

## City and State Seal Face Masks

– SEE PAGE 2



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# Alive!



REC & PARKS

# HEADQUARTERS FOR HELPING

– SEE PAGE 8

In Rec and Parks' new Dept. Operations Center, from left: Sonya Young-Jimenez, Emergency Preparedness Director; Jimmy Kim, Superintendent, Emergency Operations; and Brenda Aguirre, Emergency Management Coordinator. Background: Members of the department's Emergency Response Action Team.

■ Years in the making, **Rec and Parks Operations Center** opens just in time to manage critical mass care during the coronavirus pandemic.

Alive! photo by Summy Lam

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# JOHN'S BLOG

by John Hawkins, President and CEO, The Club



## He's Got This Emergency Covered



Jimmy Kim holds his first *Alive!* cover from 2008.

You might not know it, but here at *Alive!*, we dedicate each August to Rec and Parks in a series we call *Summer in the City*. We figure, at that point each year, it's time to kick back and enjoy being outdoors before school starts and the fall gets really busy. It's a perfect time to focus on all the recreational opportunities that Rec and Parks offers.

And then 2020 happened. I don't need to tell you what that means!

With the pandemic, this August is completely different. And yet, Rec and Parks still has an important story to tell – just a much different one.

Over the last decade, and really the last five years or so, Rec and Parks has become a lot more than you might realize. It's not just about serious recreation. It's now also about taking care of the City in an emergency. The department has been taking that role much more seriously, and a few years ago it put a

plan in place to put all its new capabilities in one place at a proper Operations Center. That new center opened in January. They didn't know it then, but their timing couldn't have been better, for them ... and for the City.

I'll let you read all about the new Operations Center in this month's cover story, and all that the department is doing to take care of the homeless and the displaced during the coronavirus crisis. (And we're happy that Rec and Parks is allowing *Alive!* to be the first publication to share the news of the opening of the center.) Well done, Rec and Parks. You've stepped up in a big way, and we all benefit.

This month's issue marks the second cover appearance for Emergency Operations Superintendent Jimmy Kim, Club Member. He first appeared on the *Alive!* cover in July 2008 as part of our look at Rec and Parks' Aquatics Division.

On that cover, Jimmy was well disguised behind a pair of professional-grade sunglasses. This month, the other half of his face is covered in a safety mask. One of these years, we'll get his full face in!

Jimmy joins Griffith Observatory Director Ed Krupp and (retired) Councilman Tom LaBonge in the two-cover Club. (Let us know if there are others.)

Speaking of masks, see the ad (below) in this issue for the City- and State-seal masks, available only at the Club Store. They're awesome, and they're very affordable. Stay safe with a Club face mask!

Everybody, try to enjoy the rest of your *Summer in the City*, such as it is. We'll all get through it together.

—JOHN

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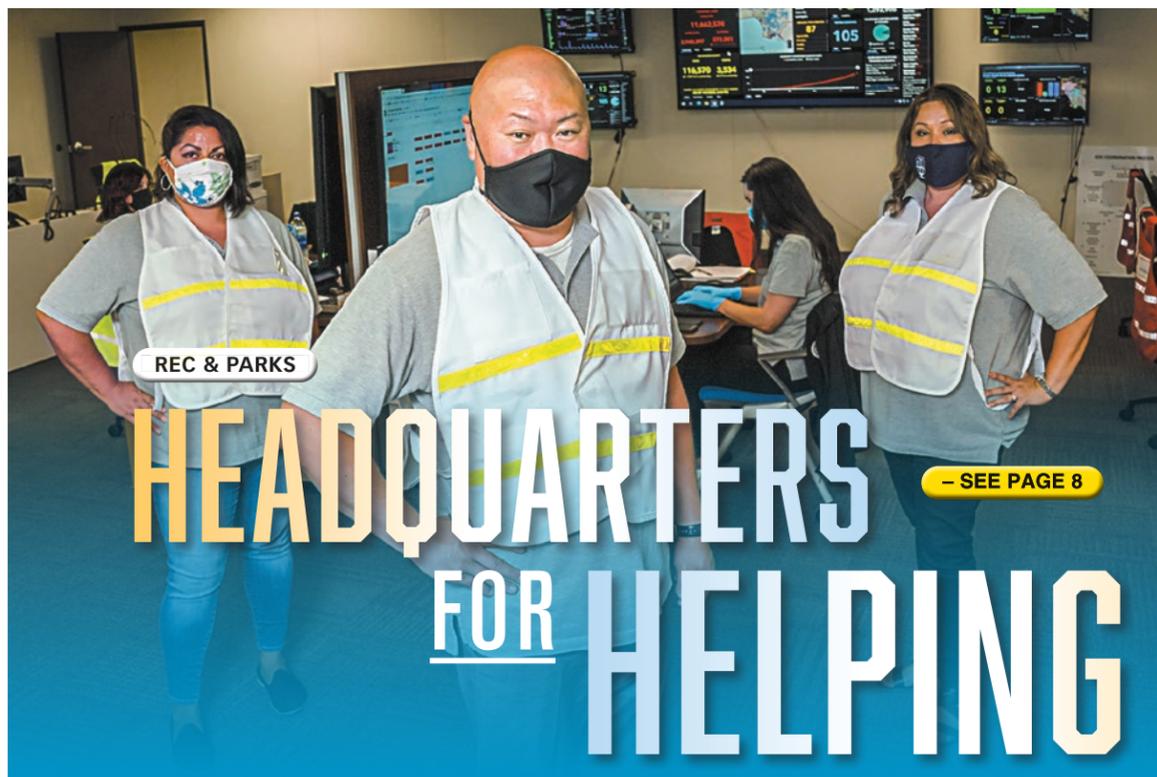
\* Not intended for medical use.

\* No guarantee masks will protect users from any illness.



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IN THIS ISSUE



REC & PARKS

# HEADQUARTERS FOR HELPING

— SEE PAGE 8

COVER STORY:

## Headquarters for Helping 8-9

Rec and Parks opens its brand new Operations Center just in time to play a critical role in managing the coronavirus crisis.

### City of LA Coverage

#### The Club

- Club announces 27 winners of its annual Joannie Mukai Scholarship Program.....5
- Invite the Club to your next online meeting .....12

#### Economic/Workforce Dev.

- Carolyn Hull is the department's new General Manager.....6

#### LAPD, LAFD

- City announces three safety officers have succumbed to the coronavirus.....7

#### Mayor's Office

- Jeanne Holm is promoted from ITA as City's Chief Data Officer.....12

#### LACERS

- Dept. offers resources for soon-to-retire employees to prepare.....13

#### LAPD

- Emada Tingirides promoted to Deputy Chief, to lead new community bureau.....13

#### PANDEMIC COVERAGE:

- Scenes from a Pandemic:** The City continues to do exemplary work on the streets during the COVID-19 emergency.....16
- How to Help:** Club Angels is reaching out to City employees in need during the coronavirus pandemic.....16
- Club Care Calls:** 40,855 and counting.....16

### Sections & Columns

- Deaths: In Memoriam .....14
- Tell Their Story: Marcella Wyant (Tirak), Airports, passed away June 18.....15
- Graduations .....15
- Insurance from the Club: Life.....15
- John's Blog: From the CEO.....2
- Larios in the Digital City .....6
- Retirements .....14

**FOR RETIREES:**  
RLACEI.....Pages 10-11

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- Discount Tickets!..... Web
- DWP Employees Connect Via Facebook ..... Web
- Harbor Police New Officers..... Web
- Library Curbside Service..... Web
- Library Top Ten ..... Web
- Picture Perfect..... Web

#### Advertiser's Index

- United Agencies ..... 12
- Rosebud Marketing ..... 13

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## Cooking With the Club

Chef Larios goes vegetarian with organic spaghetti with Roma tomatoes and spinach.



## Alive! Around the House

You're all staying safe at home. Submit a photo holding Alive! in your favorite room!



## John's Picture Perfect

See the winners from this month's photo contest.





# Alive! is now its own Website...

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Member Services Counselor  
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Member Services Counselor  
Ext. 136

#### At the Club Store



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

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**CLUB**

# Club Honors 27 with Mukai Scholarships

**In this year of uncertainty, the Club increases the Joannie Mukai Scholarship Program to 27 honorees.**



Joannie Mukai.

The Club is pleased to announce the winners of the Club's annual Joannie Mukai Scholarship Program for 2020. An increased total – 27 – of Club Members and their relatives have been awarded stipends. More than 134 students applied, a record.

The Club's Scholarship program was named for the late Joannie Mukai, the former Club Board Member and Harbor retiree who passed away in 2010. This is the tenth anniversary of her death.

"The Club is honored to award these incredible young people," said John Hawkins, Club CEO. "We are pleased to award as many as we could in this year of so much uncertainty. The Club wants to encourage everyone to keep going and follow your dreams.

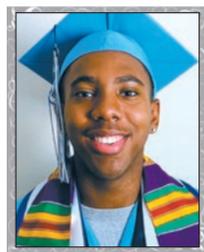
"The Club's scholarship committee and I wish all the success in the world to these awesome people, and to all those who applied. Keep working hard, keep achieving ... the world depends on you."

Those eligible included Club Members, their spouses and their children who are in college full-time or will be attending an accredited college or university in Fall 2020. Because of the uncertainty of schools reopening this fall, this year the Club added a stipulation that those applying needed to only have been accepted to a full-time college or university for the fall, in case the school itself remains closed.

 **Congratulations**  
to the awardees. The Club wishes the best success to all those who applied.



**Tiffany Acevedo**  
Daughter of Nelson Acevedo, LAUSD.



**Jalen Alavarado**  
Son of Jelonne Alavarado, DWP, City of Los Angeles.



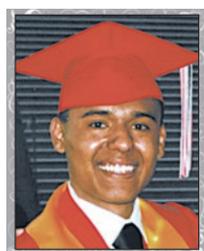
**Levit Arias**  
Related to Maria Carr, Dept. of Mental Health, Los Angeles County.



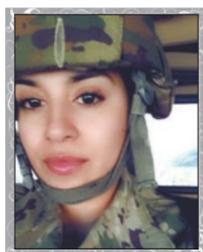
**Kyleigh Austin**  
Daughter of Wendell Keith Austin, Dept. of State Hospitals, State of California.



**Carlos Callejo**  
Son of Carlos Callejo, DWP, City of Los Angeles



**Hector Castaneda**  
Son of Hector Castaneda, CHP, State of California.



**Bianca Castro**  
Daughter of Gabriel Castro, Caltrans, State of California.



**Alex Facio**  
Son of Brian Podolsky, Retired, Transportation, City of Los Angeles.



**Ryan Facio**  
Son of Brian Podolsky, Retired, Transportation, City of Los Angeles.



**Sarah Garcia**  
Daughter of Maria Garcia, DMV, State of California.



**Leah Graham**  
Club Member, LA County Fire Dept., Los Angeles County.



**Arlene Horton**  
Daughter of Aida Gonzalez, DPSS, Los Angeles County.

*Read Their Stories*

On the *Alive!* Website are brief profiles of the awardees, excerpted from their application materials.

To read all about the winners, go to:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/scholarshipwinners2020](http://alive.employeesclub.com/scholarshipwinners2020)

**Alive.EmployeesClub.com**




**Neridah Jacquez**  
Daughter of Barbaree Jacquez, DMV, State of California.



**Jaylene Jaloma**  
Relative of Adolfo Medina, Public Works, City of Los Angeles.



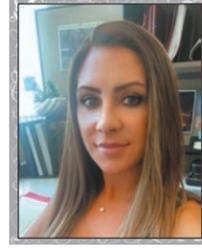
**Erick Jose**  
Club Member, Rec and Parks, City of Los Angeles.



**Paul Lankford II**  
Son of Mary Lankford, Probation, Los Angeles County.



**Kelechi Mbaruguru**  
Daughter of Ejike Eziefula Mbaruguru, Public Works, City of Los Angeles.



**Rebecca McCrumb-Cline**  
Club Member, Dept. of Food and Agriculture, State of California



**Alyson Mills**  
Daughter of Jeffrey Mills, DWP, City of Los Angeles.



**Officer Tia Moore**  
Club Member, Airport Police, City of Los Angeles.



**Isabella Moreno**  
Daughter of Kimberly Williams, CHP, State of California.



**Chanyce Rose**  
Daughter of Omar Rincon, Transportation, City of Los Angeles.



**Damian Sosa**  
Son of Jennifer Corona, LAFD, City of Los Angeles.



**Jo Ann Sun**  
Daughter of Yi-Bing Sun, Retired, Public Works, City of Los Angeles.

**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."



**Steven Sun**  
Son of Yi-Bing Sun, Retired, Public Works, City of Los Angeles.



**Celimari Tapia**  
Daughter of Jorge Tapia, EDD, State of California.



**Kalia Thompson**  
Relative of B'Elma Claiborne, Retired, Personnel, City of Los Angeles.

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# Larios in the *Digital City*

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Operating Officer




Robert Cordova Sr., Public Works/StreetsLA, 31 years of City service.

**Club COO Robert Larios continues honoring Club Members retiring by presenting the Club's coveted retiree plaque digitally, because of the coronavirus pandemic.**

Robert Cordova Sr., Club Member, retires from Public Works/StreetsLA having serviced more than 31 years of City service. He retired June 20. The Club congratulates Robert Cordova for his excellent City career!



Robert Cordova Sr., and his wife, Dawn, listen as Club COO Robert Larios presents him by phone with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.



Robert Cordova Sr. and his wife with the Club Retirement Plaque.

**Congratulations Robert Cordova Sr.!**

**ECONOMIC / WORKFORCE DEV.**

# Welcome, Carolyn

**Carolyn Hull is department's new General Manager.**



Carolyn M. Hull, General Manager, Economic and Workforce Development Dept.

Carolyn M. Hull was confirmed as the new General Manager for the Economic and Workforce Development Dept. (EWDD) by the City Council Jan. 29. Ms. Hull was nominated for the position by Mayor Eric Garcetti Dec. 30, and she comes to EWDD with extensive experience in workforce and economic development.

She was most recently the Vice President of Strategic initiatives and Industry Cluster Development at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), where she oversaw strategies and programs to promote job creation, business investment, and workforce development initiatives to strengthen the alignment of LA County's workforce and education systems with industry needs.

Prior to joining LAEDC, Carolyn was the South Los Angeles Regional Administrator for the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA). In this role, she managed all redevelopment programs, activities and staff for the South Los Angeles region. During her tenure at CRA/LA, she served as the CRA/LA's Manager of Capital Finance. In this capacity, she analyzed project-financing plans, and developed financing structures to optimize the utilization of public and private resources for all of CRA/LA's priority projects. At the same time, she served as the co-founder and President of the Los Angeles Development Fund (LADF). Under her leadership, LADF received and managed a \$75 million New Markets Tax Credit Allocation. In addition, she managed CRA/LA's \$700 million portfolio of conduit bonds.

Carolyn holds a Bachelor of science degree in industrial management from Carnegie-Mellon University and a Master of science degree in economics and urban planning from the London School of Economics, in addition to a Certificate in real estate finance from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Welcome, Carolyn!**

# 3 Pass Away From Coronavirus

In the span of approximately two weeks, the City announced that three of its public safety employees – the LAPD’s Sr. Detention Officer Erica McAdoo and Officer II Valentin Martinez, and the LAFD’s Firefighter III/Paramedic Jose Perez – had succumbed to the coronavirus.

They were the first three reported deaths due to the virus among City personnel.

LAFD

## Firefighter III/Paramedic Jose M. Perez

LAFD Firefighter III/Paramedic Jose M. Perez passed away July 25. He is survived by his wife and three children. Jose had 16 years of City service and was the first Firefighter/Paramedic at the LAFD to succumb to the coronavirus. He was 44.



Firefighter III/Paramedic Jose M. Perez.

LAPD

## Officer II Valentin Martinez

Officer II Valentin Martinez, known as Val, of LAPD’s Mission Station passed away July 24 after a long, courageous battle with the coronavirus. He was 45 and had 13 years of City service.

Val was reported to have been anticipating the birth of twins with his domestic partner, Megan Flynn.

He joined the force in 2007. He was the first sworn Officer to die of the virus, according to the LAPD.



Officer II Valentin Martinez and his domestic partner, Megan Flynn.

*May they rest in peace.*

Photos from *Alive!* and courtesy LAPD

LAPD

## Sr. Detention Officer Erica McAdoo

**Sr. Detention Officer Erica McAdoo is first in LAPD to die of COVID-19**

Sr. Detention Officer Erica McAdoo, LAPD, passed away Friday night, July 3rd of complications from the coronavirus. She’s the first in the LAPD to succumb to the disease, according to the department. She was 39.

Officer McAdoo was a Club Member.

“Today, the department lost a Sr. Detention Officer assigned to Custody Services Division after a valiant battle with COVID-19,” wrote Assistant Chief Beatrice M. Girmala, Office of Support Services, in a post on Instagram. “Facing every day with strength and extraordinary effort, the bar for facing

adversity was raised in our colleague’s fight for life. She left us a hero.

“Please keep our sister in your thoughts and prayers, as well as her mother and family. The sky and heavens will shine a little brighter tonight, despite the sadness and shadow cast here on earth.”

She is survived by her mother, Donna Royston.

Flags in the California State Capitol flew at half-staff Monday, July 6, in Officer McAdoo’s honor.

The department had reported at least 320 cases of the disease among its employees at the time of Officer

McAdoo’s death. Among those who tested positive, 254 are isolating themselves at home and 136 have returned to work, the City said.

Officer McAdoo appeared several times in the pages of *Alive!*, including at her academy graduation in November 2009.

The Club mourns her loss and wishes its deepest condolences to her family and colleagues. Rest in peace.

Sr. Detention Officer Erica McAdoo.

Erica in the pages of *Alive!*



**Alive! November 2009**  
Erica at her academy graduation.



**Alive! January 2014**  
Erica at a department Christmas party.



REC & PARKS

Photos by Summy Lam, Club Director of Marketing; and courtesy Rec and Parks

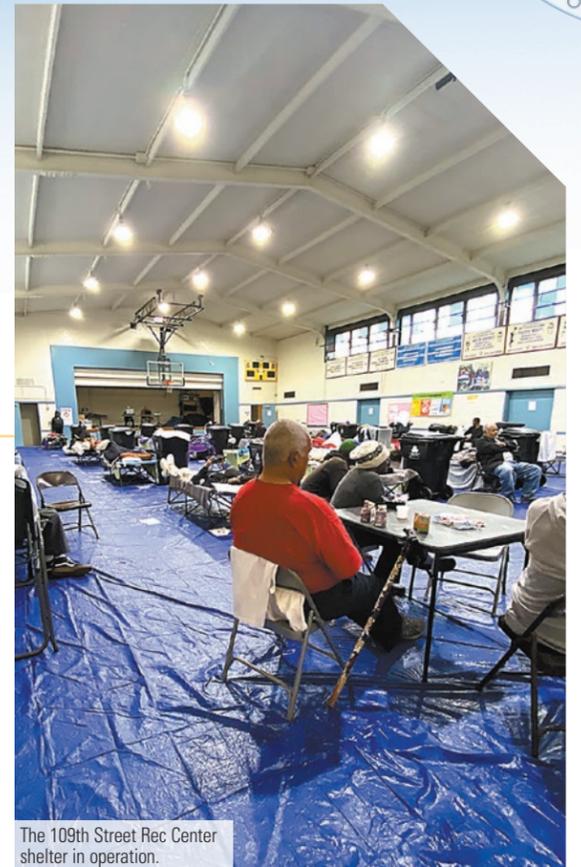
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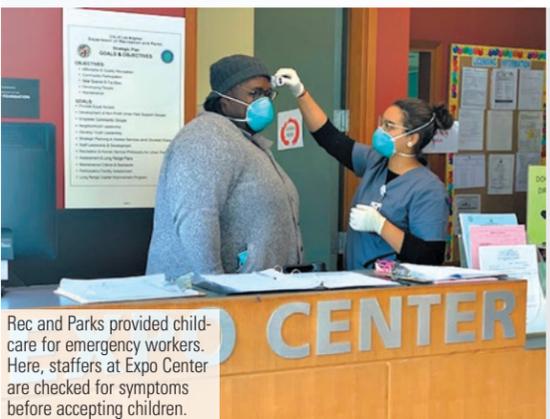
The Rec and Parks shelter crew at the Hollywood Rec Center.



A Rec and Parks crew ready to accept the homeless.



The 109th Street Rec Center shelter in operation.



Rec and Parks provided child-care for emergency workers. Here, staffers at Expo Center are checked for symptoms before accepting children.



Jimmy Kim, Superintendent of Rec and Parks' Emergency Management Division, leads a training session with full-time staff. (Photo taken pre-COVID.)



Rec and Parks has provided more than 50,000 showers for the sheltered homeless during the crisis. Aquatics Division at Central and Granada Hills Rec Centers were two of the facilities Rec and Parks used for this service.



The construction of Rec and Parks' Dept. Operations Center in the RAP Central Service Yard. (Photo taken pre-COVID.)



Emergency Workers staff delivered materials to the Rec Centers 24/7.

## Emergency Management Division IN ACTION!



The main room of Rec and Parks' new Dept. Operations Center. The monitors on the back wall contain live status information on number of people in shelters, trailers, genders, attendants, and many other details.



From left: Sonya Young-Jimenez, Emergency Management Coordinator II, 22 years of City service, Club Member; Ken Hansen, DOC Runner, 5 years; Brenda Aguirre, Emergency Management Coordinator I, 14 years; Jimmy Kim, Superintendent of Emergency Management and Citywide Aquatics Division, 25 years, Club Member; John Paul Cortez, Unified Homeless Response Center Liaison, 14 years; and Tatiana Calle, DOC Support Staff, 7 years.

ABOVE: Members of the Emergency Response Action Team (ERAT), from left: Wendy Sandoval, DOC Logistics Coordinator, 16 years of City service; Adriana Smith, DOC Director, 28 years; Jimmy Kim, Superintendent of Emergency Management and Citywide Aquatics Division, 25 years, Club Member; Maha Yateem, DOC Finance Coordinator, 35 years; Brenda Aguirre, Emergency Management Coordinator I, 14 years; and Sonya Young-Jimenez, Emergency Management Coordinator II, 21 years. The monitors on the back wall contain live status information on the number of people in shelters; trailers; genders; attendants; and many other details.

# HELPING



**Years in the making, the new Rec and Parks Operations Center opens just in time to manage the sheltering of large groups during the coronavirus pandemic.**

Five years ago, when Rec and Parks began making serious plans to upgrade its emergency preparedness and create an operations center, the department figured that an emergency was inevitable. Knowing Southern California, that could be an earthquake, wildfires, floods, a foreign attack, or other calamities. **It even planned for a virus outbreak.**

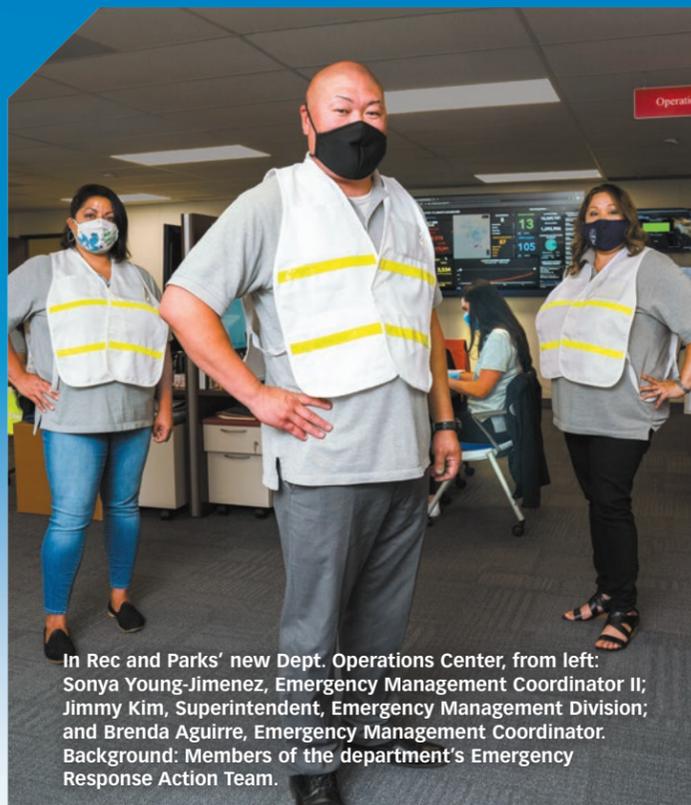
But not quite like this. When Rec and Parks opened its Dept. Operations Center (DOC) in January, it could not have known that a pandemic was about to envelop the world. But sometimes the timing is fortunate. From its new DOC in Rec and Parks' Central Service Yard, the department's Emergency Management Division has managed some of the biggest mass care missions the City has undertaken to care for Angelenos – sheltering more than 1,000 homeless and vulnerable citizens to help protect them from the virus; providing more than 50,000 showers to keep those sheltered clean; offering health

and mental health screenings and counseling to improve their lives; providing childcare for emergency workers; and many other services. As of August, these emergency services continue.

Getting to this point has been a long process. Rec and Parks first had to create an Emergency Management Division, then staff it and write procedures and regulations; then implement a substantial training program; and finally create space for emergency management. That has all happened, and just in time.

In this month's interview and images – the first time Rec and Parks has opened its DOC doors to outside press – read about how it all came down, how it's going, and the lessons the emergency team has learned. ■

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



In Rec and Parks' new Dept. Operations Center, from left: Sonya Young-Jimenez, Emergency Management Coordinator II; Jimmy Kim, Superintendent, Emergency Management Division; and Brenda Aguirre, Emergency Management Coordinator. Background: Members of the department's Emergency Response Action Team.

**“We’ve become a well-oiled machine in emergency operations. I’m super proud of that.”**

– Jimmy Kim, Superintendent

## The *Alive!* Interview

## THE GOLD STANDARD OF MASS CARE



On July 7, Club CEO John Hawkins and *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed Rec and Parks' Emergency Response Action Team (ERAT) members Jimmy Kim, Superintendent, Operations, 20 years of City service, Club Member; Sonya Young-Jimenez, Emergency Management Coordinator II, 21 years, Club Member; and Brenda Aguirre, Emergency Management Coordinator, 14 years. The interview took place at Rec and Parks' brand new Dept. Operations Center (DOC) on the Rec and Parks campus in North Atwater. It marked Rec and Parks' first public welcome to the new DOC.

All five participants, plus photographer Summy Lam, socially distanced for the interview.

**Alive!: Thanks for welcoming us today. This new center is impressive.**

**Jimmy Kim:** Sure. I like your masks, with the City seal!

**These are from the Club Store. Shameless plug!**

**Jimmy Kim:** Right. Nice. Here at Rec and Parks, we the department issued masks to every one of our employees. Everybody gets one mask at least.

**Tell us how you got here – your career up to this point.**

**Sonya Young-Jimenez:** I started as a part-timer. I worked for seven years programming summer camps and after school clubs. Then I worked my way up the ladder through Recreation to become a Coordinator, a Director, then a Senior Director. Around 2011 or so I got on the Emergency Response Action Team, and I just loved it. It was one of my favorite committees to be on, and I loved being with the team and learning a lot about emergency management.

Around 2017, [then-Assistant General Manager and Club Member] Kevin Regan asked me if I was interested in doing Emergency work, too. I didn't know about doing them both at the same time, but I decided to take a leap, and I've been doing Emergency for the last three years now. I took the test and became a full-time Emergency manager.

**Did you ever think you'd be sheltering people or doing emergency operations? Did you think that that was where your career was going?**

**Sonya Young-Jimenez:** No, never. I didn't even know that was part of our mission. In the early years it wasn't even talked about that that was one in the Charter. We had a couple people who helped do emergency response but never the way we do it now, not to the extent that we would be sheltering. With so many wildfires every season, I feel like we're always in some activation. I never would have thought as a part-timer that this is what I'd be doing.

But this division has been amazing. With all the emergency processes and plans we have, Jimmy knows how to put those together and knows how to get people to follow them. That's really what makes this division special.

**So Jimmy, same question. How did you get here?**

**Jimmy Kim:** I started back in '94 as a junior lifeguard in the Summer Youth Employment Program. That got me interested in becoming a lifeguard, so

I was a junior lifeguard. In 1995, I became a locker attendant for a couple of months. Then I trained and became a full lifeguard in '96.

**Where was that?**

**Jimmy Kim:** I started as a Junior Guard at Griffith Park. I was there for one summers. And then I was a Locker Attendant at E.G. Roberts



From left: Club CEO John Hawkins and Jimmy Kim, Rec and Parks' Emergency Management Superintendent, at the new Operations Center.

Swimming Pool for the fall and in '96, I was a Reserve Lifeguard. I was a hustler, filling positions all over the place. In '97, I got more a permanent position. I worked at Echo Park, then became a part-time pool manager until 2000, a PM 1. I became a Seasonal Pool Manager II, still part-time. I went full-time as an Aquatic Facility Manager in 2005. And that is when I took on in Aquatics the role of the Training Officer and developed our Lifeguard Academy into what it is today.

From 2005 till about 2015, I moved up the ranks in Aquatics. And like Sonya, I never looked at Emergency Management. I thought my endgame was going to be as an Aquatic Director. I made it to Aquatic Facility Manager II and III. I oversaw Expo Center for about four months. And then the opportunity came at the time to do emergency work.

This is how I became an Emergency Manager: Back in 2014, I was still in Aquatics. I did pretty well in terms of writing and developing training plans. I was at a Starbucks with my then boss, Trish Delgado, Brian Lam and my Assistant General Manager, Kevin Regan. Kevin was talking about a lawsuit and needing to develop standard operating procedures. There was nothing at that point. He looked at us for an answer, I lifted my head to the side and I raised my hand and said, "Sir, I think I can do this." He looked at me and said, "Dude, what's your name?" I said, "Jimmy Kim." And he says, "You're my guy. I want you to work with Brian." That literally opened the door for me, and I ended up writing the first initial 21 standard operating procedures as well as our sheltering handbook. That actually got reduced to about 14 after they boiled it down. Two years later, the Department decided to actually hire emergency managers, and I became one. I was appointed to an EMC II position about two years after that, to oversee Emergency Management. Then Sonya and, later, Brenda, came on to Emergency Management.

About two years ago the Superintendent position opened up. I interviewed for that and was appointed. Now I oversee both Emergency Management and my initial, you know, love, Aquatics. That's a success story.

**Jimmy Kim:** Yes.

**— 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



### 2020 Executive Board of Directors

Ruth B. Perry, President  
Beverly J. Clark, First Vice President  
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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
Tom Moutes, Director	Ext. 710
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Neil Ricci, Director	Ext. 714
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Verkin (Vicki) Keoseian, Director	Ext. 719

### 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

### 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 LAFCU as applicable.

### Send in your Interesting

**News Contributions!**

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

Golf Tournament - Canceled  
Summer Picnic - Canceled  
Holiday Party - Canceled

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

## RETIREES ON THE MOVE

### Elvis Is in the Building! Fernie 'ELVIZ' Ramirez

He's a Retiree on the Move

by Beverly Clark, RLACEI Publicity Chair



Fernie Ramirez

Fernie Ramirez retired March 24 from LAPD Training Division's Art Unit after 32 years of City service. He worked about 16 years at the L.A. Zoo and about 16 years with the LAPD as a Graphic Designer.

Fernie ran his own graphic design studio in Hollywood in the early 1980s, and now he works out of his home on small projects. He loves drawing caricatures.

Fernie hosts karaoke parties, and absolutely loves playing those great doo-wops, oldies, Latin and country hits as a mobile DJ. He also enjoys playing tennis two or three times a week.

Fernie became interested in Elvis in his 30s. He says a song caught his ear, "Treat Me Nice." After that, he started listening and singing Elvis' greatest hits. One day after a drink, he got up the nerve to sing "Mack the Knife," one of his favorites. Then he next sang another Elvis hit, and a lady came up to him and said, "Hey, you did that song very well!" So, after he hit some of the karaoke venues in his neighborhood, people were asking him if he performed at parties or other events. Without thinking, he said yes! Although he never had, he immediately went out and bought a \$24 costume, added extra jewels and started performing at events around town.

Fernie says he knew his show was rather good because some of his jewels were scattered around the floor! He is proud to say that he is still performing at the age of 72 or 68, he can't remember. His Elvis

jumpsuits now cost around \$1,800! He says he is having a fun-tastic time performing in front of an audience and is surprised his kneecaps haven't fallen off yet! (Elvis liked to kid around a bit.)

Fernie says his show is rather unique because no impersonator does what he does! He welcomes those who love Elvis to visit his Website at [www.elvizandfriends.com](http://www.elvizandfriends.com).

He has been performing for about 12 years and is available for birthdays, weddings, fundraisers, divorces, funerals and any special event where Elvis is needed.

In his retirement, Fernie has kept himself busy as Elvis, of course, but also serves on the board of a small nonprofit organization Friends of Father Murphy, which awards scholarships to help students of low-income families complete their education. He also chairs three fundraising projects: Veterans Appreciation Dance and Show, Chanclazo Dance and Show, and his timeout weekend



getaway, Laughing to Laughlin with Elvz. "It's a lot of work but the rewards are great!"

### How do you feel about retirement?

"It was kind of tough deciding when to retire. It's another important page in your book of life, but hearing that all of my retired friends were having fun in their adventures and having my hummingbirds in order, I figured it was about time."

Fernie emphasizes that, "It is important to have a plan B, C and D before you retire. My formula: Trust in God, eat right, think positive, do the right thing, treat everyone with respect and keep moving those bones!"

### How do you feel about Shelter-in-Place and getting bored:

"I truly wish everyone would follow the safety rules to end this pandemic ... so I could enjoy my retirement, *pleeeeeease!* Being single, the shelter-in-place order has honestly not bothered me. I have plenty of projects around my home. One was changing the lighting in my kitchen, even though I almost shocked myself to death. But I am enormously proud of completing the project, and I now have a new hairdo!"

### As you reflect on your City career, would you have done anything differently?

"No. Working for the City and my co-workers has been a pleasant experience. You work hard and play hard and it pays off with good memories. Socializing through the media platform is the new norm for now, but this too shall pass. What I miss most with me being a hugger, I just can't wait to give all a big bear hug!"

Ladies and gentlemen, ELVIZ has left the building! ■

## Canceling Is No Picnic

This year's annual RLACEI summer picnic, scheduled for Aug. 6 at Grace E. Simons Lodge, has sadly but reasonably been canceled due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

But in the spirit of the annual picnic – friends and coworkers over the years getting together to renew their friendships – here are some images from last year's picnic.

Until we can meet again, stay safe at home. We'll see you again next year!

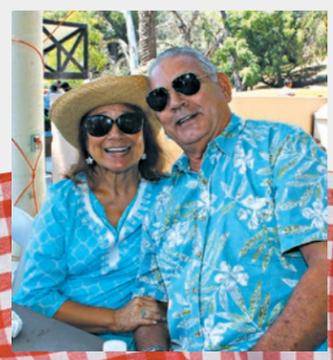


From left: Judy and Jim Iwaki, Retired, Community Development (CDD), 29 years of City service; and Jerry Bardwell, Retired, LACERS, 30 years.



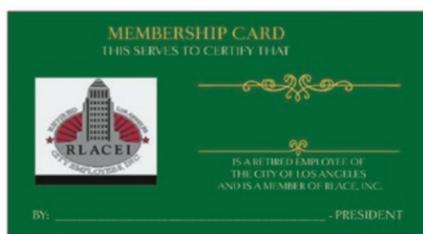
Ruth Perry, President and Membership Chair of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees Association, Inc. (RLACEI).

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



Sally Lopez, Retired, Library, 15 years of City service; and John Lopez.

## Scenes from last year's picnic.



## Become an RLACEI Member

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. We are over 6,500 strong! Members enjoy all RLACEI events such as the golf tournament, member's picnic, and holiday party. RLACEI membership includes FREE membership in the Employees Club of California with access to all Club group benefits (insurance, discounts, etc.).

**Get FREE membership through the end of 2020 for those retiring Aug. 1 through Nov. 30, 2020!**



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

## Retraction

The July 2020 print issue of *Alive!* contained a column entitled, "Always a Good Idea to Treat the Staff Well" by Tom Moutes. The column was submitted for publication in error. The correct column for July, "The City's Annual Contribution to LACERS," can be found here:

- The *Alive!* Website: [alive.employeesclub.com/tom-moutes\\_rlacei\\_director\\_the-citys-annual-contribution-to-lacers/](http://alive.employeesclub.com/tom-moutes_rlacei_director_the-citys-annual-contribution-to-lacers/)
- As a downloadable PDF: [employeesclub.com/Alive.aspx?Volume=0&Issue=0](http://employeesclub.com/Alive.aspx?Volume=0&Issue=0)

To repeat, please note that the opinions expressed in the incorrect column are that of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of RLACEI, the Employees Club of California, or *Alive!* The Employees Club regrets the error. ■

## A Note on COVID-19 To Our RLACEI Retirees:

At the time of this writing, just as we thought things were getting close to some normalcy (many of our favorite restaurants were opening, barber shops, hair and nail salons were opening), Gov. Gavin Newsom has announced all California counties to re-close restaurants, movie theaters, family entertainment centers, wineries, zoos and bars for indoor service.

Unfortunately, California has shown a spike in new cases with Los Angeles County in the lead. So what it means for most of us, and in particular, our retirement community, is that we must continue to limit our social gatherings and wear a mask when in public. This is a good time to take nature walks, join a class on Zoom, complete that unfinished project, or connect with long-lost friends either by telephone or virtually. Since many of our favorite restaurants are providing only takeout and outside dining, try cooking a gourmet meal! Let's keep our minds active: read a self-improvement book or a book on travel, manage your finances, write letters, clean a closet.

"You have to find a way to respect these new boundaries related to coronavirus, but still live the version of life you're used to. That's what life is, regardless of circumstances." – Caroline Wright

So as we enter another month of sheltering at home, the RLACEI Board asks that you continue to stay safe and be well.

## THE LACERS BOARD

### Actuarial Studies, and Why They Matter

by Tom Moutes

One of the most important things the LACERS Board does is to make sure the demographic and economic actuarial assumptions it is making about our plan are as accurate as possible. Accurate demographic and economic assumptions help ensure the City's annual contribution to LACERS is sufficient for the long-term funding of our pension plan.

#### Demographic Assumptions

Demographic assumptions, which are based on the LACERS membership, include such things as how many people will terminate City service prior to retirement; when employees will retire (only a small percentage of eligible employees retire each year); and how long will they tend to live after retirement.

Reviewing demographic assumptions is fairly straightforward. Typically, the actual numbers of terminations, retirements and deaths over the prior three years are compared with the previously assumed numbers, and necessary adjustments are recommended to the LACERS Board. For example, if significantly more people choose to retire than were expected to retire, the rate of retirements and the associated costs will need to be adjusted. Sometimes, additional factors are taken into consideration – like if people generally

are living longer and LACERS needs to prepare to pay Retirees over a longer period of time.

#### Economic Assumptions

Economic assumptions include items such as inflation, pay increases and LACERS investment return. Unlike the backward-looking demographic assumptions, the economic assumptions generally are forward-looking. This makes the economic assumptions less certain than the demographic assumptions.

The rate of investment return assumption is an extremely important economic assumption. For many years, LACERS assumed it would make 8 percent per year on average on its investments. In 2011, the Board voted to decrease the assumed rate of investment return to 7.75 percent. The LACERS Board further lowered its investment return assumption to 7.5 percent in 2014; 7.25 percent in 2017; and 7 percent at its June 23 meeting.

#### The Impact of Actuarial Assumptions on LACERS

So, how important is it to assume an investment return as close to reality as possible? LACERS investment returns between 2001 and 2019 averaged about 7 percent, with the assumptions listed above. It doesn't

seem like that is a huge difference, but on the retirement side alone (not including Retiree health-care), the difference between what LACERS expected to earn and what it actually earned accounted for a \$2.7 billion liability for the pension fund.

The bad news is that adjusting demographic and economic assumptions costs money. For example, if LACERS assumes it will make less on its investments, that assumption costs the City additional contributions as well. The changes in demographic and economic assumptions between 2002 and 2019 created a \$2.8 billion liability for LACERS on the retirement side and caused a reduction in the LACERS funding level to 73.1 percent.

The good news is that more accurate assumptions establish a more realistic funding level – you are not fudging numbers to make the plan look better than it really is – and it helps ensure adequate annual contributions from the City and sufficient long-term funding for the health of the pension plan on which we all rely. ■



Tom Moutes

## LACERS BOARD UPDATE

### LACERS Adopts New Actuarial Assumptions

by Michael R. Wilkinson

Whenever I write on the subject of actuarial calculations, I see eyes glazing over before I begin, so bear with me. Yes, changing LACERS' actuarial assumptions may not sound important or thrilling, but maybe if I put it another way it will catch your attention: "LACERS makes changes to ensure your pension checks keep coming." Ah, now I have your attention.

The overall simple math of providing your pension is this: Combine the money in from your contributions as an active employee, plus the City's contributions, plus investment earnings pay for the pension and health benefits we receive and the administrative and investment costs.

The job of the LACERS Board and the actuary is to ensure that we realistically plan for the money coming in and going out so that there will be enough to pay for our lifetime retirement pension and benefits.

The actuary helps the Board to come up with realistic assumptions of what it will cost to provide the pension, making estimates on how long retirees will live, what the cost of living will be, how much health insurance will cost and what raises City



Michael R. Wilkinson

employees will get during their working career. Also, the Board must make a difficult decision in predicting the income our investments will make.

Estimating the investment return is critical since it is the single most important source of the money to provide our pensions. If

we choose an investment return that is too high, we risk not putting away enough money to support the pension, and the City must make up the deficit in larger contribution payments down the road.

I have always voted and argued for following our actuary's recommendation so that we can be sure we are putting enough money away to invest for our pensions. In 2017 and 2018, the actuary recommended that we lower our investment assumption from 7.25 percent to 7 percent. I agreed and voted both times for the 7 percent assumption, but the Board majority chose to keep it at 7.25 percent.

A lower percentage means that we are anticipating lower investment returns over the next 30 years, so the City must put in more money now. While a higher (and in my view

unreasonable) investment assumption may seem to save the City money now, the overall costs are much larger when the bills come due later.

This time the Board adopted all of the of the actuary's recommendations, making several changes to the assumptions, including the long overdue reduction in the assumed investment rate of return to 7 percent, and changing the inflation assumption to 2.75 percent from 3 percent. The vote to accept the new assumptions was unanimous. Note the inflation assumption change does not change the rules providing the COLA for Tier 1 and Tier 2 members. The Board also revised its assumptions for active member raises.

I want to thank RLACEI President Ruth Perry and LACERS' former General Manager Tom Moutes for their thoughtful written public comments in support of the change in the investment assumption rate. Similarly, thanks to other LACERS and City family members (listed in order of appearance in the LACERS documents) for their supportive comments: Kelly Kadomatsu, Li Hsi, Mark Blunk, Steven Montagna, Susan Ozawa, Trina Unzicker and Mary Campos. ■

## Best Wishes, Michael



Michael Karsch

Michael Karsch, longtime RLACEI Board Member and *Alive!* columnist on national pension matters, has resigned from both of those responsibilities to spend more time at home enjoying family.

The RLACEI Board thanks Michael for his many years of serving as a Board member and for the informative articles submitted to *Alive!* His articles have kept the retirement community informed on pension plans and legislative actions taking place throughout the country.

Michael has been a great asset to the Board; with his resignation, he will be missed. He joined

RLACEI shortly after retiring from the City in 2007 after completing slightly more than 31 years of service working in the Chief Legislative Office.

Michael plans to spend more time at home helping his wife in the garden and enjoying family.

The Board wishes him all the best! The Club thanks Michael for his excellent articles and the information they conveyed to all *Alive!* readers. ■





## Put your graduation photo in *Alive!*

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

**Make sure you tell us:**

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



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

## Invite the Club to Your Online Meeting!

The Club is in full operation (except for the walk-in Club Store, for now) and working hard to bring exclusive Club benefits to City and DWP employees.

Over the last few months, we've been meeting with hundreds of you. How? Through City online presentations!

Throughout June and July, Counselor Dalila Vielma participated in presentations about Club benefits by participating in departmental Webex meetings. She can prepare Club materials and drop them off in advance.

The Club can join meetings in the following platforms: Webex, Zoom, GoToMeeting, Rooms, Teams, and others. You name the platform, and we'll meet you there!

Bring great Club benefits to your next meeting!  
 Invite us to your next Webex presentation.  
**To book: [info@employeesclub.com](mailto:info@employeesclub.com)**



Club Counselor Dalila Vielma is ready with great Club information for your next online meeting. **Invite her to join!**



Last month, Club Counselor Dalila Vielma (middle row left) presented the Club story and benefits to DWP new employees using the Webex teleconference app.

### MAYOR'S OFFICE

## Jeanne Is Data Chief

**Jeanne Holm, Club Member, is City's new Chief Data Officer.**



Jeanne Holm

Jeanne Holm, a high-profile leader in open data, education, community-building and civic innovation, was named LA's new Chief Data Officer (CDO) this spring.

Before the promotion, Holm held two titles with ITA — Deputy Chief Information Officer and Assistant General Manager.

Jeanne is a Club Member. We featured her and her ITA team in March 2019 as part of our story on the innovative Shake Alert LA earthquake warning app.

She describes her new responsibilities this way: "Create innovative, data-driven solutions for the City to use in managing public health and safety, focusing on equity, improving digital inclusion, improving City services, and ensuring businesses and residents have the data they need. Lead public-private partnerships to bring more Internet connectivity and digital literacy to all neighborhoods in Los Angeles. Partner with cities globally in using advanced technologies and data to focus on shared issues like air quality."

Holm has been affiliated for almost 20 years as a symposium chair and as a fellow in the United Nations' International Academy of Astronautics. She led the federal government's national and international collaboration on open data, a role in which she reported to the federal chief information officer and chief technology officer in the Executive Office of the President. She also previously served as chief knowledge architect for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); as an open data senior consultant for the World Bank Group; and as an adviser to the UN's Sustainable Development Solutions Network. She is a distinguished instructor at UCLA and has been a guest lecturer at Pepperdine University.

In her last ITA Weekly Digest newsletter as editor, she wrote: "It's truly been an honor working in ITA and helping keep everyone up to date on the news each week. Thanks for all that you do, for the amazing work you've done during this crisis, and for being such great collaborators."

The City's CDO position was created in March 2016.

**Congratulations, Jeanne!**



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**LACERS**

# Retiring Soon? LACERS Can Help

*Story and photos courtesy Heather Ramirez, LACERS*

**Retirement System offers resources to help you prepare.**



The earlier you develop an understanding of your retirement benefits, the more prepared you'll be to make good decisions and develop a plan for your financial future. So, whether you're early in your City career or retirement is just around the corner, there are many resources available to help you learn about and prepare for retirement with LACERS.

**LACERS staff is ready to help:**

**Tenah Johnson-Taylor**

**Cliff Lim**

**Glen Malabuyoc**

**Sandra Ford-James**

**Kimberly Baldwin and Nathan Herkelrath**

Clockwise from top left: **Maria Salamanca-Martinez, Ada Lok, Bryan Fujita, Mikyong Jang and Lourdes Quintos.**

## RETIREE RESOURCES

### Attend a LACERS Planning for Retirement Webinar

With in-person events canceled until further notice, you can now attend informative virtual Webinars to learn about your benefits. Like past planning for retirement seminars, these virtual events will provide valuable information about the retirement process, retirement eligibility and calculations, medical and dental plan offerings, and much more.

To view a list of upcoming Webinar dates, visit [LACERS.org/planning-retirement](http://LACERS.org/planning-retirement) and register to attend via your MyLACERS account.

### Subscribe to the Official LACERS YouTube Channel

Can't attend a Webinar but still want to learn about your LACERS benefits? Check out one of the many single-topic videos that cover all of your burning questions from "What's the difference between service and service credit?" to "What survivor benefits are available to my family when I pass away?". Learn from the comfort of your home or on the go – it's never been more convenient! Make sure to subscribe to the LACERS YouTube channel to be the first to know when new videos are available.

### LACERS Remote Call Center Now Open!

Excellent customer service is always a top priority, and LACERS is happy to announce that our Member Service Center has resumed taking live calls from our members. You can once again speak to a live LACERS representative by calling (800) 779-8328. As most LACERS staff continues to telecommute and adjust to serving you remotely, please be patient when calling the Member Service Center as they assist you with your inquiry and/or connect you with the appropriate LACERS staff.

### Visit the Redesigned LACERS.org Website

During these unprecedented times, stay informed and up to date on news regarding the LACERS plan. New content is posted regularly, and you'll get the inside scoop directly from LACERS General Manager Neil Guglielmo himself on the "General Managers Desk" monthly update. You can view the current and previous posts on the "About" tab of our Website.

### Take Advantage of Your MyLACERS Online Account

Keep track of your personal LACERS information such as your service and service credit, beneficiaries on file, and correspondence with LACERS staff through your secured online account. Your MyLACERS account is also the easiest way to get benefit estimates for retirement dates you may be considering by using the self-service benefit estimator. Don't have a MyLACERS account yet? Request a PIN be mailed to you by visiting the LACERS website to get started.

**LAPD**

## Dep. Chief Emada to Lead New LAPD Bureau



Emada Tingirides promoted to Deputy Chief, to lead new community bureau.

Club Member Emada Tingirides, formerly the Commanding Officer of the Southeast Patrol Division, was promoted to Deputy Chief July 22. Then, on July 27, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced that Dep. Chief Tingirides will lead the department's new Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Bureau — placing a nationally recognized model for community policing at the heart of the City's public safety efforts.

The new CSP Bureau will bring the City's 10 CSP sites under a single command and integrate aspects of the model, including its training curriculum, across LAPD operations.

CSP places specially trained and selected officers in a five-year assignment in one place so they can become part of the community and develop relationships with the people they serve.

Expect to read more about this new bureau in a future issue of *Alive!*

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# Life's Important Moments

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

## 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
Afroz, Jafar	Safety Engr., Ele.	Bldg. & Safety	8	Laskowsky, Katherine	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Allen, Christopher	Water Operations	DWP	N/D	Lavado, Maria	Custodian	Airports	17
Anderson, Harold	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Leitch, Crawford	Power Safety	DWP	N/D
Antonio, Manuel	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Leonardo, Aldolfo	Power C&M	DWP	N/D
Aragon, Richard	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Lopez, Jose	Facilities Mgmt.	DWP	N/D
Ayers, Valerie	Power Trans.	DWP	N/D	Lopez, Ramiro	Facilities Mgmt.	DWP	N/D
Barnard, John	Messenger Clerk	Library	1	Lopez, Rosalyn	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAPD	19
Barnes, Daniel	Power Trans.	DWP	N/D	Luna, Craig	Real Estate	DWP	N/D
Barraza, Steven	Metering Services	DWP	N/D	Lundquist, David	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D
Berry, Gladys	Customer Service	DWP	N/D	MacLaughlin, Ranol	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D
Blanchfield, Thomas	Power Safety	DWP	N/D	Maland, Todd	Build. Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	14
Bolotsky, Larisa	Engineering Ass.	Transp./DWP	21	Manigbas, Leo	Power Supply	DWP	N/D
Bonich, Hector	Metering Services	DWP	N/D	Manookian, Nyart	ITS	DWP	N/D
Branche, Eric	Customer Service	DWP	N/D	Marin, Robert	Power C&M	DWP	N/D
Calderon, Lawrence	Asset Mgmt.	DWP	N/D	Marroquin, Luis	Env. Chem Lab	DWP	N/D
Calzada, Silvia	Librarian	Library	10	Marsh, Andre	Security Services	DWP	N/D
Campen, David	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	McCreary, Dwayne	ITS	DWP	N/D
Carrasco, Fernando	Maint./Const. Helper	Airports	28	McKenzie Fraser, Angus	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Harbor	7
Carillo, Mario	Facilities Mgmt.	DWP	N/D	Mendoza, Marciano	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	15
Carone, Anthony	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D	Merkin, Steven	Metering Services	DWP	N/D
Carter, Tijuana	Power Trans.	DWP	N/D	Micciche, Joseph	Power Trans.	DWP	N/D
Casillas, Bertha A.	Special Prog. Asst.	Rec and Parks	1	Montes, Pablo	Custodian	Gen. Services	12
Castillo, Robert	Business Support	DWP	N/D	Moore, Sharon	Graphics Designer	Rec and Parks	13
Chan, Angela	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Morris, Lendar	Security Services	DWP	N/D
Chavis, Edmund	Facilities Mgmt.	DWP	N/D	Mosley, Lillian	Customer Billing	DWP	N/D
Chow, Larry	Sr. Systems Analyst	Personnel	39	Navarro, Patricia	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D
Clutario Jr., Pascual	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Okhanes, Bedros	HR	DWP	N/D
Cohen, Stephen	Deputy City Att.	City Att.	21	Ordone, Rodolfo	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Cordeta, Encarmina	Mgmt. Analyst	LAPD	25	Orona, Michael	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D
Craven, Cathy	Airport Engineer	Airports	31	Ortiz, Guillermo	Heavy Duty Truck Op.	Rec and Parks	33
Cullen, William	Deputy City Att.	City Att.	42	Panganiban, Oliver	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
David, Elizabeth	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Pantig, Yolanda	Finance	DWP	N/D
De Santos, Luis	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D	Pantoja, Chris	Metering Services	DWP	N/D
De Vera, Rolando	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Patton, Gerald	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	39
DeGarcia, Alma	Water Executive	DWP	N/D	Pei, Wen	ITS	DWP	N/D
Deleske, Darryl	Aquarist	Rec and Parks	26	Pereira, Laveria	Power Trans.	DWP	N/D
Dimacale, Joel	Customer Service	DWP	N/D	Peterson, Gail	Deputy City Att.	City Att.	30
Dobson, Lawanna	Sr. Commun. Op.	Airports	30	Pimental, Noe	Water Operations	DWP	N/D
Donabedian, Bruce	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D	Powell, Leland	Water Operations	DWP	N/D
Ductoc, Carlos	Metering Services	DWP	N/D	Quon, Wilson	Customer Service	DWP	N/D
Edwards, Gaynelle M.	Traffic Officer	Transportation	31	Rangel, Benito	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Fajack, Michael	Water Engineering	DWP	N/D	Reveles, Thomas	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Franco, Alfonso	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D	Rice, Charles	Power C&M	DWP	N/D
Garcia, Edward	ITS	DWP	N/D	Ricks, Natalie	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D
Garcia, Jose	Metering Services	DWP	N/D	Robertson, Dennis	Admin. Clerk	Public Works	18
Garcia, Margie	Power Planning	DWP	N/D	Roesch, Daniel	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D
Gardere Jr., Francois	Police Admin.	LAPD	30	Roman, Luciano	ITS	DWP	N/D
Gerio, Arthur	Forensic Print Spec.	LAPD	25	Roman, Rossana	Power Supply	DWP	N/D
Giles, Keith	Sr. Systems Analyst	Personnel	35	Sabath, Richard	Build. Mech. Eng.	Public Works	32
Godinez, Raul	Civil Eng. Ass.	Public Works	12	Salazar, Randolph	Water Operations	DWP	N/D
Gokbudak, Brent	Marketing Director	DWP	N/D	Sanchez, Karen	Metering Services	DWP	N/D
Gomez, Gustavo	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Santistevan, Anthony	Power Trans.	DWP	N/D
Gomez, Jacinto	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Sarpy, Lawrence	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	18
Gonzales, Norma	HR	DWP	N/D	Schacht, Phillip	Energy Support	DWP	N/D
Gonzalez, Rosa	Business Support	DWP	N/D	Schreiner, Kathryn	Mgmt. Specialist	CDD	10
Graham, Norman	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D	Seeley, Kenneth	Power C&M	DWP	N/D
Green, Mark	Power C&M	DWP	N/D	Shirado, Joyce	GM Office	DWP	N/D
Hanks, Robert	Mgmt. Analyst	Housing	34	Silva, Robert	Power Trans.	DWP	N/D
Hansen, Jeffrey	Power Trans.	DWP	N/D	Sotelo-Navarro, Jo-Del	Business Support	DWP	N/D
Harries, Gary	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Stallings, Wayne	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D
Harwell, Glen	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D	Sterling, William	CPD Industrial Prog.	DWP	N/D
Hartranft, William	Mtce. Supervisor	Airports	19	Stones, Aleida	Metering Services	DWP	N/D
Haynes, Claudius	Power Trans.	DWP	N/D	Suthi, Soon	Power C&M	DWP	N/D
Heitkemper, Joseph	Power New Bus.	DWP	N/D	Tadesse, Zenaye	Power New Bus.	DWP	N/D
Hendricks, Gwendolyn	Customer Service	DWP	N/D	Tashiro, Lisa	Public Affairs	DWP	N/D
Herrera, Joe	Investigator	City Att.	13	Taylor, Larry	Power Trans.	DWP	N/D
Hidalgo, Alicia	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D	Tham, Paul	Power Planning	DWP	N/D
Higa, Glenn	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Thompson, Judith	ITS	DWP	N/D
Hill, Roger	Systems Analyst	LAFD	30	Torres, Irma	Special Prog. Asst.	Rec and Parks	9
Holcombe, Lance	Metering Services	DWP	N/D	Torres, Norma	Police Service Rep	LAPD	17
Hollier, Phyllis	Customer Service	DWP	N/D	Torres, Silvia Delao	Secretary	LAPD	33
Horton, Bruce	Water Operations	DWP	N/D	Tsuda, Douglas	ITS	DWP	N/D
Horton, Mary	Witness Srv. Coord.	City Att.	25	Tsui, Ta	ITS	DWP	N/D
Hsieh, Helena	ITS	DWP	N/D	Vu, Nam	Water Engineering	DWP	N/D
Hunt, David	Facilities Mgmt.	DWP	N/D	Vuong, Tri	Power Construction	DWP	N/D
Ignacio, Jose	Power Planning	DWP	N/D	Ward, Michael	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D
Jackson, James	Security Officer	LAPD	12	Warren, William	Facilities Mgmt.	DWP	N/D
Jacquez, Manuel	Public Affairs	DWP	N/D	Wong, Edward	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
James III, William	Power C&M	DWP	N/D	Workman, Rowena	Exec. Admin. Asst.	Eco./Wrkfr. Dev.	31
Jeka, Roger	Water Operations	DWP	N/D	Wright, Stephen	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D
Jimenez, Leticia	Labor Relations	DWP	N/D	Zambory, John	Water Operations	DWP	N/D
Johnson, Kevin	Security Officer	Harbor	16	Zepeda, Ruben	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Kagawa, Patrick	Metering Services	DWP	N/D				
Kauppi, Barbara	Water Operations	DWP	N/D				
Kim, Alice	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D				
Kimbell, Harold	Pr. Storekeeper	Gen. Services	30				
King, Dwight	Power Supply	DWP	N/D				
Kinsey, Kenneth	ITS	DWP	N/D				
Kurowski, Michael	Water Operations	DWP	N/D				
Kwan, Tom	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D				
Lai Ly, Linda	Admin. Clerk	LAPD	29				
Lainez, Jose Fabio	Forensic Print Spec.	LAPD	23				

## 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
<b>Active</b>	
Alviso, Mariflor	General Services 31
Baber, Saida	Airports 11
Barajas, Guillermo	DWP 9
Bush, Milton	Public Works 14
Glenn, Anthony	Public Works 24
Gomez, Alberto	Airports 20
Lau, Ronald	Public Works 32
Oshon, Melford	Public Works 38
Perez, Armando	ITA 21
<b>Retired</b>	
Adams, Abel	DWP 28
Aubry, Norman	Public Works 36
Baker, Bertha	General Services 32
Beasley, Inez	N/D N/D
Benjamin, Donald	N/D N/D
Boxley, Florence	N/D N/D
Bozigian, Carol	DWP 31
Bustamante, Phillip	DWP 43
Cervantes, Joe	N/D N/D
Colin, Lenwood	DWP 28
Crerar, Bruce	DWP 19
Davis, Thelma	N/D N/D
Easterly, Clyde	N/D N/D
Ehrart-Morrison, Dorothy	N/D N/D
Eifert, James	DWP 40
El Fadly, AA	Public Works 29
Friedman, George	DWP 35
Froman, Benjamin	N/D N/D
Gail Jr., George	DWP 33
Garcia, Andrew	N/D N/D
Glickman, Barry	Council 7
Gomez, Henry	N/D N/D
Green, George	Bldg. & Safety 30
Griffiths, Dale	Fire/Police Pensions 36
Harris, Johnny	Public Works 27
Hashimura, Gary	DWP 28
Hawkins, Richard	Transportation 46
Hodgson, Charles	Public Works 23
Hollingsworth, Brent	DWP 30
Jackson, Charles	N/D N/D
Jackson, James	N/D N/D
Jackson, Natalie	LAPD 29
Jedkins, William	DWP 38
Kauf, Ann	DWP 22
Kibbe, Bruce	DWP 26
Korte, Klaus	N/D N/D
Koury, George	Harbor 14
Langer, Janice	N/D N/D
Lau, Ronald	Public Works 32
Lew, Arline	DWP 28
Liao, Hsueh	DWP 18
Lugo, Johnny	Public Works 32
McCready, Richard	Public Works 36
Melby, Charles	Rec and Parks 26
Mendoza, Leonor	General Services 23
Naumann, Franklin	N/D N/D
Okazaki, Shizue	DWP 22
Ortiz, Sylvia	DWP 39
Ota, Nobuso	DWP 24
Pulver, Betty	N/D N/D
Railback, June	N/D N/D
Ranu, Harmel	DWP 28
Saiza, Ralph	N/D N/D
Sanders, Robert	N/D N/D
Satullo, Mary Ann	N/D N/D
Sayegh, Theodore	DWP 15
Shepherd, Eric	Personnel 14
Silverii, Robert	DWP 22
Skaggs, Richard	DWP 30
Smith, Oscar	Airports 43
Sweet, Diane	Personnel 15
Tanaka, Fred	N/D N/D
Uyehara, Dennis	DWP 26
Villa, Maria	Transportation 9
Wasdorp, Robert	DWP 36
Waugh, Kenneth	DWP 33
Westmoreland, James	Airports 23
Wyant, Marcella	Airports 29
Yamaguchi, Dorothy	DWP 18
Zubiate, Richard	DWP 36

N/D = not disclosed

Share  
 Your Life's  
 Moments

Everyone reads  
**Life's Important Moments**  
 in *Alive!*

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

## Graduations

# Congratulations!



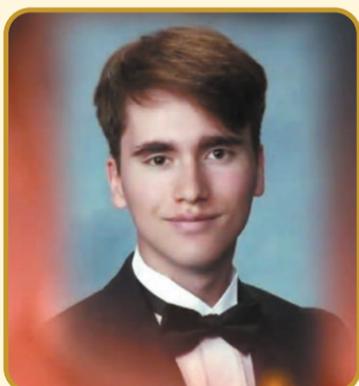
**Monica Zafra** earned her juris doctor (law) degree from the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific. She intends to pursue a career in international law and business immigration. She's the **daughter of Delfin Zafra, Public Works/Contract Administration.**



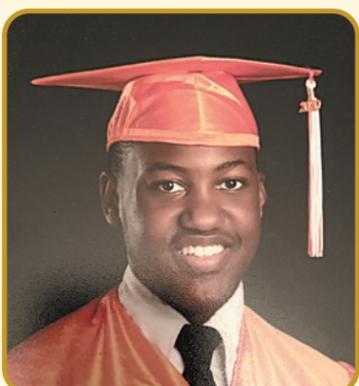
**Alyssa Hughes and Jimmy Hughes III** graduated from Eagle Rock High School and plan to attend Pasadena City College in the fall. They are **grandchildren of Jimmy Hughes Sr., General Services/Fleet Services.**



**Monique Mendez** graduated from Cal State LA, with a Bachelor's degree in kinesiology. She's a **Club staffer in the retail department.**



**Kevin Ordway** graduated from Verdugo Hills High School with plans to go to college and study sound, set design or photography. He's the **son of Jeff Ordway, Retired, LAFD.**



**Omare Perkins** graduated from Hayfield High School in Alexandria, Va. and plans to study at Virginia Commonwealth in the fall. He's the **grandson of Carmen Steward, DWP.**



**Olivia Perkins** graduated from Hayfield High School in Alexandria, Va., and plans to study psychology at North Carolina A&T in the fall. She's the **granddaughter of Carmen Steward, DWP.**

## No graduation cancellations here!

Ceremonies might have been canceled throughout the country due to the pandemic, but the Club is happy to post your graduations here and online. Congratulations to all in the class of 2020 – your future is bright!

**Have a photo to submit?**  
Go here: [alive.employeesclub.com/graduations/](http://alive.employeesclub.com/graduations/)

## In Memoriam

# Marcella Wyant



**Airports**  
June 18, 2020

**M**arcella Wyant (Tirak), formerly of California City, passed away June 18 after a long and courageous battle with multiple health issues.

Marcella was a Secretary at Palmdale Airport before retiring.

She was born and raised in Erie, Penn. where she met her high school sweetheart and lifelong love of her life, Andrew. They married in 1956 and their honeymoon took them to California, where they eventually settled in the High Desert of Los Angeles and started their family, raising three children.

Marcella enjoyed raising her three children and found great joy in her career. She retired from Airports in 2002. She enjoyed travelling with the camper club, and loved playing slot machines at casinos in her travels across the country. She had a kind heart and was very giving, never asking for anything in return from those around her.

Marcella spent the past few years enjoying life in Palm Springs, which coincidentally was her honeymoon location in the mid 1950's upon arriving to California from Pennsylvania.

Marcella is remembered by her sister in Michigan, her brother in North Carolina, three children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren she always tried to spoil, her faithful four-legged furry companion, Miss Lucy, along with countless friends. She will be dearly missed.

Due to the current COVID restrictions and risks for gatherings, a memorial service/celebration of life is planned for early 2021.



## Does anyone rely on your income? If so, you need Life Insurance



### Get it today. Here's why

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

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



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



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



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

Phone and video conferencing appointments available.



**(800) 464-0452**

# PANDEMIC 2019-2020

## Scenes PART 5 From a Pandemic

*Alive!* continues its documentation of City employees as they take a multitude of measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and keep LA safe. (The first part was in our April 2020 issue.) Here are entries from the Club and the City Twitter feeds about City Employees and Club Members at work during this trying time.

The phrases indicated by a # or an @ are Internet search locators that work as shortcuts to help find desired locations online. We included that text here for completeness; if you want to see those locations, simply retype those phrases into your online browser.

### Zoo



"Our very own @lazoo and @LADOTofficial employees are so proud to be serving as #DisasterServiceWorkers during the #COVID19 pandemic. Thank you for all that you continue to do to keep #LAsStrong!"

July 8

### Personnel/Jobs



"Thank you to our DSWs who continue to support one another and express mutual consideration for others with a smile on their faces. #LALove"

July 17

### Transportation



"LADOT and @MRodCD7 hosted an appreciation event for our drivers who have been delivering meal donations to Angelenos with disabilities during #COVID19. We extend a special thanks for their commitment and service to the community. #ThankfulThursday #LADOT #MovingLAFoward"

July 9

### DWP



"#EssentialWork continues. #LADWP crews have been at the Green Verdugo Reservoir working on a floating cover replacement project to further improve water quality in the reservoir. Once complete it will improve our operations and reduce maintenance costs at the reservoir."

July 17

### LAPD South Traffic



"Sgt. Peterson and myself getting ready to teach infant car installation class at the Academy. We have nine eager students ready to start. Buckle up!!! @LAPDJonPinto @LapdWoodyard @LAPDMarcReina @LAPDBlakechow"

June 9

### Harbor



"Today, @mayorofla, in coordination with @losangelesfiredepartment and the Port of Los Angeles offered drive-through #COVID19 testing to hundreds of longshore and port workers. The testing was coordinated through the efforts and leadership of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and Pacific Maritime Association."

July 16

### Sanitation and Environment



"Whether picking up bulky items, cleaning up #illegaldumping, responding to abandoned #hazardouswaste, or monitoring the environment, LASAN employees are all working to serve #Angelenos across the City. Thanks to our #diverse & #versatile group of essential employees.@lacitysan"

July 18

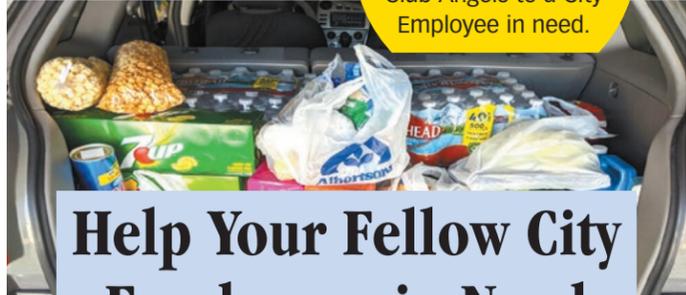
### Council



"Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez: Amid a pandemic, I'm proud to be part of the coalition that delivered The Arroyo, a beacon of light for women experiencing homelessness in Sylmar. This project is a model of successful collaboration, transforming an underutilized space into a safe place for women to recover/heal."

July 20

Thanks to your donations, these groceries were delivered by Club Angels to a City Employee in need.



## Help Your Fellow City Employees in Need

During this virus pandemic, some City Employees and their families are facing hardships. Club Angels, the charity started by staff members of the Employees Club, invites you to join our efforts to help.

Since the Club Angels appeal began, the charity has provided more than **\$8,000 in grocery assistance** to fellow City Employees through your gifts, and matching funds form the Club.

"Thank you to all Club Members who have contributed to the Club Angels charity, and helped your fellow City employees," says Arlene Herrero, Club Angels President.

"The ability of Club Angels to help City Employees in need relies on your donations.

"I love it when gratitude and positive emotions are created through donations and from those who have reached out to Club Angels for assistance," said Club COO Robert Larios. "People reaching out to help strengthen and remind me of the lifelong impact Club Angels is making to members and their families."

"Club Angels thanks everyone who has donated," Arlene Herrero said. "And if you are facing hardship, please reach out to us. Club Angels is here to help."

The Club encourages City Employees and everyone to contribute to the Club Angels fund, accessed on its GoFundMe page. Donations go to City Employees in need; Club Angels and the Employees Club earn nothing from the transaction. Donations might be tax deductible; consult your tax professional.

Please be generous.

**To donate, go to:  
ClubAngels.org  
Please be generous.**

Club Angels is a separate charity begun by Club staff.



Club Angels charity has helped nearly **60 Club Members in need.**

# 40,855 and Counting

The Club "Care Calls" project continues its efforts to call all 50,000 active Members to say hello and check on how you're doing during the current coronavirus pandemic.

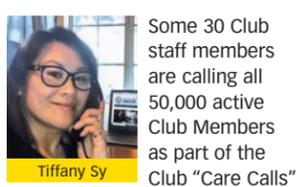
To date, the Club's callers have reached out to 40,855 Club Members. (That's pretty incredible.) If you've already heard from your Club rep on the phone, great! We trust you enjoyed the call. If you haven't been contacted, we'll be calling everyone!

We're also fulfilling requests from Club Members to help them obtain necessary materials. So far we've shipped some 21,000 items. Here's a partial list of products we've shipped to Club Members, and how many:

- Masks:** 6,232
- Gloves:** 10,040
- Toilet paper rolls:** 618
- Paper towels:** 224
- Hand sanitizer bottles:** 576
- Boxes of wipes:** 100
- Tissue boxes:** 19

Let us know how we can help you!

### CLUB CALLERS



Tiffany Sy

Some 30 Club staff members are calling all 50,000 active Club Members as part of the Club "Care Calls" project. Pictured here are some of those staffers. Tell them we said hello!

