabilities do these modern eBikes give you that you wouldn't have without them?

Sgt. Gordon Helper: It's the response to calls. Suspects run on foot or in cars. There are bad people in this world, and they run from us. Before, if a car decided to take off on us, if you're on a mechanical bike, it was like, "Adios." I'm not even going to try. They're gone. I'm not going to risk anybody. I would be so smoked [tired] at the end. I'll be too tired to put them into a prone position, even I were to catch them. I can call it in on a radio, but I won't be able to catch them.

So now, on the new eBikes, if somebody runs from us, they're not going to go anywhere, especially in downtown traffic. There's nowhere to go. They're going to hit a light or do whatever they're going to do, and you're going to catch them, especially on these bikes.

Even with the heat of the day, after riding the eBike all day, I'm still not tired. I can still go home, play with my daughters, hang out with them, do whatever. In the summertime on a mechanical bike, when I got home it was first thing shower, next thing bed.

I used to be a big adversary of eBikes. I thought that Officers should be out there exercising. But my philosophy has changed. I'm a big proponent. The Officers have to be excellent bicyclists and fit before they ever join this unit. E-Bikes lead to better policing. We need them in this department.

Sgt. Sam Gong: Not only are eBikes cutting our response time, they're giving us a greater patrol

Continued on Web *Alive!*
Go to: alive.employeesclub.com



Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

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PHONE: (800) 678-4145, ext. 717
EMAIL: Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org
ON THE WEB: www.RLACEI.org



2020 Executive Board of Directors

Ruth B. Perry, President
Beverly J. Clark, First Vice President
Phil Orland, Second Vice President
Harold Danowitz, Secretary/Treasurer

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Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

Cliff Cannon, Audit 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, Golf Director, Ext. 709

Ruth B. Perry,
Membership Director, Ext. 717

Neil Ricci, 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 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



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

2020 RETIREE EVENTS

Golf Tournament - Thurs. 6/11
Summer Picnic - Thurs. 8/6
Holiday Party - Tues. 12/8

RESERVATION LINE:

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

By Beverly Clark, RLACEI Publicity Chair



Greg Spiker
RLACEI Advocate

Meet Your Advocate: Greg Spiker

A look at RLACEI Advocates

Gregory J. Spiker, President and CEO of Ken Spiker and Associates, Inc., is an advocate for RLACEI. He's a government consultant with extensive experience in developing public-private partnerships. His company, Ken Spiker and Associates, Inc., has established itself as one of Southern California's leading government consulting firms. At KSA, he is honored to represent the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

In addition, Greg represents the interests of various other private sector clients, including serving as public relations consultant to the

Independent Cities Association, the executive director to the Los Angeles Parking Association, which consists of the largest private parking operators in the United States, and as the Vice President – Corporate Relations for BORDERPOL a global organization focused on the sharing of knowledge and expertise amongst the border, customs and immigration sectors.

He specializes in monitoring local government committees, commissions, and City Councils for legislative impact, maintaining and establishing necessary contacts with elected officials and City staff at a professional level, and advocating client interests with government agencies.

Greg enjoys traveling and playing golf with his wife of 28 years, Lailee.



Michael Karsch

Global Issues Affect Pension Growth Rates

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

Pension Law and Policy, By Michael Karsch

The new year presents continuing challenges to public pensions as more and more of those systems face a growing need to pay more and more into the pensions. As many know, of course, pension checks will continue on time to most retirees, but the increased need to shell out more money just for those pensions means increased tension in public budget planning. For example, Ohio is considering a freeze on cost-of-living adjustments for its public pension plans for two years, and a two-year delay of those increases for all new retirees. The legislature of that state may enact a freeze, but not all states can do that. The unfunded liability for the main Ohio plan stands at \$24 billion. The cost of living increase (COLA) is 3 percent, hence freezing it would mean reducing a monthly pension check of \$1,000 in 2021 by \$720 in 2023. In addition, Ohio's health benefit for retirees is facing benefit cuts soon, to become effective in January 2022 (as reported by the *Columbus Dispatch*).

NBC Miami reports that Puerto Rico retirees are facing cuts of 8.5 percent in pensions, just in time to top off three years of disasters, such as the hurricane, government corruption problems, and the more recent earthquake.

California cities see the near future as pressure to cut budgets to support the higher pension bills to CalPERS (the City of LA does not belong to CalPERS), according to Bloomberg. The percentage of payroll that a typical city must pay for pension costs for its police and fire is reaching 56 percent, with some cities paying more than 70 percent.

Low interest rates are hurting some investment tools, and the stock market is always vulnerable to downturns. The health crisis from the coronavirus in China is shaking up many markets due to the closing of businesses and a marked downturn in air traffic around the world. CalPERS believes that the past years' hopes of 7 percent to 8 percent expected returns are not likely to be continued, leaving realistic goals of 3.3 percent to 6.4 percent. Heading the list of pessimistic factors is declining interest rates, followed by the health crisis, China-US trade relations, climate risks, etc.

In mid-January, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that the U.S. dollar is forecast to fall, which would mean a lift in commodities, since a lower-value U.S. dollar means that commodities (such as oil) monetized by the dollar will be cheaper to other markets. Commodity prices have climbed up in copper futures and U.S. crude futures, and gold traded at its highest level since 2013.

Keeping a steady hand on pension investments is an awesome duty for our officials running the systems. As recently reported by LACERS, our 10-year return growth was 8.77 percent. Solid investment decisions and no use of fads or "get rich quick" schemes is advice to heed. In our LACERS group we have had steady guidance from our LACERS Board. The RLACEI director to the LACERS Board, Michael Wilkinson, has been a firm and serious hand since 2013. He is up for re-election this March and I recommend his re-election. ■

Opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of Alive! or the Employees Club of California.



RLACEI: Membership Dues

Effective with the December 2019 pension payroll, the Employees Club has processed the appropriate deduction for all applicable RLACEI members. Those eligible should expect to receive a refund check in the next month or so

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

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 and join today! Don't miss out on RLACEI events!

Read Alive! on the Web!

alive.employeesclub.com



Michael R. Wilkinson

At Board Election Time, LACERS Holding Well

LACERS Board Update
By Michael R. Wilkinson

It may be unseemly, but this is utterly shameless self-promotion time. You have been warned. The LACERS Board Retired Member election ballots will be going out soon, and I would like your vote.

I have served on the Board since 2013. I am currently the Vice President and chair the Benefits Administration Committee and serve on the Audit Committee and the Ad Hoc Cybersecurity Committee.

I am happy to report that LACERS is 71.3 percent actuarially funded for retirement and 84.4 percent funded for health benefits for a total funded ratio of 73.1 percent. The health benefits figure is one of the highest in the country because LACERS has been putting away money for health benefits for decades while most plans were pay-as-you-go.

The plan has been doing well with a diversified strategy of investments to provide investment returns that support our members' pensions in both up and down markets. Here are the unaudited returns for the time period ending Dec. 31, 2019: The investment returns are:

- 1 year, 17.89 percent
- 3 years, 9.9 percent
- 5 years, 7.37 percent
- 10 years, 8.77 percent

As I frequently remind my readers, these returns will vary, so expect the inevitable market correction. LACERS is a well-diversified long-term investor and is prepared to ride out the ups and downs of the investment cycles.

I have fought for keeping investment fees down by using low cost index funds wherever possible. Index funds have extremely low fees, and, in many asset classes, regularly outperform active managers who pick individual stocks and bonds. Currently 38 percent of all LACERS' assets are indexed. I have asked the investment staff to report back to the Board anytime that they believe that active asset managers are not earning their fees by outperforming their index so that we can expand this low-cost option.

I am also a voice for solid fundamental invest-

ments with no use of fads that come through the pension investment world claiming they get great returns and promising almost no risk. I have staunchly opposed dangerous trends such as market timing and any high-risk strategy that does not perform well over time.

I have backed enhancements to our health benefits such as adding Silver Sneakers and Silver and Fit gym memberships to our LACERS Well program. I also have overseen upgrades to our drug benefits, including a change that drastically cut drug costs for members who have had very large out-of-pocket costs.

I am endorsed by the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI), of which I am a former director.

In short, I look forward to serving you for five more years. Please consider me when you get your ballot in the mail. Ballots will be mailed out March 23, 2020. ■

Opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of Alive! or the Employees Club of California.



RETIREES: Show Us Your Grandkids!



Ezra David Rosidor, born Jan. 9 to Robinson and Elizabeth Rosidor. "Introducing my grandson, Ezra David Rosidor. His birth was a blessing to our family," says grandfather **David Joiner, Retired, Public Works.**

Here's how:

1. **Make sure to have the permission from their parents.** If you send in a photo, *Alive!* assumes you have already received that permission.
2. Photos with you in them are better, but if not, that's okay, too.
3. List names of your grandkids.
4. In a sentence or two, tell us about them – their school, accomplishments, what they love to do, how proud you are of them, etc.

TO SUBMIT, GO TO:
alive.employeesclub.com and
click on **Send To Alive!**

RLACEI Endorsement

The Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. endorses Michael R. Wilkinson, Retired Deputy City Attorney, for LACERS Board of Administration Commissioner.

If you are a Retired City Employee, the Board encourages you to vote for Mike to represent and continue to safeguard the LACERS pension fund and the welfare of ALL City employees and Retirees.

Ballots must be submitted to the City Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, 2020.



Michael R. Wilkinson

Michael R. Wilkinson
for
LACERS Board of Administration Commissioner
A Proven Advocate!

mikewilkinson4lacers@gmail.com

This paid endorsement advertisement is sponsored by the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.



1st Annual Tom Stennock Memorial Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 11, 2020

The 1st Annual Tom Stennock Memorial Golf Tournament sponsored by the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc., will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at the Alhambra Municipal Golf Course with a "Shotgun Start" at 7:30 a.m. The course is located at 630 South Almansor Street, Alhambra, CA 91801. Check in is at 7:00 a.m. **SOFT SPIKES MANDATORY!**

- The tournament is open to retired and active employees and friends. The cost is \$70 for RLACEI & City Employees Club members. All others pay \$80, which includes greens fees, carts, prizes and lunch at the Alhambra Court restaurant. Lunch only is \$25.00.
- Those interested in participating must complete the reservation form and mail it with your check made payable to: **RLACEI** by Thursday, May 28, 2020.
- Send to: Employees Club of California/RLACEI
Attn: Phil Orland
P.O. Box 86264
Los Angeles, CA 90086

2020 Golf Tournament Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Amount Included \$ _____ \$70 for RLACEI and City Employees Club Members

Luncheon Only: \$25 \$80 for all others

Make checks payable to RLACEI.

NOTICE: SOFT SPIKES MANDATORY!

FOURSOME

Name

Member RLACEI Member City Club Guest

Golf Shirt Size (Circle Size) **(check all that apply)**

1. _____	M L XL 2XL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. _____	M L XL 2XL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. _____	M L XL 2XL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. _____	M L XL 2XL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



REC & PARKS

Time Stands Still for Banning Wisteria

Banning Museum's annual gala set for March 28.

Friends of Banning Museum has scheduled its annual fundraising event, the Wisteria Regale, for Sat., March 28, from 5 to 9 p.m.

The gala, a principal fundraiser for the museum, is planned for the Banning Residence Museum, 401 E. M St., Wilmington.

The party theme this year includes traveling back in time through the eyes of H.G. Wells. The evening will include an elegant dinner, silent auction, raffle, live entertainment by the Big Lucky Band, a hosted bar and the Wisteria Scholarship presentation.

Dressing in Steampunk attire or fashion from the Victorian Era in which the book "The Time Machine" was written is encouraged. Proceeds will be helping support the efforts of Friends of Banning Museum in protecting and preserving the beautiful Banning Mansion.

The fundraiser will feature be a hosted bar, a silent auction, a Banning High School

March 28, 2020

scholarship presentation and a sumptuous and elegant sit-down dinner.

As it does every year, the Friends of Banning Museum will present the Wisteria Regale scholarship to Banning High School's brightest students.

The cost of the event is \$150 per person. Reservations are required. Please call Friends of Banning Museum at (310) 548-2005 for further information or to make a reservation.

Proceeds from the Wisteria Regale will assist Friends of Banning Museum, a non-profit corporation, in its mission to "Preserve History, Promote Education, and Inspire Entrepreneurial Spirit."

The Banning Museum is a Rec and Parks facility and is operated in cooperation with the Friends of Banning Museum.



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HARBOR



Making Waves

Port Police shows off new vessel.

On Feb. 13, Harbor's Port Police showed off a new \$1.5 million vessel, Boat 42. The 43-foot vessel will be used for patrol and dive team launch.

Boat 42 is equipped with night vision, wireless communications, advanced navigation, and nuclear, chemical and biological detection equipment.

Looks great, Port Police! We can't wait to meet her.

REC AND PARKS

Alive! photos courtesy Rec and Parks

Supporting Young Women

'Pretty in Pink' empowerment event for teen girls returns for eighth year.

PRETTY IN PINK

The **Pretty in Pink: Girls Empowerment Conference**, which *Alive!* told you about last year, returns in 2020 for its eighth year.

The conference is one of the fastest growing programs at Rec and Parks.

Pretty in Pink was created by Reneshia White, Recreation Coordinator, Club Member, and managed by Reneshia and Yessica Famoso, Facilities Director, Club Member. The event started eight years ago with 10 young participants; Reneshia and Yessica expect 600 again this year.

Pretty in Pink is a youth conference with a goal of empowering young girls in the urban community. Pretty in Pink provides a safe space for them to be open and discuss daily life challenges among women who truly care for them. The girls get opportunities to socialize with young girls from other parks/communities. The conferences designed to encourage and empower the girls to achieve their goals and aspirations. They leave the conference knowing that they are not alone with issues that may be occurring in their lives and that they have people that care about them.



From last year's Pretty in Pink.

Pretty in Pink: Girls Empowerment Conference

March 28

South Park Recreation Center
345 E. 51st St.
(where the event began)

April 4

Sylmar Recreation Center
13109 Borden Ave.

For more information:

Yessica.Famoso@lacity.org
(213) 485-9145

or

Reneshia.White@lacity.org
(323) 778-2579.



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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
Abram, Paul	Power Constr./Maint.	DWP	N/D	Lim, Sutoyo	Water Engineering	DWP	N/D
Akers, Robin M.	Equip.Mechanic	Gen. Services	11	Lloyd, Josephine	Crossing Guard	Transportation	7
Almanza, Robert	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Lontok, Ignacio	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Alonzo, Rita	Materials Mgmt.	DWP	N/D	Maldonado, Pedro R.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	18
Amaro, John	Business Support Srv.	DWP	N/D	Manukyan, Gayk H.	Sr. Bldg. Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	20
Anderson, Alma	Financial Planning	DWP	N/D	Mays, James William	Traffic Officer	Transportation	22
Ardoin, Millard R.	Building Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	14	McAllister-Phillipus, Ada	Water Quality	DWP	N/D
Barnes, Rodney	Water Engineering	DWP	N/D	McKibbin, Brian M.	Sr. Systems Analyst	ITA	30
Batthey, Earl J.	Detention Officer	LAPD	23	McKnight, Caroline	Human Resources	DWP	N/D
Bednarski, John	Water Supply	DWP	N/D	Mehrkhodavandi, Houshang	Mgmt. Analyst	Transportation	33
Bergerson, Robert	Metering Services	DWP	N/D	Miller Jr., George	Water Quality	DWP	N/D
Berumen, Maria Teresa	Records Supervisor	Personnel	29	Mitchell, Brian	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Bhuiyan, Mukhlesur	Power Planning	DWP	N/D	Moe, Frederick	ITS	DWP	N/D
Blue, Robert	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Morgan, Reece A.	Park Maint. Super.	Rec & Parks	20
Brown, Bruce Daniel	Risk Manager III	Airports	24	Naglich, Frank	Safety	DWP	N/D
Brown, Joan	Accounting	DWP	N/D	Neff, James	Water Engineering	DWP	N/D
Brown, Russell	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Nerio, John	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Castillo, David	Water Operations	DWP	N/D	Nguyen, Can	Power Supply	DWP	N/D
Chan, Pauline Pui Lim	Sr. Trans. Eng.	Transportation	34	Oliva, Teresa	Airport Guide	Airports	19
Chavez, Luis A.	Custodian	Airports	16	Onishi, Eugene	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D
Christian, Troy	Building Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	12	Orozco, David	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D
Clark, Cheryl	ITS	DWP	N/D	Orozco, Linda R.	Admin. Clerk	Library	20
Dailor, Thomas	Water Quality	DWP	N/D	Paialii, Goddard	ITS	DWP	N/D
Fadakar, Shahram	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Palmer, Calvin	Custodian	Airports	16
Favela, Hector G.	Carpenter	Rec & Parks	18	Patzakis, Theresa Ann	Asst. City Attorney	City Attorney	22
Featherston, Michael	Power Constr./Maint.	DWP	N/D	Peters, Margaret M.	Sr. Police Srv. Rep	LAPD	31
Flores, Ramon	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Pody, Teresa	Stores	DWP	N/D
Gallegos, Ron P.	Printing Srv. Super.	Gen. Services	30	Poursabahian, Siavosh	Sr. Structural Eng.	Bldg. & Safety	30
Garcia, Alberto	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Preciado, Frank	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Garcia, Joseph	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Ramos, Denise E.	Custodian	Airports	19
Garcia Ortega, Maria	Police Service Rep	LAPD	19	Reed, Stephen E.	Sr. Building Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	18
Garibay, Bertha	Special Programs Asst.	Rec & Parks	8	Resong, Joseph	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Gavile, Fernando	Customer Service	DWP	N/D	Rocca, Joseph	Power Constr./Maint.	DWP	N/D
Giese, Jodean	Sustainability	DWP	N/D	Rodriguez, Guillermo	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D
Gutierrez, Martin V.	Irrigation Specialist	Rec & Parks	29	Rollins, Brian	Power Supply	DWP	N/D
Herrriott Jr., William	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Rosas, Jeffery	Constr./Maint. Supt.	Gen. Services	31
Hoglin, Glen	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Sargsyan, Ara	Asst. Dep. Supt. of Bldg.	Bldg. & Safety	19
Howard, Pamela	Public Affairs	DWP	N/D	Shakour, Yahya Z.	Security Officer	LAPD	12
Howe, Steven	Water Operations	DWP	N/D	Singh, Michael	Customer Service	DWP	N/D
Huang, Jacob	Power Constr./Maint.	DWP	N/D	Suh, Seong	Energy Distribution	DWP	N/D
Hunt, Herlinda	City Attorney Office	DWP	N/D	Timmons, Guy	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D
Jimenez, Victoriano	Tire Repairer	Gen. Services	16	Tomoling, Teresa	Customer Billing	DWP	N/D
Johnson, Donnie	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Torrence, Dewayne	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	36
Kawala, Susan J.	City Attorney	City Attorney	4	Torres, Humberto	Power Supply	DWP	N/D
Kendrick, Aerick	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	19	Villa Agustin, Victoria	Chief Mgmt. Anlyst	Public Works	34
Kim, Lydia Hyoil	Accounting Clerk	Airports	30	Virzi, Andrew	Accounting	DWP	N/D
Kitching, Edward	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Wilson, Adria L.	Recreation Coord.	Rec & Parks	11
Lacount Sr., Frankie	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Worthy, John S.	Television Engineer	ITA	19
Lench, Daniel M.	Paralegal	City Attorney	16	Yamaguchi, Tad	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D
Licea, Merced	Custodian	Airports	14	Zari, Reuben	Customer Service	DWP	N/D

N/D = not disclosed

Special Achievement



"My centenarian grandmother, Missouri, had her 105th birthday Feb. 6. She was born in 1915 and is still living her best life!"
Cynthia Billingslea, DWP

The happiest of birthdays to your grandmother, Missouri! She is an inspiration to us all. – Ed.

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
Active					
Cardenas Diaz, Nestor	Rec and Parks	3	Elliott, Donna	DWP	19
Chanorathakul, Thitiphong	Public Works	7	Fabela, Lourdes	N/D	N/D
Lawrence, Andrew	Airports	32	Ferree, Harriet	DWP	23
Jones, Robert	DWP	51	Fong, Ben	DWP	26
McGhee, Debra	DWP	39	Foran, Freida	Airports	9
Pazasis, Frank	LAPD	17	Francen, Carl	DWP	35
Sales, Cleofas	Public Works	38	Gallegos, Eulogio	N/D	N/D
Triplett, Verlene	LAPD	29	Garcia, Robert	Public Works	35
Retired					
Acuna, Benjamin	Transportation	10	Gilbert, Henry	DWP	19
Augustine, Wanda	DWP	38	Granger, Glen	Airports	14
Bible, Toney	DWP	34	Gutierrez, Miguel	Rec and Parks	25
Brand, Gary	DWP	28	Harice, Irene	Transportation	27
Carpio, Cosme	DWP	20	Harriott, Prince Albert	Public Works	29
Castro, Eddie	Airports	12	Headland, Joan	N/D	N/D
Catero, Thomas	DWP	32	Heming, Douglas	N/D	N/D
Christensen, David	Public Works	27	Hunt, Stewart	DWP	37
Chun, Walter	DWP	31	Jimenez, Luis	N/D	N/D
Cullors, Alton	N/D	N/D	Ivers, Kenneth	DWP	32
Currens, John	N/D	N/D	Jensen, Dorothy	DWP	20
Davis, Icile	N/D	N/D	Kemp, Charlotte	DWP	27
Deal, Glenn	N/D	N/D	Kirkland, James	DWP	41
			Krowe, Samuel	Personnel	38
			Lind, William	Public Works	14
			Madrigal, Ana	DWP	18
			Mahaley, Fred	N/D	N/D
			McCain, Patricia	LAPD	22
			McCue, Michael	Rec and Parks	12
			McNamee, Lonnie	N/D	N/D
			Melton, Kenneth	DWP	30
			Minor, Melvin	DWP	40
			Molina, Valentine	N/D	N/D
			Mullally, Don	N/D	N/D
			Natsuhara, Frank	N/D	N/D
			Nunes, Faaeseina	City Attorney	32
			Oliveri, Carmelo	N/D	N/D
			Ott, Herbert	DWP	30
			Palmetier, Audrey	N/D	N/D
			Pederson, Richard	DWP	20
			Quinn, Jean	N/D	N/D
			Reynolds, Richard	DWP	31
			Richardson, Robert	DWP	23
			Rodriguez, Guillermina	Library	10
			Salas, Anita	N/D	N/D
			Schartau, Martin	Airports	32
			Schlumpberger, BJ	N/D	N/D
			Schwing, Sherrie	N/D	N/D
			Shields, Thomas	N/D	N/D
			Smith, Eddie	N/D	N/D
			Smith, Gloria	N/D	N/D
			Tanaka, Edward	ITA	17
			Taylor, Bradford	Airports	28
			Thompson, Willa	N/D	N/D
			Villalobos, Felilsa	LAPD	27
			Wakeman, Richard	DWP	21
			Walton, Nancy	N/D	N/D
			Ward, Lawrence	Harbor	22
			Williams, Dave	Rec and Parks	15
			Wong, Quock How	Transportation	39
			Yamane, Teruo	DWP	34
			Young, William	DWP	27
			Yu, Hong	DWP	30

Tell Their Story

Every month, *Alive!* publishes the names of those current or retired City Employees who have died.

But who were they? Did you know them? If you worked with any of these people, knew a story or two about them or were related to them, consider writing to *Alive!* and letting us know.

- Write a few sentences or paragraphs
- Send in a photo, if you have one
- Let us know your name and connection to the deceased
- Send your memories to: talkback@employeesclub.com.
Subject line: Tell Their Story



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

Graduations

Births

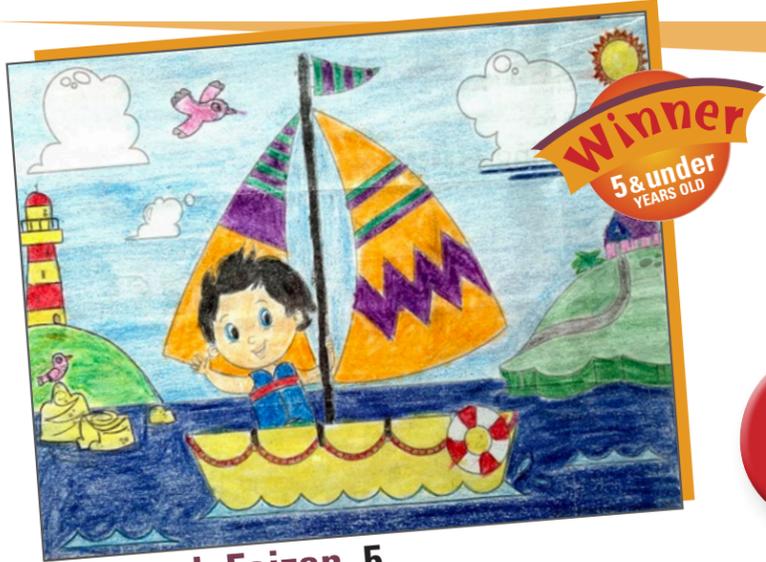
Weddings

Military Service

Special Achievements

Look for our next contest in April in print and online at: alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest/

Coloring with The Clubs



Bareerah Faizan, 5

BIRTHDAY: Nov. 4 • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Octonauts" • FAVORITE SNACKS: Strawberries • BEST FRIEND: Ayaan • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC: To see fishes and have fun. • PARENT: Muhammad Faizan, ESO Trainee, DWP



Justin Eghbal, 6

BIRTHDAY: Aug. 25 • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Octonauts" • FAVORITE SNACKS: Strawberries • BEST FRIEND: Jaxon • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC: I want to see all the different kinds of fish. • PARENT: Jasmine Dowlatshahi, Recreation Facility Director



Collin Sousa, 10

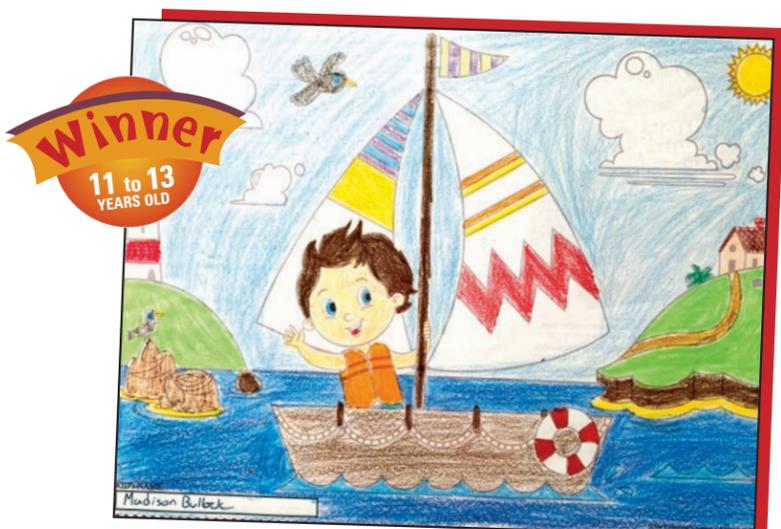
BIRTHDAY: June 6 • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Sponge Bob" • FAVORITE SNACK: Nutter Butter • BEST FRIEND: Noah • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC: Because I love marine science. I to to a marine science school. • PARENT: John Sousa, SACU, Airport Police

Congratulations to the WINNERS! of our Club Coloring Contest!

Everyone who turned in a design is a winner in our opinion! But our top four participants win **4 Free Tickets to Aquarium of the Pacific!**

Honorable Mention

CHILD	AGE	PARENT/GUARDIAN	DEPT.
Belle Kwan	3	Shirley Ly	Library
Mikey Padula	4	David Hernandez	Retired
Chris Valadez	5	Jesus Valadez	DWP
Allison Tiet	5	Than Tiet	DWP
Levi Cadby	5	Edwin Wold	DWP
Kayley Green	6	Yolanda English	DWP
Melody Valencia	6	Hugo Valencia	Retired
Samantha Lansang	6	Leann Lansang	LAPD
Peyton Padula	6	David Hernandez	Retired
Emma Tiet	5	Than Tiet	DWP
Jasmine Parra	7	Janelle Parra	General Services
Jaysen Martinez	7	Billy Martinez	ITA
Morgan Rowley	7	Jaren Rowley	LAPD
Matias Fuller	8	Faviola Melchor	Rec and Parks
Abigal Cadby	9	Edwin Wold	DWP
Lorenzo Alvarado	9	Carlos Chavez	DWP
Myah Angela	9	Rodrigo Mendez	DWP
Saylor Rowley	9	Jaren Rowley	LAPD
Diego Bracamonte	10	Diego Bracamonte	LAPD
Emily Leng	10	Ly Leng	LAFD
Jackson Cadby	11	Edwin Wold	DWP
Leila Estrada	11	Jorge Estrada	DWP
Joel Duarte	13	Mario Duarte	Retired



Madison Bullock, 11

BIRTHDAY: April 13 • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Jessie" • FAVORITE SNACK: Dried Strawberries • BEST FRIEND: Penny • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC: Because I love sea animals and it would be fun to go with family. • PARENT: Renee Ramirez

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

CLUB ANGELS

Applications Now Available for Club's Mukai Scholarship

DEADLINE
Noon, June 30

Club Scholarship program begins a month earlier.

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

The 2020 Mukai Club Scholarship Program, which expects to grant 20 awards and is named after the late Club Board Member Joannie Mukai, is now accepting applications.

The scholarship process has been moved up a month, to better facilitate notifying the awardees before they return to school in the fall.

Club Scholarship applications have been simplified, for greater ease in filling them out. And they are now available for completion directly on the Website.

All materials must be completed on the *Alive!* Website by noon, June 30, 2020.

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

Those eligible include Club Members, their spouses and their children who are in college or will be attending an accredited college or university in Fall 2020.

"The Club continues to recognize achievement and excellence in our Club Members and their families," said John Hawkins, Club CEO. "The Club Scholarship Program reflects that commitment and is one of the most important ways we celebrate the work and lives of municipal employees every year. We're all about giving back, and the Club Scholarship reflects that."

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

Applications are available for online completion directly on the *Alive!* Website at:

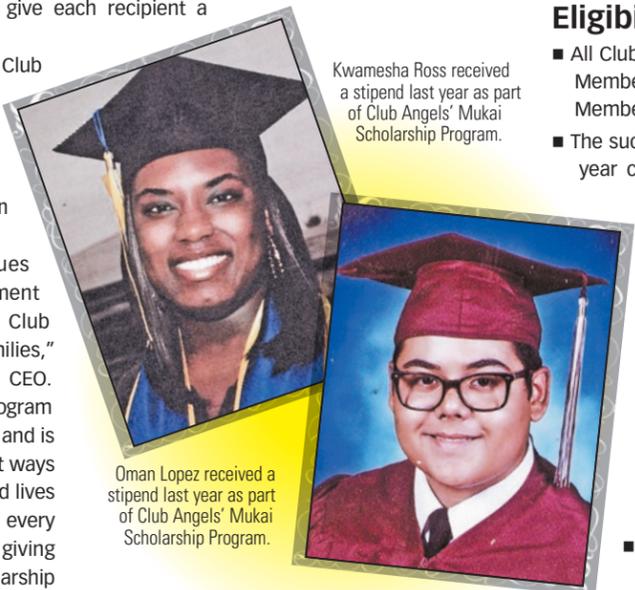
alive.employeesclub.com/mukaischolarship

"We fully support the dedication of our Club families to taking care of the educational needs of themselves and their children," Hawkins continued. "We want to help them in every way possible."

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

Eligibility requirements:

- All Club Members and their spouses, and children of Club Members under the age of 25, are eligible to apply. Club Members must be in good standing.
- The successful candidate must attend an accredited four-year college or university full time in the fall semester 2020. Current high school seniors matriculating to a four-year school in Fall 2020 are eligible.
 - Candidates will be judged for academic excellence, community service and financial need.
 - Scholarships are expected to be awarded in equal amounts of \$500 (each).
 - Deadline: Applications must be completed online at the *Alive!* Website by noon June 30, 2020. 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.



Kwamesha Ross received a stipend last year as part of Club Angels' Mukai Scholarship Program.

Oman Lopez received a stipend last year as part of Club Angels' Mukai Scholarship Program.

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 Club Insurance 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," Club CEO John Hawkins 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 MEMBER EXCLUSIVE



Summy Lam, Club Director of Marketing riding the Bulls Bikes **SIX50 EVO AM 1** electric mountain bike.

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Electric bikes make pedaling easier and riding more enjoyable. With powerful motors, extended battery life, powerful brake discs, and comfortable suspension, Bulls eBikes open up a whole new world to explore and stay healthy at the same time!

Rear Shock: Fox DPS Performance, 150 mm

Fork: BULLS Lytro 35 LOR Air CTS Boost, 150 mm

Derailleur: Shimano Deore RD-M6000GS Shadow Plus

Power Disc Brakes: Shimano BR-MT200 hydraulic disc, 180/180 mm

Motor: BOSCH Performance Line CX 250W

Battery: BOSCH PowerTube 500 Wh, Charge time = 4.5hr

Tires: Schwalbe Smart Sam K-Guard, 70-584, 27.5 x 2.80

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Congratulations to the Club for an excellent 2019. Here's to even greater years ahead as we begin our 91st!

THE CLUB

A Strong Club for 2020

Club's 91st annual meeting notes robust future.

One again taking place during the holiday season, the Club held its 91st annual meeting Dec. 18 in the Tom Bradley Room high atop City Hall.

The meeting featured holiday décor, festive wishes, a comedy video starring Club CFO Brian Trent, the swearing-in of the Club Board, and annual awards.

Club CEO John Hawkins and Chief Operating Officer Robert Larios handled the hosting duties.

After the singing of the National Anthem, once again performed excellently by internationally acclaimed singer and Club Counselor Gedina Bergstrom, and then lunch, Robert Larios asked Andrew

Virzi Jr., DWP, and Club Board Member, to present the new board, which was accepted unanimously and then sworn in by Brian Trent, the Club's CFO.

The Club Board for 2020 is:

- Andrew Virzi Jr., DWP;
- Andrew Virzi III, DWP;
- Terry Carter, LAPD; and
- Capt. Danny Wu, LAFD.

Recognition for Great Club Service

The Club is all about great service to City Employees, and the second half of the luncheon was dedicated to recognition of exemplary service.



The Club's Accounting Dept. included, from left: Clara Flores and Leigh Thompson.



Hosting the Club's 91st annual meeting were (from left) CEO John Hawkins and COO Robert Larios.



Club staff (from left) Monique Mendez, Jacob Mendez, Noah Hawkins and Ezequiel Martinez.



Club Board Member Andrew Virzi Jr., DWP, hosted the business portion of the meeting.



Club IT Dept., from left: John Monahan, Prathima Vaisya, Edith Bon, Mikayla Dooley-Sprague, Alan Bound, Petros Khachatrian, Citlali Bon and Ronald Cortez.



From left: David Jamgotchian, designer of the annual meeting decor as well as *Alive!* in print and on the Web, and Club COO Robert Larios.



Club Member Services Manager Noelle Kauffman (right) presented the Club President's Award to Genesis Martinez-Flores (left) and Cesilee Castillo.

CLUB PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The Club President's Award is given to a Club staff member who has gone above and beyond the scope of their job. The award was presented to Customer Service Representatives Genesis Martinez-Flores and Cesilee Castillo.

"Genesis and Cesilee are this year's winners of the President's Award," said Noelle Kauffman, Club Member Services Manager. "And for good reason!"

"As members of the Club's Member Services Department and the special Call Center Unit, they pick up the telephone and speak to Members. They are the primary point of contact, the first voices that Members hear first. Anyone want to take a guess how many phone calls they manage per year? Fifty-thousand!"

"And they do it with positive attitude, unending patience and a strong work effort that ultimately allow us to say that, without a doubt or reservation, the Employees Club is a world-class customer service organization. Nordstroms? In-N-Out Burger? Trader Joe's? the Ritz-Carlton, Jet Blue? They fall far below the level of service Genesis and Cesilee provide.

"Cesilee and Genesis, you have set the bar high for all employees of the Club by being inspirations and examples for the rest of the staff. But most importantly, you have given our Club Members the ultimate in customer service, allowing us to truly celebrate the lives of City employees and experience California life and work, together.

"Thank you and congratulations to each of you!"



From left: Guest Micaiah Robnett with Club Counselors Gedina Bergstrom and Jeanette Gadut.



Aixa Garcia (left) is presented the Club Representative Award from Club COO Robert Larios.

CLUB REPRESENTATIVE AWARD

The Club Representative Award is given to a Club Rep who exemplifies excitement and enthusiasm for this great City, colleagues and the Club. The honor was given to Aixa Garcia, LAPD, by Robert Larios.

"The excitement and enthusiasm have been strong within this Club Rep since 2006 when she first became a Club Member," said Club COO Robert Larios. "Since then she has been a strong supporter of the Club. Last year she was promoted to Management Analyst, so you know she has evaluated the Club and thinks it is of great value to her and coworkers. That's 14 years of belief that the Club is the place that celebrates the lives of employees and the place that helps employees experience California life and work. She has done her part during that time to tell co-workers about the benefits and services offered, and experience those benefits and services for herself for her family. For years, she helped distribute valuable news on Club benefits to her sworn and civilian colleagues at LAPD by word of mouth and email. She thinks of the Club for support and attendance at their events such as the Hollenbeck Area Picnic.

"The Employees Club of California is honored and privileged to recognize and award the 2019 Club Representative Award to Aixa Garcia."



Club Counselors (from left) Harrison Vaughan, Mia Sulak, Vicki Hale, Scott Sulak and Andrea Martinez.



The Club Board for the coming year, from left: Capt. Danny Wu, LAFD; Terry Carter, LAPD; Andrew Virzi III, DWP; and Andrew Virzi Jr., DWP.

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